

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 420

Introduced by Assembly Member Wildman

February 12, 1999

An act relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 420, as introduced, Wildman. Community colleges.

Under existing law, persons employed in academic positions by community college districts are faculty or faculty members.

This bill would provide that it is the intent of the Legislature that an amount be appropriated to fund 5,000 newly created full-time faculty positions over a 7-year period commencing during the 1999–2000 fiscal year.

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of
2 the following:
3 (a) Campuses of the California Community Colleges
4 have historically hired part-time faculty to meet
5 short-term needs, to employ working professionals as
6 teachers, to strengthen the tie between the college and
7 its community, and to enrich the curriculum.

1 (b) Part-time faculty provide hiring flexibility, and, in
2 some cases, needed expertise, at less cost than full-time
3 faculty.

4 (c) Part-time faculty often fill voids created by
5 unanticipated enrollment growth, and may provide
6 technical expertise that regular full-time faculty may not
7 have.

8 (d) With rapid expansion, community colleges began
9 to overutilize part-time faculty for financial rather than
10 curricular reasons.

11 (e) In the late 1980's, the Legislature attempted to
12 reverse the ongoing trend of hiring part-time instructors
13 instead of full-time instructors through the passage of
14 Assembly Bill 1725 of the 1987-88 Regular Session
15 (Chapter 973 of the Statutes of 1988), which was intended
16 to increase the number of hours that students were taught
17 by full-time faculty members versus the number of hours
18 taught by part-time instructors.

19 (f) California's community college students deserve
20 teachers who can devote full time to teaching and are
21 available for individual consultations with them.

22 (g) California's community colleges presently employ
23 67 percent of their teaching force in part-time positions.

24 (h) All Californians who are qualified and willing to
25 work deserve full-time jobs. Part-time faculty are
26 qualified for full-time appointments.

27 (i) Temporary contracts are being misused to employ
28 part-time faculty.

29 (j) Creating full-time teaching jobs in community
30 colleges is an educational quality issue, equivalent to class
31 size reduction in the elementary and secondary schools.

32 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature that an
33 amount be appropriated to the Board of Governors of the
34 California Community Colleges to fund 5,000 newly
35 created full-time faculty positions over a seven-year
36 period commencing during the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

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