

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2020

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 1930 (Medina) – As Introduced January 15, 2020

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: University of California and California State University: student eligibility policy.

SUMMARY: Requires the California State University (CSU) Trustees, and requests the University of California (UC) Regents, before making any change in student eligibility policy that adds eligibility requirements that affect students across the perspective segment, to engage in a multi-step process prior to enacting said policy. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the CSU Trustees, and requests the UC Regents, prior to making any change in student eligibility policy that adds eligibility requirements that impact students across the perspective segment, do both of the following:
 - a) Coordinate with the other segment to try to align their respective student eligibility policies. It is the intent of the Legislature that there be a common set of clear state public university eligibility requirements for public school pupils; and,
 - b) Commission an independent study by a third-party research organization to assess whether the change in student eligibility policy under consideration would have a disparate impact on the eligibility rates of the graduates of public secondary schools who are members of underrepresented student groups. It is the intent of the Legislature that the segments should not pursue student eligibility policies that would have such a disparate impact.
- 2) Specifies that if, on or after the operative date of this measure, either the CSU Trustees or the UC Regents approve a change in student eligibility policy that adds eligibility requirements that impact students across the perspective segment, the CSU Trustees shall, and the UC Regents are requested to, do both of the following:
 - a) Convene an implementation committee that shall develop a multiyear plan for that segment to work in partnership with the public elementary and secondary school system, the California Community Colleges, and the governing body of the other segment to implement the change; and,
 - b) Each academic year between the approval of the change in student eligibility policy by the CSU Trustees or UC Regents and the effective date of that policy change, the implementation committee shall provide annual progress reports to the Governor, the Legislature, and the governing bodies of the two segments.
 - i) The report to the Legislature shall comply with Section 9795 of the Government Code.
- 3) Specifies that if, between January 1, 2020, and the operative date of this measure, either the CSU Trustees or the UC Regents approve a change in student eligibility policy that adds

eligibility requirements that impact students across the perspective segment, the CSU Trustees shall, and the UC Regents are requested to, do both of the following:

- a) Commission an independent study by a third-party research organization to make an assessment as enumerated in (1)(b) above, except that the assessment shall be required to analyze the actual, as well as the projected, impact of the change in student eligibility policy that was approved; and,
 - b) Comply with the requirements as enumerated in (2), inclusive, above.
- 4) Requires the CSU and UC, when implementing this measure, to use existing resources.
 - 5) Defines the term “segment” as the CSU or the UC.

EXISTING 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) Establishes the Donahoe Higher Education Act, setting forth the mission of the UC and CSU (Education Code (EC) Section 66010, et seq.).
- 3) States that the Legislature intends for the UC and CSU to seek to enroll a student body that meets high academic standards and reflects the cultural, racial, geographic, economic, and social diversity of California (EC Section 66205).
- 4) Grants CSU Trustees regulatory authority over the CSU (EC Section 89030, et seq.).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: *Urgency clause.* This measure contains an urgency clause in order to ensure that pupils who are currently preparing themselves academically to be eligible for acceptance into the UC or CSU, are properly informed of proposed changes to the UC or CSU student eligibility policies.

Background. The UC Regents and the CSU Trustees, in the late 1980’s adopted a 15-unit high school preparatory course pattern requirement for first-time, first-year students. Additionally, since the early 2000’s, the UC and CSU have maintained the same minimum course requirements for admissions eligibility; these courses are known as the “A-G Requirements.”

Recent segment efforts to change the A-G Requirements. The Academic Senate of the UC approved a proposal in 2018 to increase the high school science admission eligibility requirement from two years to three years. To note, Committee Staff understands that while the Academic Senate voted for the change, the UC, after vetting the proposal, has determined that the UC will not move forward in the near future with changing the current minimum science admission eligibility criteria.

The CSU, in 2019 proposed an additional year of quantitative reasoning (QR) to the minimum admission eligibility criteria; CSU defined QR as any course that would qualify in the following A-G Requirements:

- 1) Mathematics (C);
- 2) Science (D); or,
- 3) An elective with an embedded QR component (G).

After the CSU Trustees heard the initial proposal to change the eligibility requirements, many stakeholders expressed concerns over the potential disparate impact that change could have on underrepresented student groups. This Committee convened an oversight hearing on the proposal on October 21, 2019. Based on expressed concerns by the Legislature and other stakeholder groups, the CSU Trustees re-examined the proposal and voted in January 2020, in part, to create specific changes to the proposal, incorporate an external review of the proposal, and delay implementation of the proposal.

Need for the measure. According to the author, “The goal of our higher education system should be to help students cross the finish line, not put up new and unnecessary hurdles”. The author contends that, “AB 1930 creates commonsense oversight of public university admission and eligibility policies to ensure that any new policies have been thoroughly vetted prior to adoption. AB 1930 will allow us to have a larger conversation about admission requirements and potential impact as we strive to build equity within our higher education institutions.”

Committee comments and amendments. Committee Staff understands the author has the following intent with this measure:

- 1) That the provision applies only to undergraduate students;
- 2) Ensure that collaboration and transparency take place between the segment and affected stakeholder groups;
- 3) The third-party research organization assess key metrics;
- 4) That the Legislature be provided with potential policy changes with ample time;
- 5) That the composition of the implementation committee is a representation of a variety of stakeholder groups; and,
- 6) That should a policy be adopted, the implementation committee conduct an analysis of the policy.

With this in mind, Committee Staff recommends, and the author has agreed to accept, the following amendments:

66205.4. (a) Before making any change in undergraduate student eligibility policy

- (1) Engage in discussions with and ~~Coordinate~~ coordinate with the ~~other~~ educational segment segments that will be impacted by the policy to understand the impacts of the

policy, including but not limited to, the California Department of Education, K-12 and high school districts and

(2) Commission an independent study by a third-party research organization to assess whether the change in student eligibility policy under consideration would have a disparate impact on the eligibility rates of the California graduates of public secondary schools who are members of underrepresented student groups. Specifically, the study shall examine the impact by race, ethnicity, income, and region; and examine the capacity of and resources needed by the educational segments affected to make the necessary changes and investments to deliver on the policy change. This study and its findings should be made publicly available. It is the intent of the Legislature that the segments should not pursue student eligibility policies that would have such a disparate impact.

(3) Present the policy change to the Legislature by way of the Chairs of the appropriate policy committees with jurisdiction no less than sixty days prior to the scheduled vote on the policy change.

(A) ... Composition of this implementation committee should consider, but is not limited to, representatives from the following:

(1) A faculty representative from any relevant postsecondary segment;

(2) A teacher from an elementary or high school system;

(3) An administrator from an elementary or high school system;

(4) A superintendent from California's public elementary or high school system;

(5) A school board member from a local education agency;

(6) A student representative from the high school system and postsecondary segment;

(7) A non-partisan research organization;

(8) Two representatives from an external stakeholder organization with expertise in racial equity in education and/or higher education.

When putting the implementation committee together, careful consideration shall be used in order to ensure that at least one-third of the implementation committee is comprised of individuals from a Title I school; and from a rural region.

(B) ... Additionally, the implementation committee shall plan to commission an analysis of the policy post adoption and full implementation to understand ongoing impact of the policy.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Faculty Association
California Mathematics Council

California Teachers Association
California-Hawaii State Conference of the NAACP
Campaign for College Opportunity
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter
Public Advocates, Inc.
The Education Trust - West

Opposition

California State University, Office of the Chancellor

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