
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1098
Author: Fong (D) and Padilla (D)
Amended: 9/5/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 5-0, 9/9/25
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Cortese, Reyes
NO VOTE RECORDED: Choi, Gonzalez

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 9/11/25
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Grayson

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0, 6/2/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: California Education Interagency Council

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill establishes the California Education Interagency Council (Council) within the Government Operations Agency (GovOps) to align education and workforce systems, support adult skill development, and address the changing nature of work and the economy. The Council would adopt strategic and workforce plans, issue recommendations to the Governor and Legislature, and, upon appropriation, create a faculty and employer advisory committee. This bill also creates the Office of the California Education Interagency Council (managing entity) as a neutral administrative body.

Senate Floor amendments of 9/5/25 strike all provisions related to pregnancy-related leave and accommodations for undergraduate students and instead establish the California Education Interagency Council within GovOpsAgency, along with the Office of the Council, to coordinate education and workforce policy. This bill would become operative only if SB 638 (Padilla, 2025) is enacted.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the GovOps, which consists of several state entities, including, but not limited to, the State Personnel Board, the Department of General Services, and the Office of Administrative Law. (Government Code § 12803.2)
- 2) Differentiates the missions and functions of public and independent institutions of higher education. Under these provisions:
 - a) The primary mission of the California State University (CSU) is to offer undergraduate and graduate instruction through the master's degree in the liberal arts and sciences and professional education, including teacher education. The CSU is authorized to establish two-year programs only when mutually agreed upon by the Trustees and the California Community Colleges (CCC) Board of Governors (BOG). The CSU is also authorized to jointly award the doctoral degree with the University of California (UC) and with one or more independent institutions of higher education.
 - b) The UC is authorized to provide undergraduate and graduate instruction and has exclusive jurisdiction in public higher education over graduate instruction in the professions of law, medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine. The UC is also the primary state-supported academic agency for research.
 - c) The independent institutions of higher education are required to provide undergraduate and graduate instruction and research in accordance with their respective missions.
 - d) The mission and function of the CCC is the offering of academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level, and the CCC are authorized to grant the Associate in Arts and the Associate in Science degrees. The community colleges are also required to offer learning supports to close learning gaps, English as a Second Language instruction, and adult noncredit instruction, and support services which help students succeed at the postsecondary level. (Education Code (EC) § 66010.4)
- 3) Establishes the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) composed of 17 members representing the higher education segments, the State Board of Education (SBE), and nine representatives appointed by the Governor, Senate Rules Committee, and Assembly Speaker to coordinate public,

independent, and private postsecondary education in California. (EC § 66900, et seq.)

- 4) Establishes the California Cradle-to-Career Data System to link educational, social service, and workforce data to support student success, policy analysis, and program improvement. (EC §§10850–10889)

This bill:

- 1) Enacts the California Education Interagency Council Act and establishes the Council in GovOps.
- 2) Charges the Council with evaluating the changing nature of work, aligning education and workforce systems, supporting adult skill development, ensuring regional supply meets workforce demand, and serving as a forum on cross-sector education and workforce issues.
- 3) Specifies council membership to include leaders of K–12, higher education, workforce, and finance agencies, plus one nongovernmental representative, and requires open meetings.
- 4) Establishes the managing entity as a neutral administrative body, overseen by an executive officer appointed by the Governor.
- 5) Requires the Council to meet regularly, adopt strategic and work plans, and submit biennial reports to the Governor and Legislature on outcomes and recommendations for cross-sector initiatives.
- 6) Authorizes the Council to create advisory committees, including a principal advisory committee and, upon appropriation, a faculty and employer advisory committee, to ensure stakeholder and industry input.
- 7) Requires collaboration with state data systems, including the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and Cradle-to-Career, to inform planning and alignment efforts.
- 8) Makes this bill operative only if SB 638 (Padilla, 2025) is enacted.

Comments

- 1) *Need for this bill.* According to the author, “California values workforce development and career technical education to ensure that students and adults are equipped to meet changing labor needs, and has an annual allocation of a billion dollars for various K-12, higher education and workforce development

programs. However, these programs work independently and not based on an overall plan that is data driven. California is the only state without a coordinating body, which has resulted in the fragmented structure of individual programs. AB 1098 establishes the California Education Interagency Council that will bring together K-12, higher education, and labor/workforce agencies to help improve cross-sector collaboration, drive data-informed policy, and build transparent pathways that meet the needs of students, workers, and employers across the state. The bill aims to eliminate duplicative efforts and ensure public investments yield equitable and effective outcomes for all Californians.”

- 2) *Alignment with SB 638.* This bill is now part of a coordinated effort with SB 638 (Padilla, 2025), which recasts the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) program beginning in 2026. As amended, SB 638 requires the Department of Education to consult with the California Education Interagency Council when developing and awarding CTEIG grants, ensuring that program standards and priorities are informed by a cross-sector perspective. SB 638 also charges the Council with advisory responsibilities related to career technical education, career pathways, and workforce development. Together, AB 1098 and SB 638 create an integrated framework in which the Council serves as both an advisory and consultative body to help connect education programs to labor market needs.
- 3) *Background on coordination.* Since the defunding of the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) in 2011, California has lacked a coordinating body for education and workforce issues. Numerous reports from organizations such as California Competes and the Public Policy Institute of California have emphasized the costs of this vacuum, including fragmented data systems, a lack of statewide goals, and missed opportunities to guide students across education segments and into high-quality jobs. The Governor’s Master Plan for Career Education and the Administration’s 2025–26 budget proposal called for creating a statewide planning and coordinating body to address these gaps. AB 1098 fulfills that vision by establishing a standing interagency council supported by a neutral office within GovOps.
- 4) *Structure and role.* Unlike past efforts, the Council is advisory in nature and housed within an agency that already plays a cross-cutting coordination role. This approach balances the need for statewide alignment with the importance of maintaining legislative oversight and avoiding duplication of authority. The council’s membership consists of the state’s major education and workforce leaders, ensuring that the agencies best positioned to implement reforms are directly engaged in developing recommendations.

- 5) *Moving forward.* By linking AB 1098 and SB 638, the Legislature and Administration are advancing a coordinated strategy to align career education investments with the state's long-term workforce and economic needs. While the council's recommendations will not carry binding authority, its structure is intended to ensure that the state's substantial investments in education and workforce programs are better coordinated, more transparent, and more responsive to students and employers.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

The 2025 Budget Act includes \$1.5 million General Fund in Item 0511-001-0001 for the GovOps to support an Education and Workforce Development Coordinating Council — the entity that, upon enactment of this bill, would be established as the California Education Interagency Council. This funding provides baseline resources to launch the Council and its supporting office.

Because this bill was recently amended, no fiscal committee has yet considered its current provisions. However, AB 95 (Fong, 2025), a substantially similar measure, was estimated by the Assembly Appropriations Committee to result in ongoing General Fund costs of approximately \$5 million to support 16 staff positions within GovOps, along with minor additional costs to the California Department of Education, the UC, the CSU, and the CCC.

SUPPORT: (Verified 9/11/25)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 9/11/25)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0, 6/2/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Fariás, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

Prepared by: Ian Johnson / ED. / (916) 651-4105
9/12/25 11:13:35

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