

Information/Action Item

CAL-SOAP Advisory Committee

Legislative Report

Staff will provide an oral update on recent bill activity as it relates to the Commission.

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STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Currently, the Legislature is responding to the May Revision of the Governor's Budget. Line items for which the Senate and Assembly have different positions are being reviewed and negotiated through the Joint Conference Committee on the State Budget hearings. Items not resolved through this committee process will be submitted to the Big 5 for resolution. The Big 5 includes the Governor (Schwarzenegger), the Senate President Pro Tempore (Perata), Speaker of the Assembly (Nunez), Senate Minority Leader (Ackerman) and the Assembly Minority Floor Leader (McCarthy). According to the California Constitution, the budget shall be passed by midnight on June 15 of each year. The Governor then has 15 days to sign the Budget Act in time for the new fiscal year which begins on July 1.

The last day for Senate and Assembly fiscal and policy committee to meet was May 27, 2005. The final date for the Senate and Assembly to pass bills out of the house of origin was June 3, 2005. The Senate and Assembly resumed committee hearings on June 6, 2005.

SB 30

Position: None

Author: Speier (D-Hillsborough)

Version: As Amended on April 4, 2005

Subject: Tax Deductions: 529 College Savings Plans

The Personal Income Tax Law, to conform to federal income tax laws, allows various deductions in computing the income that is subject to the taxes imposed by that law. This bill, beginning in 2005, would allow qualified taxpayers to deduct the amount contributed on behalf of a beneficiary, to the Golden State Scholarship Trust.

Status: Held in the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee on April 13, 2005.

SB 160

Position: None

Author: Cedillo (D- Los Angeles)

Version: As Amended on May 4, 2005

Subject: Eligibility for Student Financial Aid: California Dream Act

This bill would enact the California Dream Act which would enable persons who are exempt from paying nonresident 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. The bill would also provide eligibility for persons exempt from paying nonresident tuition, as specified, who otherwise are qualified for state funded financial aid programs to the extent permitted in accordance with federal law.

New amendment language: "This section shall not become operative unless and until the Executive Director of the Student Aid Commission certifies that federal legislation has been

enacted that permits all persons who meet the criteria of this section to be eligible for state-administered financial aid.”

Status: Passed by the Senate Education Committee on April 27, 2005. To the Senate Appropriations Committee. Held under submission in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 26, 2005.

SB 445

Position: None

Author: Ducheny (D-San Diego)

Version: As Amended on March 31, 2005

Subject: Commission on Statewide Postsecondary Education Policy and Planning

This bill would repeal provisions of law that establish and prescribe the functions and responsibilities of the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC). It would replace CPEC with the California Commission on Statewide Postsecondary Education Policy and Planning (CCSPEP) and provide for the new Commission's membership and duties. It would also include the Student Aid Commission's Executive Director as a member of the new Commission.

Status: This bill failed passage in the Senate Education Committee meeting on April 28, 2005.

SB 498

Position: None

Author: Cox (R- Fair Oaks)

Version: As Amended on April 4, 2005

Subject: California Troops to Teachers Program

This bill would provide financial assistance to eligible military personnel to transition to a career in teaching. The California Troops to Teachers Program would be established and maintained through the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Funding of the \$10,000 grant per eligible participant would be determined in the annual Budget Act.

Status: Failed passage in the Senate Education Committee on April 28, 2005.

SB 577

Position: None

Author: Figueroa (D- Sunol)

Version: As Amended on May 31, 2005

Subject: State Government Operations: Reform

This bill addresses a series of issues raised by the California Performance Review. The bill outlines the requirements for several designated agencies in reporting to the Legislature various updates regarding fiscal management and long range financial planning and cost savings.

Status: Passed by the Senate Committee on Government and Modernization, Efficiency and Accountability Committee on May 4, 2005. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee on June 1, 2005 and moved to the Assembly.

AB 358**Position: Support in
Concept**

Author: Liu (D-LaCanada)

Version: As Amended on May 26, 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) Establishes in statute a policy 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 provide for each student at public four-year universities.
- 2) Provides a phased-in period for the new award formula that requires 2006-07 grants to be no less than 80% of the formula-driven amount, 2007-08 grants to be no less than 90% of that amount and 2008-09 and subsequent years' grants to be no less than 100% of that amount.
- 3) Requires 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.

Status: Placed on the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense file on April 27, 2005. Passed by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 31, 2005. Passed to the Senate Rules Committee for assignment.

AB 589**Position: None**

Author: Emmerson (R-Redlands)

Version: As Introduced on February 16, 2005

Subject: Public Postsecondary Education: Nonresident admissions criteria

This bill would reverse current law (AB 540) which provides an exemption to paying nonresident fees if an undocumented student has lived in California for more than 3 years and graduates from a California high school.

Status: Failed passage on April 19, 2005 in the Assembly on Higher Education Committee.

AB 593**Position: None**

Author: Frommer (D-Los Angeles)

Version: As amended on June 1, 2005

Subject: California Hope Endowment Fund

This bill would turn State-owned real estate assets into the California Hope Endowment (CHE) that would expand opportunities for Californians to enroll in higher education. This bill would require that the CHE develop guidelines and criteria to award grants from the Fund. The endowment would be administered by the California Hope Public Trust, an appointed membership body.

Status: Passed by the Assembly Higher Education Committee on April 28, 2005. To the Assembly Committee on Appropriations. Reconsideration granted, bill was amended and read for the third time by the Assembly Committee on Appropriations. Passed to the Senate on June 2, 2005.

AB 700

Position: Support if Amended

Author: Jerome Horton (D-Inglewood)
Version: As Introduced on February 17, 2005
Subject: Expansion of the Cal Grant Entitlement Program

This bill would remove the age requirements for the Entitlement Program by deleting the reference to high school graduation and one year after and providing awards to all eligible applicants who apply by March 2nd immediately preceding the award year.

Commission staff conveyed the Commission's position to Support if Amended to require a General Fund appropriation in the annual Budget Act to activate the bill's provisions. The author agreed to amend the bill in this manner.

Status: Placed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense file on May 4, 2005. Held under submission in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 25, 2005.

AB 933

Position: None

Author: Emmerson (D-Redlands)
Version: As Introduced on February 18, 2005
Subject: Student Fee Policy

This bill, beginning in 2006–07, would require the level of mandatory systemwide fees for resident undergraduate students at the UC, the CSU, and any community college campus to be set as an unspecified percentage of the total cost of instruction, as defined.

Status: Hearing canceled at the author's request on April 5, 2005 in the Assembly Higher Education Committee, it may be heard again in January as a two-year bill.

AB 1241

Position: Support in Concept

Author: Matthews (D-Tracy)
Version: As on May 27, 2005
Subject: GPA Submission for Cal Grant Programs

Requires the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to report, on or before November 1 of each year, to the Legislature and the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI):

- The number of GPAs received each year on a timely basis from each high school in California, for students in the March 2nd and September 2nd Cal Grant award cycles.
- The number of pupils in grade 12 in each high school
- The number of student aid applications received by September 2nd each year from students who are likely to be leaving high school and entering college for the first time.

Provides for the Legislature intent that the State Department of Education should provide technical assistance to high schools regarding their transmission of GPAs and that all school districts should release GPA information to CSAC.

Provides for the Legislature intent that CSAC use its statutory authorization regarding a grace period for GPA submission to notify otherwise eligible students of their obligation to submit a certified GPA and provide such students with an appropriate amount of time in which to comply.

Deletes the requirement that high schools must exclude "remedial courses" from the computation of GPA for Cal Grant purposes.

Requires a working group of interested parties to develop strategies for simplifying and maximizing participation in the GPA process and requires CSAC and the SPI to report to the Legislature on or before April 1, 2006 regarding the results of this consultation, including issues related to GPA definition, privacy, unique identifiers, methods of submission, training and support for high school personnel and cost.

Status: Passed by the Assembly Higher Education Committee on April 19, 2005. To the Assembly Appropriations Committee. On May 11, 2005 the bill was re-referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee. Passed by the Appropriations Committee on June 1, 2005 and moved to the Senate Committee on Rules for assignment.

AB 1445

Position: None

Author: Umberg (D-Santa Ana)

Version: As Amended on April 25, 2005

Subject: Tuition and Fee Waivers: National Guard, Air National Guard, Military Reserve

This bill would prohibit the UC, CSU, and the CCC from charging any mandatory systemwide tuition or fees, to qualifying members of the California Army National Guard, the California Air National Guard, and the State Military Reserve. It would require the Military Department to determine the eligibility of any applicant for a fee or tuition waiver under the bill, in accordance with regulations adopted by the Adjutant General. In accordance with existing law, the bill would apply to the UC only if the Regents act to implement the provisions.

Status: Passed by the Assembly Higher Education Committee on April 25, 2005 and by the Committee on Veterans Affairs on April 27, 2005. To the Assembly Appropriations Committee.