

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 23, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2400

Introduced by Assembly Members Block, Anderson, and Hill

February 19, 2010

An act to add Article 3 (commencing with Section 78040) to Chapter 1 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2400, as amended, Block. Public postsecondary education: community colleges: baccalaureate degree pilot program.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law establishes community college districts, administered by a governing board, throughout the state, and authorizes these districts to provide instruction to students at the community college campuses maintained by the districts.

Existing law requires community colleges to offer instruction through, but not beyond, the 2nd year of college and authorizes community colleges to grant associate in arts and science degrees.

This bill would authorize the Grossmont-Cuyamaca *Community College District*, San Diego *Community College District*, and San Mateo County Community College—~~Districts District~~ to establish *and participate in a* baccalaureate degree pilot ~~programs~~ *program*. This bill would require a baccalaureate degree pilot program to expire 8 years after the establishment of the program. This bill would require a district, as defined, that establishes *and participates in* a baccalaureate degree

pilot program to meet specified requirements, including, but not limited to, offering baccalaureate degrees in a limited number of fields of study, and submitting a report to the Legislature within one year prior to the expiration of the baccalaureate degree pilot program that would evaluate specified factors.

This bill would also require the governing board of the district to perform certain functions and would authorize the governing board to charge baccalaureate degree-seeking students a fee for enrollment in specified courses, which would be required to be expended for the purpose of providing a pilot program. This bill would authorize the governing board of the district to enter into agreements with local businesses and agencies to provide educational services to students participating in a baccalaureate degree pilot program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
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 the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) For nearly 50 years California's higher education system
- 4 has been the envy of the world. The University of California and
- 5 the California State University campuses have produced
- 6 groundbreaking research and millions of professionals. The
- 7 California Community Colleges are an often overlooked, yet
- 8 essential, part of this system.
- 9 (b) California needs to produce one million more baccalaureate
- 10 degrees than the state currently does to remain economically
- 11 competitive in the coming decades.
- 12 (c) It is time to change community colleges in a way that will
- 13 address job shortages in California's most vital employment areas
- 14 that require baccalaureate degrees. Community colleges can help
- 15 fill the gaps in the system by granting baccalaureate degrees for a
- 16 limited number of specific areas in order to meet a growing demand
- 17 for workforce need.
- 18 (d) These baccalaureate programs will be limited and will not
- 19 detract from the community colleges' mission to advance
- 20 California's economic growth and global competitiveness through
- 21 education, training, and services that contribute to continuous
- 22 workforce improvement. Nor will the programs unnecessarily

1 duplicate similar programs offered by nearby schools *that have*
2 *space available to local students.*

3 (e) Community colleges can provide a quality baccalaureate
4 education with lower costs to their students than a traditional
5 four-year university, enabling lower income and part-time local
6 students to earn the baccalaureate degree needed for new job
7 opportunities and promotion.

8 (f) Seventeen other states, from Florida to Hawaii, already allow
9 their community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees. California
10 is one of the most innovative states in the nation, and the California
11 Community Colleges will use that same innovative spirit to produce
12 more health, biotechnology, and other needed professionals.

13 (g) The purpose of the baccalaureate degree pilot program is to
14 promote economic development by preparing people for
15 occupations that are in demand and require a baccalaureate degree.

16 SEC. 2. Article 3 (commencing with Section 78040) is added
17 to Chapter 1 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education
18 Code, to read:

19
20 Article 3. Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program
21

22 78040. For the purposes of this article, “district” means ~~any of~~
23 ~~the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, San Diego~~
24 ~~Community College District, or San Mateo County Community~~
25 ~~College Districts that may establish~~ *District that chooses to*
26 *establish and participate in* a baccalaureate degree pilot program
27 pursuant to Section 78041.

28 78041. Notwithstanding Section 66010.4, the
29 Grossmont-Cuyamaca *Community College District*, San Diego
30 *Community College District*, and San Mateo County Community
31 ~~College Districts may establish~~ *District may establish and*
32 *participate in a* baccalaureate degree pilot ~~programs~~ *program* that
33 meet all of the eligibility requirements set forth in Section 78042.
34 A pilot program established pursuant to this section shall expire
35 eight years after the establishment of the program. For purposes
36 of this section, a pilot program is established when the first class
37 of students begins the program.

38 78042. (a) A district shall seek accreditation as a baccalaureate
39 degree granting college.

(b) A district shall maintain the primary mission of the California Community Colleges specified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 66010.4. The district, as part of the baccalaureate degree pilot program, shall have the additional mission to provide high-quality undergraduate education at an affordable price for students and the state.

(c) A district shall offer baccalaureate degrees in a limited number of fields of study subject to the following requirements, as determined by the governing board of the district:

(1) A district shall identify and document unmet workforce needs in the subject areas of the baccalaureate degrees to be offered and offer baccalaureate degrees in those subject areas possessing unmet workforce needs in the local community.

(2) The baccalaureate degree pilot program shall not unnecessarily duplicate similar programs offered by nearby public postsecondary educational institutions *that have space available to local students*.

(3) A district shall have the expertise, resources, and student interest to offer a quality baccalaureate degree in the chosen field of study.

(d) A district shall maintain separate records for students who are enrolled in courses classified in the upper division and lower division of a baccalaureate program. A student shall be reported as a community college student for enrollment in a lower division course and as a baccalaureate degree program student for enrollment in an upper division course.

(e) The governing board of the district shall do all of the following:

(1) Determine the appropriate governance system for the baccalaureate degree pilot program.

(2) Make decisions regarding the baccalaureate degree pilot program's curriculum, faculty, and facilities.

(3) Establish the level of matriculation, tuition, and other appropriate costs for students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program.

(f) (1) The governing board of the district may charge baccalaureate degree seeking students a fee, of an amount to be determined by the governing board, that covers the additional costs imposed by providing a baccalaureate degree pilot program, for

1 enrollment in courses that are not transfer core curriculum courses,
2 as defined in Section 66720.

3 (2) All fees collected pursuant to this subdivision shall be
4 deposited in the designated fund of the district in accordance with
5 the California Community Colleges Budget and Accounting
6 Manual, and shall be expended for the purpose of providing a
7 baccalaureate degree pilot program.

8 (g) The governing board of the district may enter into
9 agreements with local businesses and agencies to provide
10 educational services to students participating in a baccalaureate
11 degree pilot program.

12 (h) A district shall submit a report to the Legislature within one
13 year prior to the expiration of the baccalaureate degree pilot
14 program pursuant to Section 78041. The report shall examine the
15 success of the baccalaureate degree pilot program by evaluating
16 all of the following factors:

17 (1) The percentage of students who complete a baccalaureate
18 degree, calculated by dividing the number of students who enroll
19 in the baccalaureate degree pilot program by the number of students
20 who graduate from the program.

21 (2) The extent to which the baccalaureate degree pilot program
22 is self-supporting, such that the student fees charged pursuant to
23 subdivision (f) cover the costs of the program.

24 (3) Whether there is a problem with finding and paying
25 instructors for the baccalaureate degree pilot program.

26 (4) Whether there was a decline in enrollment in the California
27 State University and the University of California as a result of the
28 baccalaureate degree pilot program.

29 (5) The number of students who received jobs in the area in the
30 field of study of their baccalaureate degree.

31 (6) The amount of student fees charged pursuant to subdivision
32 (f) compared to the amount of student fees charged for courses at
33 the California State University and the University of California.