

Date of Hearing: April 7, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Mike Fong, Chair

AB 1784 (Pellerin) – As Introduced February 9, 2026

[Note: This bill is double referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee, where the Committee will hear it as it relates to issues under its jurisdiction.]

SUBJECT: Postsecondary education: nondiscrimination: pregnancy or pregnancy-related issues

SUMMARY: Establishes a reasonable accommodation standard for students who are pregnant or experiencing pregnancy-related conditions and permits all students who have given birth or whose partner has given birth to receive a leave of absence from coursework without impacting their academics at a postsecondary education institution in California. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Clarifies that a postsecondary education institution in California shall afford all person's equal rights and opportunities in postsecondary education, regardless of the person's disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, medical condition, marital status, familial status, citizenship, or primary language.
- 2) Adds a definition of "sex" to the Equity in Higher Education Act. Define "sex" to include pregnancy, childbirth, or medical conditions related to pregnancy.
- 3) Clarifies that people at higher education institutions should enjoy freedom from discrimination regardless of their sex, familial status, or marital status.
- 4) States that a postsecondary education institution will not discriminate against a student nor an applicant based on the student's current, potential, or past pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions. Stipulates a postsecondary education institution does not commit discrimination if the institution permits a student to voluntarily participate in a separate, but comparable program of education or activity
- 5) Prohibits employees of the postsecondary education institution from discriminating against a student based on the student's pregnancy or pregnancy-related condition; specifically, prohibits the following actions:
 - a) Requiring a student to take a leave of absence or to withdraw from an education program/activity or an extracurricular program/activity; and,
 - b) Limiting in any way the student's undergraduate or graduate program.
- 6) Compels a postsecondary education institution to provide excused leave of absences for appointments that are medically necessary as determined by the student's medical provider.
- 7) Requires a postsecondary education institution to provide reasonable accommodations to a pregnant student or a student experiencing pregnancy-related conditions. The accommodations shall be provided to ensure the student is able to maintain equal access to educational program and activities. The reasonable accommodation will be provided in

consultation with the student and will meet the individual needs of the student. The postsecondary education institution's designated employee will provide the student with a list of reasonable accommodations to address the student's individual needs. The list of accommodations provided to a student may include:

- a) Breaks during class to express breast milk, breast feed, or attend to health needs associated with pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions;
 - b) Changes in schedule or course sequences;
 - c) Time extensions for coursework and rescheduling of tests and examinations;
 - d) Being allowed to sit or stand or carry or keep food or water nearby;
 - e) Counseling, if provided to other non-pregnant or postpartum students;
 - f) Changes in physical space or classroom supplies;
 - g) Elevator access;
 - h) Parking passes, if available;
 - i) Excused leave of absences for nonmedical reasons;
 - j) Assistance in accessing basic needs services; and,
 - k) Other accommodates for the student's health and safety.
- 8) Maintains the student's agency to accept or reject any reasonable accommodation offered by the postsecondary education institution.
- 9) Clarifies an accommodation is not considered reasonable if the postsecondary education institution can demonstrate it would fundamentally alter the nature of its education program or activity.
- 10) Requires a postsecondary education institution to offer the same leave of absences policies currently required for graduate students who have recently given birth to all students. Stipulates a postsecondary education institution will permit a leave of absences for pregnant students who have recently given birth for a period consistent with the time deemed medically necessary by the student's licensed healthcare provider or a period of 12 months, whichever period of time is longer. The purpose of the period of time is for the student to prepare for and take preliminary and qualifying examinations. An additional extension of 12 months will be added towards the time to degree for those who take a leave of absence unless a longer extension is medically necessary.
- 11) Requires a postsecondary education institution to reinstate a student, who elects to take leave of absence as permitted in (10) and has good academic standing, at the same academic status that the student held before their voluntary leave of absence began. Stipulates the institution is to do this unless there is a reasonable administrative requirement preventing this from occurring and permits the student to take a longer leave of absences should it be medically

necessary. In the case of a longer leave of absence due to medical reasons the student's standing in the program will be maintained throughout the absences.

- 12) Requires a postsecondary education institution to permit a student that is not the birth parent, and who chooses to take a leave of absence because of the birth of a child, to be allowed a period consistent with the policies of the postsecondary education institution, or a period of one month (whichever is longer) to prepare for and take preliminary and qualifying examinations. Requires the postsecondary education institution to provide the student an extension of one month toward the time to degree while in candidacy for a graduate program and if necessary, additional time as deemed medically necessary to care for the student's partner or their child. Upon returning to the postsecondary education institution, the graduate student will be reinstated to the same academic status the student held prior to the leave.
- 13) Requires each postsecondary education institution to designate at least one employee to coordinate the efforts required of this measure. The designated employee will have training on what constitutes discrimination based on the student's current, past, or potential pregnancy or pregnancy – related conditions and the policies developed by the institution to maintain equal access to education for students experiencing a pregnancy or pregnancy – related conditions.
- 14) Requires employees of the postsecondary education institution, upon being informed by the student of the student's pregnancy or pregnancy – related condition, to do the following:
 - a) Inform the student of their rights to receive accommodations; and,
 - b) Provide students with the contact information for the designated employee pursuant to (13) of this analysis.
- 15) Requires each postsecondary education institution to have a written policy for students on procedures for addressing pregnancy complaints under Title IX and procedures for accessing reasonable accommodations under Title IX consistent with this measure. A copy of the policy will be emailed to students, faculty, staff, and employees at the beginning of each academic year and will be available to faculty, staff, and employees in their required training. The policy will be made available to all students during their student orientation.
- 16) Requires each postsecondary education institution to notify pregnant and parenting students of the protections afforded to them through Title IX and as required pursuant to the provision of the measure. Requires each postsecondary education institution to post the requirements established above on the campus website.
- 17) Requires each postsecondary education institution with an on-campus medical center to provide notice of the protections provided by Title IX and established by the measure to students who request information on the policies or protections for pregnant students or students with children.
- 18) Defines the following:
 - a) "Postsecondary educational institutions" to mean a campus of the California Community Colleges (CCC), the California State University (CSU), the University of California (UC), private postsecondary educational institutions, or independent institutions of

education that receive state financial assistance or state financial aid assistance, as defined.

- b) “Familial status” to have the same meaning as in Government Code section 12955.2.

EXISTING LAW: *Federal law.*

- 1) No person in the United States will, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance except for specified circumstances including membership of fraternities and sororities (United States Code Title 20, Chapter 38, Section 1681... colloquially known as Title IX).
- 2) Outlines the required response a postsecondary higher education institution must undertake, when the institution is made aware of an alleged sexual harassment incident on campus. The regulations include a requirement for a formal complaint, a grievance procedure for an investigation into whether the incident based on a standard of evidence occurred, and a method of appealing the outcome of the grievance process (Federal Code of Regulations Title 34, Subtitle B, Chapter 1, Subpart D, Section 106.45).
- 3) Prohibits a postsecondary higher education institution, that receives funding from the federal government, from discriminating against or excluding a student from educational programs or activities based on the student’s pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery unless the student volunteers to participate in the separate program. Stipulates a postsecondary higher education institution can require a student to obtain a certificate from a physician stating the student is able to participate in the education program; but only if the certificate from the physician is required for all students in the program. The separate portion of the activity offered to pregnant students or those experiencing pregnancy-like conditions must be the same as the education program offered to non-pregnant students. Requires the institution to treat pregnancy or pregnancy-like conditions in the same manner as a temporary disability when it comes to any college or university - administered medical or hospital benefit, service, plan, or policy. If the institution does not provide a leave policy for its students or if the student does not qualify for the leave, the institution will provide leave for as long as a physician determines is medically necessary (Federal Code of Regulations Title 34, Subtitle B, Chapter 1, Subpart D, Section 106.40).

State law.

- 1) Each postsecondary education institution in the state of California, are prohibited from requiring a graduate student from taking a leave of absences or withdrawing from the program or limiting the student’s graduate studies based on the fact the student is pregnant or experiencing pregnancy-related issues. A postsecondary education institution is required to provide reasonable accommodations to the pregnant graduate student so the student may complete their graduate program. Provides the terms and conditions for leaves of absences for graduate students, who are pregnant or have recently given birth and provides a leave of absence for non-birthing parents. Requires the policies regarding pregnancy protections to be posted in various locations on campus and requires employees to be trained on the policies (Education Code (EDC) Section 66281.7).

- 2) Requires the CCC and the CSU, and encourages a satellite campus of CCC or CSU, and encourages the UC, to provide reasonable privacy accommodations for a lactating student to express breast milk, breast-feed an infant child, or address other needs related to breast-feeding (EDC Section 66271.9).
- 3) Defines familial status to mean one or more individuals under the age of 18 who reside with a parent or a person with care or legal custody of the individual. Stipulates the protections afforded under the definition of familial status extends to any individual who is pregnant, in the process of securing legal custody, or who is the process of being given care or custody of any individual under the age of 18 (Government Code Section 12955.2).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: *Purpose.* As identified by the author, “California has long been a leader in ensuring educational equity for our students. Higher education is one of the most powerful factors for upward economic and social mobility, and access for our pregnant, postpartum, and pregnancy-impacted students must be preserved. However, not all pregnant students experience support in balancing their academics during their pregnancy or when postpartum. In 2021, the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights found that the College of the Canyons had likely violated Title IX by not allowing a student to make up a quiz she missed while she was giving birth. For a state that has done so much for reproductive care, this is not acceptable.”

According to the author, “AB 1784 updates the California Equity in Higher Education Act to ensure that undergraduate students have the same protections and rights as their graduate student peers. These additional protections come at a crucial time for pregnant and parenting students given the Supreme Court’s decision to strike down the constitutional right to abortion and ongoing attacks to the constitutional right to birth control. Furthermore, AB 1784 codifies the best practices of the 2024 Title IX regulations in state law, ensuring that the additional protections afforded to students by these overturned federal regulations continue to be accessible to California students.”

Existing protection for pregnant students or students experiencing medical conditions as a result of a pregnancy. Since 1972, a prohibition on discrimination on the bases of sex has existed for all postsecondary education institutions in the United States that receive funding from the Federal Government. Colloquially known as Title IX, the 27 words contained in the Education section of Federal Code, has evolved beyond simply ensuring women have access to college-level sports to ensuring all people regardless of their sex have equal access to education. In the May 2023 edition of the, *Harvard Latin American Law Review*, the responsibilities of a postsecondary education institution under Title IX were explained “as requiring proper prevention, response, and resolution of Title IX cases.”¹ One of the “proper prevention” is the current requirements for providing equal educational opportunities and leave of absences for pregnant students.

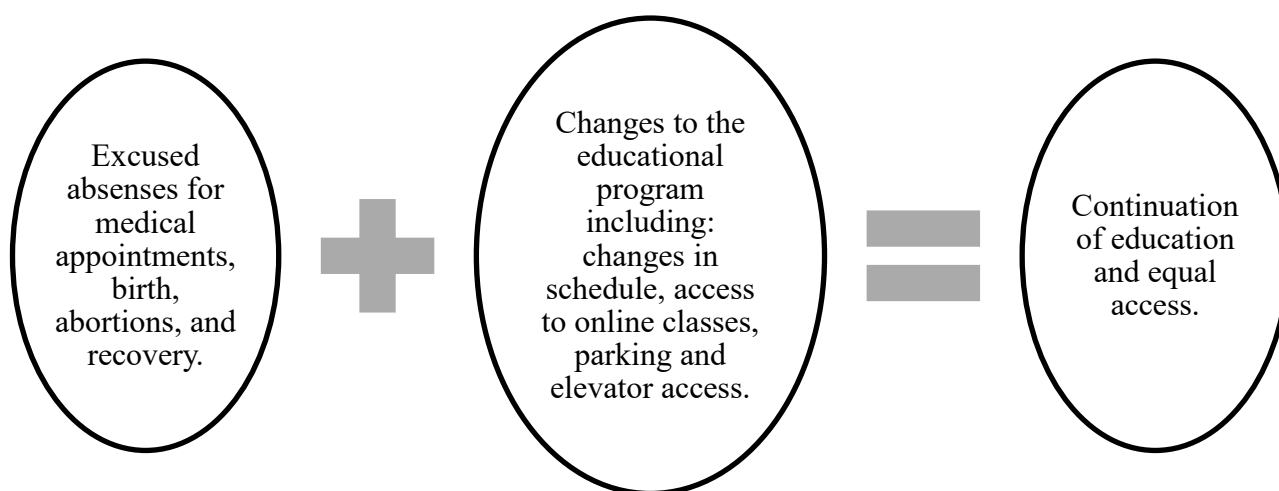
In 2020, the Trump Administration finalized the existing Title IX regulations, which changed the manner in which postsecondary education institutions were required to address sex

¹ <https://journals.law.harvard.edu/lalr/wp-content/uploads/sites/85/2023/07/HLA105.pdf>

discrimination and sexual harassment on campus. The new regulations provided the following protections for all pregnant undergraduate and graduate students:

- 1) Prohibits discrimination against a student based on the student's sex, which includes a student's pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions. Defines pregnancy-related conditions as childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, and recovery;
- 2) Requires the college or university to provide the pregnant student with any medically necessary leave of absence as long as the leave is determined to be necessary by the student's physician;
- 3) Requires the college or university to provide supportive measures to pregnant students; however, the supportive measures must be comparable in nature with those provided to students who are temporarily disabled;
- 4) Permits a college to provide a separate educational program, but only if the student volunteers to participate and is not forced. The separate educational program must be comparable to the original educational program; and,
- 5) Prohibits the requirement a student must produce a physician certification for approval to participate in any educational program; unless, such physician certification is required of all participants.²

The above regulations translated into two core accommodations for pregnant students on college campuses:



The 2020 Title IX regulations prohibit a higher education institution from denying admission to an applicant based on pregnancy or pregnancy – related conditions. Furthermore, the Title IX protections provided to pregnant students are also extended to include pregnant employees at higher education institutions.

² <https://thepregnantscholar.org/wp-content/uploads/Overview-of-Title-IX-Regulation-Changes.pdf>

As stated above, Title IX states a postsecondary education institution is allowed to treat a pregnancy as a temporary disability. According to the Federal Code of Regulations, “Nondiscrimination of the Basis of Handicap in Program or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance Regulations,” a postsecondary education institution is required to make modifications to academic requirements in order to ensure the requirements do not discriminate or have the effect of discriminating on the basis of the handicap.³ In recent years, this has been interpreted to mean a postsecondary education institution is required to provide accommodations for pregnant students to prevent the effect of discrimination against the student due to their pregnancy.

In California, postpartum students are permitted to use lactation facilities on campus, and each public higher education institution is required to provide private accommodations for students to express breast milk, breast-feed, or address other needs related to breast-feeding. Furthermore, in California a graduate student who has recently given birth is afforded up to a year of absences from their educational program and the graduate student’s partner is provided a month of absences without being penalized by the institution. However, these leave of absences are only permitted if the student is a graduate student.

AB 1784 (Pellerin) effectively codifies existing standards of care by explicitly explaining to the postsecondary education institutions their obligations to provide all students the same leave of absences and requires individual accommodations to maintain educational access as required by civil rights laws.

Need for the measure. In February 2026, *the Journal of Sex Research*, published an article entitled “Title IX and Sexual Violence in Higher Education: A Mapping Review and Assessment of Policy Implementation and Effectiveness.”⁴ The peer-reviewed article found “infrequencies in the provision of accommodations and supportive measures” even when a sexual harassment complaint is filed. An article, “What is Academe’s Problem With Pregnancy?,” highlighted the need for the measure as:

“Title IX and the Americans With Disabilities Act require institutions of higher education to give pregnant students accommodations just as they would any disabled student, especially if the institution is providing these services to students with other temporary medical conditions. If a pregnant student chooses to take a leave, when they return, they must be reinstated to their status at the time they left and allowed to resume their studies without penalty. I’ve also learned, from interviewing close to 100 pregnant academics, that illegal actions that violate these protections happen all the time. As Joan C. Williams and Jessica Lee write, ‘We hear over and over about women are penalized for their absence or forced to reapply to their programs as if they had never been accepted.’ Pregnant academics ‘who do stay in school often face an uphill climb in a hostile environment.’”⁵

Since 2018, there have been two cases were settled by the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education in which a college and a university denied accommodations to a

³ <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34/section-104.44>

⁴ Holland, Kathryn J., and Rebecca L. Howard Valdivia. “Title IX and Sexual Violence in Higher Education: A Mapping Review and Assessment of Policy Implementation and Effectiveness.” *Journal of Sex Research*, Feb. 2026, pp. 1–19. *EBSCOhost*, <https://doi-org.castatelib.idm.oclc.org/10.1080/00224499.2026.2623649>.

⁵ Andrzejewski, Alicia. “What Is Academe’s Problem With Pregnancy?” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, May 2025, p. N.PAG. *EBSCOhost*, research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=964bd2e6-db57-3c0a-bb57-8d18414761cd.

student and therefore, potentially violated Title IX. *Committee staff note that the institutions settled with the U.S. Department of Education made and therefore, a finding of discrimination was not made as the investigations were closed due to the settlements or resolutions.*

In September 2021, College of the Canyons entered into a resolution with the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) after a student alleged the campus had violated Title IX because the pregnant student alleged she was denied the ability to make up course work missed due to labor and delivery.⁶ At the time of the allegation and resolution, Title IX included specified protections for pregnant students.

In 2018, OCR entered into a resolution with CSU East Bay, due to an allegation that a pregnant student had been discriminated against when the university failed to provide academic adjustments to ensure she could participate in the education program during her absences and failed to allow her to return to the same academic status. The resolution between the CSU East Bay and OCR included reimbursing the student her tuition and campus fees and removing the course from her transcript.⁷ The student was a graduate student in a post-graduate certificate program at CSU East Bay.

In both cases, additional clarity on the type of leave of absences, program modifications, and policies upon return to campus would have helped the institutions avoid potential violations of Title IX and allegations of discrimination. AB 1784 (Pellerin) seeks to provide such clarity for postsecondary education institutions by expanding the existing leave protections to undergraduate students and by defining reasonable accommodations or modifications, a college or university should provide in order to avoid discrimination claims.

Arguments in support. As explained by the American Association of University Women of California, “pregnant and parenting students should be afforded every opportunity to pursue their academic goals and be protected from any bias or discrimination based on the student’s pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions. AB 1784 provides certainty for these students by prohibiting a college from requiring an undergraduate or graduate student to take a leave of absence or withdraw from an undergraduate or graduate program because of their pregnancy, or otherwise limit the student’s studies, because the student is pregnant or experiencing pregnancy-related conditions. While students may request accommodations for bonding with a newborn or adopted infant or child, primary caregivers, who are largely women, are most susceptible to unjust conditions. The lack of accommodation, including medically necessary leave, access to participation in academic work during and post-pregnancy and accommodating a student’s appropriate return rights to their academic standing, may ultimately drive them to withdraw from their studies and forgo their higher education goals.”

The American Association of University Women of California further contends, “AB 1784 protects the basic rights of pregnant students and provides important guidance for colleges and universities to ensure they provide equal access under the law for pregnant students and for those who are experiencing pregnancy – related conditions. Lastly, the measure ensures colleges and universities inform students about their rights under federal and state law, thereby increasing the likelihood that they will seek the assistance of the Title IX coordinator to pursue those rights. A 2023 study published in the *Journal of Higher Education Policy* showed that Title IX is not

⁶ <https://ocrcas.ed.gov/sites/default/files/ocr-letters-and-agreements/09202416-a.pdf>

⁷ <https://ocrcas.ed.gov/sites/default/files/ocr-letters-and-agreements/09182245-a.pdf>

being implemented consistently to its fullest extent. Increasing regulations, and specificity enacting AB 1784, would help to reduce this issue and provide students with the accommodations they deserve.”

Committee comments. Title IX has always implicitly protected pregnant students and those experiencing pregnancy conditions. However as highlighted by the Pregnant Scholar at The Center for WorkLife Law UC College of the Law, San Francisco, confusion remains as to what is provided by the 2020 Title IX regulations, as “ students regularly called our helpline because they were kicked out for missing a couple classes to attend doctor’s appointments, told they’re no longer welcome in school, or forced to sacrifice their safety during pregnancy or postpartum.”⁸ Without clarity of guidance, the vague nature of the 2020 Title IX regulations for pregnant students will result in the adjudication of protections through complaints filed with the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education.

Committee staff note the U.S. Department of Education has reduced its staffing capacity including cutting several OCR offices. Since the reduction in staff, the OCR has not finalized a single case on pregnancy discrimination, nor sexual harassment..

AB 1784 (Pellerin) would address the gap in guidance by updating existing leave of absence requirements to include undergraduate students, defining the types of reasonable accommodations each campus is to offer pregnant students, and identifying a designated coordinator to assist students in accessing accommodations. AB 1784 (Pellerin) mirrors many of the provisions for pregnancy and pregnancy-related protections that were provided to a student under the now vacated 2024 Title IX regulations.

Even with the vacated ruling, the National Women’s Law Center and the Association of Title IX Administrators have contended that colleges and universities are still able to adopt portions of the 2024 Title IX regulations as institutional policy as long as the adopted policies are not in conflict with the 2020 Title IX regulations. Both entities suggest colleges and universities implement the pregnancy and pregnancy-related provisions of the 2024 Title IX regulations.⁹

Furthermore, this concept of providing additional protection in state law is supported by legal arguments offered by a Judicial Decision for one of the 2024 Title IX regulations injunctions. In the memorandum and order in the United States District Court for the District of Kansas case, *State of Kansas v. U.S. Department of Education*, case no. 24-4041-JWB, the Judge stated that “nothing in this order limits the ability of any school to adopt or follow its own policies, or otherwise comply with applicable state or local laws or rules regarding the subjects addressed herein.”¹⁰

California has a history of taking national best practices and codifying the practices to provide additional protection for students while also maintaining compliance with the existing federal regulations. This measure is an exercise in state rights to provide additional protections to pregnant students for the expressed purpose of preventing sex discrimination.

⁸ <https://thepregnantscholar.org/title-ix-rule-vacated-our-statement/>

⁹ <https://www.atixa.org/blog/best-practices-to-keep-from-2024-regulations/> and <https://nwlc.org/resource/complying-with-the-trump-title-ix-rule/>

¹⁰ <https://adfflegal.org/case/state-kansas-v-us-department-education/attachment/memorandum-and-order-4/>

To align the measure with the intention of the author and to address implementation concerns by the public higher education institutions, the Committee has suggested, and the author has agreed to the following amendments:

- 1) *Amends Section 66260.7 to provide a clear definition for “pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions”. Amends the language to read as follows:*

(b) “Gender expression” means a person’s gender-related appearance and behavior whether or not stereotypically associated with the person’s assigned sex at birth.

(c) “Pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions” includes all of the following:

(1) Pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation.

(2) Medical conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or lactation.

(3) Recovery from pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, lactation, or related medical conditions.

(d) “Sex” includes, but is not limited to, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions.

- 2) *Amends Section 66281.7, subdivision (b), paragraph (1) to provide clarity on the meaning of “current, potential, or past pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions.” Amends the language to read as follows:*

(b) (1) A postsecondary educational institution shall not discriminate against a student or applicant based on the student’s current, potential, or past actual or potential familial status or marital status of the student or applicant, or based on the student’s or applicant’s pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions.

- 3) *Amends Section 66281.7, subdivision (d), paragraph (3) to provide clarity on how the accommodations are to be offered to the student. Amends the language to read as follows:*

(3) Reasonable accommodations shall be provided in consultation with the student and shall meet the individual needs of the student. After consulting with the student on their individual needs, ~~the postsecondary educational institution shall provide a list of reasonable accommodations that the institution can implement to address the student’s individual needs. The list shall be provided to a student who is pregnant or experiencing pregnancy-related conditions by the employee or employees designated pursuant to subdivision (f).~~ (f) shall discuss with the student the reasonable accommodations that the postsecondary educational institution is prepared to provide to address the student’s individual needs. The type of accommodations that a postsecondary educational institution may be provided to meet the student’s individual needs may provide to a student may include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(A) Breaks during class to express breast milk, breast feed, or attend to health needs associated with pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, including eating, drinking, or using the restroom.

(B) Changes in schedule or course sequences.

- (C) Time extensions for coursework and rescheduling of tests and examinations.
- (D) Being allowed to sit or stand, or carry or keep food or water nearby.
- (E) Counseling, if provided by the institution to students.
- (F) Changes in physical space or classroom supplies.
- (G) Elevator access.
- (H) Parking passes, if available.
- (I) ~~Excused~~ *Additional excused* leaves of absence for nonmedical reasons.
- (J) Other accommodations for the student's health or safety.
- (K) Assistance in accessing basic needs services.

- 4) *Amends Section 66281.7, subdivision (d), paragraph (5) to provide clarity on what would constitute a reasonable accommodation for purposes of the measure. Amends the language to read as follows:*

(5) An academic requirement that a postsecondary educational institution can demonstrate is essential to (A) the academic integrity of a program or course being pursued by the student, or (B) any directly related licensing requirement, shall be completed by the student and shall not be regarded as discrimination within the meaning of this section.

~~(5)~~

(6) A student may voluntarily accept or reject any reasonable accommodation offered pursuant to this section. If a student accepts a reasonable accommodation offered pursuant to this section, the institution shall implement the reasonable accommodation. A postsecondary educational institution shall not require a student to accept a reasonable accommodation.

- 5) *Amends Section 66281.7, subdivision (e), paragraph (1) and (2) to include certificate in the type of degree program where a leave of absence is permissible. Amends the language to read as follows:*

(e) (1) A student who chooses to take a leave of absence because the student is pregnant or has recently given birth shall be allowed a period consistent with the policies of the postsecondary educational institution, or a period of 12 additional months, whichever period is longer, to prepare for and take preliminary and qualifying examinations and an extension of at least 12 months toward normative time to degree or certificate while in candidacy for a ~~degree~~, degree or certificate, unless a longer extension is medically necessary.

(2) A student who is not the birth parent and who chooses to take a leave of absence because of the birth of the student's child shall be allowed a period consistent with the policies of the postsecondary educational institution, or a period of one month, whichever period is longer, to prepare for and take preliminary and qualifying examinations, and an extension of at least

one month toward normative time to degree *or certificate* while in candidacy for a ~~degree,~~ *degree or certificate*, unless a longer period or extension is medically necessary to care for the student's partner or their child.

- 6) *Amends Section 66281.7 subdivision (f) to provide a conforming amendment to previous changes in the measure. Amends the language to read as follows:*

(f) A postsecondary educational institution shall designate at least one employee of the institution to coordinate its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under this section. The employee may be the same individual as the institution's federal Title IX coordinator. The employee or employees shall have adequate training on what constitutes discrimination based on the student's ~~current, potential, or past~~ pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions and the policies in place, pursuant to this section and other related state and federal laws, to maintain equal access for a student experiencing pregnancy or a pregnancy-related condition.

- 7) *Amends Section 66281.7 subdivision (i) and (j) to ensure the provision apply to all postsecondary education institutions in California. Amends the language to read as follows:*

(i) Each ~~public~~ postsecondary educational institution shall notify pregnant and parenting students of the protections provided by Title IX and this section through prominently posting a notice of the Title IX protections and the protections provided by this section on the institution's internet website.

(j) Each ~~public~~ postsecondary educational institution with an on-campus medical center shall provide notice of the protections provided by Title IX and this section through the medical center to a student who requests information regarding policies or protections for students with children or pregnant students and when otherwise appropriate.

- 8) *Adds to Section 66281.7 – subdivision (k) and (l) to read as follows:*

(k) (1) *On or before July 1, 2027, the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges shall adopt regulations for a systemwide policy that include the requirements of this section and best practices for implementing the requirements.*

(2) *On or before September 1, 2027, the regulations adopted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be adopted by the governing board of each community college district and shall serve as the required written policy for the community college district pursuant to subdivision (h).*

(l) *A postsecondary educational institution may seek guidance, as needed, from the Pregnant Scholar at the Center for WorkLife Law, University of California College of the Law, San Francisco.*

- 9) *Makes technical and conforming amendments.*

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

American Association of University Women - California
California Catholic Conference

Church State Council
Reproductive Freedom for All California

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Ellen Cesaretti-Monroy / HIGHER ED. / (916) 319-3960