

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 801

Introduced by Assembly Member Bloom

February 26, 2015

An act to amend Sections 66025.9, 69514.5, 69561, and 76300 of, and to add Sections 67003.5 and 68084.5 to, the Education Code, relating to postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 801, as introduced, Bloom. Postsecondary education: Success for Homeless Youth in Higher Education Act.

(1) Existing law, the Donahoe Higher Education Act, sets forth the missions and functions of the segments of postsecondary education in this state. Among other things, the act requires the California State University and each community college district, and requests the University of California, with respect to each campus in their respective jurisdictions that administers a priority enrollment system, to grant priority in that system for registration for enrollment to foster youth, as defined, or former foster youth, until the repeal of this provision on January 1, 2017.

This bill would enact the Success for Homeless Youth in Higher Education Act. The bill would extend the above-referenced priority requirement, with respect to the California State University and community college districts, and would extend the request for the granting of priority, with respect to the University of California, to include homeless youth and former homeless youth, as defined, and extend the existence of this provision until January 1, 2020. To the extent that this provision would impose new duties on community college districts, it would constitute a state-mandated local program.

(2) Existing provisions of the Donahoe Higher Education Act set forth various duties and responsibilities for state entities, such as the California State University, the California Community Colleges, the University of California, and the Treasurer, with respect to federal assistance to higher education. Existing provisions of the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program set forth the requirements for status as a “qualifying institution,” whose students are eligible, if as individuals they meet pertinent program requirements, to receive Cal Grant awards.

This bill would require qualifying institutions, other than the University of California, which would be requested to do so, to designate a Homeless and Foster Student Liaison within the institution’s financial aid office and to inform current and prospective students of the institution about student financial aid and other assistance available to current and former homeless youth and current and former foster youth, as specified. To the extent that this provision would impose new duties on community college districts, it would constitute a state-mandated local program.

(3) Existing law establishes standards relating to the determination of a student’s residence for purposes of setting the amount of tuition and fees that are owed by that student. Existing law provides that a student who currently resides in California and is 19 years of age or under at the time of enrollment, and who is currently a dependent or ward of the state through California’s child welfare system, or was formerly served by California’s child welfare system, as specified, may be entitled to resident classification until he or she has resided in the state the minimum time necessary to become a resident.

This bill would additionally provide that a student who currently resides in California and is 19 years of age or under at the time of enrollment may be entitled to resident classification until he or she has resided in the state the minimum time necessary to become a resident if he or she has been determined at any time during the 2 years immediately preceding the residency classification determination to be homeless, as defined. To the extent that this provision would impose new duties on community college districts, it would constitute a state-mandated local program.

(4) Existing law establishes the Student Aid Commission and assigns to it numerous duties with respect to student financial aid programs, including the Community College Student Financial Aid Outreach Program and the Student Opportunity and Access Program. Both of

these programs include provisions addressing the needs of youth from low-income households, and specifically include low-income youth within the scope of the respective programs.

This bill would additionally place homeless youth and former homeless youth, as defined, within the scope of these programs.

(5) Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Existing law requires the governing board of each community college district to charge an enrollment fee of \$46 per unit per semester, but authorizes the waiver of this fee for students meeting specified requirements.

This bill would add a person who is, at the time of enrollment, a homeless youth or former homeless youth, as defined, to the groups of persons eligible for this fee waiver. To the extent that this provision would impose new duties on community college districts, it would constitute a state-mandated local program.

(6) 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. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the
- 2 Success for Homeless Youth in Higher Education Act.
- 3 SEC. 2. Section 66025.9 of the Education Code is amended to
- 4 read:
- 5 66025.9. (a) The California State University and each
- 6 community college district shall, and the University of California
- 7 is requested to, with respect to each campus in their respective
- 8 jurisdictions that administers a priority enrollment system, grant
- 9 priority in that system for registration for enrollment to a foster
- 10 youth or former foster youth *or a homeless youth or former*
- 11 *homeless youth.*
- 12 (b) For purposes of this ~~section~~, *“foster section:*

1 (1) “Foster youth” means a person who is currently in foster
2 care, and “former foster youth” means a person who is an
3 emancipated foster youth and who is ~~up to~~ 24 years of age *or*
4 *younger*.

5 (2) (A) “Homeless” *has the same meaning as defined in Section*
6 *725 of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42*
7 *U.S.C. Sec. 11434a), as it read on December 31, 2015.*

8 (B) “Homeless youth” *means a person who is 24 years of age*
9 *or younger and who has been determined to be homeless at any*
10 *time during the current calendar year, and “former homeless*
11 *youth” means a person who is 24 years of age or younger, and*
12 *who, while not currently homeless, has been determined to be*
13 *homeless, at any time in the immediately preceding six calendar*
14 *years, by any of the following:*

15 (i) *A homeless services provider, as that term is defined in*
16 *paragraph (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 103577 of the Health*
17 *and Safety Code.*

18 (ii) *The director of a federal TRIO program or Gaining Early*
19 *Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs program,*
20 *or a designee of that director.*

21 (iii) *A financial aid administrator for an institution of higher*
22 *education.*

23 (c) *This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2017,*
24 *2020, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,*
25 *that is enacted before January 1, 2017, 2020, deletes or extends*
26 *that date.*

27 SEC. 3. Section 67003.5 is added to the Education Code, to
28 read:

29 67003.5. (a) A postsecondary educational institution that is a
30 “qualifying institution,” as defined in Section 69432.7, shall do
31 both of the following:

32 (1) Designate a Homeless and Foster Student Liaison within
33 the institution’s financial aid office. The Homeless and Foster
34 Student Liaison shall be responsible for understanding the
35 provisions of the federal Higher Education Act pertaining to
36 independent student status and financial aid eligibility of current
37 and former foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth and
38 former homeless youth, and shall assist these students in applying
39 for and receiving federal and state financial aid.

(2) Inform current and prospective students of the institution about student financial aid and other assistance available to current and former homeless youth and current and former foster youth, including their eligibility as independent students under Section 1087vv of the federal Higher Education Act, as that section read on December 31, 2015.

(b) The Regents of the University of California are requested to adopt policies that are, to the extent that is feasible, equivalent to the provisions of subdivision (a).

(c) The definitions of foster youth, former foster youth, homeless youth, and former homeless youth in Section 66025.9 shall apply to this section.

SEC. 4. Section 68084.5 is added to the Education Code, to read:

68084.5. A student who currently resides in California and is 19 years of age or under at the time of enrollment may be entitled to resident classification until he or she has resided in the state the minimum time necessary to become a resident if he or she has been determined at any time during the two years immediately preceding the residency classification determination to be homeless as that term is defined in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 66025.9.

SEC. 5. Section 69514.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:

69514.5. (a) The Community College Student Financial Aid Outreach Program is hereby established. The commission shall, in consultation with the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, develop and administer this program for the purpose of providing financial aid training to high school and community college counselors and advisors who work with students planning to attend or attending a community college. This training shall also address the specific needs of all of the following:

(1) Community college students intending to transfer to a four-year institution of higher education.

(2) Foster youth, *as defined in Section 66025.9.*

(3) *Homeless youth and former homeless youth, as defined in Section 66025.9.*

~~(3)~~

(4) Students with disabilities.

(b) The program shall provide specialized information on financial aid opportunities available to community college students, with a particular focus on students who plan to transfer to a four-year college or university. The commission shall work in collaboration with the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges and other segments of higher education to develop and distribute this specialized information to assist community college students who are planning to transfer to a four-year college or university. Each year, the program shall offer financial aid workshops for high school and community college counselors, targeted for students planning to attend a community college or to transfer from a community college to a four-year institution of higher education. The program shall assist community college counselors in conducting student and family workshops that provide general information about financial aid and technical assistance in completing financial aid forms.

(c) The program shall concentrate its efforts on high schools and community colleges that are located in geographic areas that have a high percentage of low-income families.

SEC. 6. Section 69561 of the Education Code is amended to read:

69561. (a) The Student Opportunity and Access Program is administered by the Student Aid Commission.

(b) The Student Aid Commission may apportion funds on a progress payment schedule for the support of projects designed to increase the accessibility of postsecondary educational opportunities for any of the following elementary and secondary school pupils:

- (1) Pupils who are from low-income families.
- (2) Pupils who would be the first in their families to attend college.
- (3) Pupils who are from schools or geographic regions with documented low-eligibility or college participation rates.
- (4) *Pupils who are homeless youth or former homeless youth, as defined in Section 66025.9.*

(c) These projects shall primarily do all of the following:

- (1) Increase the availability of information for these pupils on the existence of postsecondary schooling and work opportunities.

1 (2) Raise the achievement levels of these pupils so as to increase
2 the number of high school graduates eligible to pursue
3 postsecondary learning opportunities.

4 (d) Projects may assist community college students in
5 transferring to four-year institutions, to the extent that project
6 resources are available.

7 (e) Projects may provide assistance to low-income fifth and
8 sixth grade pupils and their parents in order to implement outreach
9 efforts designed to use the future availability of financial assistance
10 as a means of motivating pupils to stay in school and complete
11 college preparatory courses.

12 (f) Projects may provide assistance to low-income middle and
13 high school pupils and their parents in order to implement outreach
14 efforts designed to use the future availability of financial assistance
15 as a means of motivating pupils to stay in school by promoting
16 career technical education public awareness. Projects shall promote
17 the value of career technical education, available career programs
18 in public schools and postsecondary segments with sequenced
19 courses beginning in high school and continuing into postsecondary
20 education, and the resulting career opportunities.

21 (g) Each project shall be proposed and operated through a
22 consortium that involves at least one secondary school district
23 office, at least one four-year college or university, at least one
24 community college, and at least one of the following agencies:

25 (1) A nonprofit educational, counseling, or community agency.

26 (2) A private vocational or technical school accredited by a
27 national, state, or regional accrediting association recognized by
28 the United States Department of Education.

29 (h) The commission, in awarding initial project grants, shall
30 give priority to proposals developed by more than three eligible
31 agencies. Projects shall be located throughout the state in order to
32 provide access to program services in rural, urban, and suburban
33 areas.

34 (i) The governing board of each project, comprising at least one
35 representative from each entity in the consortium, shall establish
36 management policy, provide direction to the project director, set
37 priorities for budgetary decisions that reflect the specific needs of
38 the project, and assume responsibility for maintaining the required
39 level of matching funds, including solicitations from the private
40 sector and corporate sources.

(j) Prior to receiving a project grant, each consortium shall conduct a planning process and submit a comprehensive project proposal to include, but not be limited to, the following information:

- (1) The agencies participating in the project.
- (2) The pupils to be served by the project.
- (3) The ways in which the project will reduce duplication and related costs.
- (4) The methods for assessing the project's impact.

(k) Each project shall include the direct involvement of secondary school staff in the daily operations of the project, with preference in funding to those projects that effectively integrate the objectives of the Student Opportunity and Access Program with those of the school district in providing services that are essential to preparing pupils for postsecondary education.

(l) Each project shall maintain within the project headquarters a comprehensive pupil-specific information system on pupils receiving services through the program in grades 11 and 12 at secondary schools within the participating districts. This information shall be maintained in a manner consistent with the law relating to pupil records.

(m) At least 30 percent or the equivalent of each project grant shall be allocated for stipends to peer advisers and tutors who meet all of the following criteria:

- (1) Work with secondary school pupils.
- (2) Are currently enrolled in a college or other postsecondary school as an undergraduate or graduate student.
- (3) Have demonstrated financial need for the stipend.

(n) Each project should work cooperatively with other projects in the program and with the commission to establish viable student services and sound administrative procedures and to ensure coordination of the activities of the project with existing educational opportunity programs. The Student Aid Commission may develop additional regulations regarding the awarding of project grants and criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the individual projects.

SEC. 7. Section 76300 of the Education Code is amended to read:

76300. (a) The governing board of each community college district shall charge each student a fee pursuant to this section.

1 (b) (1) The fee prescribed by this section shall be forty-six
2 dollars (\$46) per unit per semester, effective with the summer term
3 of the 2012 calendar year.

4 (2) The board of governors shall proportionately adjust the
5 amount of the fee for term lengths based upon a quarter system,
6 and also shall proportionately adjust the amount of the fee for
7 summer sessions, intersessions, and other short-term courses. In
8 making these adjustments, the board of governors may round the
9 per unit fee and the per term or per session fee to the nearest dollar.

10 (c) For the purposes of computing apportionments to community
11 college districts pursuant to Section 84750.5, the board of
12 governors shall subtract, from the total revenue owed to each
13 district, 98 percent of the revenues received by districts from
14 charging a fee pursuant to this section.

15 (d) The board of governors shall reduce apportionments by up
16 to 10 percent to any district that does not collect the fees prescribed
17 by this section.

18 (e) The fee requirement does not apply to any of the following:

19 (1) Students enrolled in the noncredit courses designated by
20 Section 84757.

21 (2) California State University or University of California
22 students enrolled in remedial classes provided by a community
23 college district on a campus of the University of California or a
24 campus of the California State University, for whom the district
25 claims an attendance apportionment pursuant to an agreement
26 between the district and the California State University or the
27 University of California.

28 (3) Students enrolled in credit contract education courses
29 pursuant to Section 78021, if the entire cost of the course, including
30 administrative costs, is paid by the public or private agency,
31 corporation, or association with which the district is contracting
32 and if these students are not included in the calculation of the
33 full-time equivalent students (FTES) of that district.

34 (f) The governing board of a community college district may
35 exempt special part-time students admitted pursuant to Section
36 76001 from the fee requirement.

37 (g) (1) The fee requirements of this section shall be waived for
38 any student who meets all of the following requirements:

39 (A) Meets minimum academic and progress standards adopted
40 by the board of governors, which fulfill the requirements outlined

1 in this paragraph and paragraphs (2) to (5), inclusive. Any
2 minimum academic and progress standards adopted pursuant to
3 this section shall be uniform across all community college districts
4 and campuses. These standards shall not include a maximum unit
5 cap, and community college districts and colleges shall not impose
6 requirements for fee waiver eligibility other than the minimum
7 academic and progress standards adopted by the board of governors
8 and the requirements of subparagraph (B).

9 (B) Meets one of the following criteria:

10 (i) At the time of enrollment, is a recipient of benefits under the
11 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the
12 Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment
13 Program, or a general assistance program.

14 (ii) Demonstrates eligibility according to income standards
15 established by regulations of the board of governors.

16 (iii) Demonstrates financial need in accordance with the
17 methodology set forth in federal law or regulation for determining
18 the expected family contribution of students seeking financial aid.

19 (iv) *At the time of enrollment, is a homeless youth or former*
20 *homeless youth as defined in Section 66025.9.*

21 (2) (A) The board of governors, in consultation with students,
22 faculty, and other key stakeholders, shall consider all of the
23 following in the development and adoption of minimum academic
24 and progress standards pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph
25 (1):

26 (i) Minimum uniform academic and progress standards that do
27 not unfairly disadvantage financially needy students in pursuing
28 their education.

29 (ii) Criteria for reviewing extenuating circumstances and
30 granting appeals that, at a minimum, take into account and do not
31 penalize a student for circumstances outside his or her control,
32 such as reductions in student support services or changes to the
33 economic situation of the student.

34 (iii) A process for reestablishing fee waiver eligibility that
35 provides a student with a reasonable opportunity to continue or
36 resume his or her enrollment at a community college.

37 (B) To ensure that students are not unfairly impacted by the
38 requirements of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1), the board of
39 governors shall establish a reasonable implementation period that
40 commences no sooner than one year from adoption of the minimum

1 academic and progress standards, or any subsequent changes to
2 these standards, pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1)
3 and that is phased in to provide students adequate notification of
4 this requirement and information about available support resources.

5 (3) It is the intent of the Legislature that minimum academic
6 and progress standards adopted pursuant to subparagraph (A) of
7 paragraph (1) be implemented only as campuses develop and
8 implement the student support services and interventions necessary
9 to ensure no disproportionate impact to students based on ethnicity,
10 gender, disability, or socioeconomic status. The board of governors
11 shall consider the ability of community college districts to meet
12 the requirements of this paragraph before adopting minimum
13 academic and progress standards, or any subsequent changes to
14 these standards, pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1).

15 (4) It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure that a student shall
16 not lose fee waiver eligibility without a community college campus
17 first demonstrating a reasonable effort to provide a student with
18 adequate notification and assistance in maintaining his or her fee
19 waiver eligibility. The board of governors shall adopt regulations
20 to implement this paragraph that ensure all of the following:

21 (A) Students are provided information about the available
22 student support services to assist them in maintaining fee waiver
23 eligibility.

24 (B) Community college district policies and course catalogs
25 reflect the minimum academic and progress standards adopted
26 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and that appropriate
27 notice is provided to students before the policies are put into effect.

28 (C) A student does not lose fee waiver eligibility unless he or
29 she has not met minimum academic and progress standards adopted
30 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) for a period of no
31 less than two consecutive academic terms.

32 (5) The board of governors shall provide notification of a
33 proposed action to adopt regulations pursuant to this subdivision
34 to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature
35 in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (1) of subdivision
36 (a) of Section 70901.5. This notification shall include, but not be
37 limited to, all of the following:

38 (A) The proposed minimum academic and progress standards
39 and information detailing how the requirements of paragraphs (1)
40 to (4), inclusive, have been or will be satisfied.

1 (B) How many students may lose fee waiver eligibility by
2 ethnicity, gender, disability, and, to the extent relevant data is
3 available, by socioeconomic status.

4 (C) The criteria for reviewing extenuating circumstances,
5 granting appeals, and reestablishing fee waiver eligibility pursuant
6 to paragraph (2).

7 (h) The fee requirements of this section shall be waived for any
8 student who, at the time of enrollment, is a dependent or surviving
9 spouse who has not remarried, of any member of the California
10 National Guard who, in the line of duty and while in the active
11 service of the state, was killed, died of a disability resulting from
12 an event that occurred while in the active service of the state, or
13 is permanently disabled as a result of an event that occurred while
14 in the active service of the state. "Active service of the state," for
15 the purposes of this subdivision, refers to a member of the
16 California National Guard activated pursuant to Section 146 of
17 the Military and Veterans Code.

18 (i) The fee requirements of this section shall be waived for any
19 student who is the surviving spouse or the child, natural or adopted,
20 of a deceased person who met all of the requirements of Section
21 68120.

22 (j) The fee requirements of this section shall be waived for any
23 student in an undergraduate program, including a student who has
24 previously graduated from another undergraduate or graduate
25 program, who is the dependent of any individual killed in the
26 September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center
27 and the Pentagon or the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 in
28 southwestern Pennsylvania, if that dependent meets the financial
29 need requirements set forth in Section 69432.7 for the Cal Grant
30 A Program and either of the following applies:

31 (1) The dependent was a resident of California on September
32 11, 2001.

33 (2) The individual killed in the attacks was a resident of
34 California on September 11, 2001.

35 (k) A determination of whether a person is a resident of
36 California on September 11, 2001, for purposes of subdivision (j)
37 shall be based on the criteria set forth in Chapter 1 (commencing
38 with Section 68000) of Part 41 of Division 5 for determining
39 nonresident and resident tuition.

1 (l) (1) “Dependent,” for purposes of subdivision (j), is a person
2 who, because of his or her relationship to an individual killed as
3 a result of injuries sustained during the terrorist attacks of
4 September 11, 2001, qualifies for compensation under the federal
5 September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 (Title IV
6 (commencing with Section 401) of Public Law 107-42).

7 (2) A dependent who is the surviving spouse of an individual
8 killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, is entitled to
9 the waivers provided in this section until January 1, 2013.

10 (3) A dependent who is the surviving child, natural or adopted,
11 of an individual killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11,
12 2001, is entitled to the waivers under subdivision (j) until that
13 person attains 30 years of age.

14 (4) A dependent of an individual killed in the terrorist attacks
15 of September 11, 2001, who is determined to be eligible by the
16 California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board,
17 is also entitled to the waivers provided in this section until January
18 1, 2013.

19 (m) (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that sufficient funds
20 be provided to support the provision of a fee waiver for every
21 student who demonstrates eligibility pursuant to subdivisions (g)
22 to (j), inclusive.

23 (2) From funds provided in the annual Budget Act, the board
24 of governors shall allocate to community college districts, pursuant
25 to this subdivision, an amount equal to 2 percent of the fees waived
26 pursuant to subdivisions (g) to (j), inclusive. From funds provided
27 in the annual Budget Act, the board of governors shall allocate to
28 community college districts, pursuant to this subdivision, an
29 amount equal to ninety-one cents (\$0.91) per credit unit waived
30 pursuant to subdivisions (g) to (j), inclusive. It is the intent of the
31 Legislature that funds provided pursuant to this subdivision be
32 used to support the determination of financial need and delivery
33 of student financial aid services, on the basis of the number of
34 students for whom fees are waived. It also is the intent of the
35 Legislature that the funds provided pursuant to this subdivision
36 directly offset mandated costs claimed by community college
37 districts pursuant to Commission on State Mandates consolidated
38 Test Claims 99-TC-13 (Enrollment Fee Collection) and 00-TC-15
39 (Enrollment Fee Waivers). Funds allocated to a community college
40 district for determination of financial need and delivery of student

1 financial aid services shall supplement, and shall not supplant, the
2 level of funds allocated for the administration of student financial
3 aid programs during the 1992–93 fiscal year.

4 (n) The board of governors shall adopt regulations implementing
5 this section.

6 (o) This section shall become operative on May 1, 2012, only
7 if subdivision (b) of Section 3.94 of the Budget Act of 2011 is
8 operative.

9 SEC. 8. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
10 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
11 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
12 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
13 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.