

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2494**

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Roger Hernández**

February 19, 2016

---

An act to add Part 52.7 (commencing with Section 88670) to Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2494, as introduced, Roger Hernández. Veteran Resource Centers Grant Program.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Existing law requires the board of governors to appoint a chief executive officer, to be known as the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges.

This bill would establish the Veteran Resource Centers Grant Program, which would authorize the governing board of a community college district and a community college campus at which a veterans resource center has been or is intended to be established to jointly apply to the chancellor for a grant for purposes of providing resources to veterans and active duty members of the Armed Forces of the United States enrolled at the campus. The bill would establish the Veteran Resource Centers Grant Fund in the State Treasury. The bill would allocate moneys in the fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act, to the chancellor for, among other things, administration of the program and distribution of awards to recipient community college districts and campuses. The bill would also require the chancellor to submit a report to the Legislature on the progress of the program by May 31, 2019.

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. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

2 (a) More than 60,000 veterans and active duty service members  
3 were enrolled at campuses of the California Community Colleges  
4 in the 2013–14 academic year.

5 (b) Education is a tool for community college students to achieve  
6 economic success.

7 (c) Veterans face unique challenges in achieving professional  
8 success, including posttraumatic-stress disorder and assimilation  
9 to civilian life during and after serving on active duty.

10 (d) The intent of the Veteran Resource Centers Grant Program  
11 is to help veterans and active duty service members enrolled at  
12 campuses of the California Community Colleges achieve academic  
13 and professional success.

14 SEC. 2. Part 52.7 (commencing with Section 88670) is added  
15 to Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, to read:

16  
17 PART 52.7. VETERAN RESOURCE CENTERS GRANT  
18 PROGRAM  
19

20 88670. This part shall be known, and may be cited as, the  
21 Veteran Resource Centers Grant Program.

22 88671. The Veteran Resource Centers Grant Fund is hereby  
23 established in the State Treasury. Moneys in the fund, upon  
24 appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act, shall  
25 be allocated to the chancellor for the implementation and  
26 administration of this part.

27 88672. A governing board of a community college district and  
28 a community college campus at which a veterans resource center  
29 has been or is intended to be established may jointly apply to the  
30 chancellor for a grant for purposes of providing resources to  
31 veterans and active duty members of the Armed Forces of the  
32 United States enrolled at the campus to help them succeed  
33 academically.

34 88673. (a) The chancellor shall do the following:

1 (1) Administer the program and distribute awards to recipient  
2 community college districts and campuses.

3 (2) Develop application criteria, administrative guidelines, and  
4 other requirements, by May 26, 2017, through a stakeholder process  
5 and public meetings, for purposes of administering the program.  
6 Those requirements may include the chancellor awarding funding  
7 priority to community college district and campus applicants that  
8 commit to contributing an amount of funds in addition to the grant  
9 to develop, enhance, or maintain a veteran resource center at a  
10 community college campus.

11 (b) The chancellor shall submit a report to the Legislature on  
12 the progress of the program on or before May 31, 2019.

13 (c) (1) The requirement for submitting a report imposed under  
14 subdivision (b) is inoperative on June 1, 2023, pursuant to Section  
15 10231.5 of the Government Code.

16 (2) A report to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (b) shall  
17 be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government  
18 Code.