

Vice-Chair
Ochoa Bogh, Rosilicie

Members
Cabaldon, Christopher
Choi, Steven S.
Cortese, Dave
Gonzalez, Lena A.
Reyes, Eloise Gómez

California State Senate

EDUCATION



SASHA RENÉE PÉREZ
CHAIR

Staff Director
Olgalilia Ramirez

Principal Consultant
Ian Johnson

Consultant
Therresa Austin

Committee Assistant
Maria Velez
Irma Kam

1021 O Street, Room 6740
(916) 651-4105
FAX: (916) 324-0917

AGENDA

Wednesday, January 14, 2026
9 a.m. -- 1021 O Street, Room 2100

MEASURES HEARD IN FILE ORDER

| | | | |
|-----|--------|---------|---|
| *1. | SB 308 | Seyarto | Community colleges: audits: reports. |
| *2. | SB 607 | Wiener | University of California: California Institutes for Science and Innovation. |

*Consent Items

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Bill No: | SB 308 | Hearing Date: | January 14, 2026 |
| Author: | Seyarto | | |
| Version: | January 5, 2026 | | |
| Urgency: | No | Fiscal: | Yes |
| Consultant: | Olgalilia Ramirez | | |

Subject: Community Colleges: audits: reports.

SUMMARY

This bill streamlines fiscal reporting by the California Community College (CCC) Board of Governors by consolidating two existing community college fiscal oversight reports into a single report.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) States that it is the intent of the Legislature to encourage sound fiscal management practice among CCC districts for the most efficient and effective use of public funds for the education of community college students by strengthening fiscal accountability at the district and state levels.
- 2) Requires the governing board of each CCC district provide for an annual audit of all funds, books, and accounts of the district in accordance with regulations of the board of governors, as specified.
- 3) Requires the board of governors adopt criteria and standards for periodic assessment of the fiscal condition of CCC districts, and such regulations regarding the review and improvement of district fiscal conditions as necessary to encourage sound fiscal management practices. In so doing it further requires the board of governors to develop, by regulation, appropriate procedures and actions for CCC districts that fail to achieve fiscal stability or that fail to comply with the board of governors' recommendations, and to report to the chairs of the educational policy and fiscal committees of both houses of the Legislature, the Director of Finance, and the Governor, related corrective actions taken by the community college district and related actions taken against the CCC district. (Education Code (EC) § 84040 (a – c))
- 4) Requires that the board of governors to report that information to the educational policy and fiscal committees of both houses of the Legislature, the Director of Finance, and the Governor. Beginning in the 2027-28 fiscal year, the bill would also require the report to be submitted with the above-described report related to corrective actions taken by and actions taken against, a CCC districts. (EC § 84040.6)

ANALYSIS

This bill streamlines fiscal reporting by the CCC Board of Governors by consolidating two existing community college fiscal oversight reports into a single report. Specifically, it:

- 1) Requires that, beginning in the 2027-28 fiscal year, the CCC Board of Governors consolidate reporting of fiscal information specified in current law on corrective action taken by or against a CCC districts experiencing fiscal difficulty and on the fiscal audits of CCC districts, into a single report.
- 2) Requires that the information in 1) above of this analysis be submitted to the educational policy and fiscal committees of both houses of the Legislature, the Director of Finance, the Governor, and the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) **Need for the bill.** According to the author, “SB 308 will streamline higher education reporting requirements to eliminate redundancy while maintaining accountability. By directing the Legislature to consolidate duplicative reporting mandates for the California Community Colleges, our colleges can focus more time resources on their core mission of education students rather than paperwork. This practical reform builds on past successful efforts to bring greater efficiency to California’s education system.”
- 2) **Reduces administrative workload.** This bill seeks to reduce administrative workload associated with submitting separate reports on related topics. By consolidating the two reports in the manner proposed, the bill ensures that all entities currently receiving either report will continue to receive the information in a single, consolidated report.

SUPPORT

California Community College Chancellor’s Office

OPPOSITION

None received

-- END --

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Bill No: | SB 607 | Hearing Date: | January 14, 2026 |
| Author: | Wiener | | |
| Version: | January 5, 2026 | | |
| Urgency: | No | Fiscal: | No |
| Consultant: | Olgalilia Ramirez | | |

Subject: University of California Institutes for Science and and Innovation.

SUMMARY

This bill explicitly authorizes artificial intelligence (AI) as an additional concentration area that may be covered by the existing California Institutes for Science and Innovation established within the University of California (UC).

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Authorizes the UC Regents to establish 4 California Institutes for Science and Innovation at separate campuses of the UC for the purpose of combining technological and scientific research training and educating future scientists and technological leaders.
- 2) Requires that each institute be created through a competitive application process conducted by a panel selected by the Governor and administered by the UC.
- 3) Specifies that each institute develop programs in cooperation with the private sector and with California's other public and independent universities.
- 4) States that the concentration of each institute may include, but is not limited to, any of the following:
 - a) Medicine.
 - b) Bioengineering.
 - c) Telecommunications and information systems.
 - d) Energy resources.
 - e) Space.
 - f) Agricultural technology.

- 5) Makes the state's share of funding for operating and facilities costs for each institute subject to appropriation in the annual Budget Act. (Education Code § 92900)

ANALYSIS

- 1) This bill explicitly adds AI to the list of concentration areas that may be covered by the existing California Institutes for Science and Innovation established within the UC.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) **Need for the bill.** According to the author, "SB 607 adds Artificial Intelligence to the list of enumerated concentrations that the California Institutes of Science and Innovation may focus on. As this technology continues to play a major role in our state's economy, it is important that existing resources are leveraged to ensure California's position as a leader in safe and responsible AI. Since 2001, when the University of California was given funding to establish four California Institutes for Science and Innovation in order to help bridge the gap between research and business, the technology landscape has greatly shifted. Existing law references six areas in which the institutes may concentrate, adding AI best positions California to continue to lead on this technology."
- 2) **California Institutes for Science and Innovation.** AB 2883 (Villaraigosa, Chapter 79, Statutes of 2000) authorized the UC to establish three research institutes to be located on separate UC campuses, partially funded with state funds. A fourth institute was authorized the following year. Existing law allows each institute to focus on a range of concentration areas, including medicine, bioengineering, telecommunications and information systems, energy resources, space, and agricultural technology, but does not limit institutes to these areas, and they may pursue other topics without additional legislation. These multidisciplinary research centers are structured in partnership with industry to promote business growth in the state, serve as training grounds for student researchers, and future business leaders. All four institutes utilize the research capabilities of multiple UC campuses. The institutes include the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society, the California Nanosystems Institute, the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology, and the California Institute for Quantitative Biosciences.
- 3) **Artificial Intelligence.** There is growing interest within the Legislature in expanding research on AI to better understand its impacts and to help inform the development of policy. According to the 2025 report, *The California Report on Frontier AI Policy*, AI encompasses a broad range of technologies that aim to replace or supplement human cognitive capabilities. California is home to many of the leading AI companies and research institutions. California has both the capability and responsibility to help ensure these powerful technologies remain safe so that their benefits to society can be realized. AI, as an area of concentration, aligns with the technology emphasis of the other concentration areas outlined in existing law. This bill aims to support research capacity in AI

technology by highlighting it as a potential area of study within these established institutes.

SUPPORT

None received

OPPOSITION

None received

-- END --