

Item 4

Information Item

Update on state and federal legislation and issues affecting Commission programs, including consideration of positions on legislation

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE(S):

This item will provide Commissioners a brief summary of the status of key bills affecting the Commission, financial aid, and program operations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Commission staff will continue to monitor and report on bills throughout the legislative process.

BRIEF HISTORY OF KEY ISSUE(S):

The 2016 legislative bills have gone through the Appropriation Committees in their houses of origin. This is often the step in the legislative process in which large numbers of bills are held in committee or are amended significantly to bring costs down.

Only one bill (AB 1721) on which the Commission has taken a position was significantly amended. Details of the amended version of the bill are available in attachment X.2.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Brandon Biegert
Legislative Representative

ATTACHMENT(S):

Attachment 4.1: Bill Status Matrix
Attachment 4.2: Details of active legislation being tracked by the Commission

CSAC Bill Status Tracker 2016: June Meeting

	Bill	Author	Subject	First House				Second House				Gov Sig	CSAC Position	Status	Hearing Date / Outcome	
				Policy Com	Fiscal Com	Floor	Rules	Policy Com	Fiscal Com	Floor	Concurrence					
Active Bills	AB 1449	Lopez	Remove HS Grad Requirement from Transfer Ent.	X	X	X	X	X						Support	Senate Education	
	AB 1721	Medina	Increase Comp.; Comp. CGB for 4 month Programs.	X	X	X								Support	Assembly Floor	
	AB 2056	Garcia E.	Commission will allow mult. Submission Grad.	X	X	X	X							Sponsor	To Senate	
	AB 2154	Medina	COMMISSIONERS - Extra year / Fees waived	X	X	X	X	X						Support	Senate Education	6/8/2016
	AB 2506	Thurmond	CHAFEE Entitlement and participation standards	X	X	X								Support	Assembly Floor	
	AB 2581	Medina	Restore Cal Grant eligibility to Heald students	X	X	X								Support	Assembly Floor	
	AB 2766	Lopez	COMMISSIONERS - 4 student Commissioners	X	X	X	X							Watch	Senate Education	6/8/2016
	SB 62	Pavley	Reinstate APLE	X	X	X	X	X	X					Support	Assembly Appropriations	
	SB 1146	Lara	Higher Education Anti-Discrimination	X	X	X								Watch	Senate Floor	
SB 1314	Block	CCC BA Pilot - Cal Grant A/B/MCS Eligible	X	X	X								Sponsor	Senate Floor		
Inactive Bills	AB 1747	Weber	Fee-Free Access to Cal-Fresh as CG Requirement	X	X	X								Support	CSAC Amended Out	
	AB 1888	Low	IPA - Bans CG institutions discriminating on sex	X	X									Watch	Assembly Appropriations	Suspense
	AB 1892	Medina	Increase CG C / Set award amount in Legislation	X	X									Support	Assembly Appropriations	Suspense
	AB 1961	Baker	Increase Cal Grant Non-Profit to 10K, not WASC	X	X									Support	Assembly Appropriations	Suspense
	AB 2520	Rodriguez	Task Force - FAFSA completion study	X	X									Support	Assembly Appropriations	Suspense
	AB 2787	Chavez	MCS to include private non-profit students	X										Support	Failed In Committee	Failed
	SB 1357	Block	Cal Grant B Access Award augmentation \$1,500	X	X									Support*	Senate Appropriations	Suspense

Hearing Scheduled
Passed Committee
Held or Failed
Gutted or CSAC removed
Suspense
Enrolled / Enacted
Vetoed
SPOT Bills
*If Amended

Abbreviations

- CG = Cal Grant
- TE = Transfer Entitlement
- HS = High School

California Student Aid Commission: Update on Active Legislation As of June 2, 2016

Bills Affecting Financial Aid Programs and Administration

AB 1449 Lopez (D): Remove High School Graduation Requirement for Transfer Entitlement

Support-With-Amendment

Last Amended: 1/13/2016

Location: Senate Education Committee

Synopsis: AB 1449 removes the requirement that a recipient of a Transfer Entitlement Cal Grant Award hold a high school diploma or its equivalent. Instead, recipients would be required to have been a California resident on their 18th birthday. This bill is an acknowledgment that non-traditional students who did not earn a high school diploma can demonstrate their ability to succeed by performing well enough at the community college level to gain admittance to a four year degree granting institution. It is anticipated that as many as 177 students annually could be eligible for the Transfer Entitlement due to this change.

AB 1721 Medina (D): Competitive Cal Grant for Career Technical Education

Support-With-Amendment

Last Amended: 5/31/2016

Location: Assembly Floor

Synopsis: AB 1721 increases the number of Competitive Cal Grants to 34,000, and makes other changes to Cal Grant B and C programs including:

- 1) Holds 19,000 Competitive Cal Grants for the September Competitive run.
- 2) Reduces the number of Cal Grant C Awards to the amount PAID in the 2015-16 award year.
- 3) Allows Competitive Cal Grant B Awards for students at community colleges to be used on vocational training programs four months or longer in length.

These changes allow the Cal Grant B Award to assist students pursuing career technical education at the Community Colleges. The Cal Grant C Award is currently the only Cal Grant option for programs less than one year in length, but community college recipients receive only a \$547 access award. This bill would allow these same students to potentially receive a Cal Grant B Access Award of \$1,656.

AB 2056 Garcia E (D): High School Graduation Verification Deadline

Sponsor

Last Amended: 4/21/2016

Location: Senate Education Committee - 06/15/2016

Synopsis: Current law provides the Commission with discretion to require that school districts submit graduation verification electronically. This bill requires the Commission, should it exercise that discretion, to “provide guidance to high schools or high school districts to ensure that high schools and high school districts verify the graduation of their pupils as soon as possible upon a pupil’s graduation and no later than August 31 of the academic year following the pupils’ graduation.” An August deadline aligns with the earlier FAFSA timeline, enabling the Commission to communicate financial aid eligibility sooner.

AB 2506 Thurmond (D): Chafee Grant For Foster Youth: Entitlement

Support-With-Amendment

Last Amended: 5/27/2016

Location: SENATE

Synopsis: AB 2506 would turn the Chafee Grant for Foster Youth into an entitlement program. Currently, due to a defined funding cap, approximately 25% of eligible students in any given year are unable to receive an award. Foster youth are recognized to be an at-risk student population, with lower college completion rates than their peers. Ensuring that every eligible foster youth student is offered an award is expected to affect as many as 2,000 students annually.

AB 2581 Medina (D): Heald Students: Restoration of Cal Grants

Support

Last Amended: 5/27/2016

Location: Assembly Floor

Synopsis: AB 2581 assists students who, due to the closing of Heald campuses in California, were unable to complete their courses of study. One key element in the bill is the restoration of Cal Grant, and National Guard Education Assistance Awards eligibility used by these students at Heald campuses. The restoration is limited to two years, and requires that the student notify the Commission of their intent to enroll in an eligible institution by July 1, 2018.

SB 62 Pavley (D): APLE: Restoration

Support

Last Amended: 2/1/2016

Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee

Synopsis: SB 62 seeks to reinstate Assumption Program of Loans for Education. A 2015 bill, SB 62 remains in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 1146 Lara (D): Title IX Exemptions Information Sharing

WATCH

Last Amended: 5/4/2016

Location: ASSEMBLY

Synopsis: As Amended, SB 1146 requires the Commission to collect and make publicly available information related to institutions' applications for exemptions from Title IX anti-discrimination provisions.

SB 1314 Block (D): Community Colleges Baccalaureate Degree Programs: Financial Aid

Sponsor

Last Amended: 4/19/2016

Location: ASSEMBLY

Synopsis: AB 1314 would ensure that students pursuing a baccalaureate degree through one of the 15 pilot programs at California's community colleges receive full Cal Grants and Middle Class Scholarships. Traditionally, community college students receive the Board of Governor's fee waiver (BOG) in lieu of a tuition and fee payment through Cal Grant. The Middle Class Scholarship was created such that only students attending University of California and California State University campuses were eligible. The pilot baccalaureate degree programs contain tuition which is not covered by BOG, and are more in line with tuition at traditional bachelor degree granting institutions. This bill ensures that students pursuing bachelor's degrees at the community colleges have the same financial aid options as similar students in other segments.

Bills Affecting the California Student Aid Commission

AB 2154 Medina (D): Student Aid Commission: Student Member Changes

Support

Last Amended: 5/25/2016

Location: Senate Education Committee - 06/08/2016

Synopsis: AB 2154 makes three changes pertaining to student membership of the California Student Aid Commission:

- 1) Student Members can serve up to one additional year if the Governor has not appointed a replacement.
- 2) If a student member attends a Cal Grant qualifying institution, but does not receive the Cal Grant, the institution is required to waive the member's tuition and fees up to the maximum award in the institution's segment.
- 3) The Commission is required to notify the relevant student organizations at least 3 months in advance of a pending student member vacancy to ensure they know of the opportunity to submit a list of nominees to the Governor.

This bill is designed to ensure that the student member spots are always filled, and that student

members are able to fully participate in Commission activities.

AB 2766 Lopez (D): California Student Aid Commission: Add Two Student Commissioners

WATCH

Last Amended:

Location: Senate Education Committee - 06/08/2016

Synopsis: AB 2766 expands the California Student Aid Commission from 15 to 17 members, adding two additional student members. This is designed to ensure that students from all four segments are consistently represented on the Commission, as well as to increase the representation of students as a whole.
