

Submitter: Donna Torres
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB270

Senate Committee on Education:
Please VOTE NO on SB 270!

In my opinion, a felon in custody should ONLY be given access to distance learning if anything from prison ONLY if those costs can be subsidized by work performance by the particular felon in custody. Taxpayers are already subsidizing the housing, feeding, transportation, medical and more costs to criminals who typically have not paid their fair share in dues to the society and communities that they have harmed.

Rules should not go beyond what the statute calls for and this proposal allows inmates to apply and attend IN PERSON any community college in the state, which raises all sorts of questions of costs for transportation, guards, safety of students plus WHO is paying for the schooling, transportation and guards? There also appears to be no limit on the degree of conviction (violent felons) which adds even more risk.

Punishment for crimes should be just that... punishment, not summer camp with privileges. This bill should be limited to distance learning programs EARNED by work, good behavior qualifications and possible LOANS to be paid for by the inmate, not the taxpayer. Taxpayers should be ensured that their tax dollars are being used to make their communities safer and not putting the criminals who may have harmed their communities back into society or paying for their education without serving the punishment given them.