

Date of Hearing: April 2, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Jose Medina, Chair  
AB 1645 (Blanca Rubio) – As Introduced February 22, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Student support services: Dreamer Resource Liaisons.

**SUMMARY:** Requires the California Community Colleges (CCC) and the California State University (CSU), and requests the University of California (UC), to create Dreamer Resource Liaisons and Dream Resource Centers on each campus, as specified. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Makes various Legislative findings and declarations, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - a) It is the intent of the Legislature to increase enrollment and graduation rates among students meeting the requirements of Assembly Bill 540 (Firebaugh), Chapter 814, Statutes of 2001, by requiring the designation of Dreamer Resource Liaisons and encouraging the creation of Dream Resource Centers at public institutions of higher education;
  - b) It is estimated that each year approximately 65,000 undocumented pupils graduate from high schools, but many of the undocumented youth and their families are aware of recent policy changes, such as the enactment of Assembly Bill 540, the California Dream Act of 2011, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and other pieces of legislation, that make college graduation more attainable and affordable;
  - c) This bill seeks to address this issue faced by AB 540 students, including undocumented students, by creating a centralized space that those students will be able to utilize in order to access necessary resources and opportunities to ensure they succeed, regardless of their immigration status;
  - d) The creation of Dream Resource Centers would save staff time and resources by streamlining all available financial aid and academic opportunities for AB 540 students. These Dream Resource Centers would seek to empower and create a safe and welcoming environment for those students. These centers would increase enrollment, transfer, and graduation rates among this population; and,
  - e) The 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States has threatened to deport millions of undocumented immigrants, and it is imperative, now more than ever, to provide these essential resources to our students on all college campuses.
- 2) Requires the CCC and CSU, and requests the UC, commencing with the 2020-21 academic year, to designate a Dreamer Resource Liaison on each of their respective campuses, in order to assist students meeting the requirements pursuant to Education Code (EC) Section 68130.5, by streaming access to all available financial aid and academic opportunities for the students.

- 3) Requires each campus of the CCC and CSU, and requests each campus of the UC, to ensure that the designated Dreamer Resource Liaison is knowledgeable in available financial aid, social services, state-funded immigration legal services, internships, externships, and academic opportunities for all specified eligible students, including undocumented students.
- 4) Requires each campus of the CCC and CSU, and requests each campus of the UC, to establish Dream Resource Centers.
- 5) Authorizes Dream Resources Centers to offer support services, including, but not necessarily limited to, state and institutional financial aid assistance, academic counseling, peer support services, psychological counseling, referral for social services, and state-funded immigration legal services.
- 6) Specifies that this measure is not to be construed as a requirement for campuses to construct a new or separate space for Dream Resource Centers and specifies that the Dream Resource Centers may be housed within existing student service or academic centers.
- 7) Authorizes the space in which the Dreamer Resource Liaison is located may be deemed a Dream Resource Center.
- 8) Authorizes the CCC Board of Governors, the CSU Trustees, and the UC Regents to seek and accept on behalf of the state, any gift, bequest, devise, or donation whenever the gift and terms and conditions will aid in the creation and operation of Dream Resource Centers for their respective systems.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Exempts specified California nonresidents from paying nonresident tuition at UC, CSU, and CCC, also known as the AB 540 nonresident tuition waiver, if they meet all of the following:
  - a) Attended or attained credits at a California high school, an adult school, a CCC campus, or a combination of these entities, for the equivalent of three or more years; or completed three or more years of full-time high school coursework, and a total of three or more years of attendance in California elementary schools, California secondary schools, or a combination of such elementary and secondary schools;
  - b) Graduated from a California high school or attained an equivalent degree; attained a CCC associate degree; or fulfilled the minimum transfer requirements from a CCC campus to a UC or CSU campus;
  - c) Registered or attended an accredited California higher education institution beginning after fall of the 2001-02 academic year; and,
  - d) If a person without lawful immigration status has filed an affidavit stating that the student has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status or will file such an application as soon as he or she is eligible to so do (EC Section 68130.5.).
- 2) Establishes the California DREAM Act to provide state financial aid, including the Cal Grant Program and the CCC California College Promise Grant (formerly known as the Board of Governors Fee Waiver), and institutional financial aid to students who qualify for

the aforementioned exemption from non-resident tuition (as listed in number one above); students must apply by March 2 prior to the academic year; Dream Act recipients receive Cal Grant Entitlement awards, but are not eligible for Competitive Cal Grant awards unless funding remains available after eligible California students have received awards (EC Section 69508.5).

- 3) Establishes the California DREAM Loan Program intended to provide low-interest loans to Dream Act students who are accessing the Cal Grant program and attending UC and CSU. These students are not eligible for federal student loans, making it difficult for some to cover the total costs of college. The law requires the state, UC, and CSU to split the costs of launching the program (EC Sections 70030-70039).

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown

**COMMENTS:** *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.* The DACA process is a federal process that defers removal action of an individual for a specified number of years; it allows eligible individuals to have work authorization. An undocumented student without DACA status is not authorized to work; and a growing concern exists that those with work authorization under the DACA program will soon lose their authorization as the Trump administration attempts to phase-out the program.

*Need for the measure.* According to the author, “The need of on campus Dreamer Resource Liaison would not only fulfill the student services component, they would also provide another critical area of need that usually goes unnoticed—safe space”.

This measure seeks to provide resources for undocumented students at the CCC, CSU, UC, and high schools by ensuring each entity has a specified Dream Resource Liaison and Center.

*Current practices by postsecondary education segments.*

- 1) UC. The UC has consistently supported efforts to provide resources and create a supportive community for undocumented students. Every UC campus has a specified physical space whereby undocumented students can seek assistance in balancing their academics with day-to-day challenges they may face. A range of support services are offered – from academic and personal counseling to financial aid and legal advising. Each campus also has a student group, club or organization where undocumented students can become involved in an engaging and encouraging peer network.
- 2) CSU. The CSU is committed to supporting the academic, personal, and professional goals of undocumented students; 19 of the 23 campuses of the CSU have resource centers. The Dream Centers of the CSU are designed to provide access to college opportunities for undocumented high school, transfer, undergraduate, and graduate students, and those with mixed-status families. The Dream Centers partner with the community, staff, faculty and administrators, in order to provide undocumented students with adequate resources on and off campus.

To note, of the remaining CSU campuses presently without a Dream Center on campus, several have dedicated virtual centers.

- 3) CCC. The CCC Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) is committed to ensuring undocumented students receive the support and recourse they need in order to be successful. Committee Staff understands of the 115 community colleges, 35 community colleges have Dream Resource Centers; of the 35 centers, 19 have Dream Resource Center Coordinators. The program components, staffing patterns, and level of services provided to undocumented students varies among the CCC Dream Resource Centers. Additionally, many other CCC campuses have identified a person on campus to assist undocumented students as they matriculate.

To note, in a recently released report by Immigrants Rising and the Foundation for California Community Colleges, in collaboration with the Dreamers Advisory Group, and the CCC Chancellor's Office, entitled, *California Community Colleges Dreamers Project Report: Strengthening Institutional Practices To Support Undocumented Student Success*, the CCC needs to expand and formalize campus wide support and retention of undocumented students.

The report recommends that, at a minimum, each CCC campus should have a full-time position with undocumented student support as the majority of their job description. Additionally, the report recommends that each CCC campus have a dedicated space for undocumented students.

*Committee comments.* As presently drafted, this measure specifies that the Legislature encourages each of the CCC, CSU and UC campuses to place their designated Dreamer Resource Liaison in the campus' extended opportunity programs and services office or financial aid office.

If the goal of the author is to ensure that eligible students have a liaison to go to for assistance and a dedicated area to interact in, *the author may wish to explore the idea of specifying that the Dreamer Resource Liaison can be located in the Dream Resource Center if campuses already have an existing center.*

*Previous legislation.* AB 2477 (Rubio and Low) of 2018, which was vetoed by former Governor Brown, was similar in nature to this measure.

AB 1622 (Low) of 2017, which was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File, was similar in nature to this measure.

AB 2009 (Lopez) of 2016, which was vetoed by former Governor Brown, was similar in nature to this measure.

AB 1366 (Lopez) of 2015, which died on the Inactive File on the Senate Floor, was similar in nature to this measure.

## **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

### **Support**

California Immigrant Policy Center  
 California Undocumented Higher Education Coalition  
 Campaign for College Opportunity  
 Coalition For Humane Immigrant Rights

Faculty Association of California Community Colleges  
San Jose-Evergreen Community College District

**Opposition**

None on file.

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