

Date of Hearing: August 20, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 640 (Cabaldon) – As Amended June 19, 2025

Policy Committee: Higher Education

Vote: 10 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

**SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes the California State University (CSU) Direct Admission Program (program) between participating CSU campuses and local educational agencies (K-12). The bill also requires the California Community Colleges (CCCs) to promote the existing CSU dual admission transfer program and establishes a workgroup to create five or more transfer model curricula (TMC) unrelated to existing Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT).

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

- 1) Ongoing General Fund costs likely in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars per year for the CSU, system wide, to provide mailers and notify students of admittance. To the extent the bill results in increased enrollments from the Direct Admissions Program costs would be lower.
- 2) Ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs, up to \$60,000, for the CCCs, collectively statewide, to provide specified information regarding dual admission programs to new students via orientation, campus websites, and within counseling offices and transfer centers.
- 3) One-time General Fund costs for the CCC Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) of up to \$84,000 to convene an intersegmental workgroup to develop five TMCs.

**COMMENTS:**

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

It should be as easy and seamless to go from 12th grade to the next step as it is to go from 10th grade to 11th grade. Tens of thousands of California students are fully qualified to go to CSU, but don't jump the hurdles of the admissions process. At the same time, nearly half of CSU's campuses have substantial available enrollment capacity and need more students to sustain their high quality academic programs. High schools already have all the transcript information they need in order to validate that a graduating student is CSU-admissible. SB 640 seals the cracks through which too many students fall and gets a coveted letter of admission to thousands of qualified students.

- 2) **Background. ADT and TMCs.** Enacted to simplify the transfer process for CCC students wishing to attend a four-year university after completing coursework at a CCC, the ADT has

become a successful pathway for students to earn a bachelor's degree. Completion of an ADT provides a student with a two-year, 60-unit degree guaranteeing them admission to the CSU and participating private universities. The process for establishing an ADT requires developing a structure—known as a TM—for the central component or emphasis of the associate degree. A TMC undergoes intersegmental vetting and statewide adoption before then being disseminated across the CCCs, subject to individual campus approval by the CCCCCO. This bill establishes a workgroup to create at least five new TMCs for fields of study with high opportunity for social mobility not related to existing ADTs.

***Dual Admission.*** Current law establishes the Dual Admissions Pathway at CSU campuses for first-time freshman applicants for the 2023-24 through 2025-26 academic years. This program guarantees a student admission to their chosen campus if they complete transfer requirements, which may include completion of an ADT or another established course of study for transfer within two academic years at a CCC, and access to a library, counseling, and other services from the CSU campus nearest to the student's primary residence. The bill extends this pathway until the 2035-36 academic year and expands eligibility to include a student who has completed an ADT or another established course of study for transfer within three rather than two years.

***Direct Admission.*** In the fall of 2024, 10 CSU campuses partnered with Riverside county office of education to create a direct admission pilot program to all higher school seniors attending high schools within Riverside County. High school seniors on track to satisfy college preparatory course requirements and meeting a GPA minimum received a congratulatory note indicating they were automatically admitted to one of the 10 participating CSU campuses of their choice. This bill establishes the CSU Direct Admission Program requiring the Chancellor of the CSU to designate one or more CSU campuses to participate and provide direct admission and enrollment instructions for participating campuses to qualifying high school seniors.

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