

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2009

Introduced by Assembly Member Lopez

February 16, 2016

An act to add Section 68130.6 to, and to add Chapter 3.67 (commencing with Section 44778) to Part 25 of Division 3 of Title 2 of, the Education Code, relating to student support services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2009, as introduced, Lopez. Student support services: Dream Resource Liaisons.

(1) Existing law establishes the segments of the public postsecondary education system in the state, including the University of California administered by the Regents of the University of California, the California State University administered by the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

Existing law provides that a student, other than a nonimmigrant alien, as defined, who has attended high school in California for 3 or more years, who has graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent thereof, who has registered at or attends an accredited institution of higher education in California not earlier than the fall semester or quarter of the 2001–02 academic year, and who, if he or she is an alien without lawful immigration status, has filed an affidavit, as specified, is exempt from paying nonresident tuition at the California Community Colleges and the California State University.

This bill would, commencing with the 2017–18 academic year, require the California Community Colleges and the California State University,

and would request the University of California to designate a Dream Resource Liaison on each of their respective campuses, as specified, to assist students meeting specified requirements, including undocumented students, by streamlining access to all available financial aid and academic opportunities for those students. By requiring community colleges to designate a Dream Resource Liaison, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would encourage those institutions to establish Dream Resource Centers, and would authorize those centers to provide specified support services.

This bill would authorize the trustees, the board of governors, and the regents to seek and accept on behalf of the state any gift, bequest, devise, or donation whenever the gift and the terms and conditions thereof will aid in the creation and operation of Dream Resource Centers for their respective systems.

(2) Existing law establishes a system of public elementary and secondary schools in this state, and authorizes local educational agencies throughout the state to operate schools and provide instruction to pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive.

This bill would encourage the governing board of a school district or county office of education that maintains any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, to have a Dream Resource Liaison at each of their respective campuses that includes any of those grades.

(3) 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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to increase enrollment and
- 4 graduation rates among students meeting the requirements of
- 5 Assembly Bill 540 of the 2001–02 Regular Session (Firebaugh,

1 Ch. 814) by requiring the creation of Dream Resource Centers at
2 public institutions of higher education.

3 (b) It is estimated that each year approximately 65,000
4 undocumented students graduate from high schools, and while
5 California has been a leader in enacting innovative and bold laws
6 to provide opportunities for undocumented youth to attain higher
7 education, only 20 percent of these students attend college. Many
8 undocumented youth and their families are unaware of recent
9 policy changes, such as the enactment of Assembly Bill 540 of the
10 2001–02 Regular Session, the California Dream Act of 2011, and
11 the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), that
12 make college graduation more attainable. Currently, the majority
13 of college campuses do not have a centralized location that provides
14 specialized support services and resources for students meeting
15 the requirements of Assembly Bill 540 of the 2001–02 Regular
16 Session.

17 (c) The creation of Dream Resource Centers would save staff
18 time and resources by streamlining all available financial aid and
19 academic opportunities for students meeting the requirements of
20 Assembly Bill 540 of the 2001–02 Regular Session. These Dream
21 Resource Centers would seek to empower and create a safe and
22 welcoming environment for those students. These centers would
23 increase enrollment, transfer, and graduation rates among this
24 population.

25 (d) A number of college campuses have acknowledged the needs
26 and challenges of these students and have created Dream Resource
27 Centers. These include: the University of California, Los Angeles;
28 the University of California, Davis; the California State University,
29 Los Angeles; the California State University, Fullerton; and the
30 California State University, Northridge. These centers provide,
31 among other things, informational workshops, legal clinics,
32 information on programs available to undocumented immigrants,
33 and peer mentoring and support services to increase awareness of
34 existing programs and available resources, enhance professional
35 development, and increase employment opportunities.

36 SEC. 2. Chapter 3.67 (commencing with Section 44778) is
37 added to Part 25 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Education Code,
38 to read:

CHAPTER 3.67. DREAM RESOURCE LIAISON

1
2
3 44778. The governing board of a school district or county office
4 of education that maintains any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, is
5 encouraged to have a Dream Resource Liaison, as described in
6 Section 68130.6, at each of their respective campuses that includes
7 any of those grades.

8 SEC. 3. Section 68130.6 is added to the Education Code, to
9 read:

10 68130.6. (a) Commencing with the 2017–18 academic year,
11 the California Community Colleges and the California State
12 University shall, and the University of California is requested to,
13 designate a Dream Resource Liaison on each of their respective
14 campuses, as specified in subdivision (b), to assist students meeting
15 the requirements set forth in Section 68130.5 by streamlining
16 access to all available financial aid and academic opportunities for
17 those students.

18 (b) (1) Each campus of the California Community Colleges
19 shall ensure that it has a staff person designated as a Dream
20 Resource Liaison who is knowledgeable in available financial aid,
21 services, and academic opportunities for all students meeting the
22 requirements set forth in Section 68130.5, including undocumented
23 students. The Legislature encourages each of these campuses to
24 place this designated staff person in the campus’ extended
25 opportunity programs and services office or financial aid office.

26 (2) Each campus of the California State University shall ensure
27 that it has a staff person designated as a Dream Resource Liaison
28 who is knowledgeable in available financial aid, services, and
29 academic opportunities for all students meeting the requirements
30 set forth in Section 68130.5, including undocumented students.
31 The Legislature encourages each of these campuses to place this
32 designated staff person in the campus’ educational opportunity
33 programs office or financial aid office.

34 (3) The University of California is encouraged to designate a
35 Dream Resource Liaison on each of its campuses. That staff person
36 should be knowledgeable in available financial aid, services, and
37 academic opportunities for all students meeting the requirements
38 set forth in Section 68130.5, including undocumented students.
39 The Legislature encourages each of these campuses to place this

1 designated staff person in the campus' educational opportunity
2 programs office or financial aid office.

3 (c) (1) The California Community Colleges, the California
4 State University, and the University of California are encouraged
5 to establish Dream Resource Centers on each of their respective
6 campuses.

7 (2) Dream Resource Centers may offer support services,
8 including, but not necessarily limited to, state and institutional
9 financial aid assistance, academic counseling, peer support services,
10 psychological counseling, referral services, and legal services.

11 (d) (1) This section shall not be construed as requiring the
12 construction of a new or separate space for Dream Resource
13 Centers.

14 (2) Dream Resource Centers may be housed within existing
15 student service or academic centers.

16 (3) The space in which the Dream Resource Liaison is located
17 may be deemed a Dream Resource Center.

18 (e) Notwithstanding Section 11005 of the Government Code
19 and any other law requiring approval by a state officer of gifts,
20 bequests, devises, or donations, the Trustees of the California State
21 University, the Board of Governors of the California Community
22 Colleges, and the Regents of the University of California may seek
23 and accept on behalf of the state any gift, bequest, devise, or
24 donation whenever the gift and the terms and conditions thereof
25 will aid in the creation and operation of Dream Resource Centers
26 for their respective systems.

27 SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
28 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
29 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
30 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
31 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.