

Date of Hearing: March 27, 2012

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Marty Block, Chair
AB 1743 (Campos) – As Introduced: February 17, 2012

SUBJECT: Student athletes: scholarships.

SUMMARY: Defines a postsecondary education institution for purposes of reporting athletic scholarship information, as specified, as an institution with a physical campus and athletic facilities used to support one or more of the institution's athletic programs that is located in the State of California.

FISCAL EFFECT: This bill is tagged non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS: Background. Existing law, established by AB 2079 (Torlakson, Chapter 592, Statutes of 2010) requires all California postsecondary educational institutions that offer athletic scholarships to provide scholarship information on their websites, in order to ensure that the recruitment process and subsequent scholarship agreements are transparent for both students and parents. Information that must be posted includes:

- 1) The college's most recent cost of attendance expenses;
- 2) The portion of these expenses prohibited, per the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) rules, from inclusion in a full grant-in-aid scholarship;
- 3) Whether the college provides athletic scholarships for summer school;
- 4) The average monthly scholarship payment received by students living on- and off-campus;
- 5) Information regarding the college's and NCAA's policies on scholarship renewals, payment of athletically-related medical expenses, and athletic release for student athletes wishing to transfer; and,
- 6) NCAA scholarship rules related to verbal offers and National Letters of Intent, as specified.

Need for this bill. According to the author, "Postsecondary schools with a primary campus in another state that have satellite campuses in California and/or online classes offered in California are included within the meaning of "California postsecondary educational institutions" under the prior legislation. Accordingly, these off-campus facilities are required to comply with the website scholarship information requirement. Since these schools do not have athletic teams operating in California it is impracticable to require them to provide athletic scholarship information on their websites."

Affected institutions. This new definition would exclude any postsecondary school that has an athletics program at an institution in another state but offers only online courses in California, including Ashford University in Iowa (which is owned by California-based Bridgepoint Education, Inc.), the sponsor of this bill. Further, Ashford University participates in the National

Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, not NCAA, so posting NCAA scholarship information is not relevant for its students.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Ashford University

Opposition

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