

## Senate Bill No. 1680

### CHAPTER 123

An act to add Article 14 (commencing with Section 69785) to Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

[Approved by Governor July 15, 2008. Filed with  
Secretary of State July 15, 2008.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1680, Wyland. Student financial aid: Military and Veterans Office.

Under existing law, the segments of the public higher education system in the state include the University of California, which is administered by the Regents of the University of California, the California State University, which is administered by the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, which is administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

This bill would authorize the California Community Colleges and California State University, and request the University of California, to coordinate services for qualified students who are veterans or members of the military by clearly designating Military and Veterans Offices and individuals to provide specified services.

The bill would authorize the California Community Colleges and the California State University, and would encourage the University of California, to report to the Department of Veterans Affairs, on an annual basis, specified information relating to Military and Veterans Offices.

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

SECTION 1. Article 14 (commencing with Section 69785) is added to Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, to read:

#### Article 14. Military and Veterans Office

69785. (a) The California Community Colleges and the California State University may, and the University of California is encouraged to, coordinate services for qualified students who are veterans or members of the military by clearly designating Military and Veterans Offices and individuals to provide services, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

- (1) Financial aid counseling.
- (2) Academic outreach, admission, and enrollment planning.
- (3) Transition concerns.

- (4) Postgraduate planning.
- (5) Health and mental health services.
- (6) Provide tutoring and other learning support services.
- (7) Provide career counseling.

(b) The purpose of these Military and Veterans Offices shall be to encourage and facilitate the use of the services listed in paragraphs (1) to (7), inclusive, of subdivision (a) and to assist a qualified student in determining that student's eligibility for state or federal educational financial aid.

(c) For purposes of this article, "qualified student" means a student who is any of the following:

(1) An active duty member of any of the following:

(A) The Armed Forces of the United States.

(B) The California National Guard.

(C) A reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(2) A veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(3) A family member of a person described in paragraph (1) or (2). For the purposes of this paragraph, "family member" means an individual who is a legal dependent under 28 years of age of a person described in paragraph (1) or (2) living in the household of that person and eligible to be claimed as a dependent on federal or state tax returns.

69786. The California Community Colleges and the California State University may, and the University of California is encouraged to, report to the Department of Veterans Affairs, on an annual basis, all of the following information:

(a) The number of qualified students assisted by a Military and Veterans Office.

(b) The number of qualified students assisted who are active duty members of the Armed Forces of the United States, the California National Guard, or a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, or are veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(c) The total education benefits obtained by all qualified students assisted by an office.