

SUPPORT BILLS AND BILLS WITH DIRECT IMPACT TO THE COMMISSION

[AB 340 \(Ward\): Golden State Scholarshare Trust: Personal Income Tax Law: gross income: deductions](#)

Summary: Conforms the state's codified 529 college savings plan statutes to recent changes in federal tax law. Specifically, it expands allowable withdrawals from a tax-advantaged 529 college savings plan to include (a) expenses associated with participation in a registered apprenticeship program and (b) repayment of student loans. These changes impact the State Scholarshare program.

Status: Senate Education

Position: Support

Alignment with Policy Priorities: Maximize the effectiveness of state financial aid programs.

[AB 396 \(Gabriel\): CalFresh: educational programs](#)

Summary: Requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) by May 31, 2022 to issue a guidance letter regarding eligibility requirements for campus-based programs at the California Community Colleges (CCC), the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC) to become state-approved employment and training programs and requires campus-based programs at the CCC and CSU, and requests campus-based programs at the UC to apply to become state-approved employment and training programs by September 1, 2022.

Status: Senate Human Services

Position: Support

Alignment with Policy Priorities: Advance efforts that help students access other forms of assistance to cover non-tuition expenses (e.g., CalFresh, housing assistance, affordable student lending options, etc.).

[AB 424 \(Stone\): Private Student Loan Collection Reform Act](#)

Summary: Requires private student loan lenders and debt collectors to comply with minimum evidentiary standards when bringing debt collection lawsuits against borrowers. It also requires lenders and collectors to provide specified records including, but not limited to: documentation establishing the chain of ownership, records of negotiations, and a log of collection attempts, which will be made available at the request of the borrower. The bill was recently amended to make a defendant liable for damages in the event the bill's requirements are violated.

Status: Senate Banking & Financial Institutions

Position: Support

Alignment with Policy Priorities: Maximize the effectiveness of state financial aid programs.

[AB 469 \(Reyes\): Pupil instruction: high school graduation requirements: financial aid applications](#)

Summary: Requires a school district, county office of education, or charter school to ensure that a 12th grade student completes and submits a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a California Dream Act Application (CADAA). The bill would authorize, under certain conditions, the school district, county office of education, or charter school to exempt a pupil who fails to comply with the requirement due to extenuating circumstances. The bill was recently amended to require a one-year delay in implementation, require the Student Aid Commission to develop an opt-out form, regulations, and acceptable use forms, require schools to use a standardized opt-out form, allow legal service organizations and immigration resource centers to aid schools, and allow students to opt-out for any reasons without penalty.

Status: Senate Education

Position: Support

Alignment with Policy Priorities: Advance early awareness of financial aid for California students and families.

[AB 1185 \(Cervantes\): Student financial aid: Cal Grant Program](#)

Summary: This bill would require that, in a state of emergency, resulting from the COVID-19 public health crisis, specified Cal Grant Program eligibility requirements related to time limits for award eligibility and to the age of an award recipient would not apply.

Status: Senate Education

Position: Support

Alignment with Policy Priorities: Maximize the effectiveness of state financial aid programs.

[AB 1326 \(Arambula\): Public social services: county liaison for higher education](#)

Summary: Requires county human service agencies to designate one employee as a staff liaison to operate as a direct contact for public higher education institutions within the county. Requires the California State University (CSU) and the California Community Colleges (CCC) and request the University of California (UC) to conduct a survey on the effectiveness of the liaison and report the results of the surveys to the Legislature.

Status: Senate Rules

Position: Support

Alignment with Policy Priorities: Advance efforts that help students access other forms of assistance to cover non-tuition expenses (e.g., CalFresh, housing assistance, affordable student lending options, etc.).

[AB 1456 \(Medina\): Student financial aid: Cal Grant Reform Act](#)

Summary: Enacts the Cal Grant Reform Act, which would revise and recast the provisions establishing and governing the existing Cal Grant programs. The bill would authorize the Commission to adopt emergency regulations to implement the Cal Grant Reform Act. The new Cal Grant Program would include a Cal Grant 2 Program and a Cal Grant 4 Program, with eligibility requirements.

Status: Senate Rules

Position: Support

Alignment with Policy Priorities: Maximize equitable public investment in California students through financial aid. Maximize the effectiveness of state financial aid programs.

[SB 737 \(Limón\): California Student Opportunity and Access Program](#)

Summary: Modernizes the statutory functions and priorities of the California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) to serve as the state's primary student financial aid outreach and assistance program. It modifies and expands criteria for which the Commission may apportion funds to support Cal-SOAP projects and redefines the focus of Cal-SOAP projects to include assisting students and their families with understanding the true costs of college, their financing options (grants, scholarships, student loans, and work opportunities), and how to apply for financial aid using the FAFSA or CADAA.

Status: Assembly Appropriations

Position: Sponsor

Alignment with Policy Priorities: Advance early awareness of financial aid for California students and families.

INDIRECT IMPACT TO COMMISSION

[AB 104 \(Gonzalez\): COVID-19: Learning recovery opportunities](#)

Summary: Requires, as an urgency measure, local educational agencies (LEAs) to adopt policies allowing parents to request that students be retained in the 2021-22 academic year; creates a process for parents to request that students receive a "pass" or "no pass" instead of a letter grade in the 2020-21 academic year and requires that specified institutions of higher education accept a "pass" for credit for admissions purposes; and requires that students who were in their third or fourth year of high school in the 2020-21 and who are not on track to graduate in the 2020-21 or 2021-22 school years be exempted from local graduation requirements and be given the opportunity to complete the coursework required for graduation.

Status: Senate Floor

Position: Watch

[AB 1113 \(Medina\): Public postsecondary education: exemption from tuition and fees: qualifying survivors of persons providing medical or emergency services deceased during COVID-19 California state of emergency](#)

Summary: Prohibits prohibit public postsecondary institutions from collecting mandatory systemwide tuition and fees from any qualifying surviving spouse or surviving child of a deceased person who: (1) was a resident of this state; (2) employed as a licensed physician or a licensed nurse by a health facility or as a first responder; and (3) died of COVID-19 during the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency in California.

Status: Senate Rules

Position: Watch

TWO YEAR BILLS

[AB 288 \(Calderon\): California Ban on Scholarship Displacement Act of 2021](#)

Summary: Enacts the California Ban on Scholarship Displacement Act of 2021, which would prohibit each public and private institution of higher education in the state that receives, or benefits from, state-funded financial assistance or enrolls students who receive state-funded student financial assistance, from reducing certain students' institution-based financial aid award below their financial need.

Status: Assembly Appropriations – Two-Year Bill

Position: Watch

[AB 299 \(Villapudua\): Career technical education: Apprenticeship Grant Program](#)

Summary: Commencing with the 2022-23 academic year, this bill would establish the Apprenticeship Grant Program under the administration of the Commission. The program would provide grants to students who qualify for the Federal Pell Grant or for state financial aid and who participate in approved apprenticeship programs at California Community Colleges. The bill would prohibit these grants from exceeding a student's actual cost of attending a participating community college.

Status: Assembly Higher Education

Position: None

[AB 300 \(Kiley\): Pupil support programs: Cal Grant K-12](#)

Summary: This bill would establish a program entitled Cal Grant K-12 under the administration of a scholarship-granting organization for purposes of receiving donations and granting scholarships to pupils meeting certain requirements. The requirements include student in kindergarten and in any grades 1 to 12. The funds shall be used for qualified educational expenses such including expenses related to online learning.

Status: Assembly Education

Position: None

LAB Committee

June 23, 2021

[AB 737 \(Santiago\): Public postsecondary education: California State University: tuition](#)

Summary: Prohibits the charging of tuition or mandatory systemwide fees for enrollment at a California State University campus, for up to two academic years, to a California Community College resident transfer student that completed an associate degree for transfer (ADT), has received a fee waiver pursuant to the California College Promise, and is at least 28 years of age. Upon appropriation, this bill would require the Chancellor of the California State University to distribute funding to each campus to offset the costs of waiving tuition and mandatory systemwide fees.

Status: Assembly Higher Education

Position: None

[AB 1097 \(Santiago\): Public institution of higher education: student financial aid: Cal Grants: abuse, and false advertising](#)

Summary: This bill would make public postsecondary educational institutions established outside of the State California – but operate a branch or other location physically located in the state and meet certain requirements - eligible to receive Cal Grant awards for California residents attending these institutions. Without establishing targets for new Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) students, students attending these institutions and meeting Cal Grant criteria would be eligible for the same maximum tuition award for new students attending independent institutions of higher education. This bill would also apply provisions relating to fraud, abuse, and false advertising in the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 to these public postsecondary educational institutions.

Status: Assembly Higher Education

Position: None

[SB 20 \(Dodd\): Student nutrition: eligibility for CalFresh benefits](#)

Summary: Requires the Commission, to provide written notice to students that they may be eligible for CalFresh benefits based on certain exemptions permitted by federal regulations. It further requires the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to adopt regulations so that a student who qualifies for a California College Promise Grant (formerly the BOG fee waiver), and whose household income is below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, may also qualify for CalFresh benefits to the extent permitted by federal law.

Summary: Senate

Position: Support

BILLS HELD IN COMMITTEE, “SPOT” BILLS, “GUT & AMEND” BILLS, AND INACTIVE BILLS

[AB 1290 \(Lee\): Student Aid Commission](#)

Summary: Requires the Student Aid Commission to include four student members, one from each of the following: University of California, California State University, California Community Colleges, and a California private postsecondary educational institution.

Status: Senate Education - Inactive

Position: Watch

Alignment with Policy Priorities: None

[AB 1421 \(Nguyen\): Public postsecondary education: refunds of student campus fees](#)

Summary: Requires the Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and request the Regents of the University of California, to: (1) identify the students in their respective systems who, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, were obliged to stay away from the campuses at which they were enrolled during the 2019–20 and 2020–21 academic years; (2) ascertain the amounts of campus fees collected from each of the students identified under subdivision (a), and calculate from those amounts of campus fees, the amounts from which the students received no value because of their enforced absence from campus and which should therefore be refunded to the students; and (3) submit the total amounts ascertained and calculated to the Department of Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.

Status: Assembly Higher Education

Position: None

[SB 388 \(Stern\): CalServe](#)

Summary: This is a “Gut and Amend” bill and no longer deals with higher education policy issues.

Status: Senate Judiciary

Position: None

[SB 795 \(Roth\): Cal Grant Program](#)

Summary: This bill would make a non-substantive change to the provision that establishes the Cal Grant Program.

Status: Senate Rules (spot bill)

Position: None