

SUMMARY OF PRIORITY TRACKED LEGISLATION

June 16, 2022



SPONSORED & SUPPORTED LEGISLATION

[AB 1746 \(Medina\) – 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 specified eligibility requirements. This bill is contingent on an appropriation.

Status: Senate Education (6/30/2022)

Position: Co-Sponsor

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

[AB 2286 \(Irwin\) - Student Aid Commission: donations and philanthropic funds](#)

Summary: Authorizes the Commission to receive and direct the use of philanthropic funding. This bill also requires the Commission to publicly report at the first commission meeting of the calendar year the amount and source of each philanthropic fund received in the prior year.

Status: Senate Education (6/22/2022)

Position: Sponsor

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

[AB 2004 \(Cristina Garcia\) – California DREAM Loan Program](#)

Summary: Increases the total amount of DREAM loan funding that California Dream Act Application students can borrow to a total of \$40,000 in a lifetime. The bill also requires the CSU and UC to report additional demographic information on Dream Loan borrowers. It also requires participating institutions of higher education to establish loan forgiveness options and terms of discharging debt that are consistent with federal practices and programs. Additionally, this bill requires institutions to provide comprehensive exit loan counseling.

Status: Senate Education (6/22/2022)

Position: Support

Alignment with Policy Priorities: Maximize the effectiveness of state financial aid programs (Ensure undocumented students – who are unable to access federal financial aid – have access to financial aid opportunities comparable to their peers).

AB 2810 (Arambula) - Institutional FAFSA data for CalFresh outreach

Summary: States the intent to codify the [U.S. DOE's Dear Colleague Letter GEN-22-02](#) issued on January 20, 2022. Additionally, this bill requires each CSU campus and each community college district to use FAFSA data to identify students who meet the income qualifications for CalFresh and send individual emails to students informing them of their potential CalFresh eligibility. It also conforms a definition of "half-time" student to the federal definition, for the purposes of determining CalFresh eligibility.

Status: Senate Appropriations

Position: Support

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

SB 641 (Skinner) - CalFresh for College Students Act

Summary: Requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to post on its website a list of programs that meet the employment & training exemption for CalFresh as well as instructions for county human service workers regarding processing applications, reporting, and recertification for additional students who are exempt from the CalFresh student eligibility rule. This bill also requires CDSS to convene a workgroup (CSAC included) to identify the steps necessary to establish a CalFresh application submission process that improves access to real-time information about applications submitted and accommodates the large influx of CalFresh applications during the beginning of a school term.

Status: Assembly Human Services (6/28/2022)

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.).

SB 1141 (Limón) - AB 540 Expansion

Summary: Reduces, for purposes of AB 540 eligibility, the total years of full-time attendance in certain California schools, the years of full-time high school coursework in California, and the total years of attendance in California elementary schools and California secondary schools required from 3+ years to 2+ years.

Status: Assembly Appropriations

Position: Support

Alignment with Policy Priorities: Ensure undocumented students – who are unable to access federal financial aid – have access to financial aid opportunities comparable to their peers.

SJR 9 (Limón) – 20th Anniversary of AB 540

Summary: Recognizes October 12, 2021, as the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the exemption from nonresident tuition (AB 540) for qualified students. The measure also calls on the United States Congress to pass the American Families Plan and provide financial resources for undocumented students through the budget reconciliation process, and to adopt comprehensive immigration reform.

Status: Assembly Floor

Position: Support

Alignment with Policy Priorities: Ensure undocumented students – who are unable to access federal financial aid – have access to financial aid opportunities comparable to their peers.

LEGISLATION WITH DIRECT IMPACT TO THE COMMISSION

AB 295 (Jones-Sawyer) – Working Group for a Pilot Program on Alternatives to Tuition & Fees Charging System

Summary: Requires the Commission to convene a working group of stakeholders representing the State Department of Education and public postsecondary institutions of higher education until July 1, 2025 to research and develop recommendations for the creation of a pilot program that would cover the cost of postsecondary education by replacing the system of charging students tuition and fees, and addressing additional expenses associated with cost of attendance. The bill also requires the submission of a report to the Legislature that includes the recommendations for the pilot program.

Status: Senate Appropriations (6/20/2022)

Position: Watch

AB 2069 (Villapudua) – California Home Health Aide Training Scholarship Act

Summary: Establishes the California Home Health Aide Training Scholarship Act for CSAC to administer. The program grants up to 1,000 scholarship awards of \$1,500 each to individuals enrolled in a home health aide training program.

Status: Senate Health (6/29/2022)

Position: Watch

AB 2222 (Reyes) - Golden State Social Opportunities Program

Summary: Establishes the Golden State Social Opportunities Program for CSAC to administer grants (up to \$20,000) to students enrolled in an in-state postgraduate program and who commit to working in a California-based nonprofit for their required post degree hours of supervised experience.

Status: Senate Education (6/30/2022)

Position: Watch

AB 2661 (Waldron) – Scholarship Benefits for Firefighter Dependents

Summary: Extends scholarship benefits through the Law Enforcement Personnel Dependents Grant Program (LEPD) to a dependent of a firefighter employed by a tribal fire department who is killed or totally disabled in the performance of duty.

Status: Enrolled

Position: Watch

AB 2880 (Bonta) - College Access Tax Credit

Summary: Extends the sunset date of the College Access Tax Credit (CATC) from 2023 to 2028, and allocates a portion of the moneys in the CATC Fund to the California Educational Facilities Authority (CEFA) to do outreach and inform taxpayers about the Credit.

Status: Senate Appropriations

Position: Watch

SB 20 (Dodd) - Notification to CalFresh eligible students

Summary: Requires the Commission, to the extent that is permitted by federal law to use information to determine a student's CalFresh eligibility and possesses the pertinent information, to provide written notice to students of their exemption from the CalFresh program student eligibility rules and that they may be eligible for benefits under the CalFresh program. Additionally, the notification provided by the Commission would be considered the verification of the student's exemption from the CalFresh program student eligibility rules. The bill would also require the commission to confer with stakeholders on at least an annual basis to implement this provision and to continuously improve the process of securing CalFresh benefits for eligible students.

Status: Assembly Appropriations

Position: Watch

SB 419 (Stern) - Californians for All College Service Program

Summary: Establishes the Californians for All College Service Program, for CSAC to administer, which would award annual grants to eligible students to finance tuition and fees not covered by federal, state, or institutionally administered grants or fee waivers commencing with the 2024–25 academic year.

Status: Assembly Natural Resources

Position: Watch

SB 851 (Portantino) - Cal Grant Program: independent institutions of higher education

Summary: Establishes the maximum tuition award amount at the same maximum tuition award amount for new Cal Grant recipients at private non-profit institutions from the prior year the same maximum tuition, adjusted by an amount equal to the CA Consumer Price Index. This bill would also allow a California Community College Expanded Entitlement Award recipient to transfer to an independent institution of higher education and remain eligible to receive the award. Additionally, the bill extends the Students with Dependent Children (SWDC) and the Foster Youth access awards to students attending a private non-profit institution of higher education.

Status: Assembly Higher Education (6/21/2022)

Position: Watch

SB 1229 (McGuire) – Mental Health Workforce Grant Program

Summary: Establishes the Mental Health Workforce Grant Program for CSAC to administer up to 10,000 grants to postgraduate students over a 3-year period in the amount of up to \$25,000 each. The bill requires the recipient to make a commitment to work with an eligible California non-profit or local educational agency (LEA).

Status: Assembly Higher Education

Position: Watch

OTHER TRACKED PRIORITY BILLS

AB 288 (Calderon) - California Ban on Scholarship Displacement Act

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

Status: Senate Appropriations (6/20/2022)

Position: Watch

AB 1671 (Patterson) - California Ban on Scholarship Displacement for Foster Youth Act

Summary: Enacts the California Ban on Scholarship Displacement for Foster Youth Act, which would prohibit each public and private institution of higher education in the state that receives, or benefits from, state-funded financial assistance, or that enrolls students who receive state-funded student financial assistance, from reducing an institution-based gift aid award below the financial need of a student who is a current or former foster youth, a resident of California, and enrolled in an institution of higher education to obtain an undergraduate degree.

Status: Senate Appropriations

Position: Watch

AB 2266 (Santiago) - Community colleges: California College Promise: fee waiver eligibility

Summary: Expands the California College Promise program to provide two years of tuition free community college to returning students, defined as students who take a break of two or more semesters (or equivalent quarters).

Status: Senate Education (6/30/2022)

Position: Watch

SB 1374 (Borgeas) – Personal income taxes: deduction: California qualified tuition program

Summary: Until December 31, 2026, this bill allows a deduction under the Personal Income Tax Law against gross income in the amount equal to the monetary contribution made by a taxpayer to the Golden State Scholarshare Program not to exceed either \$5,000 or \$10,000, per beneficiary.

Status: Assembly Revenue & Taxation (6/20/2022)

Position: Watch