

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025-2026 SIMULATION SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO 72

Introduced by Senator Roger Niello

October 1st, 2025

This bill is an act to add Section 70904.5 to the Education Code, relating to workforce development.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SB 72, as introduced, Niello. Public-Private Workforce Pipeline Act.

Under existing law, the Regents of the University of California and the Trustees of the California State University govern and coordinate academic and workforce development programs across their respective systems (Education Code Sections 92000 et seq. and 66010 et seq.). These institutions may establish certificate and degree programs to prepare students for careers in technical and professional fields. The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges is responsible for coordinating similar programs across California’s 116 community colleges (Education Code Section 70900 et seq.).

This bill would require the Chancellor of the California State University and the President of the University of California, in consultation with the Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges, the California Chamber of Commerce, and local industry groups, to develop a framework for Public-Private Workforce Pipeline Partnerships by January 1, 2027. These partnerships shall connect businesses with campuses of the California State University and the University of California, with the option for community colleges to participate as supporting partners, to establish certificate and degree programs in high-demand fields, including healthcare, information technology, engineering, advanced manufacturing, and skilled trades.

The bill would require that any business participating in a Workforce Pipeline Partnership provide priority interview opportunities to program graduates. The California State University Chancellor’s Office, the Office of the President of the University of California, and the Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges would jointly publish an annual report evaluating the success of these partnerships, measured by student job placement rates, employer participation, and regional workforce outcomes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal Committee: yes. Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 70904.5 is added to the Education Code, to read:

70904.5. (a) The Chancellor of the California State University and the President of the University of California, in consultation with the Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges, the

California Chamber of Commerce, the League of California Cities, and local industry groups, shall establish a framework for Public-Private Workforce Pipeline Partnerships by January 1, 2027.

(b) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Workforce Pipeline Partnership" is defined as a cooperative agreement between one or more campuses of the California State University or the University of California, and one or more private employers, to develop and deliver certificate or degree programs aligned with regional labor market needs. Community colleges may participate as supporting partners in such agreements.

(2) "High-demand fields" include, but are not limited to, healthcare, information technology, engineering, advanced manufacturing, and skilled trades.

(3) "Priority interview opportunity" means that an employer shall guarantee an interview to any graduate of a certificate or degree program developed under this section, provided the graduate meets minimum qualifications.

(c) Each Workforce Pipeline Partnership shall include:

(1) Curriculum co-designed by faculty from the University of California or the California State University, in partnership with participating employers, with input from community colleges where applicable.

(2) Opportunities for on-site training, internships, or apprenticeships as appropriate.

(3) A written agreement that participating businesses provide priority interviews to program graduates.

(d) The Chancellor of the California State University, the President of the University of California, and the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges shall jointly publish an annual report to the Legislature evaluating:

(1) The number of partnerships established statewide.

(2) The number of students enrolled and completing certificate or degree programs.

(3) Job placement rates of program graduates.

(4) Employer satisfaction and participation rates.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require new appropriations. The Chancellor of the California State University, the President of the University of California, and the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges may utilize existing resources to carry out the provisions of this act.

SEC. 2. Effective Date.

This act shall take effect beginning with the 2026–27 academic year.