

# Associated Students

## Bill Number 1

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: Valerie Fabbri

Menna

Co-Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Whereas:** Never before in our history have students been called upon before this unprecedented calamity which has befallen us. COVID-19 will be imprinted on the personality of all colleges for a very long time. Student engagement and development in our distance learning environment will ripple upon our future. Currently, our officers are doing the best they can to serve our campus, but remain anxious to fulfill their duties. These leaders are active in other capacities than listed in the Organizational Directive. In order to best support our students, this bill calls for duty relief under the COVID-19 circumstances for the Mt. San Antonio College Associated Student officers.

Associated Students (A.S) of Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) may be relieved of their mandatory duties listed in the A.S. Organizational Directive. This includes the three-hour minimum requirement for each A.S. hosted event for as long as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. Mandatory attendance requirements will also be temporarily paused. Instead, the A.S. officers will attend events based off of their convenience, keeping A.S mission goals in mind.

**Whereas:** The Senate of the Associated Students of Mt. San Antonio College has been struggling to fulfill the list of duties previously assigned in the Organizational Directive. Upon drafting of the original Organizational Directive, operations were going smoothly with no worry of up and coming pandemics. Due to COVID-19, Mt. SAC has transitioned to an online distance learning environment resulting in the cancellation of all Associated Student in-person events. With this cancellation comes a lot less opportunity for our Senators to fulfill their duties. There is no longer set-up nor clean up in getting the events ready and not many ways to publicize the events. Overall, the opportunities for our A.S. officers to meet requirements have become sparse. In addition, the transition has made it difficult for students to retain information and overall morale. According to John Hopkins News-Letter, published by Amrita Balram on April 20, 2020, online learning has impacted student's physical and mental health. Despite the challenges and organizational duties of AS officers, it is recommended that students prioritize their health and sleep. Due to COVID-19 and the campus closure, our Health Centers are closed to in-person visits, but still serving students online. Student Health Services is currently scheduling appointments for TeleHealth medical visits with physicians, nurse practitioners and TeleMentalHealth counseling visits with therapists.

The United States Department of Labor (DOL) released a field assistance bulletin on August 24, 2020. The guidance responds directly to needs created by new telework or remote work arrangements that arose in response to COVID-19, in addition to other telework or remote work arrangements. DOL's guidance reminds employers that they must pay for all time that an employee is "suffered or permitted to work," for all hours the employee is scheduled and/or directed to work, and when an employee works *unscheduled* hours. If an employee performs work outside of the employee's scheduled hours, it still must be compensated. Employers must use "reasonable diligence" to determine all hours being worked by their employees. The senate board is overseen by both A.S. President and Vice. The A.S. Vice President is in charge of keeping track of the A.S. officer's service hours. This bill recognizes that the ASO is obligated to exercise reasonable diligence in tracking teleworking officers' hours of service. A self reporting method of the officers will be conducted, which will include A.S. hosted and sponsored events as well as shared campus events. A Google Document will be a palpable central-forum created to not only increase morale, but to have those service hours transparent as well as eligible events in the future. This will be a self reported attendance log.

**Whereas:** This bill will add flexibility to the requirements in these trying times. Senators will benefit from having a less strenuous work environment and will appreciate the experience more than they previously could. Relieving some of the pressure from our Senate will allow them to focus on improving rather than worrying about their performance. In addition to this comes the stress of the new online working environment. Revising the Organizational Directive will also increase the appeal of joining A.S, aiding our organization to add new members.

**Therefore:** Be it resolved that the A.S. Senate, the A.S. Executive Board, and the A.S. President approves the [Covid-19 Senate Relief Bill](#).