

Introduced by Senator Liu

February 27, 2009

An act to add Chapter 12.5 (commencing with Section 67050) to Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of, and to repeal Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 99180) of Part 65 of Division 14 of Title 3 of, the Education Code, relating to postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 775, as introduced, Liu. Postsecondary education: accountability program.

Existing law establishes the University of California, under the administration of the Regents of the University of California, the California State University, under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and private, independent institutions of higher education as the 4 segments of postsecondary education in this state.

Existing law establishes a higher education accountability program under which the University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges are required to prepare a list of reports on a regular basis to the Legislature and to state agencies. Under the program, the California Postsecondary Education Commission is required to submit an annual higher education report to the Legislature and the Governor that provides information on significant indicators of the performance of public colleges and universities.

This bill would repeal the existing higher education accountability program and require the state to establish a new accountability framework to achieve prescribed educational and economic goals.

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. Chapter 12.5 (commencing with Section 67050)
2 is added to Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code,
3 to read:

4
5 CHAPTER 12.5. EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC GOALS FOR
6 CALIFORNIA HIGHER EDUCATION
7

8 67050. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

9 (a) Since the enactment of the Master Plan for Higher Education
10 in 1960, California's system of postsecondary education has
11 provided access and high quality educational opportunities that
12 have fueled California's economic growth.

13 (b) In today's global information economy, California's national
14 and international success as an educational and economic leader
15 will require strategic investments and improved management of
16 state resources.

17 (c) Several factors, including changing demographics, rising
18 costs, increased competition for scarce state funding, and employer
19 concerns about graduates' skills, present new challenges to higher
20 education and state policymakers in effectively meeting the
21 postsecondary education needs of Californians.

22 (d) Although the public segments of higher education have each
23 developed their own institution-specific accountability efforts,
24 these efforts do not combine to tell us whether the state as a whole
25 is on track to produce enough college educated individuals to meet
26 workforce needs and to effectively compete in the global
27 information economy, nor do they reflect statewide policy goals
28 that cut across all higher education segments.

29 (e) Without the articulation of a shared common vision and
30 goals, and in the absence of a statewide focus and context, the state
31 has limited access to meaningful data and analyses to assess the
32 state's performance in key areas, in order to make critical fiscal
33 and policy decisions.

34 (f) As public demand to ensure the state is making proper
35 investments in postsecondary education grows, policy and

1 educational leaders must collectively hold themselves accountable
2 for connecting the postsecondary academic and research enterprise
3 to the state's economic and workforce development needs,
4 increasing its productivity, and expanding postsecondary access
5 for all citizens and regions of the state to produce the economic
6 and educational outcomes that best serve the state's interest.

7 67051. The State of California shall establish an accountability
8 framework that provides the basis for an ongoing assessment of
9 the collective contribution of the state's system of postsecondary
10 education toward meeting clear and measurable educational and
11 economic goals.

12 SEC. 2. Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 99180) of Part
13 65 of Division 14 of Title 3 of the Education Code is repealed.