

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2019 (Gipson) – As Introduced February 17, 2026

Policy Committee: Higher Education

Vote: 7 - 3

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill requires a community college district (CCD) to allow a deported or detained faculty member to perform, to the extent possible, their instruction and professional duties remotely.

The bill requires a deported or detained faculty member provide verification their departure occurred due to immigration enforcement actions, voluntary removal due to the threat of immigration enforcement, or denial of reentry to the US while briefly traveling abroad.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Potential ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs to CCDs, of an unknown amount, but likely minor and absorbable for impacted CCDs to provide for remote instruction by deported or detained faculty, to the extent possible. As of the publishing of this analysis, the committee is unaware of any documented cases of a CCD faculty member having been detained or deported as part of an immigration enforcement action.

COMMENTS:

Community colleges must abide by federal and state employment laws, meaning employees must have legal work authorization for employment at a CCD. Therefore, some faculty members may be lawfully employed at a CCD by virtue of a permanent resident card (green card), a J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa, H-1B Specialty Occupation Visa, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) eligibility. However, according to the Deportation Data Project, in 2025 “Immigrations and Custom enforcement began making more arrests of people without criminal convictions and more arrests at large in communities and at ICE check-ins,” which resulted in significantly increased detainments and deportations of immigrants, including those with lawful status. The bill’s author contends that by allowing a deported or detained faculty member to continue instruction remotely, the “bill ensures that when unexpected circumstances arise, our community colleges can respond with clarity, consistency, and a continued commitment to student success.”

Analysis Prepared by: Aaron Heredia / APPR. / (916) 319-2081