

CSSA- LEGISLATOR FOR CONSIDERATION

Below is proposed legislation for CSSA to review. This document reflects the status of these bills as of 2/28/2019. For more information on these bills, visit: leginfo.legislature.ca.gov.

STATE LEGISLATION - 2019

INFORMATION ITEMS:

AB 130 (Low) - OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Problem: *Prior to 2011, the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) was a state commission to designed to research and guide the difference segments of higher education in California. However, citing ineffectiveness and budgetary constraints, Governor Brown defunded and functionally disbanded the commission. This has left the state with no coordinating body for all segments of higher education.*

Policy Solution: *AB 130 establishes the Office of Higher Education Performance and Accountability (OHEPA) as the statewide postsecondary coordination and planning entity, outlines its responsibilities, functions and authorities, and establishes an advisory board to the office (comprised of legislative appointees) to examine and make recommendations regarding its functions and operations, and to review and comment on the office's recommendations to the Governor and Legislature. The estimated cost to establish the office would be approximately \$1.9 million annually. There are two bills in the Senate which seek to address the same issue, SB 2 and SB 3.*

AB 307 (Reyes) - YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Problem: *In California, there is currently a homelessness crisis. 54% of the country's youth homeless population live in California. Additionally, CSU students are not immune to this crisis. 10.9% of CSU students are currently homeless.*

Policy Solution: *This bill creates a grant program to be administered by the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to award nonprofits and Continuum of Cares. The grants will be specifically for youth experiencing homelessness, including housing assistance and wrap around services. The annual budget request attached to this bill is \$100,000,000 annually.*

AB 381 (Reyes) - PREVENTING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Problem: *According to the California Women's Health Survey, 40% of California women experience physical intimate partner violence in their lifetimes, with college aged women being 11% more likely to experience dating or domestic violence. Further education and resources presented to students at orientation would help lower that percentage among college women, and give them tools to utilize if they ever needed assistance.*

Policy Solution: *This legislation would expand on the orientation requirements already in place on college campuses, requiring that there be education on the warning signs of dating and domestic violence; training on the prevention of dating and domestic violence; and on and off campus resources, laws, and policies which impact and can be utilized by the student as it relates to dating and domestic violence.*

AB 540 (Limon) - SERVICE INCENTIVE GRANT

Problem: *AB 540 qualifies undocumented students for in-state resident fees/tuition payments at a Community College, the California State University, and the University of California. Specifically, a student is eligible if they: attended high school in California for three or more years; graduated from a California high school; are enrolled at an accredited institution of higher education in California, and files an affidavit stating that he/she has applied to legalize his/her immigration status or will apply as soon as he/she is eligible. AB 1037 provides an opportunity for AB 540 students to access incentive grants, regardless of eligibility to work, to help fill their unmet financial aid gaps.*

More specifically, the Cal Grant B Service Incentive Grant Program would be awarded to AB 540 students who meet the Cal Grant B requirements, are determined by CSAC to have unmet need, are enrolled at a campus of the UC, CSU, or the CCC, or at an independent institution of higher education, and perform a minimum of 300 hours of community service or volunteer work in each academic year the grant is provided- 150 hours per semester or 100 hours per quarter. Once a student has met the requirements they are eligible to receive an award up to \$1,500 per semester, \$1,000 per quarter. The maximum amount of awards that can be given each year would be 2,500.

Policy Solution: *This bill would establish the Cal Grant B Service Incentive Grant Program under the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), as a state program available to California's AB 540 students who are ineligible for Federal Work Study (FWS) programs.*

AB 863 (Cervantes) - STUDENT FINANCIAL AID VERIFICATION

Problem: *Students are required to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to receive financial aid. According to the National College Access Network, approximately 50% of students who complete a FAFSA are required to complete an additional verification process. This creates an additional burden to low-income students, which the National College Access Network believes is one of the reasons that 22% of those asked to verify their application give up on applying for financial aid.*

Policy Solution: *AB 863 would prohibit any single higher education institution, and the California Student Aid Commission, from performing eligibility verification on an individual student more than once. Institutions would still be able to verify students, if selected, who transfer to their institution, and may perform additional verification if a student's enrollment is interrupted for more than one academic year.*

AB 930 (Gloria) - CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY: EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Problem: *The California State University Board of Trustees is responsible for overseeing and governing the entire system. They do so by appointing the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, and presidents; developing broad administration policy; providing direction to campus curricular development; and overseeing the efficient management of funds, property, facilities and investments by the system. In response to previous executive compensation conversations, the California Faculty Association is sponsoring this legislation to promote transparency in the future.*

Policy Solution: *This bill would require, for any proposed increase to the compensation of the specified executive officers, that the board include the proposed increase and related information as an informational item on a meeting agenda with a subsequent public vote. It would also prohibit an increase of compensation for an executive officer in a year in which student tuition or fees are increased.*

SB 50 (Wiener) - MORE HOMES ACT OF 2019

Problem: *Economic and educational opportunities in California are increasingly concentrated in urban areas, but housing construction has not kept pace with the demand for housing units. This lack of housing construction over the course of the last several decades has turned the overall statewide housing shortage to 3.5 million homes. Students feel the results of this shortage of housing, with skyrocketing rents. The median rent exceeds \$1,800 for a 2-bedroom, according to a 2018 report by Apartment List. Rentals in cities like San Francisco average over \$3,000 per month. Lastly, 10.9% of CSU students experience homelessness due to these high costs.*

Policy Solution: *SB 50 allows for building housing near existing job center and public transportation, and includes protections against displacement for renters and vulnerable communities in those areas. The bill waives apartment bans near high-quality transit and in job-rich areas. It also requires specific requirements to provide low-income housing in new developments. It also reduces height limitations in these construction zones to enable more dense housing be built. Lastly, the bill includes a number of tenant protections, to ensure that current tenants would not be displaced by any new construction.*

SB 206 (Skinner) - FAIR PAY TO PLAY ACT

Problem: *Existing law requires intercollegiate athletic programs at 4-year institutions that receive \$10,000,000 or more in annual revenue derived from media rights to comply with prescribed requirements relating to student athlete rights. Despite that, student athletes - most of whom live at or below the federal poverty level - do not have to be consulted if an organization or the university would like to use their image or likeness.*

Policy Solution: *This bill would prohibit a California public postsecondary educational institution, athletic association, conference, or other group or organization from preventing a student athlete from earning compensation as a result of the use of the student's name, image,*

or likeness, as provided. It would also prevent that compensation from affecting that student's scholarship eligibility.

SB 248 (Glazer) - RENTER'S TAX CREDIT

Problem: Established in 1972, the renter's tax credit has only been increased once in 1979. Since the last increase, rents in California have tripled, but the renter's tax credit has remained the same. Additionally, rental prices across the state have skyrocketed. The median rent exceeds \$1,800 for a 2-bedroom, according to a 2018 report by Apartment List. Rentals in cities like San Francisco average over \$3,000 per month. Median rents have increased nearly 4% since May of 2015 - above the national average. Lastly, most CSU students who live independently from their families rent the space they live in. Thus, an additional financial benefit, through this rental tax credit, may be helpful to them.

Policy Solution: This bill would increase the renter's tax credit to account for inflation, aligning the 1979 credit amount with its present day value. This bill would restructure the credit to no longer differentiate between single and joint filers. Instead, it would differentiate between filers who have dependents and filers with no dependents. Filers with dependents would receive \$434, and filers without dependents would receive \$220. The credit would also be refundable, so that people with no tax obligation would still be able to claim the credit. In all, 700,000 enters who now receive no credit or only a partial credit would be newly eligible for the increased amount.

SB 296 (Allen) - STUDENT FINANCIAL AID: IMMIGRANTS SEEKING ASYLUM

Problem: Currently in order to be eligible to receive a Cal Grant Program award, a student either be a citizen of the United States or an eligible noncitizen, as established by the Student Aid Commission which oversees the program.

Policy Solution: This bill would allow a noncitizen who has filed a designated application for asylum, has a valid employment authorization document and social security number, and has signed a specified affidavit access to the Cal Grant.

SB 461 (Roth) - SUMMER CAL GRANT

Problem: The affordability challenge facing CSU students is deep and multifaceted. The California state aid program, Cal Grant, gives most students the equivalent of eight semesters of tuition tied state aid. Which means, students can use their current Cal Grant for summer courses, but that would more quickly exhaust their Cal Grant benefit.

Additionally, for many low-income students, summer courses is less of a viable financial option without an additional award to help cover the increased costs of summer courses for students.

Policy Solution: SB 461 would expand the definition of eligibility for students who receive a Cal Grant to include two full-time summer session enrollments. Thus, students would receive an additional Cal Grant for up to two summer semesters.

ACTION ITEMS:

AB 151 (Voepel) - Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program

Problem: *1 in 16 students who are eligible for the Competitive Cal Grant actually receive an award. One of the limiting factors is the age restrictions on the Cal Grant, which prevents people older than 28 from receiving a Cal Grant, limiting many nontraditional students from being even able to apply for the program. By raising the age, more students will have access to apply for a Cal Grant.*

Policy Solution: *This bill would raise the maximum age for receiving a Cal Grant from 28 to 30.*

Recommendation: Support

AB 514 (Medina) - Voting Trustee Bill

Problem: *The student trustee was established in 1975. Then, in 1999, the non-voting trustee was created by state law. The justification at the time was that the student population had doubled between 1975 and 1999. Since 1999, the student population has grown by nearly 200,000 students, and a new campus has been opened. The same justification that was used in 1999 to create the non-voting trustee should be applicable to vest a vote within both student trustees, now.*

Policy Solution: *Currently, two students serve on the CSU Board of Trustees. When a student is appointed to the board, they serve a year as a non-voting member of the board, and at the completion of that year then become the voting student trustee. This bill will vest both students with a vote at the board. Thus, the student trustee will be able to vote from the beginning of their term for both years of the term.*

Recommendation: Sponsor

AB 542 (Gabriel) - Cal Grant Expansion

Problem: *1 in 16 students who are eligible for the Competitive Cal Grant actually receive an award, and under current law, AB 540 students cannot receive an award until all eligible citizens have. The California Student Aid Commission roughly estimates that 1,000 AB 540 students would be eligible for the Competitive Cal Grant, which means that expanding the number or awards would benefit all California students.*

Policy Solution: *This bill would increase the number of Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards annually by 3,000 - going from 25,750 to 28,750. This bill serves as a supplement to the AB 540 Competitive Cal Grant Access legislation, also by Asm. Gabriel, to address the anticipated number of AB 540 students who would then be eligible for the competitive grant.*

Recommendation: Sponsor

AB 710 (Cervantes) - Cost of Attendance

Problem: *In researching the costs that campuses are obligated to disclose as the total cost of attendance, the Cal State Student Association (CSSA) discovered that campus disclosure of the off-campus housing costs vary wildly when compared to standardized data from the Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for efficiency units.*

For example, four campuses overestimate their off-campus housing costs for students, with Fresno State University having the largest difference of \$1,682 for the year when compared to HUD data for an efficiency unit. 19 campuses underestimate costs, with San Jose State University underestimating off-campus housing costs by \$8,917 when compared to HUD data for an efficiency unit.

Both underestimating and overestimating college costs make it harder for students to truly afford college. By underestimating college costs, colleges are preventing students from accessing all the aid they need to afford college. By overestimating college costs, students are led to take out more loans than they may need, leading to larger than necessary post graduate college loan debt.

Lastly, the CSU system has no standard systemwide methodology for calculating a student's off-campus housing costs. And, with an emphasis on increasing maximum enrollment, there is no assurance that the institution prioritizes providing an accurate total cost of attendance. Thus, state law is needed to create an unbiased standard for institutions.

Policy Solution: *HUD housing data is currently used to help individuals seek a number of housing benefits in California. Our proposal seeks to use the same data to standardize the off-campus housing costs for students. We propose to use the most current county or zip code data (whichever is more local to a campus) for an efficiency unit, for the most current fiscal year, multiply that number for the 10 months a student lives near a campus, as the off-campus housing data point, and combine it with the standard food cost that the institutions provide which are consistent at all institutions.*

Recommendation: Sponsor

SB 2 (Glazer) - Statewide Longitudinal Student Database

Problem: *California does not currently have a statewide database where student outcomes can be tracked from institution to institution. Without a database to do this, there is no true way for the state to understand how all segments of education are serving, comprehensively, the state's educational needs. Currently, the state can request data from each segment of education, which are maintained independently, and in different ways, but has no cross-segment data source for all students. Thus, if a student attends a CSU, and does not graduate, it is difficult for*

the state to know if that student completely left higher education, or potentially, continued their higher education at a different institution.

Policy Solution: *This bill would establish the Statewide Longitudinal Student Database to collect and store data regarding individual students as they matriculate through P–20 into the workforce. The bill would express the intent of the Legislature that the development of the database be substantially completed on or before July 1, 2022. The bill would prohibit the commission from implementing the database if there is a determination, after consultation with the review committee, that the commission is unable to obtain necessary, reliable, and relevant data or protect individual privacy rights and confidentiality of the data.*

Recommendation: Support

SB 3 (Allen) - Office of Higher Education Coordination, Accountability, and Performance

Problem: *Currently, California is one of two states with no statewide coordinating body for higher education. The individual segments of higher education are governed independently of one another, though the governor and the legislature have the ability to legislate and provide for the budgets of the institutions, as well as appoint trustees and regents to serve on the boards of the public institutions. By establishing a statewide higher education coordinating body, the state may create the opportunity to guide higher education in totality to meet the needs of the state, students, and residents.*

Policy Solution: *This bill would establish the Office of Higher Education Coordination, Accountability, and Performance. The bill would give the office specified functions and responsibilities for purposes of statewide postsecondary education planning, oversight, data collection, and coordination. The bill would require the public postsecondary segments and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency to submit specified data to the office so it may carry out its functions and responsibilities. The bill would apply to the University of California only to the extent the Regents act by resolution to make it apply. To the extent the bill would impose additional duties on community college districts, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill would establish the Statewide Longitudinal Student Database to collect and store data regarding individual students as they matriculate through P–20 into the workforce. The bill would express the intent of the Legislature that the development of the database be substantially completed on or before July 1, 2022. The bill would prohibit the commission from implementing the database if there is a determination, after consultation with the review committee, that the commission is unable to obtain necessary, reliable, and relevant data or protect individual privacy rights and confidentiality of the data.*

Recommendation: Support

SB 148 (Glazer) - Public Postsecondary Education: the California Promise

Problem: *The Campaign for College Opportunity estimates that every additional year of college beyond four years increases the total cost by more than \$26,000 in tuition, fees, books, and living expenses, and more than \$22,000 lost in lifetime wages. This bill provides incentives to encourage students to remain on a four-year graduation track, and provides incentives to the CSU to provide the classes necessary to meet student demand.*

Policy Solution: *Expands on the California Promise program at the CSU, which aims to increase the graduation rate, lower cost, and ensure that the number of degrees meets the needs of California employers through coordination and support between the California Community Colleges and the CSU systems. In order to encourage broad student participation, this legislation would build upon recommendations by the CSU and create incentives for those programs. Specifically SB 346 would establish the Student Success and On-time Completion Fund; allow money appropriated to this fund by the legislature to be used for Summer Term Grants, On-Track Progress Grants or a tuition freeze; and commencing July 1, 2018 provide backend tuition waivers for all remaining classes needed to graduate when a campus is unable to provide a pathway to graduate in four or two years.*

Recommendation: Support

SB 173 (Dodd) - CalFresh: Postsecondary Student Eligibility: Work-Study

Problem: *Food insecurity affects 61% of CSU students, yet most are unaware that they may meet one of the numerous exemptions needed to qualify for CalFresh as a student. Work study has been particularly under utilized, due to a lack of awareness coupled with different forms utilized by different institutions of higher education further compounds the problem and depresses enrollment in CalFresh. This bill would address these issues by creating one universal form, that would be handed out by all colleges, and making the process much simpler for both students and county staff.*

Policy Solution: *This bill requires the Department of Social Services work with representatives from the CCC, UC, and CSU to create a standardized form to be used by the colleges to verify the work study exemption status of students who are approved and anticipating participation in state or federal work study. The colleges will also distribute the form to all students approved for state or federal work study.*

Recommendation: Support

SB 467 (Monning) - Cost of Attendance (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo)

Problem: *Research has shown that a third of colleges and universities provided cost of living allowances that were at least \$3,000 less than estimated living costs for that region. This bill would create a set of standards that would more accurately reflect the cost of attendance, so that prospective students know exactly what to predict which would in turn ensure more students could afford to complete their degree.*

Policy Solution: *This bill was written by a political science class at Cal Poly SLO, to ensure institutions are clearly listing the price of a one and two bedroom apartments, and a one person bedroom in private houses in the areas surrounding that campus. It would additionally require that estimates of other cost of living categories on the same page, such as: food, transportation, books and supplies, student fees, tuition, living at home or a permanent residence, and other miscellaneous expenses.*

Recommendation: Co-Sponsor

SB 660 (Pan) - Mental Health Counselors

Problem: *College campuses are seeing a huge influx of students seeking help for serious mental health problems, yet college counseling centers are severely understaffed and are forced to turn students away. Recent statistics show that the CSU system has 2,355 students per counselor, and that only three CSU campuses meet the current standard ratio of one counselor per 1,500 students. This bill would work to meet the needs of students seeking crucial mental health support, throughout the entire year.*

Policy Solution: *This bill would require that there be one full-time equivalent mental health counselor per 1,500 students at each higher education institution in California, applicable even in summer and winter sessions. It requires that each institution report to the Legislature how funding was spent and the number of mental health counselors employed on each of its campuses, on or before January 1, 2020, and every 3 years thereafter.*

Recommendation: Co-Sponsor