

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 11, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 200**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Alejo and Jones-Sawyer  
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Williams)**

January 29, 2015

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An act to amend Sections 69437 and 69437.6 of the Education Code, relating to student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 200, as amended, Alejo. Student financial aid: Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards.

Existing law, the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos 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. Among other things, the program requires that a total of 22,500 Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards be granted annually.

This bill would instead require that ~~an unspecified a total number of~~ 45,000 Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards be granted for the 2016–17 ~~and 2017–18 academic years~~ year, *that 80,000 be granted for the 2017–18 academic year*, and that 100,000 be granted for the 2018–19 academic year and each academic year thereafter. The bill would also make conforming changes and delete an obsolete provision.

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 69437 of the Education Code is amended  
2 to read:

3 69437. (a) Commencing with the 2001–02 academic year, and  
4 each academic year thereafter, there shall be established the  
5 Competitive Cal Grant A and B award program for students who  
6 did not receive a Cal Grant A or B ~~entitlement~~ *Entitlement* award  
7 pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 69434), Article  
8 3 (commencing with Section 69435), or Article 4 (commencing  
9 with Section 69436). Awards made under this section are not  
10 entitlements. The submission of an application by a student under  
11 this section shall not entitle that student to an award. The selection  
12 of students under this article shall be determined pursuant to  
13 subdivision (c) and other relevant criteria established by the  
14 commission.

15 (b) Cal Grant A and B awards shall be granted annually under  
16 this article on a competitive basis for applicants who meet the  
17 general eligibility criteria established in Article 1 (commencing  
18 with Section 69430) and the priorities established by the  
19 commission pursuant to subdivision (c). The total number of  
20 awards granted annually under this article shall be 22,500 for the  
21 ~~2015–16~~ 2015–16 academic year, ~~45,000~~ 45,000 for the 2016–17  
22 academic year, ~~80,000~~ 80,000 for the 2017–18 academic year, and  
23 100,000 for the 2018–19 academic year and each academic year  
24 thereafter.

25 (1) Fifty percent of the awards referenced in this subdivision  
26 are available to all students, including California community  
27 college students, who meet the financial need and academic  
28 requirements established pursuant to this article. A student  
29 enrolling at a qualifying baccalaureate degree granting institution  
30 shall apply by the March 2 deadline. A California community  
31 college student is eligible to apply at the March 2 or the September  
32 2 deadline.

33 (2) Fifty percent of the awards referenced in this subdivision  
34 are reserved for students who will be enrolled at a California  
35 community college. The commission shall establish a second  
36 application deadline of September 2 for community college  
37 students to apply for these awards effective with the fall term or  
38 semester of the 2001–02 academic year.

1 (3) If any awards are not distributed pursuant to paragraphs (1)  
2 and (2) upon initial allocation of the awards under this article, the  
3 commission shall make awards to as many eligible students as  
4 possible, beginning with the students with the lowest expected  
5 family contribution and highest academic merit, consistent with  
6 the criteria adopted by the commission pursuant to subdivision  
7 (c), as practicable without exceeding the applicable annual  
8 cumulative total of awards specified in this subdivision.

9 (c) (1) On or before February 1, 2001, acting pursuant to a  
10 public hearing process that is consistent with the Bagley-Keene  
11 Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120)  
12 of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government  
13 Code), the commission shall establish selection criteria for Cal  
14 Grant A and B awards under the competitive program that give  
15 special consideration to disadvantaged students, taking into  
16 consideration those financial, educational, cultural, language,  
17 home, community, environmental, and other conditions that hamper  
18 a student's access to, and ability to persist in, postsecondary  
19 education programs.

20 (2) Additional consideration shall be given to both of the  
21 following:

22 (A) Students pursuing Cal Grant B awards who reestablish their  
23 grade point averages.

24 (B) Students who did not receive awards pursuant to Article 2  
25 (commencing with Section 69434), Article 3 (commencing with  
26 Section 69435), or Article 4 (commencing with Section 69436).

27 (d) All other students who meet the eligibility requirements  
28 pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 69430) are eligible  
29 to compete for an award pursuant to this article.

30 SEC. 2. Section 69437.6 of the Education Code is amended to  
31 read:

32 69437.6. (a) An applicant competing for an award under this  
33 article shall meet all the requirements of Article 1 (commencing  
34 with Section 69430).

35 (b) To compete for a competitive Cal Grant A award, an  
36 applicant shall, at a minimum, meet all of the requirements of  
37 Article 2 (commencing with Section 69434), with the exception  
38 of paragraphs (1) and (8) of subdivision (b) of Section 69434.  
39 However, in lieu of meeting the grade point average requirement  
40 set forth in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 69434, an

1 applicant may submit a community college or college grade point  
2 average of at least 2.4 on a 4.0 scale.

3 (c) To compete for a competitive Cal Grant B award, an  
4 applicant shall, at a minimum, meet all of the requirements of  
5 Article 3 (commencing with Section 69435), with the exception  
6 of paragraphs (1) and (8) of subdivision (a) of Section 69435.3.  
7 However, in lieu of meeting the grade point average requirements  
8 of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 69435.3, a student  
9 may do either of the following:

10 (1) Demonstrate attainment of a community college or college  
11 grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

12 (2) Reestablish his or her grade point average by completing at  
13 least 16 cumulative units of credit for academic coursework at an  
14 accredited California community college, as defined by the  
15 commission, by regulation, with at least a 2.0 community college  
16 grade point average.

17 (d) To compete for a competitive California Community College  
18 Transfer Cal Grant award, an applicant shall, at a minimum, meet  
19 the requirements of Article 4 (commencing with Section 69436),  
20 with the exception of paragraphs (8) and (9) of subdivision (b) of  
21 Section 69436.

22 (e) All other competitors shall, at a minimum, comply with all  
23 of the requirements of subdivision (b) of Section 69432.9.

24 (f) An individual selected for a Cal Grant A award who enrolls  
25 in a California community college may elect to have the award  
26 held in reserve for him or her for a period not to exceed two  
27 academic years, except that the commission may extend the period  
28 in which his or her award may be held in reserve for up to three  
29 academic years if, in the commission's judgment, the rate of  
30 academic progress has been as rapid as could be expected for the  
31 personal and financial conditions that the student has encountered.  
32 The commission shall, in this case, hold the award in reserve for  
33 the additional year. Upon receipt of a request to transfer the award  
34 to a tuition or fee charging qualifying institution, the individual  
35 shall be eligible to receive the Cal Grant A award previously held  
36 in reserve if, at the time of the request, he or she meets all of the  
37 requirements of this article. Upon receipt of the request, the  
38 commission shall reassess the financial need of the award recipient.  
39 The commission may prescribe the forms and procedures to be  
40 used for the purposes of this section. A recipient's years of

1 eligibility for payment of benefits shall be based upon his or her  
2 grade level at the time the award is transferred to the tuition or fee  
3 charging qualifying institution. An award so held in reserve shall  
4 only be counted once toward the number of awards authorized by  
5 subdivision (b) of Section 69437.

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