

Date of Hearing: April 21, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Mike Fong, Chair

AB 2693 (Alvarez) – As Introduced February 20, 2026

**SUBJECT:** California State University: doctoral programs

**SUMMARY:** As proposed to be amended, adds “Cal Poly Maritime” and “Cal Poly Maritime Academy” to the list of abbreviations of names for the California State University (CSU) that are property of the state.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Establishes the CSU system, made of 23 campuses, and bestows upon the CSU Trustees, through the CSU Board of Trustees (CSU BOT), the powers, duties, and functions with respect to the management, administration, and control of the CSU system (Education Code (EDC) Section 66606 and 89030, *et seq.*)
- 2) Declares that all of the following names are the property of the state:
  - a) “California State University;”
  - b) The names of all educational institutions in the state with names containing the words “California State University;”
  - c) All of the following names:
    - i) “California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo;”
    - ii) “California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt;”
    - iii) “California State Polytechnic University, Pomona;”
    - iv) “California Maritime Academy;”
    - v) “Humboldt State University;”
    - vi) “Sonoma State University;”
    - vii) “San Francisco State University;”
    - viii) “San Jose State University;” and,
    - viii) “San Diego State University.”
  - d) Abbreviations of names listed in subparagraphs a), b), and c) above, including, but not necessarily limited to, all of the following:

- i) “Cal State;”
- ii) “Cal Maritime;”
- iii) “Humboldt State;”
- iv) “Sonoma State;”
- v) “San Francisco State;”
- vi) “San Jose State;”
- vii) “San Diego State;”
- viii) “Cal Poly;” and,
- ix) “CSU.” (EDC Section 89005.5)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown

**COMMENTS:** *Background.* The CSU Maritime Academy, commonly known as Cal Maritime, has operated for more than 90 years and is the only degree-granting maritime academy on the West Coast. Over that time, it grew from a small nautical training school into a specialized campus within the CSU system, with students, faculty, and alumni contributing to the state and nation in both wartime and peacetime. It is one of only six degree-granting state maritime academies in the United States that produce U.S. Coast Guard-licensed merchant mariner officers, preparing graduates for careers in engineering, oceanography, transportation, global logistics, marine sciences, and international relations.

Located on a 92-acre waterfront campus in Vallejo, Cal Maritime offers seven specialized undergraduate majors and maintains a 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio, with programs emphasizing a "learn by doing" approach that includes required internships and a Summer Sea Term aboard the 500-foot Training Ship *Golden Bear*. Enrollment, however, has declined substantially in recent years: according to the Cal Poly Maritime Integration FAQ, headcount fell roughly 31% over seven years, from 1,107 students in 2016–17 to 761 in 2023–24, with fall 2024 enrollment at 804. Combined with rising compensation and operating costs, this decline created a projected budget deficit that the CSU determined was unsustainable for Cal Maritime as a standalone institution.

To preserve the Cal Maritime's federally regulated licensure programs and its role in national and economic security, the CSU Board of Trustees voted on November 21, 2024, to approve the chancellor's recommendation to integrate Cal Maritime with Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. The integration is structured as a permanent solution rather than a temporary financial fix, supported by \$35 million in one-time CSU funds distributed over seven years. Effective July 1, 2025, the two institutions began operating as a single university under Cal Poly President Dr. Jeffrey D. Armstrong, with Vice President/CEO Dr. Corey Cook leading what is now called the Cal Poly Solano Campus, and Rear Admiral Eric C. Jones, U.S. Maritime Service, serving as Superintendent of Cal Poly Maritime Academy - which is housed at the Solano campus.

Formal integration completes in fall 2026, when the first students will enroll as Cal Poly students under a single administrative structure, budget, academic senate, student association, alumni association, and foundation. The new purpose-built National Security Multi-Mission Vessel-class training ship *Golden State* is expected to arrive early 2027, with associated waterfront upgrades estimated at \$120 million (at least 80% federally funded).

*Purpose.* As proposed to be amended, AB 2693 (Alvarez) adds the names “Cal Poly Maritime” and “Cal Poly Maritime Academy” to the list of abbreviations of the CSU. A similar addition was made in the AB 2973 (Committee on Higher Education), Chapter 465, Statutes of 2022 – the 2022 Higher Education Omnibus bill – that added “California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt” to the Education Code.

## **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

### **Support**

None on file.

### **Opposition**

None on file.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Kevin J. Powers / HIGHER ED. / (916) 319-3960