

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 29, 2016

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 20, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2317**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Mullin**  
(Coauthor: Senator Leyva)

February 18, 2016

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An act to add Article 4.6 (commencing with Section 66041) to Chapter 2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2317, as amended, Mullin. California State University: Doctor of Audiology degrees.

Existing law, known as the Donahoe Higher Education Act, sets forth, among other things, the missions and functions of California's public and independent segments of higher education, and their respective institutions of higher education. Provisions of the act do not apply to the University of California unless the regents of the university act, by resolution, to make them applicable.

Among other things, the act provides that the University of California has exclusive jurisdiction in public higher education to award the doctoral degree in all fields of learning, except that it may agree with the California State University to award joint doctoral degrees in selected fields. With respect to doctoral degrees, the act limits the California State University to awarding these degrees jointly with the University of California, as described above, or, with the approval of the California

Postsecondary Education Commission, jointly with independent institutions of higher education.

This bill would instead authorize the California State University to award the Doctor of Audiology degree. The bill would require the degree to be distinguished from doctoral degree programs at the University of California. The bill would require that the degree be focused on preparing audiologists to provide health care services and be consistent with the standards for accreditation set forth by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. The bill would require that each student in the programs authorized by the bill be charged fees no higher than the rate charged for students in state-supported programs in audiology at the University of California.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
 State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Article 4.6 (commencing with Section 66041) is  
 2 added to Chapter 2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the  
 3 Education Code, to read:

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 5 Article 4.6. Doctoral Programs in Audiology  
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7 66041. (a) The Legislature finds and declares both of the  
 8 following:

9 (1) Since its adoption in 1960, the Master Plan for Higher  
 10 Education has served to create the largest and most distinguished  
 11 higher education system in the nation. A key component of the  
 12 Master Plan for Higher Education is the differentiation of mission  
 13 and function, whereby doctoral and identified professional  
 14 programs are limited to the University of California, with the  
 15 provision that the California State University can provide doctoral  
 16 education in joint doctoral programs with the University of  
 17 California and independent California colleges and universities.  
 18 The differentiation of function has allowed California to provide  
 19 universal access to postsecondary education while preserving  
 20 quality.

21 (2) Because of the need to prepare and educate increased  
 22 numbers of audiologists, the State of California is granting the  
 23 California State University authority to offer the Doctor of

1 Audiology degree as an exception to the differentiation of function  
2 in graduate education that assigns sole authority among the  
3 California higher education segments to the University of  
4 California for awarding doctoral degrees independently. This  
5 exception to the Master Plan for Higher Education recognizes the  
6 distinctive strengths and respective missions of the California State  
7 University and the University of California.

8 (b) Pursuant to subdivision (a), and notwithstanding Section  
9 66010.4, in order to meet specific audiology education needs in  
10 California, the California State University may award the Doctor  
11 of Audiology (Au.D.) degree. The authority to award degrees  
12 granted by this article is limited to the discipline of audiology. The  
13 Au.D. degree offered by the California State University shall be  
14 distinguished from doctoral degree programs at the University of  
15 California.

16 66041.1. In implementing Section 66041, the California State  
17 University shall comply with all of the following requirements:

18 ~~(a) Funding on a per full-time equivalent student (FTES) basis~~  
19 ~~for each new student in these degree programs shall be from within~~  
20 ~~the California State University's enrollment growth levels as agreed~~  
21 ~~to in the annual Budget Act. Enrollments in these programs shall~~  
22 ~~not alter the California State University's ratio of graduate~~  
23 ~~instruction to total enrollment, and shall not diminish enrollment~~  
24 ~~growth in university undergraduate programs. Funding provided~~  
25 ~~from the state for each FTES shall be at the agreed-upon marginal~~  
26 ~~cost calculation that the California State University receives.~~

27 (b) The Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) degree offered by the  
28 California State University shall be focused on preparing  
29 audiologists to provide health care services and shall be consistent  
30 with the standards for accreditation set forth by the Council on  
31 Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language  
32 Pathology.

33 (c) Each student in the programs authorized by this article shall  
34 be charged fees no higher than the rate charged for students in  
35 state-supported doctoral degree programs in audiology at the  
36 University of California, including joint Au.D. programs of the  
37 California State University and the University of California.

38 (d) The California State University shall provide any startup  
39 *and operation* funding needed for the programs authorized by this  
40 article from within existing budgets for academic programs support,

1 without diminishing the quality of program support offered to  
2 California State University undergraduate programs. Funding of  
3 these programs shall not result in reduced undergraduate  
4 enrollments at the California State University.

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