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SB-478 Public postsecondary education: transfer of community college students to the California State University or University of California. (2017-2018)

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Date Published: 09/14/2017 04:00 AM

ENROLLED SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

PASSED IN SENATE SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

PASSED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 07, 2017

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 13, 2017

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 19, 2017

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 26, 2017

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 04, 2017

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 20, 2017

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2017–2018 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO. 478

Introduced by Senator Portantino

February 16, 2017

An act to add Section 66722.2 to the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 478, Portantino. Public postsecondary education: transfer of community college students to the California State University or University of California.

Existing law, the Donahoe Higher Education Act, establishes the 3 segments of public postsecondary education in this state. These segments are the California State University, administered by the Trustees of the California State University, the University of California, administered by the Regents of the University of California, and the California Community Colleges, administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. A provision of the act applies to the University of California only to the extent that the regents, by resolution, make that provision applicable. Existing provisions of the act require the governing bodies of the 3 public postsecondary segments, with appropriate consultation with the academic senates of the respective segments, to develop, maintain, and disseminate a common core curriculum in general education courses for the purposes of transfer. Existing law provides that a student that earns an associate degree for transfer from a community college is eligible to transfer into a California State University baccalaureate program when the student meets specified requirements. Existing law

recognizes that the University of California has been working with the California Community Colleges to seek improvements to the transfer process and states the intent of the Legislature that the University of California consider various viable pathways to transfer, including the development of an associate degree for transfer granted by community college districts, as part of this endeavor.

This bill would require the governing board of each community college district to direct the appropriate officials at their respective campuses to (1) identify those students who have completed an associate degree for transfer, (2) notify those students of their completion of the degree requirements, (3) automatically award the student with the degree, and (4) add the student to an identification system at the end of each academic year that the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall maintain and that can be accessed electronically by the California State University and the University of California. The bill would require that steps (1) to (3), inclusive, be completed at the end of each academic term. The bill would authorize a student to affirmatively exercise an option to not receive an associate degree for transfer or to be included in the identification system.

By placing additional duties upon a community college district, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would make its provisions operative during any fiscal year only if the Legislature appropriates sufficient funds to pay for all state-mandated costs to be incurred by community college districts pursuant to the bill's provisions during that year.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 66722.2 is added to the Education Code, to read:

66722.2. (a) The governing board of each community college district shall direct the appropriate officials at their respective campuses to do all of the following:

- (1) Identify those students who have completed an associate degree for transfer.
- (2) Notify those students of their completion of the associate degree for transfer requirements.
- (3) Automatically award the student with the associate degree for transfer.
- (4) Add the student to the identification system described in subdivision (d) at the end of each academic year.

(b) The steps required in paragraphs (1) to (3), inclusive, of subdivision (a) shall be completed at the end of each academic term.

(c) A student may affirmatively exercise an option to not receive an associate degree for transfer or to be included in the identification system described in subdivision (d). Paragraphs (3) and (4) of subdivision (a) do not apply to a student who affirmatively opts out from receiving an associate degree for transfer. Paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) does not apply if a student affirmatively opts out of being included in the identification system.

(d) The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office shall maintain an identification system that can be accessed electronically by the California State University and the University of California.

(e) This section shall be operative during any fiscal year only if the Legislature appropriates sufficient funds to pay for all state-mandated costs to be incurred by community college districts pursuant to this section during that year.

SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.