

Introduced by Senator Lowenthal

February 18, 2011

An act to add Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 67050) to Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 721, as introduced, Lowenthal. California higher education: educational and economic goals.

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, as the 3 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 and present those reports to the Legislature and to state agencies. Under the program, the California Postsecondary Education Commission is required to submit annually a 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 require an undesignated state entity to establish an additional accountability framework for achieving prescribed educational and economic goals. The bill would require that the framework so established be guided by stated principles. The bill would require this

framework to measure the collective performance of the state's system of higher education in successfully serving students by answering 6 statewide policy questions.

The bill would make various legislative findings and declarations.

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 13 (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 13. 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

1 state's performance in key areas in order to make critical fiscal
2 and policy decisions.

3 (f) As public demand to ensure the state is making proper
4 investments in postsecondary education grows, policy and
5 educational leaders must collectively hold themselves accountable
6 for connecting the postsecondary academic and research enterprise
7 to the state's economic and workforce development needs,
8 increasing the state's productivity, and expanding postsecondary
9 access for all citizens and regions of the state to produce the
10 economic and educational outcomes that best serve the state's
11 interest.

12 (g) In order to achieve the educational and economic outcomes
13 necessary to ensure the state's success, it is the intent of the
14 Legislature that data-driven budget and policy decisions within
15 higher education be guided by each of the following goals:

16 (1) Increased educational attainment and successful transition
17 across all education levels. In the best performing state in the
18 nation, for every 100 pupils in grade 9, 91 graduate from high
19 school, 57 directly enter college, and 27 graduate within 150
20 percent of program time. However, in California, for every 100
21 pupils in grade 9, 71 graduate from high school, 31 directly enter
22 college, and 17 graduate within 150 percent of program time,
23 placing California 27th in the nation. Goal: by 2020, California
24 will have improved its educational pipeline numbers sufficiently
25 so that it is among the top 10 states in the nation for the successful
26 movement of students through this pipeline.

27 (2) Meeting the state's economic development, workforce
28 development, and civic capacity needs. Current projections by the
29 National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education indicate
30 that California residents will have the largest drop in projected per
31 capita income in the nation over the next two decades, and will
32 fall below the national average by 2012. Goal: by 2020, California
33 will be at the average per capita income of the top 10 new economy
34 states as determined using the State New Economy Index
35 developed by the Progressive Policy Institute.

36 (3) Closure of the achievement gap and increased learning at
37 all levels. In 2005, California ranked 33rd among states in the
38 percentage of persons between 18 and 24 years of age, inclusive,
39 with a high school diploma, 31st in the percentage of persons
40 between 25 and 64 years of age, inclusive, with an associate degree,

1 and 14th in the percentage of persons between 25 and 64 years of
2 age, inclusive, with a bachelor's or higher degree. Goal: by 2020,
3 California will be in the top 10 states nationally for the percentages
4 of its age groups with degrees and certificates conferred.

5 67051. The State of California shall establish an accountability
6 framework that provides the basis for a biennial assessment of the
7 collective contribution of the state's system of postsecondary
8 education toward meeting the clear and measurable educational
9 and economic goals established pursuant to Section 67050. The
10 accountability framework developed to monitor progress toward
11 these goals shall be guided by all of the following principles:

12 (a) A state-level accountability framework is designed to help
13 policymakers develop, maintain, and fund a postsecondary
14 education system that meets the state's goals, recognizes the
15 differentiated missions of each segment of postsecondary
16 education, and guides the segments toward maintaining effective
17 institutions consistent with state goals and institutional missions.

18 (b) Policymakers and governing boards are collectively
19 accountable for meeting public goals for higher education, in
20 accordance with all of the following:

21 (1) Monitoring progress toward meeting state goals is largely
22 the responsibility of state policymakers.

23 (2) Monitoring the performance of individual colleges and
24 universities is primarily the responsibility of institutional governing
25 boards.

26 (3) Institutional governing boards have ongoing responsibility
27 for monitoring the progress toward meeting statewide policy goals
28 of individual colleges and universities, for meeting segmental and
29 institutional missions and goals, for ensuring the quality of the
30 students' education, and for providing information to students and
31 parents regarding enrollment, retention, and student success.

32 (c) The state-level reporting system shall be designed to contain
33 only data that helps policymakers to assess progress toward
34 meeting state goals and to make appropriate policy and funding
35 decisions. Specific indicators may change as better data are
36 identified for assessing progress toward meeting state goals.

37 (d) In establishing an accountability framework for higher
38 education, it is the intent of the Legislature to build upon existing
39 higher education data, information systems, reports, and processes,
40 including, but not limited to, the reporting process established in

1 Section 84754.5, and improve upon these efforts to measure
2 collective progress toward common vision and goals.

3 (e) Rather than envisioning a particular level of higher education
4 funding to move toward the statewide educational and economic
5 policy goals established pursuant to Section 67050, it is the intent
6 of the Legislature that the framework established pursuant to this
7 chapter help ensure the effective and efficient use of whatever
8 funding is provided to higher education.

9 67051.5. It is the intent of the Legislature that, after sufficient
10 opportunity for deliberation and analysis, the information gathered
11 under the framework established pursuant to this chapter be utilized
12 by the Governor and the Legislature to do all of the following
13 through appropriate actions:

14 (a) Establish clear and measurable goals in various areas,
15 including, but not limited to, enrollment, completion,
16 time-to-degree, efficiency in facilities utilization, transfer, and
17 access.

18 (b) Establish a timeline for phasing in the Legislature's and the
19 Governor's expectations for the achievement of these goals.

20 (c) Develop policy and budget proposals that include appropriate
21 funding mechanisms, where appropriate, for achieving these goals,
22 including, but not limited to, incentive funding, differential funding,
23 or the reallocation of existing resources, or all of these.

24 67052. The state shall utilize the accountability framework
25 established pursuant to this chapter to measure progress toward
26 its articulated educational and economic goals by collecting and
27 reporting information that answers all of the following six statewide
28 policy questions:

29 (a) Are enough Californians prepared for postsecondary
30 education?

31 (b) Are enough Californians going to college?

32 (c) Is the state's postsecondary education system affordable to
33 all Californians?

34 (d) Are enough Californians successfully completing certificates
35 and degrees?

36 (e) Are college graduates prepared for life and work in
37 California?

- 1 (f) Are California's people, communities, and economy
- 2 benefiting?

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