

Date of Hearing: April 19, 2016

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 2766 (Lopez) – As Introduced February 19, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Student Aid Commission

**SUMMARY:** Expands the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to include two additional student members. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Provides that CSAC 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) A California private postsecondary educational institution.
- 2) Requires the student member to be enrolled in that postsecondary educational institution at the time of appointment and during the duration of the term. A student member who graduates with no more than six months of his or her term remaining shall be permitted to serve for the remainder of the term.

**EXISTING LAW:** Establishes CSAC, composed of 15 members, to administer California's student financial aid programs. Designates two student members, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, required to be enrolled in postsecondary educational institutions for the duration of the two year terms; a graduating student may serve for six months beyond graduation. The two students 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. CSAC 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 CSAC 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 CSAC may not be in the same segment of the outgoing or the other sitting student member.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown.

**COMMENTS:** *Purpose of this bill.* According to the author, the student makeup of the CSAC board creates an unequal voice for the two student groups that are not appointed during that term. This leaves two of the four student groups without having a counted vote to make important decisions that are before the board. This bill will create equal student representation for all college systems in California by expanding the CSAC board to two additional members. This bill will ensure that the diverse perspectives from the different student bodies are able to be heard

and given a full vote regarding matters that are before the board. This bill will provide an equitable student voice in matters that deeply affect students across California.

*Related legislation.* AB 2154 (Medina) was approved by this Committee on April 12, 2016, and provides that upon expiration of a student member of CSAC's two year term, if the Governor has not appointed a successor, the student member may remain in office for one additional year or until the Governor appoints a successor, whichever occurs first. Additionally, AB 2154 provides that, in addition to the \$100 daily stipend for attending meetings, for a student member who attends a qualifying institution and is not the recipient of a Cal Grant award, the qualifying institution shall waive the student member's tuition, up to the maximum award amount for that institution, for the duration of the student member's term of office.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:****Support**

California Immigrant Policy Center

**Opposition**

None on File

**Analysis Prepared by:** Laura Metune / HIGHER ED. / (916) 319-3960