
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Carol Liu, Chair

2015 - 2016 Regular

Bill No: AB 767
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Urgency: No
Consultant: Olgalilia Ramirez
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Fiscal: Yes

Subject: Community colleges: emergency preparedness standards

SUMMARY

This bill requires the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) to review and update its emergency preparedness standards in consultation with the Office of Emergency Services by January 1, 2017.

BACKGROUND

Existing law requires the CCCCCO, in consultation with the Office of Emergency Services and the Office of Homeland Security, to develop emergency preparedness standards by January 1, 2009, to assist community college districts and campuses in the event of a natural disaster, hazardous condition, or terrorist activity on or around a community college campus, as specified. (Education Code §71095)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Requires the CCCCCO, in consultation with the Office of Emergency Services, to update its emergency preparedness standards and guidelines, as specified, to assist community college districts and campuses in the event of a natural disaster, hazardous conditions, or terrorist activity on or around the campus.
- 2) Requires the CCCCCO to consider including an active shooter response plan to its existing emergency preparedness standards and guidelines.
- 3) Requires the CCCCCO, on or before January 1, 2017, and every five years thereafter, to review and update the emergency standards and guidelines developed, as necessary.
- 4) Makes technical changes to existing law.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** A 2014 report published by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), "*A study of Active Shooter Incidents in the U.S.*," found that 25% of active shooter incidents from 2000-2013 occurred in an educational environment, the most recent shooter incidents were on the campuses of University of California at Santa

Barbara, Seattle Pacific University, Florida State University, and Wayne Community College in North Carolina. Community college emergency preparedness standards do not currently require inclusion of active shooter plans. This bill attempts to ensure community colleges have an adequate plan to respond to active shooter incidents by incorporating the plan into the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) emergency preparedness standards and guidelines.

- 2) **Existing Emergency Management Systems.** This bill requires ongoing review of emergency standards in order to ensure they align with state and federal emergency management programs. These programs include the following:
- a) **The Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)** is a state program required by the California Emergency Services Act for managing multiagency and multijurisdictional responses to emergencies in California. State agencies are required to use SEMS and local government entities are encouraged to use the system in order to be eligible for any reimbursement of response-related costs under the state's disaster assistance programs.
 - b) **The National Incident Management System (NIMS)** is a federal program, developed by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that provides direction for each level of government, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together in preparing, responding, recovering and mitigating domestic incidents. The adoption and implementation of NIMS is a condition for receiving federal preparedness assistance through grants, contracts, and other activities.

In 2007, the CCCCCO received a grant from DHS that led to the creation of a disaster preparedness task force and various activities around the state. According to the CCCCCO, although grant funds have since been exhausted, the ongoing maintenance of existing standards and guidelines rely heavily on the federal government. For example the CCCCCO currently follows procedures outlined in the NIMS 2011 five year plan and intends to use the FBI's Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) program for resources that will assist in adding an active shooter component, as specified in this bill.

SUPPORT

American Red Cross
California Professional Firefighters
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges

OPPOSITION

None received.

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