

Date of Hearing: April 25, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 1076 (Medina) – As Amended March 28, 2017

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: campus housing: priority for homeless youth: report

SUMMARY: Requires the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), in consultation with the California Community Colleges (CCC), the California State University (CSU), and the University of California (UC), to conduct a study on the implementation of several statutes and report the study to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2020. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the LAO, in consultation with the CCC, CSU, and UC, to report the following:
 - a) Identify the campuses that provide, pursuant to Section 76010, 90001.5, or 92660, as applicable, campus housing priority, or campus housing at no extra cost during academic or campus breaks, or both, to current and former foster youth, or current and former homeless youth, or both.
 - b) Determine how many current and former foster youth and current and former homeless youth received housing pursuant to Section 76010, 90001.5, or 92660, as applicable, disaggregated by campus.
 - c) Estimate how much money on average current and former foster youth and current and former homeless youth saved by receiving campus housing at no extra cost as described in paragraph (1), disaggregated by campus.
 - d) Determine how much money it cost campuses to provide campus housing to current and former foster youth, or current and former homeless youth, or both, as applicable, at no extra cost as described in paragraph (1), disaggregated by campus.
 - e) Identify best practices used by campuses to implement Section 76010, 90001.5, or 92660, as applicable.
- 2) Requires the LAO, by January 1, 2020, to report to the Legislature, pursuant to Section 9795 of the Government Code, the study described in subdivision (a).

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requests the UC Regents and the CSU Trustees to explore methods of using the admissions-by-exemption category to assist the transition of students in foster care into four-year public institutions of higher education (Education Code Section 66019.3).
- 2) Ensures that current and former foster youth who are students at the campuses of the CCC have stable housing, by requesting a CCC campus to give priority for housing to current and former foster youth. Additionally, requests a CCC campus that maintains student housing facilities open for occupation during school breaks, or on a year-round basis, to give first priority to current and former foster youth for residence in the housing

facilities that are open for uninterrupted year-round occupation, and next give priority to current and former foster youth for housing that is open for occupation during the most days in the calendar year (EC Section 76010).

- 3) Ensures that current and former foster youth who are students at campuses of the CSU and UC have stable housing, by requiring a CSU and UC campus that maintains student housing facilities to give priority to current and former foster youth. Additionally, a CSU or UC campus that maintains student housing facilities open for occupation during school breaks, or on a year-round basis, shall first give priority to current or former foster youth for residence in the housing facilities that are open for uninterrupted year-round occupation, and next give priority to current or former foster youth for housing that is open for occupation during the most days in the calendar year. Specifies that the UC shall adhere to said requirements to the extent that the UC Regents approve to do so by an appropriate resolution (EC Sections 90001.5 and 92660).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: *Background.* According to the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY), college homelessness is a serious issue that is often overlooked; there exists an assumption that if someone is homeless, he/she is so focused on basic needs like food and shelter that school is not a concern. However, NAEHCY contends that for homeless youth, education is the answer to providing a means to be able to enter into the work force, earn a living, and no longer be homeless.

There is no concrete estimate for the number of homeless college students nationwide, but 58,158 college applicants indicated that they were homeless on federal financial aid forms for the 2012-13 academic year (most recent data available to date); which, according to NAEHCY, is up eight percent from 53,705 in the previous year, according to federal data. NAEHCY argues that the number is likely understated, since some students may be staying in a car, relatives' or fellow classmates' couches, or motels, and do not realize they are technically homeless, or do not want to admit to it. Additionally, California has the highest rate of homeless youth in the nation and twice the rate of homeless students as the national average (four percent in CA vs. two percent nationally).

AB 1228 (Gibson, 2015) extended priority for housing at the UC, CSU, and CCC to homeless youth, and requests campuses to develop plans to ensure that homeless and foster youth have housing during breaks.

Purpose. According to the author, “AB 1076 came about following several meetings with my constituents. Students who experience food insecurity and housing displacement are invisible, and there is very little research on this student population. The provisions of AB 1228 have the potential to make a significant impact on the housing security of homeless and foster youth, and it is important that the Legislature monitor how the law is being implemented.”

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on File

Opposition

None on File

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