ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 1370 (Ta)
As Amended March 28, 2023
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Revises and recasts several provisions of the California Community Colleges (CCC) Economic and Workforce Development Program (EWDP). The bill would extend the operation of the program indefinitely, and would repeal the Job Development Incentive Training Program. The bill would revise and recast the principles governing the EWDP, provisions on the duties and membership of the program's advisory committee, the decision criteria for allocating program funds to colleges, and the definitions that apply to the program's provisions.

Major Provisions
Please refer the Assembly Committee on Higher Education policy analysis for a detailed breakdown of the major provisions of AB 1370.

COMMENTS

Vision for success and Governor's Roadmap. In 2017, the CCC Board of Governors adopted the Vision for Success, a comprehensive framework to improve student outcomes by closing achievement gaps, increasing degree and certificate attainment, increasing transfers to four-year institutions, reducing excess unit accumulation by students, and provides the necessary skills for gainful employment. The Vision for Success has acted as the foundation supporting financial and educational decisions of the system to produce student-driven results. Incorporated within the Vision for Success was the implementation of Guided Pathways across all community college campuses.

The Vision for Success included five primary goals. They are:

1) Increase completion of degrees, credentials, certificates, and job-specific skill sets by 20% by 2022.

2) Increase transfers to UC and CSU by 35% by 2022.

3) Decrease the average number of units accumulated by associate degree earners to 79 units by 2022 (down from an average of 87 units in 2017).

4) Increase the number of exiting CTE students employed in their field of study to 76% by 2022 (up from 60% in 2017)

5) Reduce equity gaps by 40% across all of the above measures by 2022, and fully close those gaps by 2027; including regional gaps.

Governor Newsom and the CCC Chancellor's Office entered into a multi-year roadmap containing mutually prioritized goals, expectations, and accompanying outcome measures. These expectations are modeled after the Vision for Success, and include:
1) Increase the percentage of students earning degrees, certificates and specific skill sets for in-demand jobs by 20% by 2026.

2) Increase the percentage of TK-12 students who graduate with 12 or more college units earned through dual enrollment by 15%.

3) Focus on establishing or expanding programs that address workforce needs in healthcare, climate action, education and early education.

4) Increase the number of transfers to the UC or CSU in proportion to enrollment growth in those systems.

5) Annually publish, for all colleges, the 2-year associate degree graduation rate and the share of first-time students who have successfully completed at least 30 units before entering their second year, disaggregated for underrepresented and Pell students.

6) Establish pathways in those fields from high school through university, including development of Associate Degree for Transfer and transfer pathways along with dual enrollment opportunities that ensure transfer of community college credits toward degree programs.

7) Decrease the median units to completion in excess of 60 by 15% of the units, and establish systemwide stretch goals regarding the number of students completing or transferring within the minimum amount of time necessary.

8) Establish a baseline for credit for prior learning (CPL) offerings and increase these offerings annually. Increase systemwide access and enrollment into direct-assessment competency based education (CBE) programs by 15 percent.

9) Improve systemwide graduation rates, transfer rates, and time to completion among underrepresented, Pell Grant recipients, and disabled students to meet the average of all students by 2026.

10) Close equity gaps in access to dual enrollment programs.

11) Increase the percentage of completing students who earn a living wage by 15%.

*Removal of the Job Development Incentive Training Program.* AB 1370 (Ta) seeks to remove the Job Development Incentive Training Program. According to information provided by the CCC Chancellor's Office, this grant program is no longer used, and can be removed from the EWDP.

*Removal of sunset.* The author seeks to remove the sunset on the EWDP. The sponsor contends that the EWDP has been operative for over 30 years and has provided funding for workforce development, while being renewed time and again. Sunset provisions provide opportunities for the Legislature to review and assess the effectiveness of programs; however, the EWDP continues to contain reporting requirements to the Governor and Legislature. This report includes, but not necessarily be limited to, both of the following:
1) Sufficient information to ensure the understanding of the magnitude of expenditures, by type of expenditure, including those specified in Section 88625, disaggregated by industry sector or cluster, region, and type of grant.

2) Data summarizing outcome accountability performance measures required by this section.

According to the Author
According to the author, "AB 1370 would modernize the [CCC EWDP] and prioritize equitable student outcomes, work-based learning, and career and economy mobility. AB 1370 ultimately would put the money that's currently allocated to this program to modernize this program and give students the tools to choose to go into a workforce that is in great need of new workers."

The CCC Chancellor's Office, the sponsor of AB 1370 (Ta), notes that "Since it was first established in statute in 1991, the EWD Program has prepared students to be work ready, world ready, and for the future of work. During the same time period, California's population has grown more diverse while its economy has evolved with information technology, automation, and clean technologies. If left to a 1990s framework, the impact the EWD Program can have upon the careers of students is limited. The EWD Program must be updated to meet economic and demographic changes so that California maintains a competitive workforce advantage.

As currently structured, the EWD Program has not centered on student outcomes, including student retention and career goals, nor is it guided by an equity framework. In addition, the California Community Colleges' Vision for Success goals and the Governor's Roadmap for Higher Education are not reflected in the EWD Program. EWD statutory updates are further needed to align the program with recent policy reforms that have a direct impact on EWD program efforts, including AB 927 (Medina, 2021)."

The author and sponsor contends that AB 1370 modernizes the EWDP in three ways:

1) Utilizes market and other data to meet and anticipate the needs of students, workers, and employers.

2) Creates alignment with recent national and statewide policy reforms.

3) Updates the program's operational structures so that the EWD Program will be faithfully administered and implemented.

Arguments in Support
The Student Senate for the California Community Colleges wrote in support of AB 1370 (Ta), noting that "AB 1370 requires the effective use of data to guide the EWD Program's work and help it grow California's middle-class. A data-informed approach will assist employers in need of skilled workers, and will allocate resources to fill high-demand occupations, particularly in moments of emergency labor shortages. We support AB 1370's commitment to put data at the center of the EWD Program so that it is focused on both present and future market needs."

"This bill will better connect students, employers, and workers to each other in the communities where they live. Under AB 1370, regional centers will work with small businesses and employers to enable greater competitiveness and career mobility, not just for students, but also for dislocated and incumbent workers in a modern economy, including through remote employment and networking opportunities."
The California Chamber of Commerce wrote in support of AB 1370 (Ta), writing that "This bill will better connect students, employers, and workers to each other where they live. Under AB 1370, regional centers will work with small businesses and employers to enable greater competitiveness and career mobility for students and dislocated and incumbent workers in a modern economy, including through remote employment and networking opportunities."

Arguments in Opposition
None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations:

$23 million in ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs beginning in January 1, 2025, to extend authorization for this program indefinitely, should the Legislature choose to continue to fund this program at its historic levels.

VOTES

ASM HIGHER EDUCATION: 12-0-0
YES: Mike Fong, Ta, Addis, Arambula, Gabriel, Irwin, Low, Ortega, Sanchez, Santiago, Wallis, Weber

ASM LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT: 7-0-0
YES: Kalra, Flora, Chen, Haney, Ortega, Reyes, Ward

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-1
YES: Holden, Megan Dahle, Bryan, Calderon, Wendy Carrillo, Dixon, Mike Fong, Hart, Lowenthal, Mathis, Papan, Pellerin, Sanchez, Weber, Ortega
ABS, ABST OR NV: Robert Rivas

UPDATED

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