
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

SCA 5 (Glazer) - University of California: regents: student members

Version: June 22, 2021

Policy Vote: ED. 6 - 0, E. & C.A. 5 - 0

Urgency:

Mandate: No

Hearing Date: July 5, 2021

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This measure would modify Article IX of the State Constitution to require, rather than authorize, the University of California (UC) Board of Regents to appoint two students enrolled at a UC campus to the board.

Fiscal Impact:

- This measure would result in one-time General Fund costs to the Secretary of State (SOS) in the range of \$546,000 to \$728,000, likely in 2021-22, for printing and mailing costs to place the measure on the ballot in a statewide election. Actual costs may be higher or lower, depending on the length of required elements and the overall size of the ballot.
- The UC indicates that any costs resulting from this measure would be minor and absorbable within existing resources.

Background: Existing law provides, pursuant to the California Constitution, that the UC is administered by the Regents of the UC with full powers of organization and government, subject only to such legislative control as may be necessary to insure the security of its funds and compliance with the terms of the endowments of the university and such competitive bidding procedures as may be made applicable to the university by statute for the letting of construction contracts, sales of real property, and purchasing of materials, goods, and services.

The Constitution requires the UC Board of Regents to be composed of seven ex officio members and 18 appointive members (25 voting members total). It also authorizes the members of the board to appoint either a member of the faculty at a campus of the university or of another institution of higher education, or a person enrolled as a student at a campus of the university, or both, as members of the board serving for no less than one year with all rights of participation (potentially two additional voting members - one student, one faculty member). On the UC Board of Regents, there is currently a student regent who is a voting member.

Proposed Law: This measure would require the Board of Regents to appoint two students enrolled at a UC campus to the UC Board of Regents. This would increase the total number of required voting members of the UC Board of Regents to 27 members with a faculty member being a voting member if permitted (potentially 28 voting members).

Related Legislation: AB 337 (Medina, 2021) would eliminate the prohibition against a student member voting during the student member's first year on the Board of the Governors (BOG) of the California Community Colleges (CCC), thereby giving both students voting rights. AB 2190 (Medina, 2020) was identical to AB 337.

AB 514 (Medina, Chapter 61, Statutes of 2019) increases the voting rights of the student members of the CSU Board of Trustees by removing the non-voting status of one of the two student members, thereby giving both students voting rights.

Staff Comments: The SOS indicates that printing and mailing costs associated with placing a measure on the statewide ballot are approximately \$91,000 per page, depending on the length of the ballot. The fiscal estimates noted above reflect the addition of 6-8 pages in the Voter Information Guide. Actual costs would depend upon the length of the title and summary, analysis by the LAO, proponent and opponent arguments, and text of the proposal.

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