

Date of Hearing: April 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2236 (Berman) – As Introduced February 19, 2026

Policy Committee: Higher Education Vote: 9 - 0

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

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates of the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), and the California Community Colleges (CCC), on or before July 1, 2027, to establish an agreement to implement a streamlined system-level articulation system such that all CCC courses under the common course number (CCN) system articulate identically across each segment.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Limited term General Fund costs of \$938,000 annually for three years for the UC campuses, collectively statewide, to upgrade current curriculum management systems.
- 2) One-time General Fund costs in the mid hundreds of thousands to upper hundreds of thousands of dollars for the CSU campuses, collectively statewide, to fund faculty and staff workload, systemwide coordination, and technology and data system upgrades necessary to accomplish initial implementation of the bill's requirements.
- 3) Ongoing General Fund Costs in the low hundreds of thousands to mid hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for the CSU oversee ongoing implementation of the new system.
- 4) No new state costs to the CCCs. According to the CCC Chancellor's Office, this bill leverages existing Proposition 98 General Fund investments in the development of the CCN system at the CCCs already underway.

COMMENTS:

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

As community college students take CCN courses, articulation of these courses at the CSU and UC is critical. Course articulation is a vital function for transfer students and dual enrollment students, who earn college credits at a community college and need those courses to count toward their bachelor's degree. To protect students and ensure implementation of CCN, AB 2236 would set a target date for the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates to establish an agreement for implementing streamlined system-level articulation of those community college courses. This would ensure that students receive credit for these courses and would not be required to take them

again after they transfer. AB 2236 is a necessary step to fulfill the promise of CCN – saving students both time and money.

- 2) **Background. *Common Course Numbering.*** A “common course numbering system” gives comparable courses at a public higher education system the same course number across all campuses within that system. Common course numbering systems apply the same titles, identification numbers and descriptions to comparable courses. SB 1415 (Brulte), Chapter 737, Statutes of 2004, required CCC and CSU to establish and utilize a common course numbering system. To fulfill this requirement, the CCC has used the Course-Identification (C-ID) numbering system, which has been developed over time through a collaborative faculty effort involving CCC and CSU. More recently, AB 1111 (Berman), Chapter 568, Statutes of 2021, required the CCCs to adopt, at all community colleges and for each community college campus catalog, a CCN system. A key element differentiating the CCN system from the C-ID Initiative is that this numbering system is required to be student-facing and is intended to ensure that comparable courses across all community colleges have the same course number. The CCN system implementation is occurring across three phases with the second phase slated for fall 2026 and full implementation planned for fall 2027. Prior to this CCN system requirement, differences in course numbering across institutions of higher education (IHEs) often resulted in students undertaking duplicative course work and suffering delayed degree completion or transfer eligibility. This bill would further integrate the CCN system within California’s public higher education network by requiring establishing a course articulation system providing credit mobility across the CSU, UC, and CCC systems.
- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 1728 (Alanis) requires inclusion of firefighting courses, law enforcement education courses, and courses fulfilling the course requirements for the modern policing degree program within the CCN system.

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