



Legislative Update: Sponsored/Co-Sponsored Legislation

August 3, 2023

INTRODUCTION

The CFA is sponsoring or co-sponsoring eight (8) pieces of legislation during the first year of the 2023-2024 biennial legislative session. Four (4) of those bills passed out of the policy committees in the second House by the July 14, 2023 legislative deadline (AB 238, AB 1123, SB 11 and SB 808). All four of these bills are currently in their respective Appropriations Committees. Four (4) of the CFA's sponsored/co-sponsored bills were made into two-year bills (AB 644, AB 672, SB 252 and SB 808) at the request of the authors. The Legislature is currently on Summer Recess and will reconvene on August 14, 2023. Below are summaries of CFA's sponsored/co-sponsored bills with their current status.

CFA Sponsored Bills

- **California Student Teacher Support Grant Program: Assembly Bill 238 (Muratsuchi)** expresses the intent of the Legislature, to improve teacher retention and recruitment in California's public school system, to create a grant program to compensate student teachers to help alleviate financial stress at an important time in the teacher preparation process. In addition, the bill would, contingent upon an appropriation of one-time funding, establish the California Student Teacher Support Grant Program, under the administration of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), to award grants of an unspecified amount to teaching credential candidates to compensate them while they perform the required 600 hours of student teaching. Finally, the bill would require that stipends for each student teacher to be equal to the daily substitute teacher pay rate.

Position: Sponsor

Current Status: AB 238 passed out of the Senate Education Committee on June 21, 2023 on a 7-0 vote. Subsequently, the hearing for the bill was postponed by the author in the Senate Appropriations Committee on June 29, 2023.

- **Teacher Credentialing Task Force: Assembly Bill 672 (Jackson)** would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to convene a Teacher Credentialing Task Force by March 1, 2024 comprised of teacher educators from each segment of the higher education system, students in teacher credentialing programs, organizations representing university faculty, teachers and administrators, to examine, among other things, the

available research on the factors that enable and constrain recruitment, credentialing and retention of a diverse teaching workforce and the experiences of student candidates in various credentialing pathways, and to report to the appropriate committees of the Legislature on or before March 1, 2027 on any recommendations based on those findings for increasing the number and diversity of qualified teachers in California.

Position: Sponsor

Current Status: AB 672 passed off of the Assembly Floor on May 31, 2023 on an 80-0 vote. The hearing for the bill in the Senate Education Committee was canceled at the request of the author on July 5, 2023. The bill now becomes a two-year bill.

- **Parental Leave for California State University (CSU) Employees: Assembly Bill 1123 (Addis and Cervantes)** would require the CSU to provide one semester of paid parental leave to employees, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 3562 of the Government Code, in each one-year period. Such leave would be taken consecutively, unless mutually agreed upon otherwise by the employee and the appropriate administrator. Such leave would be charged only for workdays in such a period of time and may be used for reasons of the birth of a child of the employee or the placement of a child with an employee in connection with the adoption or foster care of the child by the employee.

Position: Sponsor

Current Status: AB 1123 passed off of the Assembly Floor on May 30, 2023 on a 62-8-10 vote. Subsequently, the bill passed out of the Senate Education Committee on June 28, 2023 on a 4-2-1 vote. Finally, the bill was placed on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File on July 10, 2023.

- **Ethnic Studies Credentialing Task Force: Assembly Bill 1255 (Carrillo)** would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to convene a statewide Task Force beginning March 1, 2024 comprised of the major stakeholder groups to develop recommendations for the creation of a single-subject Ethnic Studies credential for teachers. The Task Force would be required to issue a report on the requirements for the development of a single-subject Ethnic Studies credential by September 2024 to be submitted to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and the Legislature. Finally, the bill would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to begin the development of the single-subject Ethnic Studies credential by January 1, 2025.

Position: Sponsor

Current Status: AB 1255 was scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Education Committee on April 12, 2023 but was pulled by the author to continue work on the bill. The bill now becomes a two-year bill.

- **California State University (CSU) Mental Health Counseling: Senate Bill 11 (Menjivar)** would require the CSU to have one full-time equivalent California-licensed counselor for every 1,500 students on each campus. In addition, SB 11 would establish, contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature, the CSU Mental Health Professionals Act to provide one-time grants to certain CSU students to become mental health counselors in the state. Finally, SB 11 would, contingent upon an Appropriation by the Legislature, establish the Mental Health Professionals Fund as the depository of moneys appropriated or otherwise received for the program and would require the Department of Health Care Access and Information to disburse moneys in the fund under the act **(amended version as of July 13, 2023)**.

Position: Sponsor

Current Status: SB 11 passed off of the Senate Floor on May 30, 2023 on a 40-0 vote. Subsequently, the bill passed out of the Assembly Higher Education Committee on June 27, 2023 on a 11-0-1 vote. In addition, the bill passed out of the Assembly Health Committee on July 11, 2023 on a 15-0 vote. Finally, the bill has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

CFA Co-Sponsored Bills

- **Public Postsecondary Education Hate Crimes Surveys: Assembly Bill 644 (Jones-Sawyer)** would require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges (CCC) and the Chancellor of the California State University (CSU), and request the President of the University of California (UC), to develop a survey on campus climate related to hate crimes to be submitted to the United States Secretary of Education for review and approval to be incorporated into an online survey tool for campus safety. In addition, the bill would require campuses that already have formulated and implemented a campus climate survey before January 1, 2024, to meet on or before December 31, 2024, and at least once every 5 years thereafter, to review and update the survey with student participation in the development of the survey questions. AB 644 would also, beginning one year after the date the online survey is made available, require that the CCC and CSU, and request that the UC, to submit a report to the Assembly Committee on Higher Education and the Senate Committee on Education. Finally, this bill would require these reports to be posted on the website on each campus.

Position: Co-Sponsor

Current Status: AB 644 was referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee but was pulled by the author to continue work on the bill. The bill now becomes a two-year bill.

- **Divestment from Fossil Fuels: Senate Bill 252 (Gonzalez, Stern and Wiener)** would prohibit the boards of the Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) and the State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) from making new investments, or renewing existing investments, of public employee retirement funds in a fossil fuel company. The bill would require the boards to liquidate investments in a fossil fuel company on or before July 1, 2031. The bill would provide that it does not require a board to take any action unless the board determines in good faith that the action is consistent with the board's fiduciary responsibilities established in the California Constitution. This bill would require the boards, commencing February 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, to file a report with the Legislature and the Governor, containing specified information, including a list of fossil fuel companies from which the boards have liquidated their investments. The bill would provide that board members and other officers and employees shall be held harmless and be eligible for indemnification in connection with actions taken pursuant to the bill's requirements.

Position: Co-Sponsor

Current Status: SB 252 passed off the Senate Floor on May 25, 2023 on a 23-10-7 vote. Subsequently, the bill has been referred to the Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee. The bill now becomes a two-year bill.

- **California State University Annual Report: Sexual Harassment Reports: Formal Sexual Harassment Complaints: Senate Bill 808 (Dodd)** would require the California State University, on or before December 1 of each year, to submit a report to the Legislature on the investigations and outcomes of sexual harassment reports and formal sexual harassment complaints, as provided, and would require the CSU to post these annual reports on its internet website. **(amended version as of June 15, 2023).**

Position: Co-Sponsor

Current Status: SB 808 passed out of the Assembly Higher Education Committee on June 27, 2023 on a 11-0-1 vote. Finally, the bill has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ron Rapp, Legislative Director
916.715.2805
rrapp@calfac.org

Tomas Figueroa, Legislative Analyst
916.402.1233
tfigueroa@calfac.org