
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Carol Liu, Chair
2015 - 2016 Regular

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Author: Committee on Higher Education
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Consultant: Olgalilia Ramirez
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SUMMARY

This bill corrects technical errors and oversights, and makes non-controversial and conforming changes to various provisions of the Education Code.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Requires the legislative analyst's office (LAO) to report to the Legislature on the expenditures of the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU). (Education Code § 66028.6)
- 2) Requires the governing boards of each community college district, the CSU Trustees, the Hastings College of Law Board of Directors, the UC Regents, and the governing boards of any postsecondary educational institution receiving public funds for student financial assistance to make a report containing data on hate crimes, as specified, available to the LAO. (EC § 67380)
- 3) Authorizes California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to require school districts and charter schools to submit the grade point averages (GPAs) of all grade 12 pupils every year, unless a pupil and/or his or her parent or guardian has opted out of the GPA submission to CSAC; and, specifies that school districts and charter schools shall notify grade 12 pupils and/or their parent or guardian if the pupil is under 18 years of age, in writing, about the GPA submission to CSAC, no later than October 15 every year. (EC § 69432.9)
- 4) Requires the LAO to report to the Legislature on the outcomes of the Cal Grant C program on or before April 1, 2015, and on or before April 1 of each odd numbered year thereafter. (EC § 69439)
- 5) Requires the LAO to report to the Legislature on the status update of CSU's online education programs, as specified, on or before October 1, 2017. (EC § 89226)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Extends the due date for the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) to report on CSU's online courses, as specified, from October 1, 2017 to October 1, 2018.
- 2) Reassigns, from the LAO to the University of California (UC) Regents and California State University (CSU) Trustees the reporting requirement to the Legislature on UC and CSU expenditures.
- 3) Removes the requirement for postsecondary institutions to submit hate violence reports to the LAO; and, specifies that the postsecondary institutions shall still complete reports and post their findings publicly on their respective Internet Web sites.
- 4) Authorizes the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to require a grade point average (GPA) submission no later than October 1 of each academic year.
- 5) Specifies that the grade point averages for grade 12 students are to be submitted by October 1, of each academic year.
- 6) Moves the date for which a school district or charter school is required to submit GPA
- 7) Changes the date from October 15 to January 1 for when schools are required to notify parents that his or her student will be deemed a Cal Grant applicant and GPA submitted to CSAC, unless the student opts out. Further requires that parents be notified when students are in grade 11, instead of grade 12.
- 8) Extends the due date for the LAO to report on Cal Grant C from April 1, 2015 to April 1, 2018 and requires CSAC, instead of the LAO, to submit the report with more limited information on or before April 1, 2020 and each even-numbered year thereafter.
- 9) Makes clarifying and technical changes to an incorrect cross reference in the Education Code.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Non-controversial amendments.*** This bill is the annual higher education omnibus clean-up bill and proposes technical, non-controversial amendments to existing law.

By tradition, if any affected agency, the Department of Finance, or any of the four legislative caucuses objects to a provision in the bill or one that is being considered, that particular provision cannot be included.

- 2) ***Conforming to new FAFSA timeline.*** On September 14, 2015, President Obama announced significant changes to the Free Application for Federal

Student Aid (FAFSA). Starting this year, the FAFSA will be available to students on October 1, 2016, rather than on January 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA on October 1 every year. This bill authorizes CSAC to adjust the GPA submission date thereby conforming to the new FAFSA release date.

- 3) ***Workload demands on the LAO.*** AB 770 (Vasconcellos), Chapter 1187, Statutes of 1973, created the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) and made it responsible for the planning and coordination of postsecondary education. CPEC was charged with providing analysis, advice, and recommendations to the Legislature and the governor on statewide policy and funding priorities. Governor Brown used his line item veto power to defund CPEC as part of his 2011-2012 budget. On November 18, 2011, CPEC closed its office and ceased operations.

In the absence of CPEC, the state has asked the LAO to conduct many of the duties CPEC would traditionally perform, including researching, writing, reviewing new programs and issuing reports. Staff notes that the LAO has reached its capacity with the volume of reports and studies assigned to the Office on an annual basis. This bill seeks to extend deadlines and make adjustments to specified reports thereby allowing more time for completion and alleviating workload.

SUPPORT

None received.

OPPOSITION

None received.

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