

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2083

Introduced by Assembly Member Nunez

February 19, 2008

An act to add Section 66021.6 to the Education Code, relating to student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2083, as introduced, Nunez. Student financial aid: institutional financial aid eligibility.

The Donahoe Higher Education Act sets forth, among other things, the missions and functions of California's public and independent segments of higher education, and their respective institutions of higher education. Provisions of the act apply to the University of California only to the extent that the Regents of the University of California, by appropriate resolution, act to make a provision applicable.

Existing law requires that a person, other than a nonimmigrant alien, as defined, who has attended high school in California for 3 or more years, who has graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent thereof, who has registered at or attends an accredited institution of higher education in California not earlier than the fall semester or quarter of the 2001–02 academic year, and who, if he or she is an alien without lawful immigration status, has filed a prescribed affidavit, is exempt from paying nonresident tuition at the California Community Colleges and the California State University.

This bill would amend the Donahoe Higher Education Act to require 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 establish procedures and

forms that enable persons who are exempt from paying nonresident tuition under this provision, or who meet equivalent requirements adopted by the regents, to be eligible to receive institutional financial aid awards. The bill would define institutional financial aid as financial assistance offered by a campus of the California Community Colleges, California State University, or University of California, including grant, scholarship, work-study, and loan programs. The bill would declare that this provision is a state law within the meaning of a federal statute that permits a state to only provide an alien who is not lawfully present in the United States with eligibility for a state or local public benefit through the enactment of a state law affirmatively providing for that eligibility. This provision would apply to the University of California only if the regents, by appropriate resolution, act to make it applicable.

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. Section 66021.6 is added to the Education Code,
- 2 to read:
- 3 66021.6. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, the Trustees of
- 4 the California State University and the Board of Governors of the
- 5 California Community Colleges shall, and the Regents of the
- 6 University of California are requested to, establish procedures and
- 7 forms that enable persons who are exempt from paying nonresident
- 8 tuition under Section 68130.5, or who meet equivalent requirements
- 9 adopted by the regents, to be eligible to receive institutional
- 10 financial aid awards. The Legislature finds and declares that this
- 11 section is a state law within the meaning of Section 1621(d) of
- 12 Title 8 of the United States Code.
- 13 (b) For purposes of this section, “institutional financial aid”
- 14 means financial assistance offered by a campus of the California
- 15 Community Colleges, California State University, or University
- 16 of California, including grant, scholarship, work-study, and loan
- 17 programs.