



# HOUSE BILL 601: Comm. Colleges Funding & Accountability Study.

2023-2024 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Education - Community Colleges. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	May 2, 2023
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Winslow, Elmore, Tyson, Willis	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Samantha Yarborough* Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H601-CSBN-11		

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 601 would direct the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) to study and report on options to improve the current funding model and accountability measures for community colleges. The PCS would change the date of the report from January 15, 2024 to March 1, 2024.*

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 601 would direct the SBCC to study and report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on options for improving funding and accountability for community colleges. The study and report must include the following:

- The process of allocating funds to community colleges, specifically funds based on full-time enrollment (FTE) with an evaluation of the benefits and costs of the following possible changes:
  - Reducing the number of membership hours needed for one FTE student while maintaining existing payments per FTE for each course tier.
  - Increasing the base allotment provided to community colleges and the impact on colleges with differing levels of enrollment.
  - Revising the current tiered weighting model for courses, including increasing payments for certain tiers and expanding the number of courses in tiers with higher payments.
  - Providing start-up funding to assist with new programs.
- The effect the current FTE formula has on small community colleges with a significant number of part-time students with a comparison of funds generated by part-time students relevant to the supports used by those students.
- Institutional accountability measures and performance standards and the effects that the current mandatory performance measures have on student success and community college funding as well as recommendations for other performance metrics to address student learning outcomes.
- The extent to which the tiered weighting of community colleges courses reflects the actual demand for occupations in the State and the different service regions for each community college. Consultation must be made with the Department of Commerce to determine the job fields with the highest demand for workers compared to the number of courses offered in those fields and whether the current funding model allows community colleges to start and maintain programs in high-demand fields science and technical fields.
- Any other recommendations the SBCC deems relevant to the study.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The bill is effective when it becomes law.

*\*Drupti Chauhan, attorney with the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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