

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1961

Introduced by Assembly Member Baker

February 12, 2016

An act to amend Section 69437 of the Education Code, relating to student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1961, as introduced, Baker. Student financial aid: Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program.

Existing law, known as the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program, establishes the Cal Grant A and B entitlement awards, the California Community College Transfer 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.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to these provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
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 *Cal Grant* B award program for

1 students who did not receive a Cal Grant A or *Cal Grant* B
2 entitlement award pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section
3 69434), Article 3 (commencing with Section 69435), or Article 4
4 (commencing with Section 69436). Awards made under this section
5 are not entitlements. The submission of an application by a student
6 under this section shall not entitle that student to an award. The
7 selection of students under this article shall be determined pursuant
8 to subdivision (c) and other relevant criteria established by the
9 commission.

10 (b) Commencing with the 2015–16 academic year, a total of
11 25,750 Cal Grant A and *Cal Grant* B awards shall be granted
12 annually under this article on a competitive basis for applicants
13 who meet the general eligibility criteria established in Article 1
14 (commencing with Section 69430) and the priorities established
15 by the commission pursuant to subdivision (c).

16 (1) Fifty percent of the awards referenced in this subdivision
17 are available to all students, including California community
18 college students, who meet the financial need and academic
19 requirements established pursuant to this article. A student
20 enrolling at a qualifying baccalaureate degree granting institution
21 shall apply by the March 2 deadline. A California community
22 college student is eligible to apply at the March 2 or the September
23 2 deadline.

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

30 (3) If any awards are not distributed pursuant to paragraphs (1)
31 and (2) upon initial allocation of the awards under this article, the
32 commission shall make awards to as many eligible students as
33 possible, beginning with the students with the lowest expected
34 family contribution and highest academic merit, consistent with
35 the criteria adopted by the commission pursuant to subdivision
36 (c), as practicable without exceeding an annual cumulative total
37 of 25,750 awards.

38 (c) (1) On or before February 1, 2001, acting pursuant to a
39 public hearing process that is consistent with the Bagley-Keene
40 Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120))

1 of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government
2 Code), the commission shall establish selection criteria for Cal
3 Grant A and *Cal Grant* B awards under the competitive program
4 that give special consideration to disadvantaged students, taking
5 into consideration those financial, educational, cultural, language,
6 home, community, environmental, and other conditions that hamper
7 a student's access to, and ability to persist in, postsecondary
8 education programs.

9 (2) Additional consideration shall be given to both of the
10 following:

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

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

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