

ASCCC Legislative Info Fall 2023

<https://www.asccc.org/legislative-updates>

In terms of legislative advocacy and lobbying, the rules governing the ASCCC and local academic senates differ. For the purpose of understanding these rules, lobbying is essentially a subset of advocacy. Advocacy involves active support for a cause, idea or policy and is a general term involving a broad set of activities. Lobbying is an attempt to influence specific legislation and is defined by the IRS as well as various states and localities, often because of the limitations on the ways in which funds can be used for lobbying purposes.

The restrictions and guidelines for local academic senate activities are defined by California Education Code sections 7050-7068. The following excerpt from “Advocacy at the Local Level: What Your Senate Can Do to Stay Informed and Active,” published in the November 2103 Senate Rostrum, explains the activities in which local academic senate can and cannot engage:

Ed Code section 7054 (a) states that “No school district or community college district funds, services, supplies, or equipment shall be used for the purpose of urging the support or defeat of any ballot measure or candidate, including, but not limited to, any candidate for election to the governing board of the district.” In short, academic senates cannot use any district resources to support or oppose any candidate or ballot measure. This restriction applies not only to district funds but also to materials, email, and even employee time when the employee is scheduled to work. Any discussion of ballot measures or elections among senators therefore should not take place on campus or during academic senate meetings.

However, Ed Code section 7054 (b) adds that “Nothing in this section shall prohibit the use of any of the public resources described in subdivision (a) to provide information to the public about the possible effects of any bond issue or other ballot measure if both of the following conditions are met: (1) The informational activities are otherwise authorized by the Constitution or laws of this state. (2) The information provided constitutes a fair and impartial presentation of relevant facts to aid the electorate in reaching an informed judgment regarding the bond issue or ballot measure.” Academic senates may therefore publish information to educate the public regarding the impact of a given ballot measure as long as they do not advocate either for or against the measure.

[ASCCC Legislative Positions](#)

<https://ccleague.org/advocacy/bill-tracking>

[FACCC Bill Tracker](#)

Interested to follow:

AB 461 [Fentanyl Test strips on Campus](#)

Would require the governing board of each community college district and the Trustees of the California State University to provide information about the use and location of fentanyl test strips as part of established campus orientations and to notify students of the presence and location of fentanyl test strips. The bill would require the governing board of each community college district and the Trustees of the California State University to require that each campus health center stock and distribute fentanyl test strips, as specified. By imposing new duties on community college districts, the bill would constitute a state-mandated local program. The bill would request that the Regents of the University of California comply with these requirements. (Based on 09/01/2023 text)

[AB 607 Publish course costs for each course](#)

Would, commencing July 1, 2024, require each campus of the California Community Colleges and the California State University, and request each campus of the University of California, to prominently display the estimated costs for each course of all required course materials and fees directly related to those materials, for no less than an annually increasing percentage, up to 75% by January 1, 2028, of the total number of courses on the online campus course schedule for which a faculty member or course instructor has been assigned. The bill would define, for purposes of this requirement, "course materials" to include digital or physical textbooks, devices such as calculators and remote attendance platforms, and software subscriptions. By imposing new duties on community college districts, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. (Based on 08/15/2023 text)

[AB 634 Career Development and preparation courses](#)

Current law makes specified community college career development and college preparation courses and classes for which credit is not given, and that are offered in a sequence of courses leading to certain outcomes, eligible for state funding. This bill would instead make the same courses and classes for which credit is not given eligible for state funding if those courses are offered in both face-to-face and distance education instructional methods. (Based on 09/01/2023 text)

[AB 659 Cancer Prevention Act](#)

Would enact the Cancer Prevention Act and declare the public policy of the state that pupils are recommended to be fully immunized against human papillomavirus (HPV) before admission or advancement to the 8th grade level of any private or public elementary or secondary school. The bill would, upon a pupil's admission or advancement to the 6th grade level, require the governing authority to submit to the pupil and their parent or guardian a notification containing a statement about that public policy and advising that the pupil be fully immunized against HPV before admission or advancement to the 8th grade level. The bill would incorporate that notification into existing provisions relating to notifications by school districts. By creating new notification duties for school districts, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. (Based on 07/03/2023 text)

[AB 689 Incumbent Health-Care workers](#)

Would require a community college with a limited enrollment course or program, as defined, to ensure that at least 15 percent of the admitted students, but no less than 3 students per incoming cohort, in the course or program are incumbent health care workers, as provided. The bill would require a community college that administers a priority enrollment system to grant priority in that system to students who are incumbent health care workers, as specified. The bill would define “incumbent health care worker” and “health care facility” for purposes of these provisions. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2034. (Based on 07/11/2023 text)

[AB 264 Lunar New Year](#)

Existing law requires the Governor to proclaim various days in honor of a person, status, or event, including Lunar New Year. Existing law requires community colleges to close on specified holidays, including February 12, known as “Lincoln Day,” and the third Monday in February, known as “Washington Day.” Existing law entitles certain community college employees to be given time off with pay for specified holidays, including for Lincoln Day and Washington Day. This bill would authorize the governing board of a community college district, pursuant to a memorandum of understanding, to replace closing on Lincoln Day or Washington Day with the date corresponding with the second new moon following the winter solstice, or the third new moon following the winter solstice should an intercalary month intervene, known as “Lunar New Year.” The bill would require that certain community college employees, in lieu of a paid holiday for Lincoln Day or Washington Day, receive a paid holiday for the Lunar New Year if the governing board of the community college replaces closing on Lincoln Day or Washington Day with closing on Lunar New Year.