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# SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair  
2023 - 2024 Regular Session

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## SB 711 (Caballero) - Community colleges: blockchain industry report

**Version:** April 26, 2023

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** May 8, 2023

**Policy Vote:** ED. 6 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Lenin Del Castillo

**Bill Summary:** This bill requires the California Community College (CCC) Chancellor's Office, in consultation with the Academic Senate, to produce a report relating to the blockchain industry.

**Fiscal Impact:** The Chancellor's Office estimates one-time General Fund costs ranging from \$26,000 to \$137,000 to conduct a series of meetings and produce the report. The workload activities would include the review of existing community college programs and courses; analyzing the blockchain industry; assessing how to align blockchain workforce needs with the education and training provided by the colleges; recommending activities related to pipeline development between local educational agencies and community colleges; and recommending strategies to promote blockchain careers.

**Background:** Existing law establishes the CCC, a postsecondary education system consisting of community college districts (CCDs) and the Board of Governors (BOG) of the CCC. It requires the CCC BOG to provide leadership and direction in the continuing development of the CCC as an integral and effective element in the structure of public higher education in the state.

Existing law requires that the BOG provide general supervision over CCDs, and perform various functions, including establishing minimum standards to govern student academic standards relating to graduation requirements and standards for credit and noncredit classes, standards governing procedures established by CCDs to ensure faculty, staff and student the right to participate and express opinions and the right of academic senates to assume primary responsibility for making recommendations in the areas of curriculum and academic standards.

Blockchain is a new type of digital technology that has a wide range of practical applications across different industries and government. Blockchains are commonly described as holding encrypted chunks of digital asset data and chaining them together to create a single source of authenticity that is chronological. The technology is used in products such as financial agreements and cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, but it has reportedly many other applications. Each segment of California's public higher education system offer blockchain courses, many through extended learning opportunities and as either a component of a related certificate program (e.g. software development or cybersecurity) or as a series of courses in a standalone certificate program.

**Proposed Law:** The bill requires the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, in consultation with the Academic Senate, to produce a report by December 31, 2024 that addresses the following:

1. A review of existing California Community College programs and courses that are aligned with the blockchain industry.
2. An analysis of the blockchain industry and demand, including employer needs, student demand and institutional capacity.
3. Ways to align blockchain workforce needs of employers with the education and training provided by California Community Colleges.
4. Recommendations on activities related to pipeline development between career technical education programs offered by local educational agencies and Community Colleges.
5. Recommendations on potential strategies to promote blockchain related careers where a workforce shortage exists.

This bill requires the Chancellor's Office to leverage its existing workforce programs structure and network to convene the necessary stakeholders in the blockchain sector, or similar industries, to identify workforce needs within regional economies.

This bill provides that the report shall include the contributions of faculty, workforce development, K-12 and other relevant stakeholders, and requires the Office of the Chancellor to provide a copy of the report to the Legislature by December 31, 2024.

**Related Legislation:** AB 2658 (Calderon, Chapter 875, Statutes of 2018) required the Government Operations Agency to appoint a blockchain working group to report to the Legislature on the potential uses, risks, and benefits of blockchain technology.

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