

SB 769 (Hill): Community College Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program

POSITION: The Chamber's Education and Workforce Development Committee voted to SUPPORT SB 769 on April 19, 2017.

STATUS: SB 769 passed unanimously at the Senate's Education Committee on April 26, 2017 and re-referred to Appropriations Committee.

AT-A-GLANCE

SB 769 would modify and expand SB 850 (Block, 2014) Community College Baccalaureate Degree pilot program offering four year degrees at community colleges.

SUMMARY

SB 769 would increase the number of community colleges offering four year degrees from 15 to 25 as long as the community college is 100 miles away from a US/CSU. In addition, this bill would remove the current "one program per district limitation" and expand the pilot deadline of 2023 to 2028.

ANALYSIS

Currently, 206 students are benefiting from this pilot program statewide and this bill would bump up the number to about 300, providing a greater sample for metrics on the success of the pilot program. The pilot currently consists of 15 colleges, however, 36 colleges applied - showing the need to expand these degrees at the community college level. Among those 15 are Mesa College, providing a Health Information Management degree; and Mira Costa College offering a Biomanufacturing degree. Both San Diego pilots are playing a vital role in strengthening our regional economy where these specific industry degrees contribute directly to our regional workforce demands and many students are being sought after by employers even before completing the degree.

More than half of the state's undergraduate enrollment is at community colleges, however, only one in ten transfer to a four-year university. SB 769 comes at a critical time to equip our future workforce with 4-year degrees to address the predicted 1.1 million shortfall of bachelor's degrees by 2030.

Support: Allan Hancock Community College District, Association of California Community College Administrators, Brad Lewis, Vice President of Systems and Information, Snap-on Inc. Bruce Alberts, Chancellor's Leadership Chair in Biochemistry and Biophysics for Science and Education, University of California, San Francisco California, Farm Bureau Federation, Citrus College, College of the Canyons, Community College League of California Ed Knudson, President of Antelope Valley College Foothill-De Anza Community College District Geraldine Perri, Superintendent, Citrus College, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, Kern Community College District, Los Angeles College District, Los Rios Community College District, Monterey Peninsula College, Mt. San Antonio College, North Orange Community College District, Peralta Community College District, Redwoods Community College District, Rio Hondo College, San Diego Community College District, San Diego Continuing Education, San Jose Evergreen Community College District, Santa Barbara City College, Santa Monica College, Shaun Del

Grande, President of Del Grande Dealer Group, South Orange County Community College District, Southwest California Legislative Council, Synergenics, Ventura County Community College

Opposition:

Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, California Federal of Teachers (CFT), California State University California Teachers Association (CTA), University of California, California Faculty Association (CFA)