
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair

2017 - 2018 Regular

Bill No: AB 2477 **Hearing Date:** June 13, 2018
Author: Rubio and Low
Version: May 25, 2018
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Olgalilia Ramirez

Subject: Student support services: Dream Resource Liaisons.

SUMMARY

This bill requires, commencing with the 2019-20 academic year, the California Community Colleges (CCC) and the California State University (USC), and the University of California (UC) is requested, to designate a Dream Resource Liaison who is knowledgeable in financial aid and other services for students who meet the requirements of the AB 540 nonresident tuition waiver.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Authorizes the Cal Grant program, administered by the California Student Aid Commission (Commission), to provide grants to financially needy students to attend a college or university. The Cal Grant programs include both the entitlement and the competitive Cal Grant awards. The program consists of the Cal Grant A, Cal Grant B, and Cal Grant C programs and eligibility is based upon financial need, GPA, California residency and other criteria. (Education Code (EC) § 69430 - 69433)
- 2) Established by AB 540, (Firebaugh, Chapter 814, Statutes of 2001) 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 do so. (EC Section 68130.5.)

Students who meet the requirements to qualify for the exemption from nonresident tuition are commonly referred to as “AB 540 students.”

- 3) Establishes the California Dream Act, and provides that, beginning January 1, 2013, AB 540 students are eligible to apply for, and participate in, any student financial aid program administered by the State of California to the full extent permitted by federal law. The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) is required to establish procedures and forms (Dream act application) that enable AB 540 students to apply for, and participate in, all student financial aid programs administered by the State of California to the full extent permitted by federal law. Current law prohibits AB 540 students from being eligible for Competitive Cal Grant A and B Awards unless specified conditions are met. (EC § 69508.5)
- 4) Provides that a student attending the California State University (CSU), the California Community Colleges (CCC), or the University of California (UC) who is exempt from paying nonresident tuition under the provisions established by AB 540 is eligible to receive a scholarship derived from non-state funds received, for the purpose of scholarships, by the segment at which he or she is a student. (EC § 66021.7)
- 5) Requires the Trustees of the CSU and the Board of Governors of the CCC and the Regents of the UC are requested to, establish procedures and forms that enable persons who are exempt from paying nonresident tuition under the provisions established by AB 540 or who meet equivalent requirements adopted by the regents, to apply for, and participate in, all student aid programs administered by these segments to the full extent permitted by federal law. (EC § 66021.6)
- 6) Establishes the California DREAM Loan Program for purposes of extending loans to students who meet the requirements established by AB 540 and have financial need, and authorizes any campus of the UC and the CSU to participate. The law requires the state and UC and CSU to split the costs of launching the program. (EC § 70030-70039)
- 7) Requires the Trustees of the CSU and the Board of Governors of the CCC, and request the UC Regents, to establish procedures and forms that enable AB 540 students to apply for, and participate in, all student aid programs administered by these segments to the full extent permitted by federal law. (EC § 66021.6)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Requires, commencing with the 2019-20 academic year, the CCC and the CSU, and requests the UC, to designate a Dream Resource Liaison on each of their

respective campuses, to assist students meeting the requirements of the AB 540 nonresident tuition waiver by streamlining access to all available financial aid and academic opportunities for those students.

- 2) Requires each campus of the California Community Colleges (CCC), California State University (CSU) and request the University of California (UC) to ensure that the staff person who is designated as a Dream Resource Liaison is knowledgeable in available financial aid, services, and academic opportunities for all students meeting the requirements for the AB 540 nonresident tuition waiver, including undocumented students.
- 3) Encourages each campus of the CCC, CSU, and UC, to place the Dream Resources Liaison in the campus' "extended opportunity programs and services," office or the "educational opportunity programs," office, respectively, or the financial aid office.
- 4) Encourages a Dream Resource Liaison at a campus of the CCC, the CSU, and the UC to work with school districts and county offices of education that maintain any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, to assist and provide information to school employees, students, and families about accessing postsecondary educational resources and opportunities for students who may potentially meet the qualification for the AB 540 tuition waiver.
- 5) Encourages the CCC, CSU and UC to establish Dream Resource Centers on each of their respective campuses. The bill specifies all of the following relative to Dream Resource Centers:
 - a) Dream Resource Centers may offer support services, including, but not necessarily limited to, state and institutional financial aid assistance, academic counseling, peer support services, psychological counseling, referral services, and legal services.
 - b) Dream Resource Centers may be housed within the existing student service or academic centers.
 - c) The space in which the Dream Resource Liaison is located may be deemed a Dream Resource Center.
 - d) Provides that this bill not be construed as encouraging the construction of a new or separate space for Dream Resource Centers.
 - e) Authorizes, CSU, CCC and UC to seek and accept on behalf of the state any gift and terms and conditions thereof will aid in the creation and operation of Dream Resource Centers for their respective systems, as specified.
- 6) States legislative findings and declarations relative to the challenges and needs of undocumented students and the importance of streamlining resources for these students on campus.

- 7) Establishes if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, the state shall reimburse the applicable entities.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “since the passage of AB 540 in 2001 California has continued to provide resources and tools to colleges and universities to better serve undocumented youth that often times run into very unique challenges that hinder their pursuit in obtaining a degree or certificate. Many of these resources vary from ensuring undocumented youth are able to hold any leadership position available on campus, to loans and financial aid, creating pathways that allow students to enter into fields that require licensing after having studied a certain trade. Unfortunately, as the legislature has continued to address these unique problems individually through separate pieces of legislation colleges and universities have not been proactive in centralizing information and resources that undocumented and immigrant youth would benefit from. By campuses not consolidating this information for this underserved student population, they continue to run into barriers that may have significant impacts on their educational journey.

Moreover, with the passage of legislation that creates safe zone procedures when federal law enforcement enters onto a campus, designated Dream Liaisons are needed now more than ever to ensure that students are provided with the most accurate information when such incidences occur to debunk any myths or rumors of federal law enforcement activity.”

- 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 University of California or California State University. 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) ***Existing services offered at campuses.*** 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 University of California campus has a designated physical space with where knowledgeable staff is housed and available to support to undocumented students. Among the 23 California State University campuses, 15 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. CCCCO fall 2016 survey, the most recent data available to date, of the 72 community college districts, 10 districts have already established Dream Centers and 30 districts have targeted strategies in place to eventually lead to the creation of a Dream Center. Some campuses may focus on this student population as a component of the Student Equity Plan. These plans are developed by each California Community College campus in effort to close achievement gaps in access and success for underrepresented student groups.

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.

- 5) ***Prior and Recent legislation.***

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 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). This bill was heard and passed by this committee on June 6th.

SUPPORT

California Dream Network
California Policy Center
California State Student Association

Campaign for College Opportunity
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
Community College League of California
Educators for Fair Consideration
Kid City Hope Place
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
MALDEF
Southern California College Access Network
Student Senate for California Community Colleges
Students Making a Change
The Campaign for College Opportunity
The Civil Rights Project
The Education Trust-West
Think Together
University of California
University of Southern California
Young Invincible

OPPOSITION

None received

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