

Date of Hearing: April 9, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Mike Fong, Chair

AB 2567 (Mathis) – As Introduced February 14, 2024

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: student housing: data collection: veterans

SUMMARY: Requires the office of the Chancellor of the California State University (CSU) and the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges (CCC), and request the office of the President of the University of California (UC), to require each of their respective campuses that provide campus-owned, campus-operated, or campus-affiliated student housing to include additional information regarding students who are veterans, as defined, required under existing law. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the office of the Chancellor of the CSU and the office of the Chancellor of the CCC, and requests the office of the President of the UC, to require each campus that provides campus-owned, campus-operated, or campus-affiliated student housing to post on its external and internal internet websites, at least twice each academic year, all of the following information:
 - a) How many veterans comprise the number of enrolled students;
 - b) How many veterans comprise the number of students on the campus housing waiting list;
 - c) How many veterans comprise the number of students that have removed themselves from the waiting list since the last report;
 - d) If available, how many veterans comprise the number of students who request campus-owned, campus-operated, or campus-affiliated student housing; and,
 - e) If available, how many veterans comprise the number of incoming freshmen, transfer students, and international students requiring campus-owned, campus-operated, or campus-affiliated student housing.
- 2) Requires this data to be collected by the on-campus department or center that is tasked with providing on-campus and off-campus housing assistance to students.
- 3) Requires the Office of the Chancellor of the CSU and the Office of the Chancellor of the CCC, and requests the Office of the President of the UC, to submit an annual report with the information described in 1) above (each segment submits one report compiled of all campus-level data) to the Legislature, as specified.
- 4) Specifies that “veteran” will have the same definition as it does in the California Military and Veterans Code, as specified.
- 5) Requires that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made, as specified.

EXISTING LAW:*State law*

- 1) Establishes the UC as a public trust to be administered by the Regents of the UC; and, grants the Regents full powers of organization and government, subject only to such legislative control as may be necessary to insure security of its funds, compliance with the terms of its endowments, statutory requirements around competitive bidding and contracts, sales of property and the purchase of materials, goods and services. (Article IX, Section (9)(a) of the California Constitution)
- 2) Confers upon the CSU Trustees the powers, duties, and functions with respect to the management, administration, control of the CSU system and provides that the Trustees are responsible for the rule of government of their appointees and employees. (EDC Sections 66606 and 89500, et seq.)
- 3) Establishes the CCC under the administration of the Board of Governors of the CCC, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state, and specifies that the CCC is comprised of community college districts. (EDC Section 70900)
- 4) Requires each campus of the CSU, and requests each campus of the UC, to post on its website annually by February 1, information about the market cost of a one- bedroom apartment in the areas surrounding that campus where its students commonly reside. Existing law requires campuses to exercise due diligence and to consult bona fide and reliable sources of current information about local housing market costs, as specified. Existing law requires that the information be posted in the same location on the campus website where the housing cost estimates for off-campus students are posted. (EDC Section 66014.2)
- 5) Requires the office of the Chancellor of the California State University and the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, and requests the office of the President of the University of California, to require each of their respective campuses that provide campus-owned, campus-operated, or campus-affiliated student housing to collect and post on its external and internal internet websites, data on student housing, as specified. (EDC Section 66014.6)
- 6) Requires the CSU, and request the UC, to conduct a needs assessment to determine the projected student housing needs, by campus, from the 2022–23 fiscal year (FY) to the 2026–27 FY and create a student housing plan, with a focus on affordable student housing. (EDC Section 66220)
- 7) Establishes basic needs centers and basic needs coordinators on CCC campuses by July 1, 2022, to support students in finding resources to alleviate their basic needs including food and housing insecurities, and requires CCC campuses to report data to the office of the CCC Chancellor’s Office on basic needs services and the number of students who are served. Existing law requires this report to be made available to the Legislature annually beginning on May 1, 2023. (EDC Section 66023.5)

Federal law

- 8) Requires, the United States Secretary of Education to make publicly available on the College Navigator website specified information about each institution of higher education that participates in federal financial aid programs, which includes, among many other things, the cost of attendance for first-time, full-time undergraduate students who live on campus and for those who live off-campus. (United States Code, Title 20, Section 1015a).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: *Purpose.* According to the author, “AB 2567 would allow for greater insight into how students that are veterans fare in our higher education institutions. Data drives great public policy, and we as a Legislature need to make sure that the policies we enact are not leaving veterans behind when they attempt to pursue higher education.”

“Data produced by the requirements in this bill would allow both the Legislature and the public to see the numbers on the issue and realize that it is time to craft new policies to resolve it. Our veterans took an oath to fight for and defend our nation, and now we must ensure that we do everything possible to support them as they transition into civilian life and the workforce. Gaining an education is an important step in this transition, yet many veterans find it to be an incredibly daunting task. It is time we take action and gather data to support them as they build the rest of their lives. This is a common sense bipartisan expansion of an existing reporting policy that will provide crucial information to help us better care for our veterans.”

What do we know about student housing needs? According to the 2021 Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) report, “Keeping College Affordable for California Students,” living expenses, housing, books, and food expenses have outpriced the cost of tuition. The report noted that housing expenses are now the largest cost associated with attending college and is a barrier preventing many students from seeking higher education. In October 2019, the PPIC reported in “Making College Affordable,” that on-campus housing at the UC made up 45% of the total cost of attendance, and at the CSU, housing costs made up 53% of the total cost of attendance. In 2022, the California Student Aid Commission published the results of the Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS), found that 37% of students thought they lacked the resources to afford tuition and fees 29% of students thought they lacked the resources to afford housing and utilities.

What housing information is currently available? Each CSU campus is required, and each UC campus is requested, to annually post on its website information about the market cost of a one-bedroom apartment in the areas surrounding that campus where its students commonly reside. Recently enacted legislation requires the CSU, and requests the UC, to conduct a needs assessment to determine the projected student housing needs, by campus, from 2022–23 to 2026–27, and create a student housing plan with a focus on affordable student housing. Housing plans are to outline how the segment will meet the projected student housing needs, by campus, and include the specific actions to be taken each year.

The students housing plans are to be reviewed and updated every three years after July 1, 2022, and include the specific actions to be taken in the next five years. This bill applies only to campuses that provide student housing and would provide additional information specific to on-campus housing and about the pool of the student body that is seeking on-campus housing. Committee staff believes that all of the information this bill requires to be posted is currently being collected by campuses. This could provide a broader perspective of the overall housing

situation for students at each campus and across postsecondary education segments. This bill requires campus-based data to be compiled into systemwide reports, thereby allowing housing information about each segment, and each campus of the segments, to be available on one site. It is possible, but not certain, that the student housing plans to be developed for 2022-23 through 2026-27 will include the information specified in this bill

Related budget activity. The 2021, 2022 and 2023 Budget Acts created the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program and authorized 35 projects: five UC projects, 11 CSU projects, 16 CCC projects, three joint UC/CCC projects, and one joint CSU/CCC project, totaling about \$2.2 billion in state funding. Projects were required to provide “affordable” beds for students, which was defined as rents not exceeding 30% of 50% of a campus’s area median income. While the program was originally conceived with one-time General Fund, the 2023 Budget Act shifted the program to bond financing.

Starting in the 2023 Budget Act, UC and CSU began receiving ongoing General Fund to cover debt service costs on bonds issued by each segment. UC is receiving \$50.7 million annually to cover debt service for its five projects, and the three joint UC/CCC projects; while CSU is receiving \$52 million. Final provisions of the 2023 Budget Act also included language stating legislative intent to create a statewide lease revenue bond to support community college projects, after discussion last year revealed that many community college districts would face difficulties in issuing their own bonds.

The Governor’s Budget Summary notes that the Administration is developing a statewide lease revenue bond approach for CCC projects for consideration at the May Revision. The Governor’s Budget also proposes using \$50.6 million General Fund of the \$61.5 million provided in the current year for lease revenue bond debt service for the CCC projects to instead support one-time payments to three districts for housing projects that are not appropriate for bond funds.

Prior legislation. AB 2459 (Cervantes), Chapter 593, Statutes of 2022, requires the office of the Chancellor of the CSU and the Office of the Chancellor of the CCC, and requests the Office of the President of the UC, to require each campus that provides student housing to post on its external and internal Internet websites specified information about the campus housing stock, the number of students requesting housing, and how many students are on waitlists.

AB 1377 (McCarty), Chapter 571, Statutes of 2021, requires the CSU and requests the UC by July 1, 2022, to conduct a student housing assessment, by campus and create a student housing plan outlining how they will meet their projected student housing needs.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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