

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 28, 2015
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 11, 2015
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 200

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

January 29, 2015

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 a total of ~~45,000~~ 50,000 Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards be granted for *each of* the 2015–16 and 2016–17 academic ~~year~~, *years* and that ~~80,000~~ 60,000 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 award pursuant to
 7 Article 2 (commencing with Section 69434), Article 3
 8 (commencing with Section 69435), or Article 4 (commencing with
 9 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~~ 50,000
 21 for *each of the 2015–16 and 2016–17 academic year*, ~~45,000 for~~
 22 ~~the 2016–17 academic year~~, 80,000 years and 60,000 for the
 23 2017–18 academic year, and ~~100,000 for the 2018–19 academic~~
 24 year and each academic year 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.

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

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

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

26 (2) Additional consideration shall be given to both of the
27 following:

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

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

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

36 SEC. 2. Section 69437.6 of the Education Code is amended to
37 read:

38 69437.6. (a) An applicant competing for an award under this
39 article shall meet all the requirements of Article 1 (commencing
40 with Section 69430).

1 (b) To compete for a competitive Cal Grant A award, an
2 applicant shall, at a minimum, meet all of the requirements of
3 Article 2 (commencing with Section 69434), with the exception
4 of paragraphs (1) and (8) of subdivision (b) of Section 69434.
5 However, in lieu of meeting the grade point average requirement
6 set forth in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 69434, an
7 applicant may submit a community college or college grade point
8 average of at least 2.4 on a 4.0 scale.

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

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

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

23 (d) To compete for a competitive California Community College
24 Transfer Cal Grant award, an applicant shall, at a minimum, meet
25 the requirements of Article 4 (commencing with Section 69436),
26 with the exception of paragraphs (8) and (9) of subdivision (b) of
27 Section 69436.

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

30 (f) An individual selected for a Cal Grant A award who enrolls
31 in a California community college may elect to have the award
32 held in reserve for him or her for a period not to exceed two
33 academic years, except that the commission may extend the period
34 in which his or her award may be held in reserve for up to three
35 academic years if, in the commission's judgment, the rate of
36 academic progress has been as rapid as could be expected for the
37 personal and financial conditions that the student has encountered.
38 The commission shall, in this case, hold the award in reserve for
39 the additional year. Upon receipt of a request to transfer the award
40 to a tuition or fee charging qualifying institution, the individual

1 shall be eligible to receive the Cal Grant A award previously held
2 in reserve if, at the time of the request, he or she meets all of the
3 requirements of this article. Upon receipt of the request, the
4 commission shall reassess the financial need of the award recipient.
5 The commission may prescribe the forms and procedures to be
6 used for the purposes of this section. A recipient's years of
7 eligibility for payment of benefits shall be based upon his or her
8 grade level at the time the award is transferred to the tuition or fee
9 charging qualifying institution. An award so held in reserve shall
10 only be counted once toward the number of awards authorized by
11 subdivision (b) of Section 69437.

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