
5A

Information

Legislative Committee

Status of Legislation

AGENDA INSERT

Executive Summary: Staff will present the status of those legislative measures of interest to the Commission.

Recommended Action: For information only

Presenter: Joshua Speaks, Legislative Representative, Office of Governmental Relations

Strategic Plan Goal

III Communication and Engagement

- d) Advise the Governor, Legislature, and other policy makers regarding issues affecting the quality, preparation, certification, and discipline of the education workforce.

2015-16 Legislation of Interest

On January 4, 2016, the Legislature convened the second year of the two-year 2015-2016 Legislative Session. All two-year bills must pass out of their house of origin by January 31. The deadline for introducing current year bills is February 19, 2016. In order to provide the most current information on bills of interest to the Commission, staff will prepare an agenda insert on Legislation of interest.

Recently introduced legislation

Credentialing

SB 916 (Allen) Teacher credentialing

Introduced: January 27, 2016

Last amended: n/a

Status: May be heard in committee February 27

Summary: This bill would add dance and theatre to the list of authorized subjects in which the Commission may issue single subject teaching credentials. The bill would also state that a person issued a single subject teaching credential in physical education or English before the establishment of a single subject teaching credential in dance or theatre, respectively, retains authorization to teach those subjects.

Curriculum Changes

AB 1689 (Low) School curriculum: coursework for high school graduation: service learning

Introduced: January 21, 2016

Last amended: n/a

Status: May be heard in committee February 21

Summary: This bill would require, beginning with the 2021-22 school year, that students take at least one course with a “service learning” component in order to graduate. Service learning is defined by the bill as “a method through which pupils or participants learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service that: (I) is conducted in, and meets the needs of, a community; (II) is coordinated with a secondary school and with the community; and (III) helps foster civic responsibility.” The bill also requires that the service be integrated into, and enhance the academic curriculum, and provide structured time for participants to reflect on their experience. The Superintendent of Public Instruction is required to adopt curriculum standards for this requirement.

Student Financial Aid

AB 1721 (Medina) Student financial aid: Cal Grant Program

Introduced: January 28, 2015

Last Amended: n/a

Status: May be heard in committee February 28

Summary: This bill would raise the amount of the maximum award for access costs under the Cal Grant B program to \$3,000, from its current level of \$1,551. It would also raise the maximum age for an applicant for an award under the California Community College Transfer Entitlement Program from 28 years old to 31 years old by December 31 of the award year. Currently, an awardee is required to have attended a California community college in the academic year immediately preceding the award. This would raise that limit to no more than 3 academic years before the academic year for which the award will be used.

Teacher Supply

SB 915 (Liu) Teacher recruitment: California Center on Teaching Careers

Introduced: January 26, 2016

Last Amended: n/a

Status: May be heard in committee on February 26

Summary: This bill would establish the California Center on Teaching Careers for the purposes of recruiting qualified and capable individuals into the teaching profession. Funds would be appropriate to the Superintendent of Public Instruction to contract with a local educational agency to establish and administer the center with the concurrence of representatives of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, the University of California, the California State University, and independent institutions of higher education. The duties of the California Center on Teaching Careers include, but are not limited to: developing and distributing statewide announcements relating to teacher recruitment; developing and distributing effective recruitment publications; providing information to prospective teachers regarding credentialing, program admission, and financial aid; creating or expanding a referral database for qualified teachers seeking employment; developing and conducting outreach activities to high school and college students; developing and conducting outreach activities to teachers to fill existing teacher shortage areas. The bill also requires the Commission, in consultation with the Legislative Analyst, to conduct an evaluation of the program established by this chapter on or before January 1, 2020.

SB 933 (Allen) Teachers: California Teacher Corps Act of 2016: teacher residency programs

Introduced: February 2, 2016

Last amended: n/a

Status: May be heard in committee March 2

Summary: This bill would establish the California Teacher Corps Act of 2016, which would authorize the Superintendent of Public Instruction to make grants to high-need local educational agencies and high-need consortium of local educational agencies, in order to assist these agencies in establishing and maintaining teacher residency programs. The teacher residency programs established by the bill would be defined as school-based teacher preparation programs in which a prospective teacher would teach alongside an experienced mentor teacher for a minimum of 9 months, while also receiving teacher training instruction in a teacher credentialing program at a qualified institution. Awardees would agree to be placed in a high-need school upon completion of their credential for at least for years, or else pay back a pro-rated portion of their training costs.