

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 5, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2160

Introduced by Assembly Member Ting

(Principal coauthor: Senator Hill)

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Brown, Campos,
Chávez, Gonzalez, and Maienschein)**

(Coauthors: Senators Cannella, Evans, and Padilla)

February 20, 2014

An act to amend Section 69432.9 of the Education Code, relating to postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2160, as amended, Ting. Cal Grant Program: grade point average.

The Cal Grant Program establishes the Cal Grant A and B Entitlement Awards, the California Community College Transfer Cal Grant Entitlement Awards, the Competitive Cal Grant A and B Awards, the Cal Grant C Awards, and the Cal Grant T Awards under the administration of the Student Aid Commission, and establishes eligibility requirements for awards under these programs for participating students attending qualifying institutions.

A provision of the program specifies that the commission shall require that a grade point average be submitted, as specified, to the commission for Cal Grant A and B applicants, except for those applicants permitted to provide test scores in lieu of a grade point average.

This bill would require that this grade point average be submitted electronically for all high school seniors at public schools, *including charter schools*, each academic year, all high school graduates at public schools, *including charter schools*, from the prior academic year, and all other Cal Grant A and B applicants, except those permitted to provide test scores in lieu of a grade point average, and provide that grade point averages submitted shall be subject to review by the commission or its designee. *The bill would condition these requirements upon the school district or charter school obtaining written permission of the parent or guardian in compliance with a specified federal law.* To the extent that this provision would impose new duties on local educational agencies and community college districts, it would constitute a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 69432.9 of the Education Code is
 2 amended to read:
 3 69432.9. (a) A Cal Grant applicant shall submit a complete
 4 official financial aid application pursuant to Section 69433 and
 5 applicable regulations adopted by the commission.
 6 (b) Financial need shall be determined to establish an applicant’s
 7 initial eligibility for a Cal Grant award and a renewing recipient’s
 8 continued eligibility using the federal financial need methodology
 9 pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 69506 and applicable
 10 regulations adopted by the commission, and as established by Title
 11 IV of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20
 12 U.S.C. Secs. 1070 et seq.).
 13 (1) “Expected family contribution,” with respect to an applicant
 14 or renewing recipient shall be determined using the federal
 15 methodology pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 69506 (as

1 established by Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act of
2 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. Secs. 1070 et seq.) and applicable
3 rules and regulations adopted by the commission.

4 (2) “Financial need” means the difference between the student’s
5 cost of attendance as determined by the commission and the
6 expected family contribution. The calculation of financial need
7 shall be consistent with Title IV of the federal Higher Education
8 Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. Secs. 1070 et seq.).

9 (3) (A) The minimum financial need required for receipt of an
10 initial and renewal Cal Grant A or C award shall be no less than
11 the maximum annual award value for the applicable institution,
12 plus an additional one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) of
13 financial need.

14 (B) The minimum financial need required for receipt of an initial
15 and renewal Cal Grant B award shall be no less than seven hundred
16 dollars (\$700).

17 (c) ~~The~~ *Except as provided in subdivision (d),* the commission
18 shall require that a grade point average be submitted for all high
19 school seniors at public schools, *including charter schools*, each
20 academic year, all high school graduates at public schools,
21 *including charter schools*, from the prior academic year, and all
22 other Cal Grant A and B applicants, except those permitted to
23 provide test scores in lieu of a grade point average. The commission
24 shall require that each report of a grade point average be submitted
25 electronically by a school or school district official, with a
26 certification, under penalty of perjury, that the grade point average
27 reported is accurately reported. A submitted grade point average
28 shall be subject to review by the commission or its designee. The
29 commission shall adopt regulations that establish a grace period
30 for receipt of the grade point average and any appropriate
31 corrections, and that set forth the circumstances under which a
32 student may submit a specified test score designated by the
33 commission, by regulation, in lieu of submitting a qualifying grade
34 point average. It is the intent of the Legislature that high schools
35 and institutions of higher education electronically submit the grade
36 point averages of their students in time to meet the application
37 deadlines imposed by this chapter.

38 (d) *Prior to submitting the grade point average of a pupil who*
39 *has not applied for a Cal Grant award, the school district or*
40 *charter school shall obtain written permission of the parent or*

1 *guardian in compliance with the federal Family Educational Rights*
2 *and Privacy Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g).*

3 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
4 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
5 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
6 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
7 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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