

Date of Hearing: May 12, 2021

# ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

AB 1216 (Salas) – As Amended April 27, 2021

Policy Committee: Higher Education

Vote: 12 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

## SUMMARY:

This bill requires California Community College (CCC) districts to give student members of local CCC boards of trustees an advisory vote immediately before votes are cast by trustees. The bill also requires, by June 1, 2022, the CCC Chancellor's Office convene a stakeholder workgroup to review CCC boards of trustees' policies and regulations and state and federal laws regarding student member involvement. The bill requires the workgroup to make recommendations pertaining to student member compensation, making and seconding motions and attending closed sessions. The workgroup is also to examine giving a student member a full vote on a board of trustees. The bill requires the workgroup to submit a report, with the workgroup's findings and recommendations, to the CCC Chancellor's Office and the Legislature by June 1, 2023.

## FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) One-time Proposition 98 GF costs to the CCC Chancellor's Office in the mid hundreds of thousands of dollars to hire two limited-term staff to carry out the tasks of the workgroup, provide research and administrative support and write a report.
- 2) Likely no additional costs to CCC districts to give student members of local CCC boards of trustees an advisory vote immediately before votes are cast by trustees. However, if the Commission on State Mandates determines this requirement to have cost, it would be a reimbursable state mandate, and the state would need to reimburse these costs to CCC districts.

## COMMENTS:

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

Student trustees...face a significant power imbalance when trying to represent the views of stakeholders who are most affected by board decisions. AB 1216 evens the playing field for student trustees by enshrining the rights to cast advisory votes, attend certain closed session meetings, and make and second motions and provide students with the compensation they deserve.

- 2) **Background.** The state has 72 CCC districts and 116 CCCs. The CCC Board of Governors sets statewide CCC policy and provides guidance to the CCC districts and CCCs within the

system. At the local level, 72 boards of trustees each maintain, operate and govern CCCs within their district boundary. Each local governing board has either five or seven voting members, known as trustees, who are elected in a state-run election. In addition to trustees, each governing board is required by law to have at least one nonvoting student member who is elected by students. Each student member has the right to attend all board meetings, sit with trustees, receive all materials presented to trustees and participate in the questioning of witnesses and the discussion of an issue. A student trustee is not permitted to attend executive sessions of the board, nor are they allowed to vote on any measure before the board. Any additional authority or compensation is provided to the student at the discretion of the board of trustees and determined by either a vote of trustees or by regulations and procedures adopted by the trustees. Currently, most CCC boards of trustees have one student member, permit student members to make a motion and provide an advisory vote. In addition, the average compensation for CCC local governing board trustees is \$380 monthly while the average monthly compensation to a student member who receives compensation is \$209.

This bill requires all boards of trustees to give student members an advisory vote immediately before votes are cast by the trustees. The bill also requires the CCC Chancellor's Office to convene a workgroup and provide recommendations related to various facets of student membership.

According to the CCC Chancellor's Office, it historically has deferred to the Community College League of California and the Student Senate, which have expertise in representing local boards of trustees and students, respectively, on matters such as those described in this bill.

- 3) **Prior Legislation.** SB 206 (Skinner), Chapter 383, Statutes of 2019, amongst other things, required the CCC Chancellor's Office to convene a student athlete name, image and likeness working group and write a report.

AB 2910 (Weber), of the 2019-2020 Legislative Session, would have authorized each CCC board of trustees to give each student member an advisory vote and a full vote. The bill also would have entitled each student member to make and second motions and to receive the same compensation as a trustee. The bill was held in the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

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