

(Without Reference to File)

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 897 (Medina)

As Amended

Majority vote

SUMMARY:

Increases, unless explicitly agreed upon, the maximum number of instructional hours a part-time, temporary California Community College (CCC) faculty member may teach.

Major Provisions

- 1) Increases the maximum number of instructional hours a part-time CCC faculty member may teach at any single community college district (CCD) and still be classified as a part-time employee from 67% of the hours a full-time, permanent faculty works to 85%.
- 2) Requires CCDs, as a condition of certain state funding, to update existing collective bargaining provisions to include the above increase, and to commence negotiations on January 1, 2021, if the CCD does not have a collective bargaining agreement with part-time faculty as of that date.

COMMENTS:

Currently, the "67% law" limits the teaching load of part-time temporary faculty to 67% of the hours that constitute a full-time faculty assignment for a particular CCD. To note, a full-time teaching load, which varies according to the teaching discipline, is defined as the number of in-class hours that a contract/full-time faculty member must fulfill in order to earn a full salary, benefits, and tenure. A full-time teaching load for each discipline is determined at the district level through collective bargaining; however, on average a full-time load is 15 units.

An individual employed to teach adult or community college courses for 67% or less of the hours per week considered a full-time assignment, excluding substitute service, is classified as a temporary employee rather than a contract employee. Under the 67% threshold, many faculty members (the so called "freeway flyers"), teach in multiple community college districts at the same time to piece together a full-time schedule. This constraint thus, to some extent, limits the ability of part-time faculty to participate in a campus community and to be a resource for students.

Accordinging to the Author:

AB 897 changes the percentage of the full-time equivalent teaching load to the range of 80% to 85%, for any new bargaining agreement, or upon expiration of any negotiated agreement in effect on January 1, 2021. It is expected that this higher allowance would provide part-time faculty with an opportunity to teach one additional course at a one-campus district or within a district with multiple campuses, and thus devote a greater portion of their working time at that district, both to the benefit of the faculty member and their students. This added flexibility would be especially advantageous for areas of the state where CCDs encompass large geographical regions, thus making travel between districts an added burden for part-time faculty.

Arguments in Support:

The California Federation of Teachers is sponsoring this bill for the reasons discussed above.

Arguments in Opposition:

No opposition received.

FISCAL COMMENTS:

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- 1) One-time Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures, potentially between \$360,000 and \$720,000, for CCDs to update or create collective bargaining agreements with part-time faculty, commencing January 1, 2020.
- 2) The League of California Community Colleges estimated that a 2016 bill that required CCDs to update collective bargaining agreements with part-time faculty to include seniority rights cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per CCD. (The state has 73 CCDs.)

VOTES:**ASM HIGHER EDUCATION: 11-0-1**

YES: Medina, Choi, Jones-Sawyer, Bloom, Gabriel, Irwin, Kiley, Levine, Low, Santiago, Weber

ABS, ABST OR NV: Patterson

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 18-0-0

YES: Gonzalez, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonta, Brough, Calderon, Carrillo, Chau, Megan Dahle, Diep, Eggman, Fong, Gabriel, Eduardo Garcia, Maienschein, Petrie-Norris, Quirk, Robert Rivas

UPDATED:

VERSION: January 23, 2020

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