

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION, INNOVATION, AND REFORM

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 [E] Emergency Clause
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 [LIV] Line Item Veto

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HB 2410 – Chapter 56 [E] – honorably discharged veterans; in-state tuition

An emergency measure that classifies all persons who are honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces and who demonstrate objective evidence of intent to be a resident of Arizona as in-state students for the purposes of tuition at an Arizona public university or community college, beginning in the fall semester of 2011.

HB 2565 – Chapter 337 – postsecondary education; students' rights

Prohibits public universities and community colleges from discriminating against, adopting policies that penalize or punish, or withholding any certificate or degree from a student based on the student's religious viewpoint, expression, or beliefs.

- Stipulates that a university or community college cannot discipline or discriminate against a student in a counseling, social work, or psychology program if the student refuses to counsel a client about goals that conflict with the student's sincerely held religious belief and the student consults with the supervising instructor to determine the proper course of action to avoid harm to the client.
- Requires universities and community colleges that grant recognition to any student organization or group to recognize and give equal access or a fair opportunity to other student organizations regardless of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the organizations' speech.
- Allows a religious or political student organization to determine the ordering of its internal affairs are in furtherance of the organization's religious or political mission and limit these activities to only persons committed to that mission.
- Prohibits a university or community college from restricting a student's right to speak, hold a sign, or distribute fliers or other materials in a public forum unless the restriction is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.

SB 1213 – Chapter 248 – community college districts; alternative formation

Outlines an alternative process to convert a provisional community college district to an independent community college district. Specifically:

- Allows a county to organize an independent community college district if the following requirements are met:
 - The county has operated a provisional community college for at least five years.
 - The provisional community college has an enrollment of at least 900 FTSE according to the most recent audited FTSE count.
 - The provisional community college district's governing board (Board) holds a public meeting to discuss and hear testimony on the conversion of the provisional community college district to an independent community college district.
 - The Board adopts a resolution to form a community college district.
 - The proposed community college district is seeking accreditation.
 - The provisional community college district has maintained a regional accreditation and oversight relationship with another community college district until it is converted from a provisional district to an independent district.
- Permits the Board, after the resolution to convert to an independent district is adopted, to call an election on a general election date to seek voter approval to increase the property tax levy.

- Requires the new alternatively-formed community college district to maintain a regional accreditation and oversight relationship with another community college district until it has reached the initial candidacy stage of the accreditation process.
- Prohibits community college districts formed pursuant to the alternative process from receiving state Equalization Aid and specifies these districts should not be considered when calculating the base used to determine Equalization Aid to the other community college districts.
- Outlines the distribution of Proposition 301 Workforce Development monies for alternatively-formed community college districts.

SB 1217 – Chapter 249 – shared revenues; provisional community colleges

Modifies the distribution formula for the Proposition 301 Workforce Development monies to include a provisional community college district's FTSE count. Requires the monies generated from the provisional district's FTSE count to be used to provide workforce development services to students in the provisional district as approved by the provisional district's governing board in its annual budget process.