

Introduced by Senator Glazer**(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Anderson, Beall, Block, Cannella, Fuller, Gaines, Galgiani, Hall, Hancock, Hertzberg, Hill, Huff, McGuire, Mendoza, Moorlach, Roth, Stone, Vidak, and Wolk)****(Coauthors: Assembly Members Baker and Weber)**February 19, 2016

An act to add Part 40.2 (commencing with Section 67430) to Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1450, as introduced, Glazer. The California Promise.

Existing law establishes the California State University, under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as 2 of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state.

This bill would establish the California Promise, which would require the trustees and the board of governors to establish a program that authorizes a campus of the California State University and the California Community Colleges to enter into a pledge with a student who satisfies specified criteria to support the student in obtaining an associate degree within 2 academic years, or a baccalaureate degree within 4 academic years, of freshman admission. The bill would prohibit systemwide tuition charged to a California State University student who participates in a California Promise program for an academic year from exceeding the amount of tuition charged to the student for the academic year of the student's freshman admission, and would prohibit tuition of a community college transfer student from exceeding a specified amount.

By imposing new duties on community college districts, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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. Part 40.2 (commencing with Section 67430) is
2 added to Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, to read:

3

4 PART 40.2. THE CALIFORNIA PROMISE

5

6 67430. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the
7 California Promise.

8 67431. The California Promise is hereby established to support
9 students who enroll in the campuses of the California State
10 University and the California Community Colleges in obtaining
11 associate degrees within two academic years, and baccalaureate
12 degrees within four academic years, as applicable, of the academic
13 year of the student’s freshman admission.

14 67432. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

15 (a) This act is needed to facilitate the availability and completion
16 of coursework for degree programs offered by campuses of the
17 California State University and the California Community Colleges
18 and to ensure that students enrolled in these campuses are able to
19 complete associate degree programs within two academic years,
20 and baccalaureate degree programs within four academic years,
21 as applicable, of the academic year of the student’s freshman
22 admission.

23 (b) A more concerted, statewide effort to create pathways to
24 four-year graduation is needed at the California State University.
25 For the 2010 cohort of full-time, first-time students at the California
26 State University, 19 percent graduated within four academic years.

1 According to the Legislative Analyst’s Office, the most recent
2 nationally comparable data shows that the California State
3 University’s overall four-year graduation rate was 16 percent in
4 2011, below the national rate of 26 percent among similar public
5 institutions.

6 (c) Impediments to graduating within four academic years
7 include the failure of students to complete sufficient units per
8 academic year and the lack of available high-demand courses.

9 (d) New approaches are critical for the future of higher education
10 in California. Efforts have been ongoing, though sporadic, to
11 improve postsecondary educational institution enrollment and
12 graduation. These efforts will need to be intensified and made
13 more broadly systemic.

14 (e) Students who graduate within four academic years save tens
15 of thousands of dollars. In addition to the direct costs of extended
16 college and university enrollment, students miss out on earnings
17 in the workforce while they remain in school.

18 (f) When California experiences a decline in college and
19 university graduates, the state’s economy shrinks and employers
20 seek qualified candidates outside the state. Furthermore, a larger
21 share of the state’s workforce is downgraded to lower-paying jobs
22 and consumer behavior and home ownership declines, which leads
23 to plummeting revenues for local and state government and to
24 more people relying on increasingly decimated government
25 services.

26 (g) According to the Public Policy Institute of California, if bold
27 measures are not taken, California will fall short of the state’s
28 economic demand by 1.1 million college and university graduates
29 by 2030. An increased demand for highly educated workers will
30 outweigh the number of qualified applicants for available jobs,
31 which will be exacerbated when scores of highly educated baby
32 boomers retire. The share of workers with a baccalaureate degree
33 will be 33 percent in 2030, below the 38 percent that will be
34 needed.

35 (h) The impact of graduation rates from California State
36 University campuses is felt not only throughout the state, but also
37 the nation. One out of every 10 California employees is a California
38 State University graduate, while one out of every 20 United States
39 citizens with a college or university degree graduates from a
40 campus of the California State University. These statistics

1 emphasize the national importance of graduation rates at California
2 State University campuses.

3 (i) It is the intent of the Legislature that the California Promise
4 will enable the California State University system to meet and
5 exceed the national average of similar public postsecondary
6 educational institutions as quickly as possible.

7 (j) The California Promise programs established at the California
8 State University and the California Community Colleges in
9 accordance with this act should aim to reflect the demographics
10 of their respective campuses and target a diverse set of students.
11 California State University at San Bernardino’s inclusion of a
12 sizeable cohort of underrepresented minorities in its Four-Year
13 Graduation Pledge program is an example of an aggressively
14 promoted offering that benefits a diverse set of students. More
15 than 500 of the 614 students participating in the Four-Year
16 Graduation Pledge program are underrepresented minorities.

17 67433. (a) The trustees and the board of governors shall
18 develop and implement a California Promise program that complies
19 with this part at one or more of their respective campuses.

20 (b) The trustees and the board of governors may authorize a
21 campus to enter into a pledge with a qualifying student of the
22 campus, including a community college transfer student, to support
23 the student in obtaining an associate degree within two academic
24 years, or a baccalaureate degree within four academic years, as
25 applicable, of the academic year of the student’s freshman
26 admission.

27 (c) To be a qualifying student, the student must comply with
28 both of the following:

29 (1) Be a California resident for purposes of in-state tuition
30 eligibility.

31 (2) Complete at least 30 semester units per academic year. Units
32 completed by the student during a summer term may count towards
33 the following academic year as determined by the trustees or the
34 board of governors, as applicable.

35 (d) Support provided by a campus to a student who participates
36 in the campus’ California Promise program may include, but not
37 be limited to, both of the following:

38 (1) Priority registration in coursework.

39 (2) Academic advisement that includes monitoring the student’s
40 academic progress.

1 (e) (1) The trustees and the board of governors shall develop
2 application criteria, administrative guidelines, and additional
3 requirements for purposes of implementing and administering the
4 California Promise program.

5 (2) Requirements developed in accordance with paragraph (1)
6 may include a requirement that a student who participates in a
7 California Promise program maintain a minimum grade point
8 average determined by the student's campus.

9 (f) (1) A California State University student who participates
10 in a California Promise program shall not be charged in systemwide
11 tuition for an academic year at the campus an amount that exceeds
12 the tuition charged to the student for the academic year of the
13 student's freshman admission to a campus of the California State
14 University.

15 (2) (A) A community college transfer student, who successfully
16 received his or her associate degree within two academic years as
17 a California Promise student at a community college, and who
18 participates in a California Promise program at the California State
19 University campus he or she transfers to, shall not be charged in
20 systemwide tuition for an academic year at the campus an amount
21 that exceeds the tuition charged to California State University
22 students at the time the student began his or her two-year associate
23 degree program.

24 (B) A community college transfer student not described in
25 subparagraph (A), who participates in a California Promise
26 program at the California State University campus he or she
27 transfers to, shall not be charged in systemwide tuition for an
28 academic year at the campus an amount that exceeds the tuition
29 charged to the student for the academic year of the student's
30 admission to the campus.

31 (3) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate moneys from
32 the General Fund to the Trustees of the California State University
33 to fully compensate for systemwide tuition that is not charged to
34 students pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2).

35 (g) A California Promise student who cannot complete a
36 baccalaureate degree program within four academic years, or an
37 associate degree program within two academic years, as applicable,
38 of the academic year of the student's freshman admission because
39 a required course for the degree program is not offered or is full
40 at the campus, shall not be charged systemwide tuition or fees, as

1 applicable, otherwise required to register and enroll in the course,
2 once the course becomes available, or in a substitute course that
3 fulfills the graduation requirement.

4 (h) For purposes of this part, the following terms have the
5 following meanings:

6 (1) “Academic year of the student’s freshman admission” means
7 the first full academic year in which a person is a student at a
8 campus of the California State University or the California
9 Community Colleges.

10 (2) “Board of governors” means the Board of Governors of the
11 California Community Colleges.

12 (3) “Trustees” means the Trustees of the California State
13 University.

14 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
15 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
16 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
17 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
18 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.