

Date of Hearing: May 11, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chris Holden, Chair

AB 1712 (Medina) – As Amended March 17, 2022

As Proposed to be Amended

Policy Committee: Higher Education

Vote: 10 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill aligns state law with federal law regarding online surveys of college and university campus safety.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires California State University (CSU) and the California community colleges (CCCs) and requests the University of California (UC) to develop and submit questions on campus climate to the U.S. Secretary of Education to be included in the federal online survey on student safety.
- 2) Requires the questions to be developed in consultation with student organizations and trauma experts.
- 3) Requires CSU and the CCCs and requests UC, every two years, and beginning one year after the date on which the U.S. Secretary of Education makes the online survey available to institutions, to submit a report on the published campus-level results from the online survey to the Assembly Committee on Higher Education and the Senate Committee on Education.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Minor costs to develop questions regarding campus climate and provide bi-annual reports to the Legislature. California's public colleges and universities already conduct periodic campus climate surveys. Federal law requires colleges and universities that receive federal funding to conduct an online campus safety survey every two years and publish the results. Because conducting the survey is a federal requirement, the costs to the local CCCs are not reimbursable.

COMMENTS:

The 2022 federal omnibus spending package (H.R. 2471) was recently passed by Congress and signed by President Biden. H.R. 2471 incorporates the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, which, among other things, requires the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) to create a campus safety survey and requires postsecondary educational institutions that receive federal funding to conduct the survey and publish the results to Congress every two years. Federal law authorizes states to submit questions to USDOE for approval to be included in the survey of their own students. This bill capitalizes on that requirement by requiring CSU,

UC, and the CCCs to develop questions for USDOE approval. If accepted, those questions would be incorporated into the USDOE survey for use in California.

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