

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 1, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 30, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1091

Introduced by Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia

February 27, 2015

An act to amend Section 69432.9 of, and to add Sections ~~69432.92, 69433.92, and 69519.2~~ Section 69432.92 to, the Education Code, relating to student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1091, as amended, Eduardo Garcia. Student financial aid: Cal Grant Program.

The Cal Grant Program establishes the Cal Grant A and Cal Grant B Entitlement awards, the California Community College Transfer Entitlement awards, the Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards, the Cal Grant C award, and the Cal Grant T award under the administration of the Student Aid Commission, and establishes eligibility requirements for awards under these programs for participating students attending qualifying institutions. *As part of these eligibility requirements, existing law requires the commission to require that a grade point average be submitted to it electronically for all grade 12 pupils at public schools, including charter schools, each academic year, except as specified.*

This bill would require ~~the commission to develop and make available on its Internet Web site to each school district, (1) a graduation verification template for the school district to input and upload graduation data concerning its pupils for use by the commission, and~~

~~(2) a report that lists the names of all grade 12 pupils within a school district who have and have not completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or the California Dream Act application for use by the school district. The bill would require the commission, to the greatest extent feasible, to align the collection and reporting of information between the United States Department of Education’s Free Application for Federal Student Aid system, the commission, and school districts, that is used to determine whether applicants are eligible for Cal Grants and whether to issue Cal Grant awards. *this electronic submission to be on a standardized form.* The bill would also authorize the commission to require that verification of high school graduation or its equivalent be electronically submitted for all former grade 12 pupils who graduated from public schools, including charter schools, in the prior academic year, except for pupils who have opted out, as specified. *By requiring the electronic submission of grade point average information to be on a standardized form, and authorizing the commission to additionally require verification of graduation information of prior grade 12 pupils, this bill would impose 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: ~~no~~-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. Each pupil
- 6 enrolled in grade 12 in a California public school, including a
- 7 charter school, other than pupils who opt out as provided in
- 8 subdivision (d), shall be deemed to be a Cal Grant applicant.

1 (b) Financial need shall be determined to establish an applicant’s
2 initial eligibility for a Cal Grant award and a renewing recipient’s
3 continued eligibility using the federal financial need methodology
4 pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 69506 and applicable
5 regulations adopted by the commission, and as established by Title
6 IV of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20
7 U.S.C. Secs. 1070 et seq.).

8 (1) “Expected family contribution,” with respect to an applicant
9 or renewing recipient, shall be determined using the federal
10 methodology pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 69506 (as
11 established by Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act of
12 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. Secs. 1070 et seq.)) and applicable
13 rules and regulations adopted by the commission.

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

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

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

27 (c) (1) The commission shall require that a grade point average
28 be submitted to it for all Cal Grant A and B applicants, except for
29 those permitted to provide test scores in lieu of a grade point
30 average.

31 (2) The commission shall require that a grade point average be
32 submitted to it electronically *on a standardized form* for all grade
33 12 pupils at public schools, including charter schools, each
34 academic year, except for pupils who have opted out as provided
35 in subdivision (d). Social security numbers shall not be included
36 in the information submitted to the commission. However, if the
37 commission determines that a social security number is required
38 to complete the application for financial aid, the school, school
39 district, or charter school may obtain permission from the parent

1 or guardian of the pupil, or the pupil, if he or she is 18 years of
2 age, to submit the pupil's social security number to the commission.

3 (3) The commission shall require that each report of a grade
4 point average include a certification, executed under penalty of
5 perjury, by a school official, that the grade point average reported
6 is accurately reported. The certification shall include a statement
7 that it is subject to review by the commission or its designee.

8 (4) The commission shall adopt regulations that establish a grace
9 period for receipt of the grade point average and any appropriate
10 corrections, and that set forth the circumstances under which a
11 student may submit a specified test score designated by the
12 commission, by regulation, in lieu of submitting a qualifying grade
13 point average.

14 (5) It is the intent of the Legislature that high schools and
15 institutions of higher education certify the grade point averages of
16 their students in time to meet the application deadlines imposed
17 by this chapter.

18 (6) It is the intent of the Legislature that the commission make
19 available to each high school and school district a report identifying
20 all grade 12 pupils within the high school or school district,
21 respectively, who have and have not completed the Free
22 Application for Federal Student Aid or the California Dream Act
23 Application.

24 (d) (1) The school district or charter school shall, no later than
25 October 15 of a pupil's grade 12 academic year, notify, in writing,
26 each grade 12 pupil and, for a pupil under 18 years of age, his or
27 her parent or guardian that, pursuant to subdivision (a), the pupil
28 will be deemed a Cal Grant applicant unless the pupil opts out
29 within a period of time specified in the notice, which shall not be
30 less than 30 days. The required notice shall indicate when the
31 school will first send grade point averages to the commission. The
32 school district or charter school shall provide an opportunity for
33 the pupil to opt out of being automatically deemed a Cal Grant
34 applicant.

35 (2) ~~(A)~~—Until a pupil turns 18 years of age, only a parent or
36 guardian may opt the pupil out. Once a pupil turns 18 years of age,
37 only the pupil may opt himself or herself out and, if prior to the
38 conclusion of the notice period, the pupil may opt in over the prior
39 decision of a parent or guardian to opt out.

1 SEC. 2. Section 69432.92 is added to the Education Code, to
2 read:

3 69432.92. (a) The commission may require verification of
4 high school graduation or its equivalent to be electronically
5 submitted for all former grade 12 pupils who graduated from public
6 schools, including charter schools, in the prior academic year,
7 except for pupils who have opted out as provided in subdivision
8 (d) of Section 69432.9.

9 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that high schools or high
10 school districts verify the graduation of their pupils in time to meet
11 the deadlines imposed by subdivision (e) of Section 69433.9.

12 ~~SEC. 3. Section 69433.92 is added to the Education Code, to~~
13 ~~read:~~

14 ~~69433.92. (a) The commission shall develop, and make~~
15 ~~available on its Internet Web site to each school district, a~~
16 ~~graduation verification template for use by the school district to~~
17 ~~input and upload graduation verification data for its pupils, so that~~
18 ~~the commission can determine if those pupils are eligible for Cal~~
19 ~~Grants.~~

20 ~~(b) The commission shall, to the greatest extent feasible, align~~
21 ~~the collection and reporting of information between the United~~
22 ~~States Department of Education's Free Application for Federal~~
23 ~~Student Aid system, the commission, and school districts that is~~
24 ~~used to determine if applicants are eligible for Cal Grants and~~
25 ~~whether to issue Cal Grant awards for students who attend~~
26 ~~qualifying institutions.~~

27 ~~SEC. 4. Section 69519.2 is added to the Education Code, to~~
28 ~~read:~~

29 ~~69519.2. The commission shall develop, and make available~~
30 ~~on its Internet Web site to each school district for the district's~~
31 ~~use, a standard report that lists the names of all grade 12 pupils~~
32 ~~within the school district who have and have not completed the~~
33 ~~Free Application for Federal Student Aid or the California Dream~~
34 ~~Act application.~~

35 *SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that*
36 *this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to*
37 *local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made*

- 1 *pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division*
- 2 *4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*

O