

Date of Hearing: April 3, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 2391 (Harper) – As Amended March 5, 2018

SUBJECT: Student health: identification cards: suicide prevention telephone numbers.

SUMMARY: Requires, commencing July 1, 2019, a campus of the California Community Colleges (CCC) or the California State University (CSU) that issues student identification (ID) cards, and requests a campus of the University of California (UC) that issues student ID cards, to include on the back of the student ID cards the telephone numbers for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and Crisis Text Line, and the campus police or security telephone number or, if the campus does not have a campus police or security telephone number, the local nonemergency telephone number.

EXISTING LAW: Establishes the Donahoe Higher Education Act, setting forth the mission of the UC, CSU, and CCC (Education Code Section 66010, et seq.).

FISCAL EFFECT: This measure has been keyed non-fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS: *Background.* According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention *2017 Facts & Figures Study*, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death overall in California. The study also finds that suicide is the second leading cause of death for people ages 25-34, and the third leading cause of death for people ages of 10-24 in California.

Need for this measure. According to the author, "there are stresses that college students may be unable to handle; which have led some to a life ending decision." The author contends that, by having every campus-issued student ID card include the national suicide prevention helpline on the back of the card, when students experience suicidal thoughts, they will have, "a valuable resource to turn to when they feel like they have no other options left".

The author states, "This bill is needed for easier access for students when there is an emergency."

Current status of student ID cards. There is no segment systemwide student ID card; each campus of the UC, CSU, and CCC issues unique ID cards. Committee Staff understands that some campus-issued student ID cards already include emergency and key contact numbers on the front or back of the cards.

To note, student ID cards are not issued every quarter or semester. Typically, currently-enrolled students receive a sticker with the semester or quarter listed that they adhere to their existing ID card. Additionally, student ID cards are not very large in size; most are approximately the same size of the California Driver's License.

This measure requires the campuses to provide several numbers on the back of the campus-issued student ID cards.

While it is critical to ensure students are equipped with necessary contact information to suicide prevention helplines, other critical prevention and assistance helpline numbers exist; all numbers will not fit on the campus student ID cards.

The Committee may wish to decide if it is sound policy to pick and choose which helpline numbers should be added to campus-issued student ID cards.

Noted fiscal concerns. While this measure has been keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel, Committee Staff understands from the segments that there will be implementation costs associated to each campus that issues student ID cards, as required by this measure.

Committee comments and amendments. Committee Staff understands that the author's intent is to ensure as many collegiate students have access to suicide prevention lifeline and crisis text line numbers. However, as presently drafted, students who attend California's independent colleges and universities who issue student ID cards would not be covered by this measure.

Additionally, some campuses have existing partnerships with local suicide prevention lifeline and crisis text lines, but as presently drafted, this bill would not allow those campuses to provide said numbers on the campus issued ID cards.

To note, some campus student ID cards already list the numbers for campus police or security.

Further, Committee Staff understands that the author's intent is to ensure, commencing July 1, 2019, new and future students of a campus of the CCC, CSU, or UC, receive student ID cards with suicide prevention numbers listed on the card; however, it is not clearly stated.

Lastly, some segments indicated that campuses may have stockpiles of the current campus issued ID cards. Committee Staff understands that the author's intent is not to have the campuses dispose of their existing cards, but rather to issue them first before using the new cards required by this bill.

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

67388. Section 1. (a) Commencing July 1, 2019, a campus of the California Community Colleges or the California State University that issues student identification cards shall, and a campus of the University of California **or an independent institution of higher education, as defined in Section 66010,** that issues student identification cards is requested to, include on the back of the student identification cards the telephone numbers for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and Crisis Text Line, **or a local suicide prevention lifeline and crisis text line the campus deems appropriate,** and, **if it is not already on the campus issued identification card,** the campus police or security telephone number or, if the campus does not have a campus police or security telephone number, the local nonemergency telephone number.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature: (i) That if a campus of the California Community Colleges, the California State University, the University of California, or an independent institution of higher education, as defined in Section 66010, that issues student identification cards has a stock pile of existing identification cards, they shall issue those cards before issuing the new cards, pursuant to 67388 (a). (ii) That commencing July 1, 2019, only new and future students attending a campus of the California Community Colleges, the California State University, the University of California, or an independent institution of higher education, as defined in Section 66010, that issues student identification cards receive the student identification card, pursuant to 67388 (a). (iii) If a

student was a current student of a campus of the California Community Colleges, the California State University, the University of California, or an independent institution of higher education, as defined in Section 66010, that issues student identification cards, before the implementation of 67388 (a), misplaces a campus issued identification card and requests a replacement card, the new card shall be issued pursuant to 67388 (a).

Committee Staff understands the author's intent is to ensure students are equipped with necessary contact information in case of a crisis. However, this measure only addresses campuses that issue student ID cards.

Moving forward, the author may wish to consider how to address campuses that may not issue student ID cards.

Related legislation. AB 2390 (Harper), which is awaiting a hearing by the Assembly Education Committee, is similar in nature to this measure, except it requires public high schools that issue pupil ID cards to provide the same information as called for in this measure on the back of each issued ID card.

SB 972 (Portantino), which is currently on Third Reading on the Senate Floor, requires schools that serve students in any of grades 7-12, and institutions of higher education, that issue student identification cards to have printed on the back of the identification card the number for a suicide hotline or text line, or both.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Active Minds
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
Association of Regional Center Agencies
Crisis Text Line
Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health

Opposition

California Right to Life Committee, Inc.

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