
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair

2017 - 2018 Regular

Bill No: AB 1299 **Hearing Date:** July 12, 2017
Author: Gipson
Version: May 30, 2017
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Olgalilia Ramirez

Subject: Community colleges: Compton Community College District

SUMMARY

This bill enacts provisions related to the transition of the El Camino College Center to the Compton Community College District, upon the Compton Community College District receiving accreditation to once again operate as a district.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Provides for a partner community college district to provide accredited instructional programs to students residing in the Compton Community College District for the period of time that the district is without accreditation. (Education Code (EC) § 74292 et seq.)
- 2) Provides a methodology for apportioning California Community College revenues among districts based on enrollment and types of courses. (EC § 84750.5.)
- 3) Provided apportionment stabilization funding to the San Francisco Community College District, which was in jeopardy of losing its accreditation and was experiencing declining enrollment. The funding was contingent on the district meeting specified benchmarks related to its fiscal policies and practices. (EC § 84750.6.)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Makes all of the following applicable to a student enrolled at El Camino College Compton Center six months before the change in control of the institution from the El Camino Community College District to the Compton Community College District:
 - a) Requires Compton Community College District to ensure that any student of El Camino College Compton Center who, by the end of the spring term immediately preceding the change in control of the institution, has completed at least 75 percent of the courses required for the degree or certification that he or she is pursuing is able to complete the program at Compton College.

- b) Requires Compton Community College District to make every reasonable effort to allow other students who have not completed 75 percent of their coursework to also complete their programs at Compton College.
 - c) Requires Compton Community College to consider each student of El Camino College Compton Center who enrolls for classes at Compton College to be a continuing student for purposes of enrollment priorities.
 - d) Excludes the specified students from regulations of the board of governors relating to a minimum residence at a community college granting a degree.
- 2) Makes legislative findings and declarations that a special law is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable because of the unique needs of the Compton Community College District.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “Compton Community has been under a partnership agreement with El Camino College and has been considered a “center” of El Camino College rather than an independent college due to its loss of accreditation in 2005-06. Under this partnership, El Camino has taken charge as a parent institution and has taken charge as a parent institution and has taken on a number of administrative function on behalf of Compton Community College. On June 8, 2017, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Officially gave accreditation to Compton College after over 10 years for being without it. Now that the college is set for independence, there are a number of policy issues that must be addressed as the campus transitions into a stand-alone institution.”

This bill seeks to support the transition of Compton Community College as it becomes an independent accredited institution by ensuring that coursework taken under the “Compton Center,” is able to be applied towards degree completion at the newly accredited Compton Community College.

- 2) ***Accreditation.*** Accreditation is a baseline measure used to determine academic quality for educational or professional institutions and programs. Accrediting agencies are private organizations that establish operating standards for educational or professional institutions and programs, determine the extent to which the standards are met, and publicly announce their findings. The ACCJC is the regional accrediting agency for community colleges in the western region (California, Hawaii, and U.S. territories).

After an initial accreditation, colleges must have their accreditation reaffirmed every six years. This process includes a self-study, a site visit by a team of peers, a recommendation by the visiting team and an action by the ACCJC. At the time Compton College lost its accreditation, there are three levels of sanction prior to termination of accreditation: Warning, Probation, and Show Cause. Follow-up reports and accreditation visits are required to retain full accreditation.

- 3) **History and current accreditation status of Compton College District.** May 21, 2004, the Chancellor issued Executive Order No. 2004-01 to initiate state intervention to resolve long-standing fiscal problems at the Compton Community College District. Subsequently, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) took action to terminate Compton’s accredited status as of August 16, 2005. At this time, the college ceased to exist and a partnership with El Camino College District was formed, and the “El Camino Compton Center” was established to serve communities within Compton Community College District.

In February 2017, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges issued a “concurrence letter,” consistent with the requirements established by AB 318 (Dymally, Chapter 50, statutes of 2006) stating that Compton Community College district had fulfilled the requirements necessary for the college district to regain governing authority, restoring power to the locally elected board trustees. Following this decision, in March 2017, ACCJC external evaluation team reviewed the Compton Center Self Evaluation Report for Candidacy status to regain accreditation and granted initial accreditation status to Compton College in June 2017.

This bill seeks to ease the impact of transition for students by ensuring that coursework taken under the “Compton Center,” is able to be applied towards degree completion at the newly independent Compton Community College.

- 4) **Related Budget activity.** The 2017-2018 Budget Act appropriated \$11.3 million in one-time funding to support Compton Community College’s transition back from a center of El Camino Community College to a standalone college.

SUPPORT

None received

OPPOSITION

None received

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