

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 8, 2006
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 13, 2006
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 9, 2006
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1532

**Introduced by Assembly Member Bass
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Liu)**

February 22, 2005

An act to add Article 8 (commencing with Section 69441) to Chapter 1.7 of Part 42 of the Education Code, relating to postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1532, as amended, Bass. Cal Grants: foster youth.

The Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Act establishes the Cal Grant A and B entitlement awards and the California Community College Transfer Entitlement awards, under the administration of the Student Aid Commission, and establishes eligibility requirements for awards under these programs for participating students attending qualifying institutions. The act, for Cal Grant A and B entitlement awards, requires that financial aid applications be submitted or postmarked no later than March 2 of the academic year of high school graduation or its equivalent for the award year immediately following the academic year of high school graduation or its equivalent, or no later than March 2 of the academic year following high school graduation or its equivalent for the 2nd award year following the year of high school graduation or its equivalent. The act, for California Community College Transfer

Entitlement awards, requires that financial aid applications be submitted or postmarked no later than the March 2 of the year immediately preceding the award year. The act also requires entitlement award applicants to submit a grade point average.

This bill would exempt otherwise eligible foster youth, as defined, from those March 2 deadlines, commencing with applications for the 2007–08 award year. *The bill would require the commission to adopt rules and regulations for the identification of foster youth.* The bill would require the commission to make a preliminary award to a foster youth without requiring the report of a grade point average and to develop and adopt procedures to secure the required grade point average information after the identification of an otherwise eligible foster youth. Under the bill, no award would be final until official evidence is provided that the student met the high school or community college grade point average requirements.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Foster youth face unique challenges in their quest for
- 4 higher education. In many cases, they do not have the support
- 5 and assistance enjoyed by other students as they make decisions
- 6 related to postsecondary education and undertake the many
- 7 processes associated with admission and attendance.
- 8 (b) The State of California provides a guarantee of student
- 9 financial assistance to meritorious, needy students through its Cal
- 10 Grant entitlement awards, including the Cal Grant A Entitlement
- 11 ~~Awards awards~~, the Cal Grant B Entitlement ~~Awards awards~~,
- 12 and the California Community College Transfer Entitlement
- 13 ~~Awards awards~~. These programs are limited by strict deadlines,
- 14 and provide a limited window of opportunity for application.
- 15 Foster youth are fully eligible for these programs and are
- 16 encouraged to apply.
- 17 (c) Foster youth may be less aware of deadlines and face other
- 18 barriers or circumstances that may limit or otherwise affect their
- 19 ability to apply for assistance or enter postsecondary education in
- 20 the manner required by these programs.

1 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature to remove these barriers
2 so that current and former meritorious foster youth may
3 participate more fully in the Cal Grant entitlement programs.

4 SEC. 2. Article 8 (commencing with Section 69441) is added
5 to Chapter 1.7 of Part 42 of the Education Code, to read:

6
7 Article 8. Special Provisions for California Foster Youth
8

9 69441. (a) As used in this article, “foster youth” means a
10 student ~~who was eligible, or is eligible, for foster care between~~
11 ~~his or her 16th and 18th birthdays, as verified by the State~~
12 ~~Department of Social Services who has been verified by the State~~
13 *Department of Social Services as meeting the criteria for*
14 *participation in the California Chafee Grant Program, or a*
15 *student who is identified, verified, and reported to the*
16 *commission by a California public or private institution of higher*
17 *education that is eligible to participate in the Cal Grant*
18 *Program, as being a current or former foster youth, if the student*
19 *will not be 30 years of age or older by December 31 of the award*
20 *year.*

21 (b) *The commission shall adopt rules and regulations to define*
22 *which students shall be eligible to be identified as being a*
23 *current or former foster youth and the method by which public*
24 *and private institutions of higher education shall identify, verify,*
25 *and report to the commission the student’s status as a foster*
26 *youth. The commission shall consult with persons and entities*
27 *that are knowledgeable in both foster youth and federal student*
28 *financial aid policies and processes in developing the rules and*
29 *regulations.*

30 69441.3. Notwithstanding the March 2 deadlines described in
31 paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 69434, paragraph (1)
32 of subdivision (a) of Section 69435.3, and paragraph (1) of
33 subdivision (b) of Section 69436, commencing with applications
34 for the 2007–08 award year, the commission shall make Cal
35 Grant A Entitlement ~~Awards awards~~, Cal Grant B Entitlement
36 ~~Awards awards~~, or California Community College Transfer
37 Entitlement ~~Awards awards~~, on a monthly basis, to a foster youth
38 who is otherwise eligible under Article 2 (commencing with
39 Section 69434), Article 3 (commencing with Section 69435), or
40 Article 4 (commencing with Section 69436).

1 69441.5. Notwithstanding subdivision (c) of Section 69432.9,
2 or paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 69436, the
3 commission shall make a preliminary award to a foster youth
4 without requiring the report of the grade point average, and shall
5 develop and adopt procedures to secure the required grade point
6 average information after the identification of an otherwise
7 eligible foster youth. No award shall be final until official
8 evidence is provided that the student met the high school or
9 community college grade point average requirements as imposed
10 under Article 2 (commencing with Section 69434), Article 3
11 (commencing with Section 69435), or Article 4 (commencing
12 with Section 69436).

13 69441.7. Awards made in accordance with this article for
14 applications received on or after March 3 to December 31,
15 inclusive, of an award year shall be made for the academic year
16 for which the award would have been made had the application
17 been received on or after January 1 to March 2, inclusive, of that
18 year, and may be paid retroactively for a term that has already
19 started or been completed.