
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

AB 927 (Medina) - Public postsecondary education: community colleges: statewide baccalaureate degree program

Version: July 15, 2021

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 26, 2021

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill removes the cap on the total number of baccalaureate degree programs allowed within the California Community College system provided that the totally number of programs offered by a district does not exceed 25 percent of the total number of associate degree programs it offers; and eliminates the January 1, 2027 sunset date of the statewide baccalaureate degree pilot program, thereby permanently authorizing the offering of baccalaureate degree programs at community colleges.

******* ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *******

**The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 26, 2021**

Fiscal Impact:

- The Chancellor's Office estimates that this bill could result in ongoing General Fund costs of \$258,000 to administer the expansion of the baccalaureate degree program. Specifically, staff would be needed to facilitate the bi-annual application process by receiving and evaluating applications from the colleges and reviewing any formal objections submitted by the other higher education segments on program duplication. Staff would also be needed to provide implementation guidance, monitor program operations and offer technical assistance to ensure programs are adequately meeting local workforce needs and to provide other program oversight.
- While participation in the program is voluntary for local community college districts, there could be additional, unknown costs to districts that opt to implement baccalaureate degree programs at their campuses. These costs include the development of programs and applications for program approval. However, the start-up costs are likely to be absorbable while the ongoing costs of providing these programs would be offset by state apportionments and student fee revenues. At the state level, there could be an increase in Proposition 98 General Fund to provide apportionment funding to support students in baccalaureate degree programs, to the extent these students would not have otherwise enrolled at a community college.

Author Amendments: Require the Chancellor's Office to notify and consult with the President of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities on proposed baccalaureate degree programs; and require that a formal objection filed by the California State University or University of California to address specified issues or order to facilitate the consultation process.

-- END --