

Date of Hearing: March 18, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Mike Fong, Chair
AB 466 (Solache) – As Introduced February 6, 2025

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: student orientation: Donate Life California

SUMMARY: Requires each campus of the California Community Colleges (CCC) and the California State University (CSU), and requests the University of California (UC) to provide incoming students with educational materials on “Donate Life California” (DLC) and “Donate Life California Organ and Tissue Donor Registry” (registry). Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires each campus of the CCC and each campus of the CSU, and requests each campus of the UC, to provide educational materials on the DLC and the registry as part of the campus orientation for all incoming students.
- 2) Defines “DLC” as the nonprofit organization established to oversee and maintain the registry. The organization is tasked with the responsibility of developing methods to increase the number of donors who enroll in the registry and ensuring the registry is available to all federally recognized organ procurement organizations on a 24 hour basis.
- 3) Defines “registry” as the database that contains information regarding people who have self-identified as organ and tissue donors.

EXISTING LAW: *Student orientations are mentioned 25 times in the Education Code, below is a summary of all 25 provisions:*

- 1) The CCC and CSU, are required and the UC is requested to provide students with educational and prevention information on sexual assault, acquaintance rape, sexual violence, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking during campus orientation (Education Code (EDC) Sections 231.5, 67385.7, 67386, 67390, 67385.7, and 66281.5).
- 2) Requires the CSU and the UC to develop and implement a prevention and outreach program on sex discrimination as part of the campus orientation (EDC Sections 66279 and 66279.5).
- 3) Requires each qualifying postsecondary education institution to provide information related to credit card, credit card debt, Cal Grant access, satisfactory academic progress standards, and financial aid appeal process as part of the campus orientation (EDC Sections 69417, 69432.7, and 99030).
- 4) Requires the CCC and CSU to provide information, during campus orientation, on student basic needs resources available on and off campus (EDC Section 66023.4 and 66023.5).
- 5) Requires any CCC campus or CSU campus who participates in the wellness vending machine to provide information during campus orientation on the location of the machines (EDC Section 66023.8).

- 6) Requires the CCC and CSU, and requests the UC to provide all incoming students, as part of the campus provided orientation, educational information about Cal Fresh, the California Earned Income Tax Credit, the Young Child Tax Credit, the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (Education Code (EDC) Section 66027.4).
- 7) As part of the campus efforts to inform students of the availability of drug testing devices on campus, the CCC, CSU, and UC are permitted to include the information of the location of the devices on campus to all incoming students as part of the campus provided orientation. Requires the CCC and CSU and requests the UC to provide information on opioid overdose prevention medication as part of the campus orientation program and to train students who live on campus on how to administer the overdose medication (EDC Section 66027.3, 67384, and 67384.5).
- 8) Requires CCC to provide information on transfer for first-time students and requires CSU campuses to provide information on Finish in Four and Through in Two as part of their campus orientation (EDC Section 66748.5 and 67434).
- 9) Requires the CSU and requests the UC to provide educational and prevention information on cyberbullying as part of campus orientation (EDC Section 66302.5).
- 10) Requires each postsecondary education institution who has an exemption from implementing the federal regulations pertaining to Title IX, to disclose the exemption during campus orientation to students who attend the campus (EDC Section 66290.1).
- 11) Requires each qualifying postsecondary education institution to provide comprehensive prevention and outreach programming to address hazing as part of the campus orientation to be seen as taking reasonable steps to address hazing on campus (EDC Section 66308).
- 12) Requires the CCC and the CSU and requests the UC to provide, as part of the campus orientation, the location and point of contact for the campus contact who is responsible for assisting students who are veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States and members of the California State Guard and the California National Guard, and their dependents (EDC Section 66226).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: *Background.* The primary mission of DLC is to save lives by establishing opportunities for everyday Californians to self-identify as organ, eye, and tissue donors. As of March 02, 2025, 19,510,163 Californians have registered to provide lifesaving tissue upon their death. Beginning in 2006, with the authorization of SB 689 (Speir), Chapter 665, Statutes of 2005, the Department of Motorized Vehicles (DMV) partnered with the DLC to streamline the enrollment of potential donors who are either applying or renewing their driver's licenses or personal identification card with the DMV. The measure opened up the donor enrolling process to those under the age of 18, with parental or guardian consent upon their death.

In October 2013, the DLC provided the California Department of Education with a resource designed to educate the youth of California on the lifesaving importance of organ and tissue donation. AB 1967 (Pérez), Chapter 582, Statutes of 2012, included a requirement for the State

Board of Education, when updating the state standards for the health and science curriculum to include the subject of organ procurement and tissue donation. Middle and High School students in the state of California receive information on the importance of organ/tissue donation, the organ donation process, and the stories of hope from those who have received lifesaving treatment thanks to organ/tissue donors.

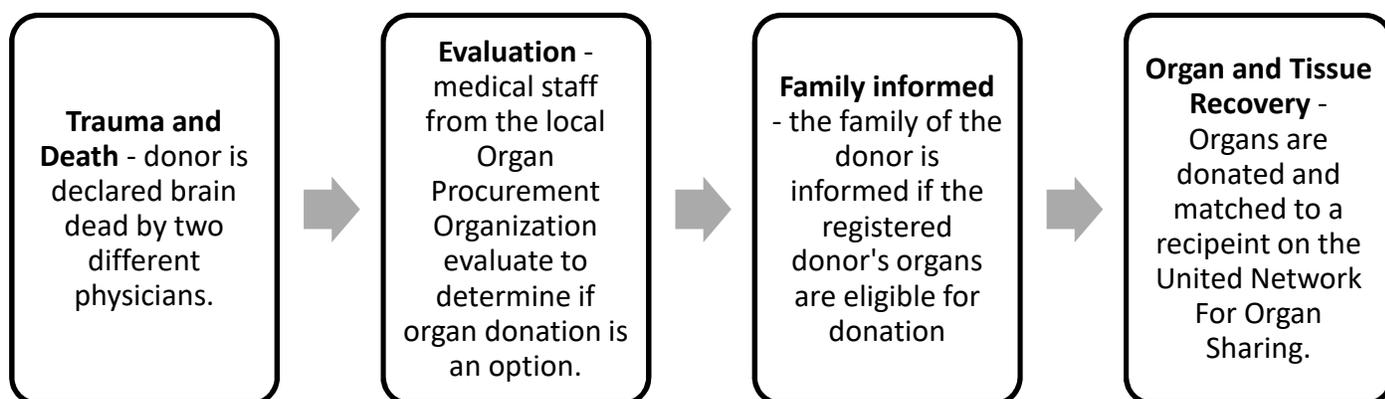
Author's intent. California is home to the largest two-year and four-year university system in the United States. Over 2.1 million students from all over the world attend undergraduate programs at either the CCC, CSU, or the UC.

According to the author, “by providing college students’ information on Donate Life California and opportunities to register as organ and tissue donors, we hope to increase awareness and help reach a wider net of potential life-saving donors.”

Frequently asked questions regarding organ/tissue donation and the DLC. The DLC is a state-authorized 501(c) (3) and is the four federally designated organ recovery organization in the state of California. The DLC is tasked with educating everyday Californians on the need and importance of registering to be an organ/tissue donor. The DLC maintains the registry containing the personal identifying information of those who wish to be donors upon their death, provides educational materials to high school students, raises funds to support public educational programs, supports the staff of the DMV by providing training on donor registry information, and provides the public with a direct line to professionals who can answer questions regarding organ/tissue donation. The DLC also maintains a website that includes frequently asked questions regarding the donation process and fast facts on how donations have saved lives. Questions such as:

- 1) *Who can register to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor?* Anyone of a certain age. If a person is at least 13 years of age, they can register online via the DLC website; however, until the age of 18 the family of the registered donor must provide consent prior to the donation (after the death of the donor).
- 2) *Can a person change their mind after registering to donate?* Yes, a person can remove their name from the registry at any time by visiting the DLC website.
- 3) *What happens if you die in another state?* The hospital in the other state will alert their local Organ Procurement organization who will contact the donor registry of the donor’s home state.

The DLC website also provides a basic understanding of how the donation process occurs.



Campus Orientations. As part of the Student Equity and Achievement Program established in Education Code Section 78222, each CCC is tasked with implementing activities and practices to assist students in completing their educational goals and defined courses of study. In the 2024-2025 budget, the Legislature provided \$523.981 million for the program. The program includes the Student Success and Support Program which requires each CCC campus to provide matriculations services to students. Matriculations services include: orientation services, counseling and advising, referral to specialized support services, and an evaluation of the students' progress to determine if intervention is required. While the code section requires orientation, and most community college campuses provide such services, the orientation is optional and students often do not elect to attend. The primary "orientation" services used by students is counseling and enrollment in courses; however, the orientation style of welcoming students and providing them with materials and educational information about the college campus is not mandatory.

According to the CSU Chancellor's Office website, new student orientation programs are designed to help students navigate their academic career on campus by providing students with relevant information about their chosen CSU campus and the academic requirements of the student's chosen major. The campus orientation is a requirement of both incoming freshmen and incoming transfer students at 20 CSU campuses and encouraged at three campuses.

Of the nine UC campuses offering undergraduate programs, six provide mandatory in-person or online new student orientations, and three campuses do not require students to attend orientation. All UC campuses have some mandatory online training component to their orientation; however, some do not require students to attend in-person. The mandatory training can be completed throughout the student's first semester or quarter. The UC orientations are often tailored to the campus and to the department where the student will take courses pertaining to their intended major. Some campuses like UCLA have a two-day orientation in which students stay with other incoming students who have selected similar majors in order to foster community prior to attending the campus.

As highlighted above, orientation is typically a time for students to learn about the academic and basic needs services provided by the campus. "Orientation" by definition is to help the student orient themselves with the campus community and the many services provided by the campus. The EDC has 25 different educational materials, outreach, and/or training requirements for student orientations. Some of the requirements apply to only public four-year institutions and

some apply to all three public postsecondary education institutions. AB 466 (Solache) would represent the first orientation requirement, from an off-campus entity, which does not provide a service directly to students. While the information provided by the DLC is a public service, it does not directly contribute to the campus life in terms of services provided to the students.

Moving forward the author may wish to consider the unintended consequences of this measure and whether this civic minded educational materials, presented by an off-campus entity, paves the way for additional off-campus groups to request the inclusion of their materials as part of the orientation.

Throughout the Education Code, educational materials is referenced in correlation to information being provided as part of the orientation process. *It is the understanding of Committee staff that unless the orientation required material actually says present or train, the material can be provided in a document format to students.*

Arguments in support. As stated by Donate Life California, “DLC’s statutorily authorized relationship with the DMV has allowed individuals the ability and convenience of signing up for the organ and tissue donor registry on the DL-44 since 2006. To date, over 19.5 million individuals have expressed their intent to donate to the Registry, with over 98% of those coming through the doors of the DMV. While this growth of the registry has been successful, by population California is still below the national average for registered donors at only 49%, compared to the 54% national average. Additionally, there has been a notable decline in the number of young Americans applying for driver’s licenses. A study by the Federal Highway Administration shows that the number of 16- and 17-year-olds with driver’s licenses declined roughly 18% and 10% for Americans between ages 20-25. The registry continues to be of vital importance as over 100,000 individuals across the country – 22,000 of which are California residents – are waiting for lifesaving transplants. Sadly, on average 16 individuals die each day without a transplant. AB 466 provides additional opportunities to sign Californians up to be lifesaving organ and tissue donors.”

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Donate Life California

Opposition

None on file.

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