

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 606**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Williams**

February 20, 2013

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An act to add and repeal Section 76072 of the Education Code, relating to student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 606, as amended, Williams. Student financial aid: community colleges.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law establishes community college districts, administered by governing boards, throughout the state, and authorizes these districts to provide instruction to students at the community college campuses maintained by the districts.

Existing law requires the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop a statement that individual students will be asked to sign, which acknowledges that federal and state funds are available to assist with the costs of college and that information regarding these programs, and assistance in applying for those funds, can be obtained at the financial aid office.

This bill would require the Office of the Chancellor, until January 1, 2017, to establish a voluntary pilot program, with specified requirements, to increase student participation in state and federal financial aid programs *and in the federal American Opportunity Tax Credit*. The bill would require the Office of the Chancellor to provide specified

information on the pilot program to the Legislative Analyst’s Office by January 10, 2016, which the Legislative Analyst’s Office would be required to use to report to the Legislature on the results of the pilot program and to make recommendations for statewide expansion of the pilot program.

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 76072 is added to the Education Code,  
 2 immediately following Section 76071, to read:  
 3 76072. (a) The Office of the Chancellor of the California  
 4 Community Colleges shall establish a voluntary pilot program to  
 5 increase student participation in state and federal financial aid  
 6 programs. The chancellor shall select no more than 10 community  
 7 college campuses to participate in the pilot program from campuses  
 8 that volunteer to participate in the program. In selecting campuses  
 9 for the pilot program, the chancellor, to the extent possible, shall  
 10 ensure geographic, economic, and demographic diversity.  
 11 (b) The pilot program shall identify both of the following target  
 12 populations to participate in the pilot program:  
 13 (1) Students potentially eligible for financial aid who complete  
 14 an application for a fee waiver provided pursuant to Section 76300,  
 15 but who do not complete a Free Application for Federal Student  
 16 Aid (FAFSA).  
 17 (2) Students potentially eligible for financial aid who do not  
 18 receive any campus, state, or federal financial aid.  
 19 (c) The goal of the pilot program shall be to increase student  
 20 participation in both state and federal financial aid programs by  
 21 performing actions including, but not necessarily limited to, ~~both~~  
 22 *all* of the following:  
 23 (1) Identifying strategies and best practices for increasing the  
 24 number of students who submit the FAFSA.  
 25 (2) Examining and developing strategies for increasing student  
 26 participation in state and federal financial aid programs beyond  
 27 the waiver of fees pursuant to Section 76300.  
 28 (3) *Identifying the extent to which students claim the federal*  
 29 *American Opportunity Tax Credit (26 U.S.C. Sec. 25A (i)) and*

1 *developing strategies for increasing the number of students who*  
2 *claim the credit.*

3 (d) The Office of the Chancellor of the California Community  
4 Colleges is encouraged to pursue both private and federal funding  
5 to support implementation and operation of the pilot program.

6 (e) Once a pilot program has been established pursuant to  
7 subdivision (a), the Office of the Chancellor shall provide the  
8 following information to the Legislative Analyst’s Office on or  
9 before January 10, 2016:

10 (1) Strategies and techniques that the participating community  
11 college campuses employed in administering the pilot program.

12 (2) Data on student participation in state and federal financial  
13 aid programs, *and to the extent possible, the American Opportunity*  
14 *Tax Credit ( 26 U.S.C. Sec. 25A (i)).*

15 (f) Based on the information received pursuant to subdivision  
16 (e), the Legislative Analyst’s Office shall report to the Legislature  
17 on the results of the pilot program and make recommendations for  
18 statewide expansion of the pilot program. The report shall include  
19 all of the following:

20 (1) A statistical analysis of financial aid applications and awards  
21 before and after implementation of the pilot program.

22 (2) A summary of the major strategies and techniques employed  
23 by the participating community college campuses in administering  
24 the pilot program.

25 (g) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2017,  
26 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that  
27 is enacted before January 1, 2017, deletes or extends that date.