

Date of Hearing: April 1, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Lori D. Wilson, Chair

AB 2116 (Grayson) – As Introduced February 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account: University of California: California State University: reports

SUMMARY: Requires the University of California (UC) and the California State University (CSU) to annually report on research funded by SB 1 (Beall), Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017.

Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the UC and CSU to submit to the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), the Assembly Committee on Transportation, the Senate Committee on Transportation, the Assembly Committee on Budget, and the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review a report by January 1 of each year detailing the expenditure of funding provided in the previous fiscal year.
- 2) Requires the reports to include, but not be limited to, research activities and administration.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the UC system, under the administration of the Board of Regents, and CSU system, under the administration of the Board of Trustees. (Education Code, Section 66010)
- 2) Makes funds available to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for allocation by the director to the Institute of Transportation Studies of the University of California (UC ITS) for training and research in public transportation systems engineering and management and coordination with other transportation modes. (Public Utilities Code, Section 99315)
- 3) Provides each year, upon appropriation by the Legislature, \$5 million to UC and \$2 million to CSU to conduct transportation research and transportation-related workforce education, training, and development, and authorizes the Secretary of CalSTA and the chairs of the Assembly and Senate Transportation Committees to annually send a recommended priority list of research components to be addressed in the upcoming fiscal year. (Streets and Highways Code, Section 2032(g))

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: The Legislature established UC ITS in 1947 at UC Berkeley to conduct research on a wide array of transportation topics. Today, UC ITS includes the campuses of UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC Davis, and UCLA. In addition to UC ITS, the CSUs have the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) at CSU San Jose, which Congress established in 1991, as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Equity Act (ISTEA).

In 2017, the Legislature passed SB 1, (Beall), Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017, which provides over \$5 billion per year for roads, transit and active transportation programs. Additionally, SB 1 included a commitment to transportation research programs by dedicating \$5 million to the UCs and \$2 million to the CSUs annually to conduct transportation-related research and transportation-related workforce education. SB 1 calls for the research programs to be informed by input from the Chairs of the Assembly and Senate Transportation Committees and the Secretary of CalSTA.

Prior to the passage of SB 1, the Legislature provided core funding for the UC ITS program by appropriating annually \$980,000 from the Public Transportation Account. Until 2017, the appropriation remained largely unchanged since the 1940s. UC ITS has been able to leverage this funding at a nearly 30-to-1 ratio, pulling in approximately \$30 million per year from other government sources, including federal funding, as well as from private industry and foundations.

Both UC ITS and CSU MTI programs receive funding from the federal government through the surface transportation reauthorization acts, which support transportation-related research at numerous universities around the country. Additionally, UC ITS and MTI receive funding, through specific research requests, from state agencies such as Caltrans and the California Air Resources Board.

The passage of SB 1 represents a dramatic increase in dedicated state funding for both university systems and spurred at the CSUs the creation of the CSU Transportation Consortium, made up of CSU Chico, CSU Fresno, and CSU Long Beach to conduct SB 1 related research and workforce development activities.

According to the author, “The passage of SB 1 represents a dramatic increase in dedicated state funding for both research systems. However, there is a notable lack of transparency and accountability measures on these allocations. AB 2116 will promote transparency and accountability by requiring both the UCs and CSUs to prepare an annual report to the Legislature and CalSTA providing research activities and expenses paid for by SB 1 dollars. This bill will help to better ensure the Legislature is aware of how educational institutions are spending their SB 1 allocations, thereby empowering legislative leaders to provide informed direction to the UC and CSU on future spending decisions.”

Prior Legislation:

AB 313 (Frazier) of 2019 would have required the UC and the CSU to annually report on research funded by SB 1 (Beall), Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017. (*Passed the Assembly but never referred out of the Senate Rules Committee*).

SB 1, (Beall), Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017 increases several taxes and fees to raise the equivalent of roughly \$52.4 billion over ten years in new transportation revenues and makes adjustments for inflation every year; directs the funding to be used towards deferred maintenance on the state highways and local streets and roads, and to improve the state's trade corridors, transit, and active transportation facilities.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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