

California Student Aid Commission  
Legislative, Audit and Budget Committee

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## Item 5

(Information Item)

Update on state and federal legislation

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**SUMMARY:**

This item provides an update on state and federal legislation most relevant to the programs and policy priorities of the California Student Aid Commission (Commission).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an information item; no action is required.

**BACKGROUND:**

In November 2022, the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) adopted a statement of policy priorities to inform and guide its engagement with legislative proposals in the 2023-2024 legislative session. As a result, during the first year of California's two-year legislative session, the Commission has sponsored two bills, AB 1400 and AB 1540, and taken positions on several others.

AB 1400 (Bryan) refocuses the use of funds generated by the College Access Tax Credit to provide a one-time grant of up to \$5,000 to community college students with the greatest unmet financial who transfer to a qualifying Historically Black College or University with a transfer agreement with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, and who indicate their intent to return to California after graduation.

AB 1540 (Fong, Mike) streamlines the financial aid process for undocumented students by embedding the nonresident tuition exemption form (known as the "AB 540 affidavit") within the California Dream Act Application.

Additionally, the Commission has taken support positions on several other bills in alignment with the statement of policy priorities and the recommendations set forth in two of the Commission's most recent policy reports: [\*Renewing the Dream\*](#) and [\*Access to Proper Nutrition Equals College Success: Making CalFresh Work for Students\*](#).

Together, the attachments ("Summary of Priority Tracked Legislation" and "State Legislative Bill Matrix") will provide a status summary of the bills being sponsored and supported by the Commission, as well as other high priority bills with direct impact to Commission programs. The Legislature has until September 14, 2023 to pass bills in the

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first year of its two-year session. The Governor has until October 14, 2023 to sign or veto any bills passed by the Legislature before September 14.

Lastly, Commission staff will provide an update on various key federal legislation, policy, and appropriations processes including the status of the FARM Reauthorization Bill, Pell Grants, and federal student loan repayment.

### **RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):**

Alex Zucco, State and Federal Policy Manager  
Policy and Public Affairs Division

Jake Brymner, Deputy Director  
Policy and Public Affairs Division

### **ATTACHMENT(S):**

Summary of Priority Tracked Legislation Presented on September 6, 2023

State Legislative Bill Matrix Presented on September 6, 2023

State and Federal Legislation Presentation Presented on September 6, 2023