

Date of Hearing: April 19, 2016

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 2908 (Committee on Higher Education) – As Amended April 11, 2016

SUBJECT: Postsecondary education: omnibus.

SUMMARY: Makes several changes to the Education Code (EC). Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Reassigns, from the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), to the University of California (UC) and the California State University (CSU), the reporting requirement to the Legislature on UC and CSU expenditures.
- 2) Removes the requirement for postsecondary institutions to submit hate violence reports to the LAO; and, specifies that the postsecondary institutions shall still complete reports and post their findings publicly on their respective Internet Web sites.
- 3) Authorizes the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to require grade point average (GPA) submission no later than October 1 of each academic year.
- 4) Moves the time frame and grade level upon which a school district or charter school shall notify in writing to each pupil, and for a pupil under 18 years of age, his or her parent or guardian, about the GPA submission to CSAC, from October 15 to January 1 and from grade 12 to grade 11.
- 5) Changes the due date for the LAO to report on Cal Grant C from April 1, 2017 to April 1, 2018.
- 6) Changes the due date for the LAO to report on CSU's online courses, as specified, from October 1, 2017 to October 1, 2018.
- 7) Makes clarifying and technical changes to an incorrect cross reference in the EC.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires the LAO to report to the Legislature on the expenditures of the UC and CSU (EC 66028.6).
- 2) Requires the governing boards of each community college district, the CSU Trustees, the Hastings College of Law Board of Directors, the UC Regents, and the governing boards of any postsecondary educational institution receiving public funds for student financial assistance to make a report containing data on hate crimes, as specified, available to the LAO (EC 67380).
- 3) Authorizes CSAC to require school districts and charter schools to submit the GPAs of all grade 12 pupils every year, unless a pupil and/or his or her parent or guardian has opted out of the GPA submission to CSAC; and, specifies that school districts and charter schools shall notify grade 12 pupils and/or their parent or guardian if the pupil is under 18 years of age, in writing, about the GPA submission to CSAC, no later than October 15 every year (EC 69432.9).

- 4) Requires the LAO to report to the Legislature on the outcomes of the Cal Grant C program on or before April 1, 2015, and on or before April 1 of each odd numbered year thereafter (EC 69439).
- 5) Requires the LAO to report to the Legislature on the status update of CSU's online education programs, as specified, on or before October 1, 2017 (EC 89226).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: *Omnibus bill.* This measure is the Committee omnibus bill, which seeks to provide various and necessary changes to the EC.

Demands on the LAO. AB 770 (Vasconcellos), Chapter 1187, Statutes of 1973, created the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) and made it responsible for the planning and coordination of postsecondary education. CPEC was charged with providing analysis, advice, and recommendations to the Legislature and the governor on statewide policy and funding priorities. As part of his 2011-12 budget, Governor Brown proposed eliminating CPEC. Both houses rejected this proposal, but the governor exercised his line item veto to remove all General Fund support for CPEC, describing the commission as “ineffective.” In his veto message, however, the governor acknowledged the need for coordinating and guiding state higher education policy and requested that stakeholders explore alternative ways these functions could be fulfilled.

On November 18, 2011, CPEC closed its office and ceased operations. Its federal Teacher Quality Improvement grant program was transferred to the California Department of Education and its extensive data resources were transferred to the CCC Chancellor's Office.

Since that time, more and more the LAO has been required to perform many of the duties of CPEC, including researching, writing, and producing many reports to the Legislature. Committee staff understands that the LAO is beyond capacity with the volume of reports assigned to the Office on an annual basis.

This measure seeks to make necessary adjustments to some of the reporting due dates, as specified.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). President Obama, on September 14, 2015, announced significant changes the FAFSA process that will impact millions of students. Effective this year, students will be able to:

- 1) Submit a FAFSA earlier – students will be able to file a 2017-18 FAFSA as early as October 1, 2016, rather than beginning on January 1, 2017. To note, the earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year; and,
- 2) Use earlier income information – commencing with the 2017-18 FAFSA, students will report income information from an earlier tax year. That is to say, on the 2017-18 FAFSA, students and parents, as appropriate, will report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information.

This authorizes CSAC to make necessary changes in order to accommodate the federal changes, as aforementioned.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Jeanice Warden / HIGHER ED. / (916) 319-3960