

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1809 (Fong) – As Amended March 23, 2026

Policy Committee:	Education	Vote:	7 - 0
	Higher Education		6 - 3

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill makes several changes to existing statutes governing job order contracting (JOC) authority for school districts and community college districts (CCDs), including, but not limited to, permanently extending the allowance for school districts and CCDs to use JOC.

The bill also maintains the existing requirement that a school district or CCD utilizing JOC authority must have project labor agreements (PLAs) covering applicable public works projects.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No new state costs.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

JOC was initially authorized as a pilot for the Los Angeles Unified School District over 20 years ago and subsequently extended to all school districts and community college districts. JOC enables school and community college districts to secure contracts for maintenance or repair work for any of the districts’ facilities based on specific tasks and agreed upon prices. When services are needed, repair can begin immediately without going out for bid for each project, which saves districts time and money, and enables districts to address potentially hazardous conditions immediately. JOC has been reauthorized four times since 2003 and has been shown to be effective. It is time to stop wasting legislative resources by making it permanent.

2) **Background. Job Order Contracting.** JOC is a way of procuring project work. Under job order contracting, a procuring entity, such as a school district or CCD, develops a catalog of projects that it often needs completed, such as repairing an HVAC system or laying carpet, and assigns a per-unit price for each project based on industry standards. When the procuring entity needs a specific project done, it puts the project out for bid using the catalogue. Contractors then bid for the work based on the catalogue prices.

Project Labor Agreements. A PLA is “a prehire collective bargaining agreement that establishes terms and conditions of employment for a specific construction project or projects” (Pub. Con. Code Sec. 2500(b)(1).) PLAs vary, but typically a PLA will commit a

contractor performing work for an entity, such as a school district or CCD, to using a unionized workforce and the union will agree that there will be no work stoppage on the project. In addition, PLAs often contain provisions related to participation in apprenticeship programs, scheduling and safety protocols.

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