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# SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair

2017 - 2018 Regular

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**Bill No:** SB 592 **Hearing Date:** April 26, 2017  
**Author:** Nielsen  
**Version:** April 17, 2017  
**Urgency:** No **Fiscal:** Yes  
**Consultant:** Olgalilia Ramirez

**Subject:** Public postsecondary education: admissions data

## SUMMARY

Requires, by July 1, 2018 and each year thereafter, the Trustees of the California State University (CSU) and the Regents of University of California (UC) to post on their respective Internet Web site uniform application, admission and freshman class profiles and additionally requires the Regents of the (UC) to submit a report with specified information to the Legislature.

## BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the CSU administered by a board designated as the Trustees of the CSU. (Education Code § 66602)
- 2) Under the California Constitution establishes the UC, a public trust to be administered by the Regents of the UC and grants the Regents full powers of organization and government, subject only to such legislative control as may be necessary to insure security of its funds, compliance with the terms of its endowments, statutory requirements around competitive bidding and contracts, sales of property and the purchase of materials, goods and services. (Article IX, § (9)(a) of the California Constitution)

## ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Requires by July 1, 2018 and each year thereafter, the Trustees of the CSU to:
  - a) Publish on their Internet Web site, or to report using a successor technology, uniform application, admission, and freshman class profiles including, but not necessarily limited to all standardized test scores and grade point averages.
  - b) Present the above information in a) in the same statistical format employed in accordance with the Common Data Set Initiative or a successor database. This bill requires that the data published be presented in composite form as well as in subcategories representing instate, out-of-state, and international students.

- 2) Requires by July 1, 2018 and each year thereafter, the Regents of the University of California (UC) to:
  - a) Submit a report to the Legislature that includes , but not necessarily limited to, uniform application, admission and freshman class profiles including, but necessarily limited to, all standardized test scores and grade-point averages.
  - b) Present the above information in a) in the same statistical format employed in accordance with the Common Data set initiative or a successor database. This bill requires that the data published be presented in composite form as well as in subcategories representing instate, out-of-state, and international students.
  - c) Post the report on their Internet Web site.
- 3) Specifies that for purposes of this bill instate students include all students who qualify for instate tuition.

#### STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, there has been a growing trend in the UC to enroll less qualified out-of-state and international students at the expense of California students. On March 2016, a report by the State Auditor found that UC's admission policies have disadvantaged and undermined their commitment to California students in favor of nonresidents. This bill seeks to create a profile of the incoming freshman class at each of the UC and California State University campuses for the purpose of informing Californians of the admissions process and standards of their public universities.
- 2) ***BSA Audit.*** On March 29, 2016, the California State Auditor released a report, *The University of California, Its Admissions and Financial Decisions have Disadvantaged California Resident Students*. The report lists as its key findings that the university has undermined its commitment to residents in an effort to increase its revenue by recruiting and enrolling nonresidents. The report specifically cites that:
  - a) Despite a 52 percent increase in resident applicants, resident enrollment increased by only 10 percent over the last 10 years while nonresident enrollment increased by 432 percent.
  - b) The University lowered the admission standard for non-residents and admitted nearly 16,000 nonresidents over the past three years with academic scores that fell below the median of admitted residents.
  - c) Admitted residents were increasingly denied their campus of choice, yet admitted nonresidents were always admitted to one of their campuses of choice.

- d) Mandatory fees doubled for residents while they increased for nonresidents at a much lower rate.

Among other things the Bureau of State Audits recommended that the University of California (UC) revise its admission standard for nonresidents to require campuses to admit only nonresidents with admissions credentials that place them in the upper half of the residents it admits.

In response, the UC asserts that its admissions policies overwhelmingly favor Californians, and that state funding determines how many California residents the UC enrolls.

- 3) ***Current status of resident admissions.*** According to the UC, as a result of state funding support provided for enrollment, between fall 2015 and fall 2016, over 6,400 California undergraduate residents were enrolled. This fall, UC anticipates enrolling an additional 2,500 resident students. According to California State University (CSU), California residents are prioritized in the admission process. For example, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo provides California applicants a preference for a variety of factors in the admission process, while nonresidents are assessed solely on academic scores. The CSU reports that it has consistently enrolled 94 percent California resident students for the last decade.
- 4) ***Current status of out-of-state admissions.*** The UC reports that for the 2015-16 academic year, 15.5 percent of its undergraduates systemwide were nonresidents. According to the UC, nonresident enrollment for 2015-16 was capped at those campuses that had seen the largest growth were Berkeley (25 percent), Los Angeles (19 percent) and San Diego (17 percent) was directed to cap their enrollment of nonresidents at 20 percent.

According to the CSU, for the fall 2016 enrollment 5 percent of its undergraduates systemwide were nonresidents. Only two campuses exceed 10 percent, San Diego (12 percent) and San Luis Obispo (15 percent). Additionally, CSU reports that the proportion of undergraduate non-resident students has been stable and there is no intent to grow non-resident admissions.

This bill does not impose a cap on non-resident enrollment nor requires changes to UC or CSU admission policies. This bill would require CSU and UC to share freshman class profile information including standardized test scores and grade point averages disaggregated by instate, out-of-state, and international students. It appears that at least one UC campus currently provides this data in the format proposed by this bill.

- 5) ***Technical amendments.*** Staff recommends technical amendments as follows:
- On page 2 line 3 strike "Trustees of the."
  - On page 2 line 14 strike "Regents of the."

**SUPPORT**

None received.

**OPPOSITION**

None received.

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