

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

ACA 18 (Caloza) – As Amended April 29, 2026

Policy Committee: Higher Education

Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill amends the California State Constitution to require, rather than authorize, the University of California (UC) Board of Regents to appoint four student members to the Board of Regents, effective July 1, 2027.

Specifically, the bill requires the Board of Regents to appoint two undergraduate and two graduate student members, each serving two-year terms, with one graduate student and one undergraduate student appointed for a total of two student appointees each year in even- and odd-numbered years. The bill also requires that each appointee's first year of their two-year term be served as a nonvoting student regent-designate.

Because this measure is a constitutional amendment, it requires a two-thirds vote in each house of the Legislature to pass, at which point the measure would be placed on the next statewide ballot.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Ongoing General Fund costs of \$172,000 annually to the UC for the UC Board of Regents to add two additional student Regents.

According to the UC Office of the President (UCOP), the cost of one student Regent, voting or non-voting, is \$86,000 per year, which represents costs associated with tuition, fees, scholarships, room, board, and transportation provided to the student in the form of credits and reimbursements. UCOP reports it currently pays these costs for both one student voting member and one student non-voting member on the Board of Regents. Therefore, this bill would double those costs by creating a total of four required student members.

- 2) One-time General Fund costs to the Secretary of State in the hundreds of thousands of dollars for printing and mailing costs to place the measure on the ballot in a statewide election. Actual costs may be higher or lower, depending on the length of required elements and the overall size of the ballot. Over the last three election cycles, the printing and mailing costs per page averaged around \$80,000.

COMMENTS:

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

ACA 18 is about fairness, accountability, and meaningful representation. By expanding student voting power on the UC Board of Regents, we ensure that the voices of those most impacted by decisions on tuition, housing, and student life are heard loud and clear. Now more than ever, it's time to put students first and give them a real say in the decisions that shape their education and future.

- 2) **Background.** Per the California Constitution, the UC is a public trust to be administered by the UC Board of Regents with full powers of organization and government. The UC is subject to legislative control only in certain situations, such as in insuring the security of UC funds.

The constitution requires the UC Board of Regents to be composed of 25 voting members: seven ex officio members and 18 members appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate. The constitution also authorizes the Board of Regents to appoint either a faculty member or a student enrolled at a UC campus, or both, as voting members of the Board of Regents.

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