
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2523
Author: Fong (D)
Amended: 4/23/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/17/26
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cabaldon

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-0, 5/21/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: governing bodies: biography and contact information

SOURCE: California Faculty Association

DIGEST: This bill requires the California State University (CSU) and the California Community Colleges (CCC), and requests the University of California (UC), to post on their respective systemwide governing boards' internet websites specified biographical and contact information for each board member and encourages each member to consider public input when voting on a matter that comes before the board.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the UC as a public trust to be administered by the Regents and grants the Regents full powers of organization and governance subject only to legislative control as necessary to ensure the security of funds, compliance with terms of its endowments, and the statutory requirements around competitive bidding and contracts, sales of property, and the purchase of materials, goods, and services. (California Constitution Article IX, § (9) (a))

- 2) Stipulates that no provision of the Donahue Higher Education Act shall apply to the UC unless the UC Regents adopt the provision. (Education Code (EC) § 67400)
- 3) Establishes the CSU system, made up of 23 campuses, and bestows upon the CSU Trustees, through the Board of Trustees, the power, duties, and functions with respect to the management, administration, and control of the CSU system. (EC § 66606 and 89030 et seq.)
- 4) Establishes the CCC under the administration of the Board of Governors of the CCC, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. The CCC shall be comprised of community college districts. (EC § 70900)

This bill:

- 1) Requires the CSU and CCC and requests the UC, to post in a conspicuous location on their respective governing boards' internet websites, for each board member, their name, biography, official email address, official phone number, and official mailing address.
- 2) Encourages each CSU Trustee, UC Regent and CCC board member to consider public and stakeholder input provided regarding a matter to be presented at an open meeting of the board before voting on the matter at the open meeting.
- 3) Defines various terms for purposes of this bill.

Comments

Need for this bill. According to the author, "AB 2523 promotes accessibility and transparency in California's public higher education system by encouraging meaningful engagement from students, faculty, and other stakeholders. This bill seeks to remove barriers that prevent individuals from communicating directly with governing board members responsible for decisions impacting the University of California, California State University, and California Community Colleges systems. AB 2523 supports more informed policymaking and helps ensure that the needs of California's higher education communities needs are reflected in the deliberation of governing boards."

Board membership composition. Information about board membership is publicly available on board websites, including names and biographical information. Individual contact information does not generally appear to be publicly available. This bill explicitly requires the posting of biographical information. It further requires publication of official contact information and encourages board members to consider public and stakeholder input before voting on matters before the board. Below is a summary of the composition of each board.

- CSU Board of Trustees has 25 trustees, all of whom are full voting members. The composition of the board is outlined and prescribed by state statute. There are five ex officio members: the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the Assembly, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Chancellor. Sixteen trustees are appointed by the governor, confirmed by the State Senate, and serve eight-year terms.
- The Board of Governors of the CCCs was established to provide statewide leadership to California's 73 community college districts, which operate 116 community colleges. The Board has 18 voting members as specified in statute. Twelve members are appointed by the Governor, require Senate approval for six-year terms, and must include two current or former local board members. Five members are appointed by the Governor to two-year terms and include two students, two faculty members, and one classified member. The Lieutenant Governor also serves as a member of the Board.
- UC Board of Regents has 26 Regents, all of whom have a vote, as specified in the state constitution. Eighteen are appointed by the governor, confirmed by the State Senate, and serve 12 year terms. One member is a student Regent appointed by the Regents pursuant to existing law, and there are seven ex officio members: the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the Assembly, Superintendent of Public Instruction, president and vice president of the Alumni Associations of UC, and the UC president. In addition, two faculty members sit on the board as non-voting members.

Direct communication with governing board members. Existing law provides opportunities for public participation in the meetings of the governing boards of public higher education through public meeting requirements. Meetings are open to the public, and opportunities for the public to address board members are provided. The author contends, however, outside public board meetings, students, faculty, and other affected stakeholders do not have accessible means or information to contact their governing board members, as these members are not required under

existing law to make their contact information publicly available. This information is typically disclosed through a liaison via phone, mail, or email. This bill seeks to provide direct access to individual board members for purpose of improving public engagement beyond existing public comment and communication processes.

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

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/30/26)

California Faculty Association (source)

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

CFT – A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO

SEIU California

Teamsters California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/30/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-0, 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, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Gabriel, Garcia, Hoover, Lackey, Lowenthal, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Schultz, Wicks, Wilson

Prepared by: Olgalilia Ramirez / ED. / (916) 651-4105

7/1/26 16:55:16

**** **END** ****