
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Carol Liu, Chair
2015 - 2016 Regular

Bill No: AB 2766
Author: Lopez
Version: February 19, 2016
Urgency: No
Consultant: Olgalilia Ramirez

Hearing Date: June 8, 2016
Fiscal: Yes

Subject: Student Aid Commission

SUMMARY

This bill expands the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) to include two additional student members.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the California Student Aid Commission to administer California's student financial aid programs. The composition of the Commission includes:
 - a) Eleven members Governor appointees confirmed by the Senate:
 - i) Three representatives from the general public.
 - ii) One representative from a California secondary school.
 - iii) Two student representatives each of whom must be enrolled in a California postsecondary educational institution.
 - iv) One representative from the University of California.
 - v) One representative from the California State University.
 - vi) One representative from the California Community Colleges.
 - vii) One representative from a California independent college or university.
 - viii) One representative from a public, proprietary, or nonprofit postsecondary school located in California.
 - b) Two representatives appointed by the Senate Rules Committee.
 - c) Two representatives appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly. (Education Code § 69510)

- 2) Provides that student members appointed to the Commission:
 - a) Be enrolled in postsecondary educational institutions for the duration of the two year terms.
 - b) May serve for six months beyond graduation.
 - c) May not be enrolled in the same segment of higher education. The segments of higher education are designated as the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), the California Community Colleges (CCC), independent institutions (non-profit), and for-profit institutions. (EC § 69511)
- 3) Provides that the Commission is responsible for determining the appropriate student organization for each segment, and each student organization is required to inform students within their respective segment of pending Commission student member vacancies and each student organization is authorized to submit a list of three to five nominees for membership. A student member appointed to the Commission may not be in the same segment of the outgoing or the other sitting student member. (EC § 69511.5)

ANALYSIS

This bill expands the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) to include two additional student members. Specifically it,

- 1) Provides that Commission shall consist of four student members, one from each of the following postsecondary educational institutions:
 - a) The University of California (UC);
 - b) The California State University (CSU);
 - c) The California Community Colleges (CCC); and,
 - d) California private postsecondary educational institution.
- 2) Clarifies that the student member must be enrolled in that postsecondary educational institution at the time of appointment and during the duration of the term.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** The Commission is responsible for administering financial aid programs for students attending public and private postsecondary institutions. According to the author, each segment of higher education serves a distinct student population as such limiting membership on the commission to two students does not allow for equitable representation of the other student groups. The Student Senate for California Community Colleges, the sponsors of the bill, asserts that, “the demographics of each of our systems is quite diverse from one

another, which leaves a heavy burden for two individuals to represent over 3.5 million students from four unique, but interconnected systems, leading to key communities being disenfranchised in the process.”

- 2) ***Appointments of student members.*** Existing law provides for two student commissioners from different higher education segments, nominated by the appropriate student association and appointed by the governor to serve on the Commission for two year terms. The higher education segments are designated as University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), the California Community Colleges (CCC), independent institutions (non-profit), and for-profit institutions. The two student positions rotate among these four segments and representatives may not be enrolled in the same segment of the outgoing or the other sitting student member. Current law also requires that the two student representatives on the Commission be enrolled in his or her respective institution for the duration of their term.

Rather than rotating the two student positions among the four segments this bill seeks to establish four fixed seats thereby ensuring that each student population has a permanent voting member on the Commission.

- 3) ***Related legislation.*** AB 2154 (Medina) would authorize a student commissioner to serve for an additional year after the expiration of their term if a successor has not been appointed, requires a qualifying institution to waive a student members' tuition for the duration of their term in office if that student is not a Cal Grant recipient and further requires the commission to notify the appropriate student organization of the opportunity to submit a list of nominees. AB 2154 is scheduled to be heard by this Committee on June 8th.

SUPPORT

Associated Students of De Anza College
 Associated Students of College of the Redwoods
 Associated Students of College of the Siskiyous
 Associated Students of El Camino College
 Associated Students of Feather River College
 Associated Students of Glendale Community College
 Associated Students of Lassen College
 Associated Students of Las Positas College
 Associated Students of Pasadena City College
 Associated Students of Shasta College
 Associated Students of Santa Barbara College
 Associated Students of Santa Monica College
 Associated Student Organization of Mission College
 Associated Student Organization of Los Angeles City College
 Associated Student Organization of Los Angeles Harbor College
 Associated Student Organization of Los Angeles Southwest College
 Associated Student Organization of Los Angeles Trade Technical College
 Associated Student Organization of West Los Angeles College
 Associated Student Union of Butte College
 Associated Student Union of East Los Angeles College

Associated Student Union of Los Angeles Valley College
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Community College Association of Student Trustees
Student Senate for California Community Colleges
Student Senate for California Community Colleges, Region I
Student Senate for California Community Colleges, Region IV
Student Senate for California Community Colleges, Region V
Student Senate for California Community Colleges, Region VI
Student Senate for California Community Colleges, Region VII
Student Senate for California Community Colleges, Region VIII
Student Senate of Chabot College
Student Senate of Cabrillo College
Student Senate of Evergreen Valley College
Yuba Community College District

OPPOSITION

None received.

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