

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 28, 2016

SENATE BILL

No. 1358

Introduced by Senator Block

February 19, 2016

An act to amend Sections 69433.5 and 69433.6 of the Education Code, relating to ~~postsecondary education~~; student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1358, as amended, Block. ~~Postsecondary education; student financial aid.~~ Student financial aid: Cal Grant Program.

Existing law, the 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. The program prohibits an applicant from receiving one or a combination of program awards in excess of the amount equivalent to the award level for a total of a 4-year period of full-time attendance in an undergraduate program, except as provided.

This bill would increase this generally applicable maximum for total Cal Grant awards to an applicant to the award level for a 6-year period of full-time attendance.

~~Existing law establishes the Student Aid Commission as the primary state agency for the administration of state-authorized student financial aid programs available to students attending segments of postsecondary education.~~

~~This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would make additional student financial aid options available for students attending segments of postsecondary education.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 69433.5 of the Education Code is amended
 2 to read:
- 3 69433.5. (a) Only a resident of California, as determined by
 4 the commission pursuant to Part 41 (commencing with Section
 5 68000), is eligible for an initial Cal Grant award. The recipient
 6 shall remain eligible for award renewal only if he or she is a
 7 California resident, in attendance, and making satisfactory
 8 academic progress at a qualifying institution, as determined by the
 9 commission.
- 10 (b) A part-time student shall not be discriminated against in the
 11 selection of Cal Grant Program award recipients, and an award to
 12 a part-time student shall be approximately proportional to the time
 13 the student spends in the instructional program, as determined by
 14 the commission. A first-time Cal Grant Program award recipient
 15 who is a part-time student shall be eligible for a full-time renewal
 16 award if he or she becomes a full-time student.
- 17 (c) Cal Grant Program awards shall be awarded without regard
 18 to race, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity,
 19 gender expression, or age.
- 20 (d) An applicant shall not receive more than one type of Cal
 21 Grant Program award concurrently. An applicant shall not:
- 22 (1) Receive one or a combination of Cal Grant Program awards
 23 in excess of the amount equivalent to the award level for a total
 24 of ~~four~~ six years of full-time attendance in an undergraduate
 25 program, except as provided in Section 69433.6.
- 26 (2) Have obtained a baccalaureate degree before receiving a
 27 Cal Grant Program award.
- 28 (e) A Cal Grant Program award, except as provided in Section
 29 69440, may only be used for educational expenses of a program
 30 of study leading directly to an undergraduate degree or certificate,
 31 or for expenses of undergraduate coursework in a program of study

1 leading directly to a first professional degree, but for which no
2 baccalaureate degree is awarded.

3 (f) The commission shall, for students who accelerate college
4 attendance, increase the amount of *the* award proportional to the
5 period of additional attendance resulting from attendance in classes
6 that fulfill requirements or electives for graduation during summer
7 terms, sessions, or quarters. In the aggregate, the total amount a
8 student may receive in a ~~four-year~~ *six-year* period ~~may shall~~ not
9 be increased as a result of accelerating his or her progress to a
10 degree by attending summer terms, sessions, or quarters.

11 (g) The commission shall notify Cal Grant award recipients of
12 the availability of funding for the summer term, session, or quarter
13 through prominent notice in financial aid award letters, materials,
14 guides, electronic information, and other means that may include,
15 but not necessarily be limited to, surveys, newspaper articles, or
16 attachments to communications from the commission and any
17 other published documents.

18 (h) The commission may require, by the adoption of rules and
19 regulations, the production of reports, accounting, documents, or
20 other necessary statements from the award recipient and the college
21 or university of attendance pertaining to the use or application of
22 the award.

23 (i) A Cal Grant Program award may be utilized only at a
24 qualifying institution.

25 (j) A recipient who initially qualified for both a Cal Grant A
26 award and a Cal Grant B award, and received a Cal Grant B award,
27 may be awarded a renewal Cal Grant A award if that recipient
28 subsequently became ineligible for a renewal Cal Grant B award
29 and meets the applicable Cal Grant A financial need and income
30 and asset criteria.

31 *SEC. 2. Section 69433.6 of the Education Code is amended to*
32 *read:*

33 69433.6. (a) Cal Grant A awards and Cal Grant B awards may
34 be renewed for a total of the equivalent of ~~four~~ *six* years of full-time
35 attendance in an undergraduate program provided that minimum
36 financial need as defined in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of
37 Section 69432.9 continues to exist. Commencing with the 2001–02
38 academic year, the total number of years of eligibility for grants
39 pursuant to this section shall be based on the student’s educational
40 level in his or her course of study as designated by the institution

1 of attendance when the recipient initially receives payment for a
2 grant.

3 (b) (1) Commencing with the 2014–15 academic year, a
4 recipient who was determined to be ineligible for a renewal award
5 in the 2012–13 or 2013–14 academic year because he or she
6 exceeded the maximum household income or asset level established
7 by subdivision (k) of Section 69432.7, or failed to meet the
8 minimum need threshold established by paragraph (3) of
9 subdivision (b) of Section 69432.9, shall be eligible to receive a
10 renewal award if the recipient meets all program eligibility
11 requirements for the program from which he or she was previously
12 disqualified and the recipient has remaining renewal award
13 eligibility. For purposes of determining a student’s remaining
14 renewal award eligibility, an academic year during which a student
15 was ineligible shall reduce his or her renewal award eligibility by
16 one full-time equivalent year.

17 (2) Commencing with the 2015–16 academic year, a recipient
18 who is determined to be ineligible for a renewal award because,
19 during the immediately preceding academic year, he or she
20 exceeded the maximum household income or asset level established
21 by subdivision (k) of Section 69432.7, or failed to meet the
22 minimum need threshold established by paragraph (3) of
23 subdivision (b) of Section 69432.9, shall be eligible to receive a
24 renewal award if the recipient meets all program eligibility
25 requirements for the program from which he or she was previously
26 disqualified and the recipient has remaining renewal award
27 eligibility. For purposes of determining a student’s remaining
28 renewal award eligibility, an academic year during which a student
29 was ineligible shall reduce his or her renewal award eligibility by
30 one full-time equivalent year.

31 (c) For a student enrolled in an institutionally prescribed
32 five-year undergraduate program, Cal Grant A awards and Cal
33 Grant B awards may be renewed for a total of five years of full-time
34 attendance, provided that minimum financial need, as defined in
35 paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 69432.9, continues to
36 exist.

37 (d) (1) A Cal Grant Program award recipient who has completed
38 a baccalaureate degree, and who has been admitted to and is
39 enrolled in a program of professional teacher preparation at an
40 institution approved by the California Commission on Teacher

1 Credentialing is eligible for, but not entitled to, renewal of a Cal
2 Grant Program award for an additional year of full-time attendance,
3 if minimum financial need, as defined in paragraph (3) of
4 subdivision (b) of Section 69432.9, continues to exist.

5 (2) Payment for an additional year is limited to only those
6 courses required for an initial teaching authorization. An award
7 made under this subdivision may not be used for other courses.

8 (3) A student's Cal Grant Program renewal eligibility shall not
9 have lapsed more than 15 months before the payment of an award
10 for purposes of this subdivision.

11 ~~SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact~~
12 ~~legislation that would make additional student financial aid options~~
13 ~~available for students attending segments of postsecondary~~
14 ~~education.~~