

## CSSA

### Legislation for Consideration

Below is proposed legislation for CSSA to consider in 2019. This document reflects the status of these bills as of 01/10/19.

#### State Legislation - 2019

#### INFORMATION ITEMS:

##### Higher Education Facilities Bond Bills

##### [AB 13 \(Eggman\) Higher Education Facilities Bond Act of 2018](#)

**Summary:** AB 2771 would generate \$7 billion through the sale of general obligation bonds in order to build more housing for students around the state, address the massive backlog of deferred maintenance projects within the UC and CSU, and provide funding for expansions through new or existing campuses. It will also establish a new advisory committee to oversee the fund.

**Analysis:** As an economic driver for the state, the California higher education system is worth investing in. Proposition 51 passed in 2016 with over 55% support for bonds funding schools from kindergarten through community college, and it's time to put the same level of support into the rest of the education system.

##### [SB 14 \(Glazer\) Higher Education Facilities Bond Act of 2018](#)

**Summary:** Upon approval by the state electorate, this bill would authorize the issuance of state general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$4 billion with one-half of the amount designated for the UC system, and the other half designated for the CSU system. The funds generated would enable the system to build new facilities, and improve existing facilities. Each system would need to submit a 5-year capital outlay plan that includes a schedule of projects that prioritize seismic retrofitting needs. Once and if this bill passed, it would then be placed on the 2018 general election ballot.

**Analysis:** Ever since the 1980s, the state paid for public higher education facilities through the passage of voter approved bonds. However, the last bond passed by voters was in 2006, nearly 12 years ago. In the interim, the systems have been tasked with taking care of their capital needs without the help of a bond. This is not a sustainable way of dealing with the \$8 billion capital need of both systems. Without a bond, this capital need will continue to grow, and many of the alternative solutions will eventually lead to higher costs for students.

##### [AB 140 \(Cervantes\) California Kickstart My Future Loan Forgiveness Program](#)

**Summary:** This bill would establish the California Kickstart My Future Loan Forgiveness Program to provide student loan forgiveness awards to eligible applicants for up to 24 months after graduation. The bill was carried by Assemblymember Cervantes last year, and before that by then Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez as AB 379 - both times with CSSA's support.

**Analysis:** The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) reports that on average CSU

graduates graduate with an average of \$18,852 in student loan debt. Upon graduating a student loan borrower is given a 6-month grace period before entering repayment. The author of this bill believes that six months is not enough time for a recent graduate to find a job in their field of interest. Additionally, the added pressure of entering repayment can negatively impact a recent graduate's employment plan. In order to alleviate the burden of student loan debt this bill will assist eligible students by making payments on their behalf for 24 months. In order to be eligible an applicant must meet the following criteria: be a California resident, have graduated and obtained an undergraduate degree from California postsecondary institution, apply for this program within two years of graduating, participate in a federal income-driven repayment plan, have an annual income of less than fifty thousand, work in California, and is not in default on any student loan. The California Kickstart My Future Loan Forgiveness Program would be administered by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC).

### **College Athlete Bill of Rights (UNASSIGNED)**

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**Summary:** This bill would require any institution of higher education that provides athletic scholarships in California, to provide an equivalent scholarship to students who do not have their athletic contract renewed due to injury or illness. Additionally, this legislation would require institutions to provide support to the catastrophically injured or ill athlete with the potential medical costs. Last year, CSSA supported AB 2220 (Bonta) which was where the idea and language for this legislation was developed from.

**Analysis:** This bill is an expansion of the Student Athlete Bill of Rights, which was passed by the legislature in 2012. It currently requires intercollegiate athletic programs at 4-year universities that receive \$10,000,000 or more in annual revenue from media rights for intercollegiate athletics to comply with various requirements. This includes providing an equivalent scholarship if an athlete has suffered an incapacitating injury or illness resulting from participation in the program, or if they have exhausted their athletic ability so they can complete their degree, in addition to medical insurance and care. Expanding on this legislation would create a much more equitable collegiate experience for student athletes.

### **Parking Bill (UNASSIGNED)**

**Summary:** What this bill do is ensure that, three years after being enacted, students pay the least for parking among campus affiliates - staff, faculty, and administrators. The bill would look at the longest possible parking pass an student can buy on each campus, and compare prices based on that permit available. Thus, if the longest pass a student can purchase is a semester pass, the legislation would impact that pass. If the longest pass a student can purchase is a daily pass, the legislation would impact that pass.

**Analysis:** California State University (CSU) student's ability to afford college continues to be a challenge. Although systemwide tuition and fees are relatively low comparative to similar institutions, CSU students report challenges in affording their total cost of education, including higher rates of food insecurity (41.6%) and homelessness (10.9%). In researching parking costs specifically, the Cal State Student Association (CSSA) discovered that **students pay more for parking than any other CSU campus affiliate on every campus**. Systemwide, based on all available data, here are the averages per affiliate group:

- CSU Student Semester Parking Permit Avg.: \$171.81
- CSU Staff Semester Parking Permit Avg.: \$70

- CSU Faculty Semester Parking Permit Avg.: \$68.33
- CSU Admin Semester Parking Permit Avg.: \$166.92

These parking rates are due to two main factors:

1. The bargaining agreements that CSUEU and CFA set with the CSU
2. The self support nature of the parking facilities on campus, which mean no other funds can be used to supplement their budgets

#### AB 540 Competitive Cal Grant Access **(UNASSIGNED)**

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**Summary:** Since the enactment of AB 540 in 2001, California has treated students raised in the state and educated in California schools as residents regardless of their immigration documentation status. Despite that, undocumented students face a significantly higher level of unmet financial need when paying for college due to their ineligibility for any form of federal student aid, including Work-Study, Pell Grants, and subsidized student loan programs. Additionally, though the Entitlement Cal Grant award is guaranteed to every eligible applicant, AB 540 students are only eligible for the Competitive Cal Grant award - which is based on eligibility criteria including financial need - after all other eligible non-AB 540 applicants are paid first. This legislation would ensure that all forms of state-based financial aid in California are made equally available to students exempt from paying nonresident tuition.

**Analysis:** In 2017-18, there were only 25,750 Competitive Cal Grant awards to serve an eligible applicant pool of more than 340,000 students; the lack of availability of Competitive Cal Grant awards meant that only 14% of eligible students received a Competitive Cal Grant award. By only giving AB 540 students access to the Competitive Cal Grant after all other applicants, the state is severely limiting the opportunities for non-resident students to succeed. Last year only 14% of the students who submitted a California Dream Act application seeking state financial aid were offered any. By deleting language in statute that requires AB 540 students to be less of a priority, and specifically stating that all state financial aid must be distributed equally based on need, students that are undocumented, veterans or formerly incarcerated will have an equal chance to receive state-based aid.

#### College Rapid Rehousing Bill **(UNASSIGNED)**

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**Summary:** This college rapid rehousing bill would take an already existing best practice in the field of homelessness called “Rapid Rehousing”, and tailor it to higher educational institutions.

Eligible students at participating campuses who demonstrate an emergency housing need would be eligible to receive rapid rehousing awards. Campuses would seek eligibility to participate in the program by having formal relationships with local agencies experienced with providing homeless benefits, a system to identify homeless students, an agreement with a regional Continuum of Care, regular training for campus staff who would interact with homeless students, and a policy to prioritize homeless students and foster youth.

Funding will be pursued through the budget process to fund this program.

**Analysis:** California State University (CSU) students face many challenges with regards to affording their education. While many students struggle to meet all their costs, and keep a roof over their heads, many students lose housing while in school. This loss of housing has an obvious impact on that student’s ability to persist in college.

Additionally, based on data collected by the CSU, 10.9% of students in the CSU suffer from

homelessness. Lastly, students who lose housing are more likely to not continue their education and dropout of college, leading to a higher risk of becoming chronically homeless.