

Date of Hearing: May 18, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chris Holden, Chair

AB 2624 (Kalra) – As Introduced February 18, 2022

Policy Committee: Higher Education Vote: 11 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill requires each campus of the California Community Colleges (CCCs) and the California State University (CSU), and requests each campus of the University of California (UC), to prominently display, for each course, the estimated costs of all required materials, and fees directly related to those materials, for no less than 75% of the total number of courses on the online campus schedule.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Significant ongoing General Fund costs, likely in excess of \$1 million for UC and CSU to post the required information. CSU notes that course catalogues are usually published before faculty select materials, and compliance with this bill would require a “significant workload” to coordinate academic department staff, faculty, course scheduling staff, and IT staff to post the required information. CSU estimates 0.5 to 1 personal years for each of its 23 campuses campus, for a system wide total cost of \$1.4 million to \$2.8 million per year.

Unknown, potentially significant ongoing Proposition 98 (GF) costs to the CCCs. According to the Higher Education Committee analysis, CCC faculty have less discretion than CSU and UC faculty over the selection of course materials, which are typically selected by the academic departments. Accordingly, the materials for most courses are known in time for inclusion in the online campus schedule. This could reduce CCC costs relative to CSU costs. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that bill establishes a state mandated program, costs to the CCCs would be reimbursable.

COMMENTS:

Need for this Bill. According to the author, “Course material costs make up a significant portion of the costs of secondary education, especially at community colleges. Unlike fees and tuition, course material costs are not fixed which makes it challenging for students to plan ahead.”

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