
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1728
Author: Alanis (R)
Amended: 6/30/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/24/26

AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26

AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Community colleges: common course numbering system:
firefighting education, law enforcement education, and modern
policing degree program courses

SOURCE: Modesto Junior College

DIGEST: This bill (1) requires the California Community Colleges (CCCs), by December 31, 2027, and contingent upon the availability of funding, to develop and submit to the Legislature an implementation and funding plan to establish a common course numbering (CCN) system for specified career technical education (CTE) public safety courses and (2) requires a phased implementation for specified courses.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the CCCs, a postsecondary education system in this state, under the administration of the Board of Governors (BOG), and specifies that the CCC system consists of community college districts. (Education Code (EC) § 70900)

- 2) Requires the CCCs, by July 1, 2027, to adopt a CCN system for all general education requirement courses and transfer pathway courses, and requires each CCC campus, by July 1, 2027, to incorporate CCNs from the adopted system into its course catalog. (EC § 66725.5)
- 3) Establishes the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) within the Department of Justice to set minimum standards relating to physical, mental, and moral fitness for the recruitment and training of peace officers, develop training courses and curriculum, and establish a professional certificate program that awards different levels of certification based on training. (Penal Code (PC) §§ 830 - 832.10 and 13500, et seq.)
- 4) Requires the Commission on POST, stakeholders from law enforcement, the California State University (CSU), and community organizations to serve as advisors to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) to develop a modern policing degree program. (PC § 13511.1)
- 5) Requires the State Fire Marshal establish or cause to be established a program of fire prevention training for fire prevention inspectors employed by local fire protection agencies, and requires the training program be conducted on a regional basis located near such agencies which employ or contract with such inspectors. (Health and Safety Code § 13105.5)

This bill:

- 1) Requires the CCCs, by December 31, 2027, to develop and submit to the Legislature an implementation and funding plan to establish a CCN and alignment system for CTE public safety courses that is focused on regional, agency-compliant, and professional standards.
- 2) Requires the specified CCN and alignment system to include a phased implementation for the following courses:
 - a) Firefighting courses that align with the curriculum, standards, and certification requirements established by the Office of the State Fire Marshal's California State Fire Training.
 - b) Law enforcement education courses that align with the curriculum, standards, and certification requirements established by the Commission on POST.

- c) Courses that fulfill the course requirements established for the modern policing degree program, as provided.
- 3) Requires the specified CCN and alignment system to be complementary to the existing CCN system, which is established for general education requirement courses and transfer pathway courses.
- 4) Provides that the implementation of the specified CCN and alignment system is contingent upon the availability of funding for the system, as determined by the CCCCCO.

Comments

Need for the bill. According to the author, “By including fire and law enforcement courses in the Common Course Numbering system, students will more easily be able to locate these courses across California Community Colleges. Many of the students enrolled in these programs are first responders furthering their education, so establishing consistency in required coursework will prevent them from taking redundant classes and allow for a smoother transfer process.”

Decades of CCN efforts led to AB 1111 (Berman, Chapter 568, Statutes of 2021).

Efforts to create a CCN system go back decades, with legislation requiring CCN beginning in 1983. At the core of CCN is 1) the numbering of comparable courses the same across the CCC system and 2) ensuring that these comparable courses articulate consistently across the CCC system and to transfer institutions.

Articulation is the process of developing a formal, written agreement that identifies courses (or sequences of courses) on a “sending” campus that are comparable to, or acceptable in lieu of, specific course requirements at a “receiving” campus. In the ideal framework of CCN, courses that have the same course number and content would articulate to a “receiving” institution in the same way. Several efforts in the past 5 years to create and promote CCN systems are described below:

- *CCN Task Force/workgroup.* The 2021 Budget Act appropriated \$10 million on a one-time basis to establish a workgroup that supports the development and implementation of a CCN system for the CCC system, for the purpose of easing student course selection, promoting timely program completion, and streamlining the transfer process. The provisional language further states that, to the extent feasible, the workgroup is required to align the proposed CCN system with course numbering systems at the CSU and the University of California (UC).

- *AB 1111.* A few months after the 2021 Budget Act created a CCN workgroup, the Governor signed AB 1111, which required that the CCN system would be based on the work produced by the workgroup, and the workgroup required by the 2021 Budget Act became the AB 1111 CCN Task Force. Subsequently, the 2022 Budget Act provided an appropriation of \$105 million one-time for the implementation of AB 1111.

AB 1111 required the CCCs to adopt a CCN system for all general education requirement courses and transfer pathway courses. Though the focus is on the CCC system and assigning the same course number to comparable courses across all CCCs, the goal of CCN to “streamline transfer from two- to four-year postsecondary educational institutions” implies that there would need to be intersegmental collaboration for this effort to meet its full potential.

The current CCN system does not apply to all CCC courses. The CCN system required by AB 1111 is intended to apply specifically to general education requirements and transfer pathway programs. This bill, contingent upon appropriation, creates a CCN system specifically for CTE public safety courses that is focused on regional, agency-compliant, and professional standards, and requires phased implementation for the following courses:

- Firefighting courses that align with the curriculum, standards, and certification requirements established by the Office of the State Fire Marshal’s California State Fire Training.
- Law enforcement education courses that align with the curriculum, standards, and certification requirements established by the Commission on POST.
- Courses for the modern policing degree program, as specified.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 3290 (Committee on Higher Education, Chapter 440, Statutes of 2024) extends the implementation deadline by which the CCCs are required to a) adopt a CCN system and b) incorporate common course numbers from the adopted CCN system into its course catalog by three years, from July 1, 2024, to July 1, 2027.

AB 1111 (Berman, Chapter 568, Statutes of 2021) requires, by July 1, 2024, the CCCs adopt a CCN system and requires the CCN system to be student-facing and ensure that comparable courses across all CCCs have the same course number.

AB 128 (Ting, Chapter 21, Statutes of 2021) appropriated \$10 million on a one-time basis to establish a workgroup that supports the development and implementation of a CCN system for the community college system, and required the workgroup, to the extent feasible, to align the proposed common course number system with course numbering systems at the CSU and UC.

SB 1415 (Brulte, Chapter 737, Statutes of 2004) requires the CCCs and the CSU, and authorizes the UC and the private postsecondary institutions, by June 1, 2006, to adopt a CCN system for their 20 highest-demand majors.

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

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office estimates one-time General Fund costs of \$33,000 to \$53,000 to develop an implementation and funding plan to establish a CCN and alignment system for career technical education public safety courses.
- While the bill provides that implementation of the plan would be contingent upon the availability of funding, it could lead to General Fund and Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures, potentially in the low millions of dollars, for community college districts to develop and implement the new CCN system.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Modesto Junior College (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 5/21/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez,

Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache,
Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Lackey, Lee, Ramos, Celeste
Rodriguez

Prepared by: Michelle Nguyen / ED. / (916) 651-4105
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