

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1928 (Fong) – As Amended April 9, 2026

Policy Committee:	Higher Education	Vote:	10 - 0
	Judiciary		12 - 0

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

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires a postsecondary educational institution's sexual harassment grievance procedures to allow a complainant and respondent to be accompanied by both a support person and an advisor during any stage of the grievance resolution process. The bill prohibits the support person from also acting as an advisor and states that a postsecondary educational institution is not required to provide a support person.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Potential ongoing General Fund and Proposition 98 General Fund costs of an unknown amount, but likely minor and absorbable, to the California State University, University California, and California Community Colleges, collectively statewide, to update existing sexual harassment grievance policies and procedures.

**COMMENTS:**

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

AB 1928 strengthens protections for parties to Title IX proceedings by ensuring that they have equal access to both an advisor who can guide them through the procedural aspects of the process and a support person who can assist them with emotional needs. The Title IX grievance process is complex and can be traumatizing to victims and respondents. They should not be forced to choose between procedural guidance and emotional support. This is a narrow but important change that supports a trauma-informed approach to the sexual assault grievance process.

1) **Background.** Federal law (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to the 1964 Civil Rights Act) states that, "no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program of activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Sexual harassment on college campuses may be considered a violation of Title IX because it impedes a student's right to receive an education free of sex-based discrimination. Federal law requires institutions of higher education to designate an individual on each campus to serve as a Title IX coordinator.

State law currently requires schools to post information on their websites related to the designated Title IX coordinator, rights of students and responsibilities of schools with regard to Title IX, and a description of how to file a complaint. In addition, state law requires each educational institution in California to have a written policy on sexual harassment. The policy is to be displayed on campus, be provided during orientations for new students and staff and appear in certain school publications.

Current law provides a student progressing through the Title IX complaint resolution process with an advisor who acts as a legal guide for the student while the institution determines whether evidence exists to support the complaint and requires a legally obligated response. Current law also provides for a support person for a student going through the grievance process, however, it does not provide for a student to have both an advisor and a support person. According to Equal Rights Advocates, writing in support of this bill:

As advocates that have participated in countless campus grievance proceedings, we believe that achieving a truly trauma-informed process is only possible when students have access to both an advisor and a support person rather than being limited to one or the other. Students need both a support person and an advisor to successfully navigate campus sexual misconduct adjudications.

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