

## SUMMARY OF PRIORITY TRACKED LEGISLATION

August 31, 2022



### SPONSORED & SUPPORTED LEGISLATION

#### [AB 1746 \(Medina\) – Cal Grant Reform Act](#)

**Summary:** Enacts the Cal Grant Reform Act, which revises and recasts the provisions establishing and governing the existing Cal Grant programs. The bill authorizes 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.

**Status:** Held in Senate Appropriations committee – Adopted in the State Budget

**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:** CHAPTERED

**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, and to establish loan forgiveness options and terms of discharging debt that are consistent with federal practices and programs. Lastly, this bill requires institutions to provide comprehensive exit loan counseling.

**Status:** Enrolled

**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:** Enrolled

**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 (the Commission included) to identify the steps necessary to establish a CalFresh application submission process that accommodates the large influx of CalFresh applications during the beginning of a school term.

**Status:** Governor's Desk

**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:** Expands the number of students that qualify for in-state tuition rates by removing the two-year cap on full-time enrollment in community college credit courses that can be counted towards achieving AB 540 status.

**Status:** Enrolled

**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 \(Limón\) – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AB 540](#)

**Summary:** Recognizes October 12, 2021, as the 20<sup>th</sup> 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:** CHAPTERED

**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.

**Status:** Held in suspense at Senate Appropriations committee

**Position:** Watch

### [AB 2069 \(Villapudua\) – California Home Health Aide Training Scholarship Act](#)

**Summary:** Establishes the California Home Health Aide Training Scholarship Act for the Department of Health Care Access and Information 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:** Enrolled - Amended at Senate Appropriations & the Commission is no longer on the bill

**Position:** Watch

### [AB 2222 \(Reyes\) - Golden State Social Opportunities Program](#)

**Summary:** Establishes the Golden State Social Opportunities Program for the Department of Health Care Access and Information 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 two years upon completion of the postgraduate program.

**Status:** Enrolled - Amended at Senate Appropriations & the Commission is no longer on the bill – Adopted in the State Budget

**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:** CHAPTERED

**Position:** Watch

### [AB 2880 \(Bonta\) - College Access Tax Credit Extension](#)

**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 to do outreach and inform taxpayers about the Credit. Additionally, this bill authorizes the Commission flexibility to make disbursements in any year in which it determines there are sufficient funds and roll over funds for disbursement in future fiscal years.

**Status:** Enrolled

**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 student eligibility rules and that they may be eligible for CalFresh benefits. The notification provided by the Commission would be considered the verification of the student's exemption from the 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:** CHAPTERED

**Position:** Watch

[SB 419 \(Stern\) - Californians for All College Service Program](#)

**Summary:** Establishes the Californians for All College Service Program, for the Commission 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:** Held in Assembly Natural Resources committee

**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 also allows 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:** Gut & Amended in Assembly Floor to a tax-related bill and no longer impacts Cal Grant or the Commission – Adopted in the State Budget

**Position:** Watch

[SB 1229 \(McGuire\) – Mental Health Workforce Grant Program](#)

**Summary:** Establishes the Mental Health Workforce Grant Program for the Commission to administer up to 10,000 grants to postgraduate students over a 3-year period in the amounts 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.

**Status:** Held in Assembly Higher Education committee – Adopted in the State Budget

**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:** Governor's Desk

**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:** Referred to the Inactive File

**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:** Held in suspense at Senate Appropriations committee – Adopted in the State Budget

**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 \$1,000 or \$2,000, per beneficiary.

**Status:** Enrolled

**Position:** Watch