

Date of Hearing: April 9, 2013

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Das Williams, Chair
AB 595 (Gomez) – As Introduced: February 20, 2013

SUBJECT: Community colleges: priority enrollment.

SUMMARY: Requires California Community College (CCC) districts to grant priority registration to students in the Community College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) and to disabled students, as specified. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires CCC districts to grant priority registration for enrollment to the following:
 - a) Students in the Community College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) and
 - b) Disabled students within the meaning of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 2) Determines that the Commission on State Mandates may determine this provision contains reimbursable state mandated costs.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires the California State University, and CCC, and requests UC, to grant priority registration for enrollment to a member or former member of the Armed Forces, as defined and who meets specified requirements, for any academic term within 15 years of leaving state or federal active duty and to current and former foster youth, provided the campus administers priority enrollment. (Education Code § 66025.8 and 66025.9)
- 2) Governs the establishment and operation of CCC EOPS programs. (EC § 69640 et seq.)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: Background. Priority registration enrollment decisions are made at the campus level at each segment. This process allows specified students access to classes ahead of the general student population. As state support for higher education has decreased while enrollments have increased at the three segments, classes have become increasingly impacted—unable to accommodate all students who enroll in the course. Thus, students who have priority registration enrollment status have a significant advantage over other students, particularly at CCC.

Who currently receives priority enrollment? Existing law grants priority enrollment to current or former member of the Armed Forces and foster youth (see Previous legislation below). In addition, the public higher education segments have traditionally provided priority enrollment for students with disabilities, participants in EOPS, and continuing students nearing their education goals. While veterans and foster youth have had statutory priority, the underlying regulations placed these students in the same tier as EOPS and disabled students for the purposes of priority enrollment.

Change in priority enrollment implementation. As a result of SB 1143 (Liu), Chapter 409, Statutes of 2010, the CCC Chancellor's Office convened a Student Success Task Force that made 22 recommendations to increase student completion, including better use of priority enrollment. Regulations are underway to implement this recommendation. The regulations specify the following priority enrollment tiers:

- Tier 1 Active duty military and veteran students and current and former foster youth who are new and fully matriculated or in good standing

- Tier 2 New and continuing fully matriculated EOPS and Disabled Student Program Services (DSPS) students in good standing

- Tier 3 Students in good standing and new, fully matriculated students

Districts would have the flexibility to set priorities and categories for other students.

Need for this bill. According to the author, "Until 2013, participants of EOPS and DSPS, along with veterans and foster youth, shared priority enrollment in community colleges without impacting enrollment access for any of these populations through long standing regulations as these programs were created before the term "priority enrollment" had been established in the Ed code. Existing law now codifies priority enrollment for veterans and foster youth, but needs to be updated to include EOPS and DSPS."

Impact. It does not appear that EOPS or disabled students have been denied priority enrollment for courses as a result of the statutory priority given to current and former members of the military and foster youth, especially since these categories of students often overlap. The impact would likely occur if the number of statutorily protected students grows to the point they fill courses before other high priority students have the opportunity to enroll.

Previous legislation: AB 2133 (Blumenfield), Chapter 400, Statutes of 2012, extended priority enrollment for current and former members of the military from four to 15 years. AB 194 (Beall), Chapter, 458, Statutes of 2011, granted priority enrollment to foster youth. AB 272 (Runner), Chapter 356, Statutes of 2007, granted priority enrollment to current and former members of the military, as specified.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Association of Regional Center Agencies
California School Employees Association
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges
National Association of Social Workers—California Chapter
Susan Lala, Disabled Students Programs and Services, Program Coordinator, Porterville College
Penny Skemp, Child Development Department Chair, MiraCosta College
12 Individuals, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services and Disabled Students Programs and Services, Allan Hancock College
2 Individuals, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services and Disabled Students Programs and Services, Cabrillo College

1 Individual, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services Association, Chaffey College
1 Individual, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services Association, Reedley College
6 Individuals, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services and Disabled Students Programs
and Services, Saddleback College
1 Individual, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services, San Diego Miramar College
1 Individual, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services, Southwestern College
4 Individuals

Opposition

Community College League of California

Analysis Prepared by: Sandra Fried / HIGHER ED. / (916) 319-3960