

BILL NUMBER: SB 1440      AMENDED  
BILL TEXT

AMENDED IN SENATE   APRIL 15, 2010

INTRODUCED BY    Senator Padilla  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Fong)

FEBRUARY 19, 2010

An act to add Article 3 (commencing with Section 66745) to Chapter 9.2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to ~~community colleges~~ *public postsecondary education* .

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1440, as amended, Padilla. California Community Colleges: student transfer.

Existing law establishes the 3 segments of public postsecondary education in this state. These segments include the California State University, the campuses of which are administered by the Trustees of the California State University, the University of California, which is administered by the Regents of the University of California, and the California Community Colleges, which are administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

Existing law establishes community college districts throughout the state, and authorizes them to provide instruction to students at community college campuses.

Existing law, known as the Donahoe Higher Education Act, authorizes the community colleges to grant associate in arts and associate in science degrees. The act also requires the regents, the trustees, and the board of governors to have as a fundamental policy the maintenance of a healthy and expanded program to increase the number of transfer students from community colleges.

~~This bill would enact the Community College Associate Degree and Recognition of Student Transfer Preparation Act, which would authorize a community college to grant an associate degree in the student's field of study, that is designated as being "for transfer," to a student who completes 60 transferable semester units or 27 quarter units, as specified, and meets the minimum requirements for transfer to a public university or alternative path to transfer program. The bill would prohibit a community college from imposing any requirements, in addition to these requirements, for the granting of an associate degree with the "for transfer" designation.~~

*This bill would enact the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act, which would require a community college district to grant an associate degree to a student in his or her field of study that would deem the student eligible for transfer into a California State University baccalaureate program when the student meets prescribed requirements. This bill would prohibit a community college district from imposing any requirements, in addition to these requirements, for a student to be eligible for the associate degree. This bill would prohibit remedial noncollegiate level coursework from being counted towards the units required for the associate degree. This bill would require the California State University to guarantee admission with junior status to any community college student who meets the requirements for the associate degree. This bill would not*

guarantee a student admission for specified majors or campuses, but would require the California State University to grant a student priority admission to a program or major that is similar to his or her community college major or area of emphasis. This bill would authorize the California State University to require a transferring student to take additional coursework in specified circumstances. This bill would prohibit the California State University from requiring a transferring student to repeat courses that are similar to those taken at the community college that counted towards the units required for the associate degree.

By requiring a community college district to grant the associate degree, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

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

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Since the enactment of the Master Plan for Higher Education in 1960, preparing students to transfer to a four-year university has been a core function of the California Community Colleges.

(b) Successful progression from lower division coursework to degree completion is a basic principle of California higher education and is critical to the future of the state's economy.

(c) Currently, the coursework necessary to transfer to a campus of the California State University or the University of California differs from the coursework needed to earn an associate degree. As a result, many transfer students leave the community college system having completed transfer requirements, but are unable to participate in community college graduation ceremonies, do not have a degree to show for their work, and are ineligible for some awards and scholarships because they did not fulfill current requirements for an associate degree.

(d) Today, one in every four jobs requires an associate degree or higher. In the near future, one in every three jobs will require an associate degree or higher.

(e) The community college system allows the state to address the serious shortage of educated workers.

(f) To meet workforce demands in a cost-effective way, incentivizing students to earn an associate degree while preparing for transfer to a four-year college or university, and recognizing that they have completed a transfer preparation course pattern, provides students encouragement and support to complete their overall educational pursuits.

~~SEC. 2. Article 3 (commencing with Section 66745) is added to Chapter 9.2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, to read:~~

~~Article 3. Associate Degree and Recognition of Student Transfer Preparation~~

~~66745. (a) This article shall be known, and may be cited, as the Community College Associate Degree and Recognition of Student Transfer Preparation Act.~~

~~(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that, whenever possible, a community college shall consider the requirements for transfer as it develops associate degree requirements and encourages students to take courses that simultaneously meet both of the requirements of Section 66746.~~

~~66746. A community college may grant an associate degree, in the student's field of study, on which is designated that it is "for transfer," to a student who meets both of the following requirements:~~

~~(a) Completes a minimum of 60 transferable semester units or 90 quarter units, 18 semester units or 27 quarter units of which shall comprise coursework in a major or an area of emphasis, as determined by the college.~~

~~(b) Meets the minimum requirements for transfer in an approved transfer core curriculum program, approved transfer agreement program, or dual admission program, implemented pursuant to Chapter 9.2 (commencing with Section 66720) of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 or meets the requirements of an alternative path to transfer program, including, but not limited to, the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum or the California State University General Education Breadth Requirements.~~

~~66747. If a community college provides a degree with the "for transfer" designation as provided for in Section 66746, the college shall not impose any requirements in addition to the requirements of Section 66746, including any local college or district requirements.~~

~~66748. (a) A degree granted pursuant to this article shall reflect the completion of lower division general education requirements.~~

~~(b) The granting of a degree pursuant to this article does not guarantee admission to any institution.~~

SEC. 2. Article 3 (commencing with Section 66745) is added to Chapter 9.2 of Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code , to read:

### Article 3. Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act

66745. This article shall be known, and may be cited as the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act.

66746. (a) A community college district shall grant an associate degree to a student in his or her field of study that shall deem the student eligible for transfer into a California State University baccalaureate program when the student meets both of the following requirements:

(1) Completion of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units that are eligible for transfer to the California State University, including both of the following:

(A) The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.

(B) A minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community college district.

(2) Obtainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0. A community college district may require a higher grade point average and the completion of specific prerequisite courses for impacted programs or campuses.

(b) A community college district shall not impose any requirements

in addition to the requirements of this section, including any local college or district requirements, for a student to be eligible for the associate degree and subsequent admission to the California State University pursuant to Section 66747.

(c) This section shall not preclude students who are assessed at below collegiate level from acquiring remedial noncollegiate level coursework in preparation for obtaining the associate degree. Remedial noncollegiate level coursework shall not be counted as part of the transferable units required pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a).

66747. Notwithstanding Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 66201), the California State University shall guarantee admission with junior status to any community college student who meets all of the requirements of Section 66746. The California State University shall not guarantee admission for specific majors or campuses. Notwithstanding Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 66201), the California State University shall grant a student priority admission to a program or major that is similar to his or her community college major or area of emphasis.

66748. (a) The California State University may require a student transferring pursuant to this article to take additional courses so long as the student is not required to take any more than 60 additional semester units or 90 quarter units at the California State University for majors requiring 120 semester units or 180 quarter units.

(b) The California State University shall not require students transferring pursuant to this article to repeat courses that are similar to those taken at the community college that counted toward the associate degree granted pursuant to Section 66746.

SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.