

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 16, 2016

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AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 2, 2016

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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 76072 to the Education Code, relating to student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2822, as amended, Chiu. Student financial aid: community college students: emergency 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 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 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 76072 is added to the Education Code, to read:
2 76072. (a) The CCC Chancellor's Office shall provide
3 guidelines for community college districts or campuses that seek
4 to establish student emergency aid programs among the supportive
5 services and specialized programs it provides.

6 (b) ~~Any~~ Only private funds that a community college district,
7 community college campus, or local community college foundation
8 may receive may be used for the provision of emergency student
9 financial assistance to help eligible students to overcome
10 unforeseen financial challenges that would directly impact the
11 student's ability to persist in his or her course of study. These
12 challenges include, but are not necessarily limited to, the immediate
13 need for shelter or food. A community college district, community
14 college campus, or local community college foundation shall
15 consider the unique characteristics of its student body in developing
16 specific guidelines for further defining what constitutes an
17 unforeseen financial challenge for its students.

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

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

25 (2) "Emergency student financial assistance" means financial
26 support in the form of financial assistance to support a student to
27 help overcome unforeseen financial challenges so that the student
28 can continue his or her course of study.

29 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that priority be given to
30 student populations that are in the most need.

31 (e) A community college district, community college campus,
32 or local community college foundation may solicit and accept
33 private funding for the purposes of this section. These private
34 funding sources may include, but are not necessarily limited to,
35 foundations, corporate funding, crowdfunding, donation drives,
36 or any other sources of private investment that may be available.