

Date of Hearing: April 19, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 2747 (Nazarian) – As Introduced February 18, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Public postsecondary education: tuition and fees: Team USA student athletes

**SUMMARY:** Entitles a Team USA student athlete, as defined, who trains in the state in an elite level program approved by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) to resident classification for the purpose of determining tuition and fees. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Specifies that any Team USA student athlete who trains in the state in an elite level program approved by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee is entitled to resident classification for tuition and fee purposes until the athlete has resided in the state the minimum time necessary to become a resident.
- 2) Stipulates that, for purposes of the section, “Team USA student athlete” means any student athlete who meets the eligibility standards defined and approved by the USPOC and by the national governing body for the sport in which the athlete competes.
- 3) Requires student athletes to certify their participation in an Olympic or Paralympic elite level training program through supporting documentation from the USPOC verifying eligibility.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Establishes the UC as a public trust to be administered by the Regents of the University of California (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) Establishes the Donahoe Higher Education Act, setting forth the mission of the UC, California State University (CSU), and California Community Colleges (CCC) (Education Code (EDC) Section 66010, et seq.).
- 3) 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.).
- 4) 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. The CCC shall be comprised of community college districts (EDC Section 70900).
- 5) Establishes uniform residency requirements for purposes of ascertaining the amount of tuition and fees to be paid by students of public postsecondary education institutions. (EDC Section 68040, et seq.)

- 6) Entitles an amateur student athlete in training at the United States Olympic Training Center in the City of Chula Vista to resident classification for the purpose of determining tuition and fees. (EDC Section 68083)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown.

**COMMENTS:** *Purpose.* According to the author, “AB 2747 simply updates existing California law pertaining to in-state tuition for athletes training in California by offering all non-California residents who are Team USA Athletes training in California at an elite and approved program, not just those that train at Chula Vista. This bill will help them prepare for their post-athletic career by offering them in-state tuition at the [UC], the [CSU], or a [CCC] until they reach California residency status. If Team USA student-athletes who come to California to train at an Olympic level training center were able to declare California resident status for their schooling, it would make college financially viable for many of them. This would provide them opportunities to transition into a post-Olympic career.”

*Understanding residency tuition.* Existing law establishes that there are resident and non-resident students, and specifies “resident” is a student who has residence in the state for more than one year immediately preceding the residence determination date (EDC Section 68017).

The total amount nonresident students pay in tuition charges exceeds their instructional cost. To note, in recent years, UC has increasingly relied on nonresident students to cover a portion of campuses’ operating cost. Campuses have been increasing both their nonresident enrollment levels and their nonresident supplemental tuition charge.

The fees for resident and nonresident students can vary significantly. The average undergraduate tuition & fees at UC Campuses is \$14,504 for state residents and \$45,530 for nonresident students.

All students enrolled at a CSU campus pay the same systemwide tuition fee, which is currently \$5,742 per academic year for undergraduate students enrolling in more than six units per term and \$3,330 for undergraduates enrolling in six or fewer units. CSU nonresident tuition is currently assessed at the rate of \$396 per semester unit or \$264 per quarter unit in addition to the base tuition of \$5,742. Thus, a student taking 30 semester units would pay \$17,622 in tuition and fees.

CCC resident students pay a base rate of \$46 per unit – thus a resident student taking 30 units per academic year would pay \$1,380 per academic year. The statewide average cost for nonresident students enrolled in 30 units is \$10,590.

*Team USA.* Existing law grants amateur athletes training at the US Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista resident classification. AB 2747 would offer this resident classification to athletes who are members of “Team USA” in their respective sports, as defined and approved by the USOPC and by the national governing body for the sport in which the athlete competes. While this bill removes the “amateur” definition, in practice this would impact few of the athletes that might otherwise qualify under the provisions of this bill. The broadening of training sites under this bill is consistent with the reality of Team USA athletes, who often train at regional or national sites as required by their sport.

*Arguments in support.* The USOPC wrote to the author to express their support of this legislation, writing that, “The [USOPC], together with Olympic and Paralympic National Governing Bodies, determines which athletes are eligible for Team USA benefits. Eligible athletes include currently training Olympians and Paralympians, as well as hopefuls training for the upcoming Games. The total list fluctuates around 3,000 athletes, and approximately 20% of Team USA athletes are California residents and are already eligible for in-state tuition. If AB 2747 is enacted, we estimate 100 Team USA athletes at any given time would take advantage of in-state tuition in California, based on our experience with similar tuition programs in Colorado and Utah. Our mission is to empower athletes to achieve sustained competitive excellence and well-being, and this bill directly supports that effort with the potential to be incredibly impactful for many athletes looking to continue to train and represent Team USA while advancing their educational aspirations.”

*Prior legislation.* AB 1317 (Ducheny), Chapter 438, Statutes of 1997, entitled an amateur student athlete in training at the United States Olympic Training Center in the City of Chula Vista to resident classification for the purpose of determining tuition and fees.

#### **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

##### **Support**

LA 2028

##### **Opposition**

None on file.

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