3.2

Action /Information Item

Governmental Relations Committee

State Legislative Update

Enclosed is a summary of bills currently being tracked by Commission staff and considered during the second half of the 2005-06 State Legislative session.

Recommended Action: For information and consideration of actions on bills affecting the Commission's programs.

Responsible Staff: Steve Caldwell, Chief Governmental Affairs and Research Division

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The second half of the 2005-2006 Legislative Session began on January 4th 2006. January 20th was the last day for fiscal committees to hear and report to the floor bills introduced in their house during 2005. January 31st was the last day for each house to pass bills introduced in 2005 in their house and February 24th was the last day to introduce new bills.

Budget Activity: The Governor released his 2006-07 budget proposal to the Legislature on January 10, 2006. The Legislative Analyst's Office released its analysis of the Governor's Budget on February 23rd and the Governor will release the May Revision of the January 10 Governor's Budget in mid-May.

The Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number 2 on Education Finance held its overview hearing on Wednesday, March 8th. The Committee's regular meeting time for higher education issues is scheduled for Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., State Capitol, Room 444. The Commission's Budget is scheduled to be heard on Wednesday, May 3rd with the staff pre-hearing on April 21st Budget hearings are scheduled through the spring and our budget and issues will be taken up as necessary.

The Senate Budget Subcommittee Number 1 on Education began budget subcommittee hearings on Monday March 6th and will meet on Mondays (barring Legislative holidays) beginning at 1:30 p.m. (or upon adjournment of the Senate Floor Session) in State Capitol Room 113, through mid-May. The Commission's Budget is scheduled to be heard on May 1st with the staff pre-hearing on April 25th.

The Legislature's Spring Recess is April 7th through April 16th.

AB 358 **Position: SUPPORT**

Author: Liu (D-La Canada - Flintridge)
Version: As Amended on August 30, 2005
Subject: Maximum Award for Non-Public Colleges and Universities

Under current law, the maximum award for students at non-public colleges and universities is stipulated in the annual Budget Act. Also, under current law, students receiving a Cal Grant B award receive only the access grant ($1,551) in the first year of attendance and the access grant plus tuition and fee assistance in the remaining three years. The top two percent of Cal Grant B Entitlement students receive full funding in the first year of attendance.

This bill would:

1) Establish in statute an award formula linking the Cal Grant A and B award for tuition and fees at independent colleges and universities to the General Fund subsidy the state provides for each student at public four-year universities.

2) Provide a phased-in period for the new award formula that requires 2006-07 grants to be no less than 80 percent of the formula-driven amount, 2007-08 grants to be no less than 90

percent of that amount and 2008-09 and subsequent years' grants to be no less than 100 percent of that amount.

3) Provide that the award formula above would only apply to students in 4-year programs.

4) Require the California Student Aid Commission to review Cal Grant B funding policies, analyze alternatives and provide recommendations in a report to the Legislature on or before September 1, 2006.

Commission Advocacy: Commission staff submitted a letter supporting the August 15, 2005 version of AB 358. The bill was amended on August 30, 2005 in a way that would create an inequity in eligibility, distribution and funding of Cal Grants to the diverse population served. On September 2, 2005 the Commission staff submitted a letter to the author which outlined the Commission staff's concerns. Commission staff will continue working with the Legislative members and their staff over the next few months to address the concerns identified and to promote legislation that supports an equitable Cal Grant maximum award for students attending independent colleges and universities and maximizes financial aid availability to all students.

Status: Currently inactive, held at Senate desk and may be amended in the future.

AB 476 **Position:** None
Author: Baca (D-Rialto)
Version: As Amended January 13, 2006
Subject: APLE Program – Eligibility

Current law establishes the Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE), administered by Commission, under which an applicant who meets the following conditions are eligible for a loan assumption agreement, pursuant to a prescribed procedure upon becoming employed as a teacher;

- Is enrolled in an eligible institution of postsecondary education; or
- Agrees to participate in a teacher trainee or teacher internship program; and
- Agrees to obtain a teaching credential in a subject area that is designated as a current or projected shortage area; or
- Provides classroom instruction in a school that serves a large population of pupils from low-income families;

Current law also requires that all persons eligible to enter into agreements for loan assumption pursuant to the Assumption Program of Loans for Education be persons who need to complete training or coursework in order to be fully credentialed and who agree to obtain a credential.

This bill would require that:

- All persons eligible to enter into agreements for loan assumption pursuant to the APLE be persons who either need to complete training or coursework to be fully credentialed, and who agree to obtain a credential; or
- Who currently hold a teaching credential and are pursuing a single subject teaching credential to teach science or mathematics, or are pursuing a specialist credential in special education.

Intent: AB 476 is intended to address the need for science and math teachers. According to the Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning (the Center), a public, not-for-profit organization dedicated to strengthening teacher development policy and practice in California, California will need to replace at least 100,000 teachers over the next ten years, with a shortage of 27,000 expected as early as the 2007-08 school year. The Center also reports that in 2004 more than 30 percent of physical science and 20 percent of life science high school teachers were not prepared to teach the subject, and more than half of the under-prepared science teachers were assigned to schools with the lowest scores on California's Academic Performance Index (API).

Status: Passed on the Assembly Floor on January 26, 2006 – pending in the Senate Education Committee.

AB 840 **Position: SUPPORT IN CONCEPT**

Author: Arambula (D-Fresno)
Version: Amended March 7, 2006
Subject: Cal Grant Transfer Entitlement Program.

This bill relates to an eligibility requirement under the Cal Grant Community College (CCC) Transfer Entitlement Program. Under current law, students who receive Cal Grant awards under this program must have been California residents at the time of their high school graduation. Specifically, this bill would:

- Provide relief for students who, between 2002 and 2005, were awarded a CCC Transfer Entitlement award without verification of California residency at the time of graduation from high school or its equivalent by retroactively exempting these students from the statutory requirement to be California residents at the time of high school graduation and continuing to fund the awards through the end of the students' eligibility;
- Clarify that a student is eligible for a CCC Transfer Entitlement Cal grant if that student was a California resident at the time of graduation but graduated from a high school outside California due to military orders that caused the student or the student's parents to be stationed outside of California;
- Require the Commission to ensure that students who receive an award under this program were California residents at the time of high school graduation by requiring students to self verify in writing under penalty of perjury;
- Require the Commission to randomly select 10 percent for verification by the postsecondary institution prior to initial payment;
- Require the Commission to report on the number of Transfer Entitlement awards made in the preceding 12 months and the number of written affirmations selected for verification, categorized by type of postsecondary institution; and
- Include an urgency clause, making the bill effective on the date of approval by the Legislature and the Governor.

Status: Passed by the Senate Education Committee. Pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1315 **Position: SUPPORT IN CONCEPT**
Author: Liu (D-La Canada)
Version: Amended March 14, 2006
Subject: Cal Grant B Access Stipend

This bill would increase the Cal Grant B Access stipend in increments of not less than 5 percent but not more than 10 percent annually beginning in fiscal year 2007-08.

Specifically this bill would:

- Establish that awards for access costs in the Cal Grant Program shall not be less than 20 percent of the indirect costs of the student budget allowance recommended by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) for a student living off campus for a nine-month academic year;
- Recommend that the student budget allowance be determined by an existing CSAC survey conducted triennially and that the allowance be increased by inflation in the intervening years; and
- Require that beginning with the 2007-08 award year, the maximum award for access costs shall be increased by between 5 percent and 10 percent per year until the award has reached or exceeded the 20 percent goal described above, at which time the amount shall be set at 20 percent and amended annually as specified above.

Status: Pending in the Senate Education Committee. Staff conveyed the Commission's previous support and sponsorship of the policy to tie the results of the Commission's Student Expense and Resources Survey (SEARS) to the Cal Grant B access stipend. Staff will continue to work with Assembly Member Liu and her staff to ensure that the proposal includes appropriate methodology.

AB 1399 **Position:** None
Author: Garcia (R-Cathedral City)
Version: As Amended on January 9, 2006
Subject: National Guard – Cal Grant Competitive Program

Adds children of State National Guard members who have ever been, at any time, called into active service or who are in active service to the existing selection criteria that give applicants for competitive Cal Grant A and Cal Grant B awards additional consideration.

Status: Pending in Senate Education Committee.

AB 1532 **Position: SUPPORT IN CONCEPT**
Author: Bass (D-Los Angeles)
Version: As amended on January 13, 2006
Subject: Foster Youth: Cal Grant Access

Current law requires Cal Grant Entitlement Program applicants to submit a completed application (FAFSA and GPA) to the Commission by March 2nd each year. This bill would:

- Remove the March 2nd annual FAFSA deadline for former Foster Youth;
- Remove the March 2nd annual GPA deadline for former Foster Youth; and

- Define foster youth, for the purposes of AB 1532, as students eligible to receive foster care between their 16th and 18th birthdays, as verified by the Department of Social Services, and who will not be 30 years of age or older by December 31 of the award year for which an application for Cal Grant has been submitted.

Status: Pending in the Senate Education Committee.

AB 1869 **Position:** None
Author: Walters (D-Los Angeles)
Version: As amended on February 27, 2006
Subject: Cal Grant for National Guard

This bill would establish the Cal Grant NG Award Program. It would require that, commencing with the 2007–08 academic year, Cal Grant NG awards would be made to members of the California National Guard, the State Military Reserve, and the Naval Militia for tuition and mandatory system wide fees for a maximum of 4 academic years of full-time attendance at a campus or campuses of the California Community Colleges or at a campus of the California State, the University or the University of California, or at a combination of these institutions.
Specifically, the bill would require that:

- At least 1,500 new Cal Grant NG awards would be granted each academic year;
- As a condition for receiving a Cal Grant NG award, a person shall have served, or have committed to serve, at least 4 years of active reserve duty with the California National Guard, the State Military Reserve, or the Naval Militia;
- The Commission establish specified criteria for setting priorities for making Cal Grant NG awards, but would prohibit any of these criteria from being related to the age of an applicant for a Cal Grant NG award;
- A person who is eligible for specified federal veteran's benefits be ineligible to receive a Cal Grant NG award;
- The commission and the Military Department work cooperatively to establish procedures to implement the bill.

Status: Pending in the Assembly Higher Education Committee. Hearing set for April 18, 2006.

AB 2017 **Position:** None
Author: Dymally (D-Compton)
Version: As Introduced on February 10, 2006
Subject: Accrediting Agencies

This bill would delete the requirement that a postsecondary institution classification is based on its status as a nonprofit institution headquartered and operated in the State be accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. It would require the institution be accredited by an agency specified by the California Student Aid Commission and provide accreditation under the Nursing Assumption Program of Loans, the Graduate Assumption Program of Loans, and the Governor's Teaching Fellowship.

Status: In the Assembly Committee on Higher Education. Hearing set for April 18, 2006.

AB 2040 **Position:** None
Author: Chu (D-Monterey Park)
Version: As Amended on March 20, 2006
Subject: High School Exit Examination – Additional Exam Dates

This bill would provide funding to the State Department of Education for additional summer and Saturday exam dates of the CAHSEE and evaluation of those additional administrations.

- Amendment tie the bill to the annual Budget Act by removing the included appropriation and stipulating that the bill would not become operative unless funding is appropriated to administer its provisions in the annual Budget Act.

Status: Passed by the Assembly Higher Education Committee. To the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Hearing set for April 5, 2006.

AB 2168 **Position:** None
Author: Liu (D-La Canada)
Version: As Introduced on February 21, 2006
Subject: Common Core Curriculum

This bill would express Legislative findings and declarations with respect to creating a common core curriculum of general education requirements between the UC and the CSU. It would require the board of governors and the trustees to develop, maintain, and disseminate a single common core curriculum for the purposes of transfer.

Status: Pending in the Assembly Higher Education Committee. Hearing set for April 18, 2006.

AB 2255 **Position:** None
Author: DeLa Torre (D-South Gate)
Version: As Introduced on February 22, 2006
Subject: CAHSEE Administration

This bill would require that a high school exit examination be offered to students enrolled in an adult education program who have not passed the CAHSEE and have not received a high school diploma.

Status: In the Assembly Higher Education Committee. Hearing set for April 19, 2006.

AB 2262 **Position:** None
Author: Baca (D-Rialto)
Version: As Introduced on February 22, 2006
Subject: APLE Awards/Vocational Education

This bill would add career technical education to the subjects for which a person could earn additional loan assumption benefits under the Assumption Program of Loans for Education.

Status: To Assembly Higher Education Committee. Hearing set for April 18, 2006.

AB 2313 **Position:** None
Author: Arambula (D-Fresno)
Version: As Introduced on February 22, 2006
Subject: Cal Grant Awards - Nursing Students

This bill would amend the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Act by providing that a student who has earned a baccalaureate degree that will be enrolled at a qualified institution in the pursuit of a baccalaureate degree in the field of nursing would be eligible to apply for a Competitive Cal Grant A or B award.

Status: Pending in the Assembly Higher Education Committee, Hearing set for April 18, 2006.

AB 2381 **Position:** None
Author: Dymally (D-Compton)
Version: As Introduced on February 23, 2006
Subject: Private Postsecondary Education/Vocational Education

This bill would extend the Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education Reform Act of 1989, which establishes the Student Tuition Recovery Fund, until 2010.

Status: Referred to Assembly Committees on Higher Education and Business and Professions. Hearing date set for April 18, 2006 in the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

AB 2417 **Position:** None
Author: Wyland (R-Del Mar)
Version: As Introduced on February 23, 2006
Subject: CAHSEE Adult Education Program

This bill would authorize adult education programs to assist high school students and students not enrolled in high school who have completed all graduation requirements other than passage of the CAHSEE in preparing for the high school exit examination. It would require that adult education intervention and remediation programs focused on CAHSEE preparation receive funding.

Status: To Assembly Education Committee. Hearing date set for April 5, 2006.

AB 2418 **Position:** None
Author: Wyland (R-Del Mar)
Version: As Introduced on February 23, 2006
Subject: CAHSEE – Additional Section

This bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop an additional CAHSEE section to test students' knowledge of US history and government in accordance with the statewide academically rigorous content standards adopted by the State Board.

Status: To Assembly Education Committee – hearing date set for April 5, 2006.

AB 2421 **Position:** None
Author: Wyland (R-Del Mar)
Version: As Introduced on February 23, 2006
Subject: Teacher Training Career Technical Education

This bill would require, commencing with the 2007-08 academic year, each postsecondary institution that offers a program of professional preparation to offer a course of study in career technical education.

Status: Introduced ***To Assembly Education Committee – no hearing date set.***

AB 2472 **Position:** None
Author: Wyland (R-Del Mar)
Version: As Introduced on February 23, 2006
Subject: Resident Classification - Graduate Students and Military

This bill would eliminate the one- year limitation on resident classification for graduate students. It would also entitle members of the military reserves and military veterans as well as members of the immediate families of those persons to resident classification.

Status: Pending in the Assembly Higher Education Committee – no hearing date set.

AB 2532 **Position:** None
Author: Karnette D-Long Beach)
Version: As Introduced on February 23, 2006
Subject: Adult Education Funding

This bill would provide that adult education programs and adult programs in elementary and secondary basic skills and other courses and classes required for the high school diploma are not subject to the authorized limit of adult education daily attendance.

Status: Pending in the Assembly Higher Education Committee – no hearing date set.

AB 2551 **Position:** None
Author: Blakeslee (R-San Luis Obispo)
Version: As Introduced on February 23, 2006
Subject: National Guard APLE

This bill would appropriate funds to the Commission for the National Guard Assumption Program of Loans for Education.

Status: Pending in the Assembly Higher Education Committee. No hearing date has been set.

AB 2578 **Position:** None
Author: Frommer (D-Los Feliz)
Version: As Introduced on February 24, 2006
Subject: Hope Public Trust

This bill would establish the Hope Public Trust in state government. It would require a complete and thorough inventory of all state-owned real estate and property and all lease agreements between any state agency, and private or nonpublic management groups and would authorize revenue bonds.

Status: Pending in the Assembly Business and Transportation Committee.

AB 2653 **Position:** None
Author: Dymally (D-Compton)
Version: As Introduced on February 24, 2006
Subject: Accreditation

This bill would establish the Commission on Accreditation in government, which would review and accredit, or decline to accredit, all elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools in California that apply to the commission for accreditation.

Status: Pending in the Assembly Education Committee. No hearing date set. Also referred to the Assembly Committee on Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security.

AB 2802 **Position:** None
Author: Pavley (D-Agoura Hills)
Version: As Introduced on February 24, 2006
Subject: Teacher Credentialing – Early Learning

This bill relates to teacher credentialing. It would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction in collaboration with the California public institutions of higher education, to develop an early learning credential to be held by a teacher of preschool, kindergarten, and of any grades 1 to 3. It would also requires by July 1, 2016, all teachers in preschool, kindergarten, and any of grades 1 to 3, inclusive to have a bachelor's degree and an early learning credential, or multiple credentials.

Status: Pending in the Assembly Education Committee. Hearing set for April 19, 2006.

AB 2813 **Position:** None
Author: De La Torre (D-South Gate)
Version: As Introduced February 24, 2006
Subject: Cal Grants – Number of Competitive Awards and Cal Grant B Tuition Award

This bill would delete the requirement that, in a student's first year of enrollment in a qualifying institution, the maximum Cal Grant B award is only for the amount of the access award. It would

also raise the age limit for the exemptions and increase the annual limit of Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards.

Status: Pending in the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

AB 2876 **Position:** None
Author: Nation (D-San Rafael)
Version: As Introduced on February 24, 2006
Subject: Nursing Students – Loan Forgiveness and Scholarships

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to establish a scholarship or loan forgiveness program to provide scholarships to associate nursing students who commit to working in a California veterans' home skilled nursing facility.

Status: Pending in the Assembly, not yet assigned to a policy committee.

SB 160 **Position:** None
Author: Cedillo (D-Los Angeles)
Version: As Amended on March 9, 2006
Subject: Student Eligibility; Campus Based Financial Aid

This bill would enact the California Dream Act which would enable students who are exempt from paying non-resident tuition or who meet equivalent requirements adopted by regents to apply for and participate in all student aid programs administered by UC, CSU, and CCC to the extent permitted by federal law.

Status: Pending in the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

SB 1124 **Position: None**
Author: Torlakson (D-Antioch)
Version: As Amended March 30, 2006
Subject: Teachers: Recruitment, Training and Retention

The Education Code would be amended to have the California Student Aid Commission administer the established Governor's Teaching Fellowships Program. The Commission would administer the program and annually report to the Legislature the number of fellows receiving funding, completing credential programs and their three-year teaching obligations, the place of employment for each candidate and anonymous evaluations by school principals of the effectiveness and impact on pupils by the fellows under their supervision.

Funding for the awards are $25,000 disbursed over four years at $9,000, $4,000, $5,000 and $7,000, pursuant to regulations established by the Commission. In January 2007, 250 nonrenewable graduate teaching fellowships shall be awarded and beginning fiscal year 2007-08, 1,000 fellowships would be awarded.

The Commission shall collaborate with the University of California, the California State University, the California Community Colleges, the Association of Independent California

Colleges and Universities, the State Department of Education, and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to ensure that access to the fellowships is available to students in a variety of teaching preparation programs.

Status: In the Senate Education Committee. Hearing date set for April 19, 2006.

SB 1221 **Position:** None
Author: Alquist (D-Santa Clara)
Version: As Introduced on January 31, 2006
Subject: High School Exit Exam – Report on Graduation Rates

This bill would require school districts to annually report for grades 10 to 12; 1) the percentage of pupils who pass the CAHSEE; and 2) the percentage of pupils who fail the CAHSEE, aggregated by grade level, high school, ethnicity, and English language learner status to the State Department of Education.

Status: In the Senate Education Committee. Hearing set for April 19, 2006.

SB 1234 **Position:** None
Author: Scott (D-Altadena)
Version: As Introduced on February 6, 2006
Subject: Career Technical Education

This bill would delete provisions of existing law that require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to approve courses of career technical training for the purposes of certain loans.

Status: In the Senate Education Committee. Hearing date set for April 19, 2006.

SB 1236 **Position:** None
Author: Morrow (R-Oceanside)
Version: As Introduced on February 6, 2006
Subject: Public Postsecondary Education

This bill would eliminate the one-year limitation on resident classification for graduate students.

Status: In the Senate Education Committee. Hearing date set for April 19, 2006.

SB 1264 **Position:** None
Author: Alquist (D-Santa Clara)
Version: As Introduced on February 9, 2006
Subject: Cal Grant Application Deadline

This bill would change the annual deadline for submission of completed financial aid applications for various Cal Grant awards from March 2nd to June 30th.

Status: Pending in the Senate Committee on Education. Hearing date set for March 26, 2006. The Commission's Grant Advisory Committee discussed this bill and the possibility of a priority deadline and will provide feedback to the Commission at its April meeting.

SB 1309 **Position:** None
Author: Scott (D-Altadena)
Version: As Introduced on February 16, 2006
Subject: State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education

This bill would make various technical, nonsubstantive changes in the State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education (SNAPLE) Act.

Status: In the Senate Education Committee. Hearing date set for April 19, 2006.

SB 1383 **Position:** None
Author: Ortiz (D-Sacramento)
Version: As Introduced on February 21, 2006
Subject: CAHSEE – Eligibility for Cal Grant Awards

This bill would allow students who have completed all required coursework for graduation, but have yet to pass the CAHSEE or the GED to receive Cal Grant awards to continue their education.

Status: In Senate Education Committee. Hearing set for April 19, 2006.

SB 1452 **Position:** None
Author: Speier (D-Hillsborough)
Version: As Amended on March 27, 2006
Subject: State Audits

This bill would require internal auditors to conduct their work under the general and specified standards prescribed by the Institute of Internal Auditors or the Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, as appropriate, and except as specified.

Status: Pending in the Senate Governmental Organization Committee. Hearing date set for April 4, 2006.

SB 1592 **Position:** None
Author: Romero (D-Los Angeles)
Version: As Introduced on February 24, 2006
Subject: California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

This bill would require each pupil completing grade 12 to successfully pass the exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma with an insignia affixed to it indicating successful passage of the high school exit examination. It would prohibit a student who does not pass the high school exit examination from receiving the insignia.

Status: Pending in the Senate Committee on Education. Hearing date set for April 26, 2006.

SB 1684 **Position:** None
Author: Romero (D-Los Angeles)
Version: As Introduced on February 24, 2006
Subject: CAHSEE

This bill would permit a pupil in any of grades 11 or 12 or a student in an adult education program who has taken, but not passed, both parts of the CAHSEE and who has completed all other requirements for graduation from high school, or is in the process of completing, all other requirements for graduation from high school other than passing the CAHSEE, to take the GED.

Status: Pending in the Senate Education Committee. Hearing date set for April 26, 2006.

SB 1709 **Position:** None
Author: Scott (D-Altadena)
Version: As Introduced on February 24, 2006
Subject: The College Opportunity Act

This bill would enact the College Opportunity Act of 2006 with respect to the need to plan for, and fund, growth in various segments of postsecondary education in the state.

Status: Pending in the Senate Education Committee. Hearing date set for April 19, 2006.

SB 1751 **Position:** None
Author: Speier (D-Hillsborough)
Version: As Introduced February 24, 2006
Subject: Cal Grant Income and Asset Ceilings

This bill would set forth the maximum household income and asset levels for participants in the various grant programs under the Cal Grant Act as these maximum levels were adopted by the Student Aid Commission for the 2006-07 academic year. It would also increase the number of Competitive Cal Grant awards from 22,500 to 34,000.

Status: Pending in the Senate Education Committee. Hearing date set for April 19, 2006.

SB 1769 **Position:** None
Author: Escutia (D-Whittier)
Version: As Introduced on February 24, 2006
Subject: Articulation

This bill would require that the governing boards of each of the public postsecondary education segments shall enter into formal systemwide course articulation agreements that enable students to transfer units freely between and among each of the public colleges and universities in this state.

Status: Pending in the Senate Education Committee. Hearing date set for April 26, 2006.

SB 1771 **Position:** None
Author: Escutia (D-Whittier)
Version: As Introduced on February 24, 2006
Subject: CAHSEE – Student Assistance

This bill expresses Legislative intent to ensure that students who have not passed the CAHSEE continue to receive a free public education until they are able to obtain a high school diploma.

Status: Pending in the Senate Education Committee. Hearing date set for April 26, 2006.

SCA 23 **Position:** None
Author: Morrow (R-Oceanside)
Version: As Introduced on February 8, 2006
Subject: State Appropriations Limit

This bill would provide that the total annual appropriations subject to limitation of an entity of government may not exceed its appropriations limit for the prior fiscal year, adjusted for the change in the cost of living and the change in population. It also provides that for purposes of adjusting the appropriation limit for any fiscal year, in the event that an emergency is declared by the Governor, an appropriation approved by a 4/5 vote rather than a 2/3 vote is required.

Status: Pending in the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee. No hearing date has been set.

Options for the Future of EDFUND AND OTHER RELEVANT ISSUES

- The Legislative Analyst's Office's (LAO) report on Options for the Future of EDFUND was released on Tuesday, January 24, 2006. The report can be downloaded and printed found on the LAO's website at www.lao.ca.gov.

- The LAO included the following recommendation in its Analysis of the 2006-07 Budget Bill which was released on February 23, 2006: *"We recommend the Legislature enact legislation that would restructure how the state administers grant and loan programs. Specifically, we*

recommend the Legislature authorize a single agency, with a single board and Executive Director, to administer both state grant and federal loan programs. We recommend the agency be structured as a nonprofit public benefit corporation but subject to stronger accountability requirements." The analysis can also be found on at www.lao.ca.gov .

- During its scheduled meeting on February 23, 2006, the Commission took steps to set up a special Commission meeting on March 6, 2006 to discuss the LAO's recommendation as well as the Senate Education Committee and Assembly Higher Education Committees' joint hearing which occurred on March 8, 2006.

- The hearing was informational and the issue will most likely be discussed further as the Legislature enters the Spring Budget process. Speakers included Commission Chair Sandoval, EDFUND President, Dr. Sam Kipp, and Greg Gollihur from CPEC, as well as representatives from CCCSFAAA and NelNet. No actions were taken.

- Debate on the CAHSEE continues. There are strong opinions in opposition and support of the exam and litigation is pending. Several Bills address preparation and education for the CAHSEE.