

California Community College Independents

Legislative Update Report

13 August 20

CCCI-Sponsored Bills

- **AB 897 (Medina, D) Part-Time Faculty Teaching Load**

CCCI Position: CO-SPONSOR

Bill Status: Senate Education Committee refused to hear the bill; author withdrew for 2020

Increases the allowable part-time faculty maximum teaching load from the existing level of 67% to 85% of a full-time teaching load. *[CFT-sponsor, FACCC co-sponsor]*

Due to COVID-19, the number of bills being heard in legislative policy committees was dramatically reduced. Although CCCI, CFT and FACCC argued the need for AB 897 to address the academic impacts of the pandemic, the Senate Education Committee refused to hear the bill, and the author decided not to pursue the measure this year.

- **AB 2884 (Berman, D) – Lottery Funds for Student Housing and Food Assistance**

CCCI Position: CO-SPONSOR

Bill Status: Senate Governmental Organization Committee

Allows community college districts the option to use restricted lottery funds to provide housing and food assistance for students. *[FACCC-sponsor]*

Under current law, a portion of lottery funds allocated to community college districts can only be used to purchase “instructional materials,” defined as helping students “to acquire facts, skills or opinions or to develop cognitive processes.” Unfortunately, many of our students face housing and food insecurities that adversely impact their ability to achieve such outcomes, and much of the lottery funds designated for instructional materials are unused by districts.

- **SB 777 (Rubio, D) 75% Full-Time Faculty Goal**

CCCI Position: SPONSOR

Bill Status: CCCI withdrew the bill and will reconsider in 2021

Requires districts to annually reduce the deficit between their existing full-time faculty percentage and the state’s 75% goal. *[FACCC co-sponsor]*

Although the 75% level for full-time teaching has been a 30-year goal of the community college system, this level has never been achieved. In fact, due to the community college’s growing over-reliance on temporary, part-time faculty, the most recent data shows only 56.7% of instruction is taught by full-time faculty.

To accommodate legislative leadership and focus its efforts on the state budget and other priorities, CCCI decided not to pursue SB 777 this year. CCCI will revisit this issue as part of its 2021 deliberations.

New State Revenue Legislation

NOTE: Since mid-March (the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic) the wealth of the state’s billionaires increased by \$125 billion with eight new billionaires added to California’s total; U.S. billionaires increased their wealth by \$524 billion. California is home to 165 billionaires – Facebook’s Mark Zuckerberg alone has a net worth of \$54.7 billion!

Two bills have been introduced by a coalition of labor, environment, poverty, social justice and children's organizations that taxes the wealthy to increase annual state revenue:

- **AB 1253 (Santiago, D) – Millionaires' Income Tax**

CCCI Position: SUPPORT

Increases the state's millionaires' tax by two percent – from 13.3% to 15.3% – on taxable incomes over \$1 million. Based on current tax data, the tax increase would raise an additional \$6 billion in annual state revenue.

- **AB 2088 (Bonta, D) – Net Worth Wealth Tax**

CCCI Position: SUPPORT

Creates an annual tax on the net worth of the state's ultra-wealthy in excess of \$25 million for individuals and \$50 million for joint filers. Net worth – in addition to any earned income – would incorporate all owned assets, including property, stocks, bonds, cash, collectibles and other holdings. Approximately 12,400 state taxpayers would currently qualify, providing \$6.7 billion in additional state funds each year.

November Election Propositions

- **Prop. 15: Commercial property taxes**

CCCI Position: SUPPORT

Taxes commercial property based on its current market value rather than its value when it was originally purchased – similar to how residential property is taxed when it changes ownership. The proposition would only apply to commercial holdings exceeding \$3 million. Would raise \$11 billion in state property taxes on large businesses and corporations, and increase funding for schools, community colleges and local government.

Since 1978 when Prop. 13 was approved, commercial property has been treated differently than residential property by not being assessed property taxes based on its current market value. By limiting a landlord's commercial property tax payments to the original purchase price, Prop. 13 has been a gift to these property owners, particularly those who purchased real estate decades ago.

- **Prop. 16: Ending the ban on affirmative action**

CCCI Position: SUPPORT

In 1996, California voters passed Prop. 209, a constitutional amendment supported by then-Gov Pete Wilson and then-UC Regent Ward Connelly, banning affirmative action at public agencies and state institutions, resulting in an immediate drop in Black and Latino enrollment at the CSU and UC.

Prop. 16 repeals Prop. 209, allowing public K-Universities and other agencies to take race and gender into account as an additional factor when making admissions, public employment and public contracting decisions. It would not permit the use of quotas or any policies that do not consider the totality of the individual college applicant, job applicant or contract bidder.

As U.S. Supreme Court justice Harry Blackmun wrote in 1978: *...In order to get beyond racism, we must first take account of race. There is no other way. And in order to treat some persons equally, we must treat them differently. We cannot – we dare not – let the Equal Protection Clause perpetuate racial supremacy.*"