

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 39 (Chau)

As Amended September 1, 2021

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Authorizes the Regents of the University of California (UC) to establish the California-China Climate Institute in partnership with the Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development at Tsinghua University and other entities and institutions in China and California.

Major Provisions

- 1) Authorizes the Regents of the UC to establish the California-China Climate Institute (CCCI), as specified, and in partnership with the Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development at Tsinghua University and other entities and institutions in China and California.
- 2) Requires the CCCI to foster collaboration to inform and shape climate policy and advance the goals of the Paris Agreement, advance joint policy research on major climate issues, support high-level dialogue on specific climate issues, and provide training to specified entities to advance climate and environmental policies.
- 3) Requires the CCCI to work closely with UC campuses, departments, and leaders, and would authorize the institute to receive guidance and support from experts and state entities.

Senate Amendments

Amendments taken in the Senate clarify that the establishment CCCI is subject to the availability of private funds, and includes the Department of Food and Agriculture amongst the list of state entities that will, to the extent possible, provide guidance and support to CCCI.

COMMENTS

Background. In September 2019, former California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. helped launch the CCCI to promote climate action through joint research, training and dialogue between California and China. The Institute is jointly located at the UC Berkeley, School of Law and the College of Natural Resources. The Institute has a partnership with the Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development at Tsinghua University in China.

Governor Brown leads the institute in partnership with Xie Zenhua, China's Special Representative for Climate Change Affairs. Governing the institute is a board of top university and government officials, and a network of expert policy and operations staff, business, academic and climate advisory committees helps provide guidance and support.

This Institute is tasked with informing policy makers, promote communication and cooperation, and advance the implementation of climate solutions at all levels government and society. It will provide strategic advice for California's general engagement with China on climate, energy and environment, as well as over economic development, cultural and education matters by linking climate research with national and subnational climate decision-making processes.

According to the Author

According to the author, "The [CCCI] was created through private agreements. It is not statutorily created and can be dissolved despite its important research and without any involvement of the legislature that has placed a high priority on addressing climate change issues. AB 39 will formalize in statute the [CCCI] to make this important research institute permanent."

Arguments in Support

Arguments in support. The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr, 34th and 39th Governor of California and Chair of the CCCI, wrote in support of AB 39, "As chair of the [CCCI], housed at UC Berkeley, I write to express my strong support for AB 39. This bill recognizes – and codifies – the critical work of the Institute, which seeks to spur further climate action through joint research, training and dialogue between two of the world's top economic powers: California and China."

"If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it is that we are mutually vulnerable. The serious threats we face don't respect borders and they don't wait for nationalistic rivalries to abate."

"To confront the climate threat and start reducing carbon emissions, it is imperative that we build strong partnerships and seek ever more durable solutions. The Institute, which is partnering with the Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development at Tsinghua University in Beijing, establishes a platform for doing just that."

"The Institute is fortunate to have broad support from the Newsom Administration and the entire University of California system. And by passing this bill, the California State Legislature can send a forceful message that the Golden State is united in the fundamental work of reversing global warming and making our environment truly sustainable. Either we turn the tide together and put the world on the path to zero carbon emissions, or it won't be done."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

The Senate Committee on Appropriations noted that this bill provides that the Institute is subject to the availability of private funds so it is not expected to result in additional costs to the state.

VOTES:

ASM HIGHER EDUCATION: 8-4-0

YES: Medina, Arambula, Berman, Bloom, Gabriel, Irwin, Low, Santiago

NO: Choi, Kiley, Levine, Valladares

ASM NATURAL RESOURCES: 8-0-3

YES: Luz Rivas, Chau, Friedman, Cristina Garcia, McCarty, Muratsuchi, Stone, Wood

ABS, ABST OR NV: Flora, Mathis, Seyarto

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-4-1

YES: Lorena Gonzalez, Bloom, Calderon, Carrillo, Chau, Gabriel, Eduardo Garcia, Kalra, Nazarian, Quirk, Robert Rivas

NO: Bigelow, Megan Dahle, Davies, Levine

ABS, ABST OR NV: Fong

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 50-16-12

YES: Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Bennett, Berman, Bloom, Burke, Calderon, Carrillo, Chau, Chiu, Daly, Frazier, Friedman, Gabriel, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson, Lorena Gonzalez, Gray, Grayson, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Low, Maienschein, Medina, Mullin, Muratsuchi, O'Donnell, Petrie-Norris, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Salas, Santiago, Stone, Ting, Valladares, Villapudua, Ward, Akilah Weber, Wicks, Wood, Rendon

NO: Bigelow, Choi, Cooley, Cunningham, Megan Dahle, Davies, Gallagher, Kiley, Lackey, Levine, Nguyen, Patterson, Seyarto, Smith, Voepel, Waldron

ABS, ABST OR NV: Bauer-Kahan, Boerner Horvath, Cervantes, Chen, Cooper, Flora, Fong, Lee, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Nazarian

SENATE FLOOR: 29-8-3

YES: Allen, Archuleta, Atkins, Becker, Bradford, Caballero, Cortese, Dodd, Durazo, Glazer, Gonzalez, Hertzberg, Hueso, Kamlager, Laird, Leyva, Limón, McGuire, Min, Newman, Ochoa Bogh, Pan, Portantino, Roth, Rubio, Skinner, Umberg, Wieckowski, Wiener

NO: Bates, Dahle, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Melendez, Nielsen, Wilk

ABS, ABST OR NV: Borgeas, Eggman, Stern

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