

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 3, 2016

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 2, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 31, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2822

**Introduced by Assembly Member Chiu
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Medina, Santiago, Weber, and
Williams)**

February 19, 2016

An act to add Section ~~72670.7~~ 76072 to the Education Code, relating to student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2822, as amended, Chiu. Student financial aid: community college ~~auxiliary organizations:~~ *students*: emergency ~~student~~ financial assistance.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law authorizes the board of governors to establish auxiliary organizations, as defined, for the purpose of providing supportive services and specialized programs for the general benefit of the mission of the California Community Colleges.

This bill would authorize the use of ~~auxiliary organization~~ *private funds from a community college district, community college campus, or local community college foundation* for the provision of emergency student financial assistance, as defined, to eligible students, as defined,

to overcome unforeseen financial challenges, as specified, that would directly impact a student’s ability to persist in his or her course of study. The bill would authorize ~~auxiliary organizations~~ *a community college district, community college campus, or local community college foundation* to solicit and accept private funding, as specified, for the purposes of this bill.

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 all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Research indicates that students’ ability to pay for nontuition
- 4 costs plays a major role in determining the outcomes of their
- 5 academic careers and impacts student success. Unexpected
- 6 financial emergencies can play a major role when community
- 7 college students drop out of school.
- 8 (b) Emergency aid is an effective strategy to retain students and
- 9 ultimately improve graduation rates and overall student success.
- 10 Emergency aid provides the flexibility needed to respond to a
- 11 student’s unexpected financial emergency that may arise during
- 12 the academic year. Emergency aid is a critical tool for student
- 13 retention and persistence that is most effective as a part of a broader
- 14 set of student success efforts.
- 15 (c) It is in the interest of the state to reduce the attrition rates of
- 16 full-time students. Nationally, billions of dollars are lost when
- 17 full-time students do not return in what would be their second year
- 18 of college. California has lost more than one hundred million
- 19 dollars (\$100,000,000) in state and federal funding due to first-year
- 20 attrition. Emergency aid is an efficient investment that addresses
- 21 student attrition while only providing small dollar grants when a
- 22 student is in crisis. With this type of well-timed aid, students are
- 23 more likely to complete the academic term and re-enroll for the
- 24 next term.
- 25 (d) A well-educated citizenry provides tremendous benefits to
- 26 the state as higher educational attainment is connected with higher
- 27 earnings, which produce more tax revenue and lower the cost of
- 28 social services.

1 SEC. 2. Section ~~72670.7~~ 76072 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:

3 ~~72670.7. (a) An auxiliary organization established pursuant~~
4 ~~to Section 72670.5~~

5 76072. (a) *The CCC Chancellor's Office* shall provide
6 guidelines ~~and resources~~ for community college districts or
7 campuses that seek to establish student emergency aid programs
8 among the supportive services and specialized programs it
9 provides.

10 (b) Any *private funds that the auxiliary organization a*
11 *community college district, community college campus, or local*
12 *community college foundation* may receive may be used for the
13 provision of emergency student financial assistance to help eligible
14 students to overcome unforeseen financial challenges that would
15 directly impact the student's ability to persist in his or her course
16 of study. These challenges include, but are not necessarily limited
17 to, the immediate need for shelter or food. ~~The auxiliary~~
18 ~~organization~~ *A community college district, community college*
19 *campus, or local community college foundation shall encourage*
20 ~~each community college district and campus to which it provides~~
21 ~~supportive services or specialized programs under this section to~~
22 consider the unique characteristics of its student body in developing
23 specific guidelines for further defining what constitutes an
24 unforeseen financial challenge for its students.

25 (c) For purposes of this section, the following terms are defined
26 as follows:

27 (1) "Eligible student" means a student who has experienced an
28 unforeseen financial challenge, who currently meets satisfactory
29 academic progress of the institution he or she attends, and who is
30 at risk of not persisting in his or her course of study due to the
31 unforeseen financial challenge.

32 (2) "Emergency student financial assistance" means financial
33 support in the form of financial assistance to support a student to
34 help overcome unforeseen financial challenges so that the student
35 can continue his or her course of study.

36 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that priority for emergency
37 assistance funding be given to ~~community college districts or~~
38 ~~campuses based on their enrollment of student populations that~~
39 are in the most need.

1 (e) ~~The auxiliary organization~~*A community college district,*
2 *community college campus, or local community college foundation*
3 may solicit and accept private funding for the purposes of this
4 section. These private funding sources may include, but are not
5 necessarily limited to, foundations, corporate funding,
6 crowdfunding, donation drives, or any other sources of private
7 investment that may be available.