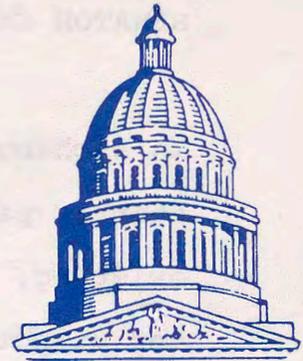


State Senator
Gary K. Hart



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SEVERAL HART BILLS ADVANCE

APR 15 1994

Legislation by Senator Gary K. Hart (D-Santa Barbara) to repeal the limit of how many schools are eligible to become "charter schools" (SB 1264) and legislation to encourage any entering freshman admitted to the University of California tuition waivers if they first enroll at a community college for their first two years of college (SB 1672) passed out of the Senate Education Committee yesterday. SB 1264 passed out by a vote of 5 to 3 while SB 1672 passed out 9 to 0.

"Charter schools are working very well and we are seeing a lot of enthusiasm and innovation at these schools," Hart said. "By repealing the cap on charter schools, my bill will expand opportunities for parents, teachers, students and community members to work together to design specific programs targeted at the unique needs of each school."

Hart is the author of the original charter schools bill in 1992 (SB 1448) which authorized the creation of 100 charter schools to operate within the public school system in California.

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In exchange for committing to the principles outlined in a charter petition, a charter school could be freed from the existing, sometimes cumbersome, public school bureaucratic rules and structures.

SB 1264 would repeal the current limit of 100 charter schools in the state and 10 per school district.

Hart's other measure, SB 1672, would establish a Community College Incentive Program to encourage UC students to enroll instead at a community college for their first two years of college. Upon successful completion of their community college sophomore year, they would be guaranteed admission to UC and will have most of the fees for their 3rd and 4th years waived.

"This bill gives California students and their families a less costly avenue to receiving a UC diploma," Hart said.

"Everybody wins: students will save money, it won't cost the state additional money, and more UC eligible students will be able to go the campus of their choice."

SB 1645 by Senator Hart also passed the Senate Education Committee yesterday by a vote of 8 to 0. This measure would authorize principals to suspend and recommend for expulsion students who are found to be in possession of a "look-alike" gun at school. The bill gives the school board the authority to expel such students.

Lastly, SCA 37 (Hart), passed out of the Senate Constitutional Amendments Committee yesterday by a vote of 4 to 0. SCA 37 would make the confidential disciplinary actions and warning letters sent to judges who are candidates for a judicial

appointment available to the Governor, the President of the United States and the Commission on Judicial Appointments. Currently, the Governor and the President of the United States who appoint judges to the state and federal benches and the Commission on Judicial Appointments who evaluate candidates for appellate positions for the Governor, are prohibited from reviewing the disciplinary records held by the Commission on Judicial Performance when considering a judge for a judicial elevation.

"This constitutional amendment will better enable the Governor, the President of the U.S. and the Commission on Judicial Appointments to make informed decisions as to the qualifications of candidates for judicial appointment," Hart said.

All of the aforementioned Hart bills now advance to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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