AB 1370 (Ta) - California Community Colleges Economic and Workforce Development Program

Version: March 28, 2023  
Urgency: No  
Hearing Date: July 3, 2023  
Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0  
Mandate: No  
Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

**Bill Summary:** This bill makes various changes to the California Community Colleges (CCC) Economic and Workforce Development Program (EWDP) and repeals its sunset date, and also repeals the Job Development Incentive Training Program portion of the program.

**Fiscal Impact:** By repealing the January 1, 2025 sunset date for the EWDP, this bill could result in ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs of $22.9 million to continue to fund the program. Additionally, the Chancellor’s Office indicates that the programmatic changes would not create any new costs and could be implemented utilizing existing resources.

**Background:** Existing law establishes the CCC EWDP to, among other things, advance California’s economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous workforce improvement. The law authorizes the CCC Board of Governors of the CCC to award grants and project funds for the program, as specified.

Existing law establishes the Job Development Incentive Training Program as a component of the CCC EWDP. It also states the intent of the Legislature that the Job Development Incentive Training Program provide training on a no-cost or low-cost basis to participating employers who create employment opportunities at an acceptable wage level for the attainment of self-sufficiency by specified groups.

Existing law provides that the EWDP be implemented only during those fiscal years for which funds are appropriated for its purposes. Existing law repeals the EWDP on January 1, 2025.

**Proposed Law:** This bill revises and recasts some provisions of the EWDP, specifying that the program operate according to certain principals, including:

a) Be responsive to the needs of employers, incumbent workers, and students;

b) Develop strong partnerships with the private sector, ensuring industry involvement in needs assessment, planning, work-based experiences, and program evaluation; and

c) Adopt continuous improvement processes.
This bill revises and recasts some provisions of the EWDP mission statement, as specified, and affirms that the CCC BOG may establish an advisory committee for the EWDP, as specified.

This bill specifies that, at a minimum, the decision criteria for allocating grants and project funds to colleges be based on specified components, including:

a) An assessment of how the funding results in measurable job placement and work-based learning outcomes that are evidence based and scalable for students and dislocated and incumbent workers;

b) An evaluation of the relevance of the funding to the labor market needs of the state and relevant region’s competitive and emerging industry sectors and industry clusters, or to the state’s need to fill skills gaps and skills shortages in the economy, including skills gaps and emergency labor shortages at the state and regional level;

c) An assessment of the past performance of the college on student outcomes, as measured based on achievement of the systemwide goals identified in the Vision for Success adopted by the BOG in 2017; and

d) An assessment of the college’s performance on student outcomes and contractual financial management based on previous funding.

This bill specifies that the Chancellor’s Office must provide systemwide oversight and assessment of the economic and workforce development program, and will evaluate projects and programs to assess whether awardees achieved their stated student-centered outcomes and the overall effectiveness of the projects and programs. It also provides that the CCC Chancellor may establish program requirements, awardee eligibility requirements, and performance standards in the administration of the economic and workforce development program, and distribute funds as appropriate to implement the program.

This bill declares that the Chancellor may provide technical assistance to community colleges for the purpose of improving the data and outcomes of their proposals. It also requires the Chancellor, in awarding funds, to take into account colleges serving economically disadvantaged students in economically distressed urban and rural areas.

This bill establishes that EWDP centers and CCC participation in industry-driven regional collaboratives may provide specified services and functions as participants of networks.

This bill repeals the Job Development Incentive Training Program and the January 1, 2025 sunset date for the EWDP.

This bill requires the Chancellor to implement funding analysis and performance accountability outcome measures for the economic and workforce development program, as specified.

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