
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 662
Author: Alvarez (D)
Amended: 5/1/25 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/9/25

AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Laird

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/29/25

AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0, 6/3/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Postsecondary education: mixed-use intersegmental educational facility in the City of Chula Vista: South County Higher Education Planning Task Force

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill establishes, until January 1, 2031, the South County Higher Education Planning Task Force for the purposes of evaluating the feasibility of establishing a mixed-use intersegmental educational facility in the City of Chula Vista, with participation from the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU) and the California Community College system (CCC).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the UC as a public trust to be administered by the Regents of the UC; and, grants the Regents full powers of organization and government, subject only to such legislative control as may be necessary to ensure security of its funds, compliance with the terms of its endowments, statutory requirements around competitive bidding and contracts, sales of property

and the purchase of materials, goods and services (Article IX, Section (9)(a) of the California Constitution).

- 2) Establishes the CSU system, comprised of 23 campuses, and bestows upon the CSU Trustees, through the BOT, the power, duties, and functions with respect to the management, administration, and control of the CSU system. (Education Code (EC) § 66606 and § 89000 et. seq.)
- 3) 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 is comprised of community college districts (CCDs). (EC § 70900)
- 4) Creates for each CCD a board of trustees, known as the governing board, and authorizes the governing board to establish, maintain, operate, and govern each CCC within their district in accordance with state and federal law, as specified. The governing board may initiate and carry on any program, activity, or may otherwise act in any manner that is not in conflict or inconsistent with any law and that is not in conflict with the purpose of a CCD, as specified. (EC § 70902)

This bill:

- 1) Establishes, until January 1, 2031, the South County Higher Education Planning Task Force for evaluating the feasibility of establishing a mixed-use intersegmental educational facility in the City of Chula Vista.
- 2) Requires that the Task Force membership be composed of the following members:
 - a) At least one representative from San Diego State University appointed by the CSU Chancellor.
 - b) At least one representative from Southwestern College appointed by the CCC Chancellor.
 - c) At least one representative from UC San Diego, appointed by the UC President.
 - d) At least one representative from the City of Chula Vista.

- e) At least one representative from the Sweetwater Union High School District.
 - f) At least one public member appointed by the City of Chula Vista.
 - g) At least one representative appointed by the Assembly Speaker.
 - h) At least one representative appointed by the Senate President pro Tempore.
- 3) Requires that the chair of the Task Force be voted on by a majority of the Task Force members.
 - 4) Requires that Task Force members be South County residents or individuals who work or have a stake in the area.
 - 5) Requires that the Task Force do at least all of the following:
 - a) Identify and recommend potential governance structures for the mixed-use intersegmental educational facility, including, but not limited to, consortia and other collaborative models.
 - b) Identify and analyze potential site locations and infrastructure requirements.
 - c) Identify and recommend potential funding mechanisms, resources, and partnerships for the mixed-use intersegmental educational facility.
 - d) Identify any statutory barriers to the development recommendations and recommend any statutory changes necessary for establishing the mixed-use intersegmental educational facility.
 - e) Conduct public engagement activities for purposes of gathering regional input.
 - f) Convene its first meeting by July 1, 2026.
 - g) Submit as specified a report of its findings and recommendations to

the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature by July 1, 2027.

- 6) Allows the Task Force to request and receive, but not require, information from the CCC Board of Governors and the CCC Chancellor, the California Department of Education, any CCD, any local educational agency, the CSU Chancellor, the UC President, or any organization representing independent institutions of higher education.
- 7) Makes the Task Force subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.
- 8) States that the Legislature finds and declares that a special law is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable because of the unique postsecondary education needs of the people of the City of Chula Vista.
- 9) States legislative findings and declarations related to barriers faced by the southern San Diego County residents in accessing higher education and expanding access using intersegmental models.
- 10) Expresses the Legislature's intent to establish a planning Task Force to evaluate the feasibility of creating a mixed-use intersegmental educational facility in order to provide postsecondary educational courses, academic programs, and student support services in the City of Chula Vista.

Comments

- 1) *Need for this bill.* According to the author, "AB 662 aims to address long-standing educational inequities in South San Diego County by exploring the creation of a mixed-use, intersegmental higher education institution in Chula Vista—the largest city in California without a public university offering four-year degrees.

"With nearly 600,000 residents in a region often called a 'college desert,' many—especially low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented students—face barriers to higher education due to distance, cost, and limited access.

"To address this, AB 662 proposes the South County Higher Education Task Force, bringing together UC, CSU, CCC, the City of Chula Vista, and key stakeholders to evaluate how to make this vision a reality.

- “This legislation marks a critical first step toward expanding access to public higher education and closing equity gaps in underserved communities.”
- 2) *Local effort to establish a University Innovation District.* In 2023, Chula Vista Mayor, Assemblymember Alvarez, and Southwestern College Board President signed an agreement to signal their commitment to bringing at least one university to Chula Vista. Southwestern Community College District and the City of Chula Vista established the University Now Initiative to “create a thriving, binational higher education ecosystem that supports the binational region’s economic development by producing a skilled workforce aligned with industry demands.” In 2024, UNI published a white paper that outlined their vision and goals for a university innovation district. The white paper recommends the expansion of academic programs that align with the region’s workforce demands, emphasizing partnerships between Southwestern Community College District, the UC, and the CSU systems. The report also notes that UNI has focused part of its efforts on helping inform the long-term initiative of establishing a multi-institutional campus on 383 acres of land designated for this purpose in eastern Chula Vista.
- 3) *Related budget activity.* The supplemental report language from the 2024-25 Budget Act requested UC to report on opportunities for additional programming in Chula Vista, which helped facilitate a model co-location program between UC San Diego and Southwestern Community College. The Legislature received, “A Vision for Expanding Higher Education in the South Bay,” from UC, San Diego on February 1, 2025. UC San Diego proposes a pilot program commencing fall 2026 that offers a B.S. degree in public health through their School of Public Health as well as certificate programs through their extended education division. The program will build on Southwestern Community College’s lower division offering, and UC San Diego will provide faculty and student services staff to support transfer students. Faculty from UC San Diego will teach courses at Southwestern Community College’s University Center. UC, San Diego faculty and student support staff will reside at Southwestern Community College to provide support, advising, and tutoring, among other services. This bill aims to establish a shared facility for co-locating academic programs or courses presumably to house similar partnerships between multiple universities in the region.

- 4) *Attempts to expand regional higher education capacity and student access.* The intersegmental co-location model of academic programs or physical space is not a new concept. However, various adaptations exist that remain relatively unnoticed, which can include, for example, CSU courses delivered by CSU faculty on community college campuses. In addition, there are instances where a physical building is co-located on a partner campus, exemplified by the Sacramento City College campus center at UC Davis, which offers community college classes and student services directly on-site on the UC Davis campus. This kind of collaborations improve student access by expanding regional higher education capacity, lowering costs through the efficient use of facilities, and creating stronger transfer pathways for students. Exploring ways to develop and enhance this model, as proposed in this bill, seems beneficial.
- 5) *Task Force includes business, labor and higher education.* This bill establishes a temporary planning Task Force composed of regional stakeholders from business, labor, K-12 education and higher education. Although not explicitly stated in the bill the inclusion of each stakeholder group ensures that the desired facility responds to economic, workforce and educational needs of the region. The scope of the taskforce seems limited to infrastructure planning and development with little mention of programmatic goals.

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

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee analysis, this bill would have the following fiscal impact:

- The University of California (UC), the California State University, and the Chancellor's Office indicate that the cost for the segments to participate in the Task Force would be minor and absorbable within existing resources. However, the findings and recommendations of the Task Force could lead to General Fund cost pressures for the state to establish a mixed-use intersegmental educational facility in Chula Vista. The construction of such a facility will likely require a significant one-time capital investment, potentially in the hundreds of millions of dollars, depending on the scope of the project. Further, the facility would have additional, ongoing operating costs of an unknown magnitude.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/28/25)

City of Chula Vista

Southwestern Community College District
University of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/28/25)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0, 6/3/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

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