

AB -1358

Student Body Association: Student Representation Fee

Introduced by Assembly Member Fong, co-authored with Senator Lara

<http://www.asmdc.org/members/a28/press-releases/fong-bill-to-assist-sanctioned-community-colleges-passes-committee>

What is It?

The Assembly Higher Education Committee approved AB-1358, and the bill is also sponsored by the Student Senate for California Community Colleges. This measure will empower California Community College students in establishing and sustaining a **statewide student organization**.

Currently

Existing law allows the governing body of a student body organization to order an election to be held to establish a student representation fee of \$1/ student, which is then collected by officials of the community college at or before registration, and requires an affirmative 2/3 vote of the students voting.

If this Bill Passes...

It would authorize an election to establish the **student representation fee to increase to \$2/ student**, and it requires an affirmative vote of the majority of students participating in the election.

-Affirmative Vote: the number of students who vote in the election must equal or exceed the average of the number of students who voted in the previous three student body association elections.

If adopted on or after January 1st, 2014, the money will be expended to establish and support the operation of a statewide community college organization, which will be recognized by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

-The organization will hold shared governance and will be allowed to participate with government affairs representatives to advocate before the California Legislature.

The Economics of It

One out of the two dollars collected from each student, will go towards funding the student statewide organization.

It requires the statewide organization to reimburse the Office of the Chancellor of California Community Colleges for any costs incurred to implement provisions.

-Community college districts will annually prepare a summary of representation fees collected, of expenditures of representative fees, and of amount distributed to Board of Governors of the California

Community Colleges.→ the summary composed will be presented to the community college district board meeting each year.

Imposing these duties means the bill will compel a state-mandated local program that then must be reimbursed by California.

Underlying Goals of the Student Statewide Organization

- 1) Establish sustainable foundation for statewide community college student representation and advocacy.
- 2) Promote institutional and organizational memory.
- 3) Ensuring and maintaining responsible organizational oversight and decision-making.
- 4) Strengthening regional representation and coordination.
- 5) Promoting and enhancing student opportunities for engagement in community college student affairs and issues.
- 6) Provide open transparency and accountability.

Fees will be distributed to student statewide organization if it satisfies:

- 1) Establishing legal entity with Secretary of State.
- 2) Compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and reporting requirements.
- 3) Prudent fiscal management through accounting control and procedures.
- 4) Meeting of the organization shall be open to the public.

Other Important Specificities

The Student Representation Fee may be terminated by a majority vote of students voting in an election for this purpose.

Students may refuse to pay due to religious, political, financial, or moral reasons, but they must submit a written document to community college officials at the same time that they pay other fees.

If no qualifying student statewide organization is deemed, then the money collected from the fee shall be held by the Office of the Chancellor of California Community Colleges until a qualifying organization is recognized, or if it's decided that funds will return to the source.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB1358