
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2693 (Alvarez) - California State University: California Maritime Academy

Version: July 1, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill updates the list of campuses of the California State University (CSU) that are the property of the state to include “Cal Poly Maritime” and “Cal Poly Maritime Academy” to reflect the recent name change and transition of CSU, California Maritime Academy.

Fiscal Impact: This bill could result in one-time General Fund costs in the tens of thousands of dollars for CSU to complete the legislative report.

Background: Existing law establishes the CSU system, made up of 23 campuses, and bestows upon the CSU Trustees, through the CSU Board of Trustees, the powers, duties, and functions with respect to the management, administration, and control of the CSU system.

The CSU Maritime Academy 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. 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.

Proposed Law: This bill updates the list of abbreviated names for educational institutions of the CSU, which are property of the state, by adding “Cal Poly Maritime” and “Cal Poly Maritime Academy”.

This bill requires CSU to submit a report to the Legislature that includes the following:

1. A description of the organizational and administrative structure governing the Cal Poly Maritime Academy following its integration with California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, including the reporting relationships of the Cal Poly Maritime Academy’s president or equivalent officer, the status of Cal Poly Maritime Academy Corps of Cadets, and any changes to academic program offerings, accreditation, or degree requirements resulting from the integration.
2. The status of all existing agreements, grants, and programmatic relationships between Cal Poly Maritime Academy and the United States Maritime Administration.

3. A description of the transition from the Training Ship Golden Bear to the Training Ship Golden State, including the status of any state-funded capital improvements made to facilities at the Cal Poly Maritime Academy's Vallejo campus to accommodate the Training Ship Golden State.
4. A fiscal summary of any costs to the state associated with the integration, including any changes to CSU system support allocations, and capital expenditures at the Cal Poly Maritime Academy's Vallejo campus not funded by federal sources.

Staff Comments: Enrollment at Cal Maritime has significantly declined in recent years with the headcount going from 1,107 students in 2016-17 to 761 in 2023-24. 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. This bill updates the list of abbreviated names for educational institutions of the CSU, which are property of the state, by adding "Cal Poly Maritime" and "Cal Poly Maritime Academy".

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