
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Connie Leyva, Chair

2019 - 2020 Regular

Bill No: AB 1645 **Hearing Date:** June 26, 2019
Author: Blanca Rubio and Reyes
Version: February 22, 2019
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Olgalilia Ramirez

Subject: Student support services: Dreamer Resource Liaisons.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the California Community Colleges (CCC) and the California State University (CSU), and requests the University of California (UC), to designate a Dreamer Resource Liaisons who is knowledgeable in financial aid and other support services to assist students who qualify for the exemption from paying nonresident tuition established by AB 540. It also encourages the establishment of Dream Resource Centers on each campus, as specified.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Exempts specified California nonresidents from paying nonresident tuition at UC, CSU, and CCC, also known as the AB 540 nonresident tuition waiver, if they meet all of the following:
 - a) Attended or attained credits at a California high school, an adult school, a CCC campus, or a combination of these entities, for the equivalent of three or more years; or completed three or more years of full-time high school coursework, and a total of three or more years of attendance in California elementary schools, California secondary schools, or a combination of such elementary and secondary schools;
 - b) Graduated from a California high school or attained an equivalent degree; attained a CCC associate degree; or fulfilled the minimum transfer requirements from a CCC campus to a UC or CSU campus;
 - c) Registered or attended an accredited California higher education institution beginning after fall of the 2001-02 academic year; and,
 - d) If a person without lawful immigration status has filed an affidavit stating that the student has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status or will file such an application as soon as he or she is eligible to so do. (EC § 68130.5.)
- 2) Establishes the California DREAM Act to provide state financial aid, including the Cal Grant Program and the CCC California College Promise Grant (formerly known as the Board of Governors Fee Waiver), and institutional financial aid to

students who qualify for the aforementioned exemption from non-resident tuition (as listed in number one above); students must apply by March 2 prior to the academic year; Dream Act recipients receive Cal Grant Entitlement awards, but are not eligible for Competitive Cal Grant awards unless funding remains available after eligible California students have received awards. (EC Section 69508.5).

- 3) Establishes the California DREAM Loan Program intended to provide low-interest loans to Dream Act students who are accessing the Cal Grant program and attending UC and CSU. These students are not eligible for federal student loans, making it difficult for some to cover the total costs of college. The law requires the state, UC, and CSU to split the costs of launching the program. (EC § 70030-70039)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Requires, Commencing with the 2020-21 academic year, the CCCs and the CSU and the UC is requested to , designate a Dreamer Resource Liaison on each of their respective campuses, to assist students who qualify for the exemption from non-resident tuition established by AB 540 (Firebaugh, Chapter 814 of the Statutes of 2001), by streamlining access to all available financial and academic opportunities for those students.
- 2) Requires, each campus of the CCC, CSU and encourages the UC, to ensure that it a has a staff person designated as a Dreamer Resource Liaison who is knowledgeable in available financial , social services, state-funded immigration legal services, internships, externships, and academic opportunities for all students who qualify for the exemption from non-resident tuition established by AB 540, including undocumented students.
- 3) State that it is the Legislature's intent that the Dreamer Resource Liaison be placed in the campus' extended opportunity programs and services office or financial aid office or educational opportunity programs office, as specified.
- 4) Encourages CCC, the CSU and the UC to establish a Dream Resource Center on each of their respective campuses that may be housed within existing student service or academic centers and offer support services, as specified.
- 5) Specifies that the bill's provisions are not to be constructed as encouraging the construction of a new or separate space for Dream Resource Centers.
- 6) Specifies that the space in which the Dreamer Resource Liaison is located may be deemed a Dream Resource Center.
- 7) Authorizes acceptance on behalf of the state any gift, bequest, devises or donation whenever the gift and terms will aid in the creation and operation of Dream Resource Centers, as specified.

- 8) Makes related finding and declarations regarding the need for a centralized location that provides specialized support services and resources for students meeting the requirements of AB 540.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “The need of on campus Dreamer Resource Liaison would not only fulfill the student services component, they would also provide another critical area of need that usually goes unnoticed—safe space”.

This measure seeks to provide resources in a central location on campus for undocumented students at the CCC, CSU, and UC by ensuring each entity has a Dreamer Resource Liaison.

- 2) ***State resources for AB 540 students.*** State law, established by AB 540 and expanded upon by other legislation, allows non-resident students who meet certain qualifications to pay in-state tuition. These students may include undocumented students, students who are US citizens but who are not CA residents, and dependent students whose parents are not CA residents. The California Dream Act, established by SB 131 (Cedillo, chapter 604, statutes of 2010) allows AB 540 students to apply for and receive private scholarships funded through public universities, state-administered financial aid, University grants, community college fee waivers, and Cal Grants. Current law additionally establishes a loan program, known as the Dream loan, for those students attending a participating UC or CSU. Students apply for these awards using the California Dream application.
- 3) ***Deferred Action for Child Hood Arrivals (DACA) program.*** DACA is a federal process that defers removal action of an individual for a specified number of years. It allows those who are eligible to have work authorization. Some students with DACA status participate in state work-study programs. A person can be eligible for both the exemption established by AB 540 and DACA status or just either one. The state and federal programs are independent of each other. An undocumented student without DACA status is not authorized to work and there is growing concern that those with work authorization under the DACA program will soon lose their authorization as the Trump administration attempts to phase-out the program. Ensuring that students are receiving accurate and update information could be a critical component for their academic success.
- 4) ***Each UC, a majority of campuses at CSU and some community colleges have designated centers that support AB 540 students.*** Support for AB 540 students on each campus varies and services can range from having a designated center that is independent or share a space and/or having a point of contact. As part of the President’s Initiative on Undocumented Students, each UC campus has a designated physical space with where knowledgeable staff is housed and available to support undocumented students. Among the 23 CSU campuses, 19 have a designated space on campus (Dream Resource Center) others provide information through existing student support programs. Many community colleges have either a space or staff dedicated to offering support

undocumented students as they matriculate. Of the 115 community colleges, 35 community colleges have Dream Resource Centers; of the 35 centers, 19 have Dream Resource Center Coordinators. The program components, staffing patterns, and level of services provided to undocumented students varies among the CCC Dream Resource Centers. Additionally, many other CCC campuses have identified a person on campus to assist undocumented students as they matriculate.

This bill provides a uniform statewide standard for serving this particular group of students. It requires a campus to designate an individual who is knowledgeable enough to assist undocumented students in their unique situation as they matriculate. The bill does not require, only encourages, a campus to establish a Dream Resource center. Staff notes that the number of campuses with centers or coordinators have increased over the years.

5) *Prior and Recent legislation.*

AB 2477 (Rubio and Low, 2018) was substantially similar in nature to this measure. AB 2477 was vetoed by the Governor Brown whose message read in part:

“As I stated in the veto of AB 2009 of 2016, all of our higher education institutions ought to be well-versed in the rights and opportunities available to undocumented students. I further called on our system higher education leaders to ensure that relevant campus personnel can ably fulfill these duties.

UC and CSU have complied by either creating designated physical spaces on campus called Dream Resource Centers, or provided such information through existing student support programs. This bill is not necessary.”

AB 1622 (Low, 2017) was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File, was substantially similar in nature to this measure.

AB 2009 (Lopez of 2016) which was vetoed by the Governor, was substantially similar in nature to this measure.

AB 1366 (Lopez of 2015) which died on the Inactive File on the Senate Floor, was similar in nature to this measure.

AB 540 (Limon, 2019) is substantially similar to AB 1037. AB 540 is scheduled to be heard in this committee on July 3rd.

AB 1037 (Limon, 2018) establishes, commencing with the 2018-19 academic year, the Cal Grant B Service Incentive Grant Program, under the administration of the California Student Aid Commission who meet the requirements to qualify for the exemption from nonresident tuition established by AB 540 (Firebaugh, Chapter 814, Statutes of 2001). AB 1037 was placed on the Suspense file in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SUPPORT

Ab 540 Ally Training Project
Alliance for A Better Community
Asian Americans Advancing Justice
California Immigrant Policy Center
California League of United Latin American Citizens
California State Student Association
California Undocumented Higher Education Coalition
Californians Together
Campaign for College Opportunity
Carecen
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Hispanas Organized For Political Equality (Hope)
Immigrants Rising
Kid City Hope Place
Leticia A. Network
Los Angeles Area Chamber Of Commerce
Los Angeles Community College District
Los Angeles United Methodist Urban Foundation
Mexican-American Legal Defense and Ed Fund [MALDEF]
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter
San Jose-Evergreen Community College District
Southern California College Access Network
Student Senate for California Community Colleges
Students Making a Change (Smac)
The Education Trust - West
The Institute for College Access & Success
Unidosus
University Of California Student Association
USC Rossier Pullias Center for Higher Education
Western Association for College Admission Counseling (WACAC)
Year Up
Young Invincibles

OPPOSITION

None received

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