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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair  
2023 - 2024 Regular Session

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### **AB 634 (Ward) - Community colleges: career development and college preparation courses**

**Version:** June 14, 2023

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** June 26, 2023

**Policy Vote:** ED. 7 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Lenin Del Castillo

**Bill Summary:** This bill replaces the term “sequence of courses” with “complement of courses” as they relate to noncredit courses for Career Development and College Preparation (CDCP) programs.

**Fiscal Impact:** The Chancellor’s Office indicates that to the extent community college districts restructure their CDCP programs to offer courses as a complement of course instead of sequenced, this bill will create additional costs for districts to update course catalogs, curriculum, and other policies related to CDCP programs. These costs would range from \$1,200 to \$2,900 per district, or between \$86,400 and \$208,800 across 72 districts.

The Chancellor’s Office also estimates one-time General Fund workload costs of between \$37,000 and \$117,000 to update Title 5 regulations, make the necessary changes to the Program and Course Approval Handbook, issue guidance, and provide technical assistance.

**Background:** Existing law makes specified community college CDCP courses and classes for which credit is not given, and that are offered in a sequence of courses leading to certain outcomes, eligible for state funding. Though CCC credit and noncredit instruction overlap, they differ in certain ways. For example, credit courses may be in any academic or vocational subject, whereas noncredit instruction is limited to ten categories. Additionally, noncredit courses may be open-entry, open-exit. Students are charged enrollment fees only for credit courses, and the state funds some noncredit courses at a lower rate than credit courses and calculates attendance differently. State law permits CCCs to offer noncredit courses in ten instructional areas. Four of these instructional areas are eligible for the CDCP designation: elementary and secondary education, ESL, short-term vocational programs, and workforce preparation (such as communication skills). In addition to being in an eligible instructional area, a course must be offered as part of a sequence of related courses leading to a noncredit certificate (such as certificates in basic reading skills and healthcare careers preparation) to qualify as CDCP.

**Proposed Law:** This bill would instead make the same courses and classes for which credit is not given eligible for state funding if those courses and classes are offered as a complement of courses, through both face-to-face and distance education instructional methods.

**Related Legislation:** AB 1727 (Weber, 2019) proposed to allow the funding determination for career development and college preparation (CDCP) courses to be calculated based on either ongoing attendance counts or a census date count. The bill was vetoed by Governor Newsom, who stated:

***“This bill requires the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to adopt regulations that authorize the use of a census date attendance accounting method to compute full-time equivalent students for certain noncredit courses known as Career Development and College Preparation courses. This bill changes how enrollment in these courses is tracked and would likely increase costs by tens of millions of dollars. For this reason, I am unable to sign this bill.”***

**Staff Comments:** The state provides CCCs funding for instructing CCC students at three different rates. For the 2020-21 academic year, the rate are as follows: (a) \$3,381 for noncredit courses per-student; (b) \$5,622 for enhanced noncredit courses per student, also known as “career development and college preparation” courses; and (c) \$4,009 for credit courses per student, with additional funding of up to \$1,648 based on student demographics and student achievement. Noncredit courses typically are pre-collegiate-level courses in basic math and English skills and English as a second language. Enhanced noncredit courses typically are pre-collegiate-level courses in short-term vocational programs and other programs leading to certificates or transfer. Credit courses are collegiate-level courses that lead to an associate’s degree or transfer to a four-year university.

This bill would instead make the same courses and classes for which credit is not given eligible for state funding if those courses and classes are offered as a complement of courses, through both face-to-face and distance education instructional methods.

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