

**EDGE Legislative Update
April 21, 2020**

As of March 16th, the California Legislature has been in recess due to the COVID-19 crisis. As of now, the Legislature is set to resume on Monday, May 4th and conduct business on the budget and remaining active bills.

Below is a list of legislative measures EDGE is closely tracking. An official position is noted if it has been approved by our coalition. This list will change as we moved through this session.

Legislative Action on COVID-19

Prior to the recess, Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order suspending the 72-hour rule, which normally requires a bill to be in print for 72-hours before it can be voted on, and requested that the Legislature pass legislation to support the State in responding immediately to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following bills were passed on March 16, 2020:

SB 89 (Budget & Fiscal Review Committee) authorized \$1 billion for emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information about the State's ongoing response, visit the Governor's website which is updated daily: <https://covid19.ca.gov/>

SB 117 (Budget & Fiscal Review Committee) authorizes funding and authority to reduce economic hardships to educational institutions related to closures from the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. For more information on how California schools are responding, visit the [CA Department of Education](#) site.

In April, both the Senate and Assembly held their first budget oversight hearings on the recent COVID-19 allocations and expenditures. In short, the hearings shed light on the realities of fiscal challenges that lie ahead due to the pandemic, including a discussion around critical priorities that should be considered in the upcoming budget package, such as funding for distance learning and unemployment insurance.

2019-2020 Bills

SB 291 (Leyva) Postsecondary education: California Community College Student Financial Aid Program.

Status: 7/10/2019-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (Last location was HIGHER ED. on 6/6/2019)(May be acted upon Jan 2020)

Summary: Would establish the California Community College Student Financial Aid Program, to provide need-based grant awards to eligible community college students who attend a California community college voluntarily designated by its district governing board to participate in the program, as specified. Subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, the bill specifies that the program shall be administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges and implemented by the eligible California community colleges.

Position: Support

AB 2052 (O'Donnell) California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program: local matching funds.

Status: 2/14/2020-Referred to Com. on ED.

Summary: Under the California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program, which is administered by the State Department of Education, requires the department to award competitive grants under the program to a school district, county office of education, charter school, or regional occupational center or program operated by a joint powers authority, or any combination of those entities, if the entity or combination of entities meets certain requirements, including, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, and each fiscal year thereafter, providing \$2 in local funding for every \$1 received from the program. This bill would instead require, for the 2021–22 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, a grant applicant to provide \$1 in local funding for every \$1 received from the program.

Position: Watch

[AB 2125 \(Rivas, L\)](#) Cal grant eligibility.

Introduced: 2/10/2020

Status: 4/6/2020-In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

Summary: The Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program establishes the Cal Grant A and B Entitlement awards, the California Community College Transfer Entitlement awards, the Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards, the Cal Grant C awards, and the Cal Grant T awards under the administration of the Student Aid Commission, and establishes eligibility requirements for awards under these programs for participating students attending qualifying institutions. The program prohibits a student who is incarcerated from being eligible to receive a Cal Grant award. This bill would make a person committed to or detained in a juvenile facility eligible to receive a Cal Grant award.

Position: Watch

[AB 2156 \(Garcia, E.\)](#) Community colleges: concurrent award of associate degree and high school diploma.

Status: 4/6/2020-In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

Summary: Current law authorizes community colleges to grant associate in arts and associate in science degrees. Current law authorizes the governing boards of community college districts maintaining adult schools to prescribe requirements for the granting of adult school diplomas. Current law also authorizes community college districts to provide adult education in conjunction with school districts as part of regional consortia. This bill would provide that, notwithstanding the provisions referenced above or any other law, a community college district may establish and offer to students a course of study leading to the concurrent award of an associate degree and a high school diploma.

Position: Watch

[AB 2896 \(Burke\)](#) Workforce and career technical education.

Status: 2/24/2020-Read first time.

Summary: Would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to foster the development of soft skills in California's workforce and career technical education programs.

Position: Watch

[AB 3000 \(Frazier\)](#) Community colleges: academic credit for students with prior learning.

Status: 4/6/2020-In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

Summary: Current law requires the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to establish, by March 31, 2019, an initiative to expand the use of course credit at the California Community Colleges for students with prior learning. Current law required the chancellor to submit, by January 1, 2020, a

report on the initiative to the Legislature. This bill would change the statutory deadline for the chancellor to submit this report to January 1, 2022.

Position: Watch

[AB 3216 \(Kaira\)](#) Employee leave: authorization: coronavirus (COVID-19).

Status: 3/17/2020-In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

Summary: Would make it an unlawful employment practice for an employer, as defined, to refuse to grant a request by an eligible employee to take family and medical leave due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), as specified. The bill would require a request under this provision to be made and granted in a similar manner to that provided under the California Family Rights Act (CFRA). The bill would specify that an employer is not required to pay an employee for the leave taken, but would authorize an employee taking a leave to elect, or an employer to require, a substitution of the employee's accrued vacation or other time off during this period and any other paid or unpaid time off negotiated with the employer.

Position: Watch

[ACA 5 \(Weber\)](#) Government preferences.

Status: 3/16/2020-In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

Summary: The California Constitution, pursuant to provisions enacted by the initiative Proposition 209 in 1996, prohibits the state from discriminating against, or granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting. The California Constitution defines the state for these purposes to include the state, any city, county, public university system, community college district, school district, special district, or any other political subdivision or governmental instrumentality of, or within, the state. This measure would repeal these provisions.

Position: Watch

[SB 987 \(Hurtado\)](#) Community college premedical pathway pilot program.

Status: 2/20/2020-Referred to Com. on RLS.

Summary: Would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would establish a pilot program for purposes of facilitating premedical pathways to medical school for students attending community colleges.

Position: Watch

[SB 1103 \(Hurtado\)](#) Workforce training programs: supportive services.

Status: 3/23/2020-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on JUD.

Summary: Would require the California Workforce Development Board, in partnership with the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, to establish and administer the Lifting Families Out of Poverty High Road Training Partnerships Supportive Services Program. The bill would require the board, upon appropriation by the Legislature for that purpose, to make \$50,000,000 in grants available to consortia, composed of combinations of local workforce development boards, community colleges, or other stakeholders, that apply for funding to provide supportive services, as defined, and are approved in accordance with the bill.

Position: Watch

[SB 1202 \(Jones\)](#) Employment and training grants.

Status: 3/23/2020-March 23 hearing postponed by committee.

Summary: Would require the Department of Community Services and Development to establish a program for the purpose of providing grants to nonprofit entities to create employment and job skill training opportunities for homeless individuals. The bill would require the department to prioritize nonprofit entities seeking to expand existing successful programs that meet the qualifications of the bill when determining grant awards. The bill would specify that the grant program is not subject to the requirements of Housing First.

Position: Watch

[SB 1232 \(Glazer\)](#) CalWORKs: postsecondary education.

Status: 3/23/2020-March 23 hearing postponed by committee.

Summary: Would require that specified CalWORKs eligible individuals participating in a full time or part time educational activity at a publicly funded postsecondary educational institution and making satisfactory progress, as specified, receive a standard allowance of \$250 to \$500 per semester or quarter, which may be provided, in whole or in part, in the form of a book voucher, or reimbursement for verified actual expenses for ancillary services. The bill would exempt an applicant or recipient who is enrolled in a specified educational plan or program and making satisfactory progress from participating in work activities and would entitle an applicant to the allowance or reimbursement and other necessary supportive services.

Position: Watch

[SB 1412 \(Roth\)](#) California Workforce Development Board: reporting data.

Status: 3/12/2020-Referred to Com. on L., P.E. & R.

Summary: Would require the California Workforce Development Board, in consultation with the Division of Apprenticeship Standards, to make information and data available to the community colleges regarding employment needs and trends for use in developing job-related curricula.

Position: Watch

For more information about our positions on specific legislation, please contact:

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