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**AB-1232 Community colleges: nonresident tuition fees: English as a second language courses.** (2021-2022)

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Date Published: 09/26/2022 02:00 PM

**Assembly Bill No. 1232**

**CHAPTER 512**

An act to amend Section 76140 of the Education Code, relating to community colleges.

[ Approved by Governor September 23, 2022. Filed with Secretary of State September 23, 2022. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 1232, McCarty. Community colleges: nonresident tuition fees: English as a second language courses.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Existing law also authorizes the establishment of community college districts, and further authorizes the operation, by these districts, of community college campuses that offer instructional services throughout the state. Existing law authorizes community college districts to admit nonresident students, and requires community college districts to charge a tuition fee to nonresident students, with specified exceptions.

This bill would add an exception to the requirement for payment of nonresident tuition for the tuition fee for credit English as a second language courses for specified nonresident students enrolled in those courses. To the extent that this provision would impose new duties on community college districts, it would constitute a state-mandated local program.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 76140 of the Education Code proposed by AB 1998 to be operative only if this bill and AB 1998 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

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 76140 of the Education Code, as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 573 of the Statutes of 2021, is amended to read:

**76140.** (a) A community college district may admit, and shall charge a tuition fee to, nonresident students, except that a community college district may exempt from all or parts of the fee any person described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (6), and shall exempt from all of the fee any person described in paragraph (4), (5), or (7):

(1) All nonresidents who enroll for six or fewer units. Exemptions made pursuant to this paragraph shall not be made on an individual basis.

(2) Any nonresident who is both a citizen and resident of a foreign country, if the nonresident has demonstrated a financial need for the exemption. Not more than 10 percent of the nonresident foreign students attending any community college district may be so exempted. Exemptions made pursuant to this paragraph may be made on an individual basis.

(3) (A) A student who, as of August 29, 2005, was enrolled, or admitted with an intention to enroll, in the fall term of the 2005–06 academic year in a regionally accredited institution of higher education in Alabama, Louisiana, or Mississippi, and who could not continue the student's attendance at that institution as a direct consequence of damage sustained by that institution as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

(B) The chancellor shall develop guidelines for the implementation of this paragraph. These guidelines shall include standards for appropriate documentation of student eligibility to the extent feasible.

(C) This paragraph shall apply only to the 2005–06 academic year.

(4) A special part-time student, other than a person excluded from the term "immigrant," for purposes of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. Sec. 1101), pursuant to paragraph (15) of subsection (a) of Section 1101 of Title 8 of the United States Code, admitted pursuant to Section 76001, 76003, or 76004.

(5) A nonresident student who is a United States citizen who resides in a foreign country, if that nonresident meets all of the following requirements:

(A) Demonstrates a financial need for the exemption.

(B) Has a parent or guardian who has been deported or was permitted to depart voluntarily under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act in accordance with Section 1229c of Title 8 of the United States Code. The student shall provide documents from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services evidencing the deportation or voluntary departure of the student's parent or guardian.

(C) Moved abroad as a result of the deportation or voluntary departure specified in subparagraph (B).

(D) Lived in California immediately before moving abroad. The student shall provide information and evidence that demonstrates the student previously lived in California.

(E) Attended a public or private secondary school, as described in Sections 52 and 53, in the state for three or more years. The student shall provide documents that demonstrate the student's secondary school attendance.

(F) Upon enrollment, the student will be in the student's first academic year as a matriculated student in California public higher education, as that term is defined in subdivision (a) of Section 66010, will be living in California, and will file an affidavit with the institution stating that the student intends to establish residency in California as soon as possible.

(6) (A) A student who attends Lake Tahoe Community College and who has residence, pursuant to subparagraph (B), in one of the following communities in Nevada:

(i) Incline Village.

(ii) Kingsbury.

(iii) Round Hill.

(iv) Skyland.

(v) Stateline.

(vi) Zephyr Cove.

(B) Residence shall be determined pursuant to Article 5 (commencing with Section 68060) of Chapter 1 of Part 41 of Division 5. A person shall have residence in one of the communities listed in subparagraph (A) if the person has lived in the community for more than one year immediately before seeking the fee exemption pursuant to this paragraph.

(C) The governing board of the Lake Tahoe Community College District shall adopt rules and regulations for determining a student's residence classification and for establishing procedures for an appeal and review of the residence classification. No more than 200 students shall be exempted from payment of a nonresident tuition fee under this paragraph in any academic year.

(7) (A) A nonresident student who enrolls in a credit English as a second language (ESL) course at a California Community College and who is any of the following:

(i) A recent immigrant, as defined in Section 1101(a)(15) of Title 8 of the United States Code.

(ii) A recent refugee, as defined in Section 1101(a)(42) of Title 8 of the United States Code.

(iii) A person who has been granted asylum by the United States, as defined in Section 1158 of Title 8 of the United States Code.

(B) This exemption shall apply only to individuals who, upon entering the United States, settled in California and who have resided in California for less than one year.

(C) This exemption shall apply only to the tuition fee for credit ESL courses.

(b) A district may contract with a state, a county contiguous to California, the federal government, or a foreign country, or an agency thereof, for payment of all or a part of a nonresident student's tuition fee.

(c) Nonresident students shall not be reported as full-time equivalent students (FTES) for state apportionment purposes, except as provided by subdivision (j) or another statute, in which case a nonresident tuition fee may not be charged.

(d) The nonresident tuition fee shall be set by the governing board of each community college district not later than March 1 of each year for the succeeding fiscal year. The governing board of each community college district shall provide nonresident students with notice of nonresident tuition fee changes during the spring term before the fall term in which the change will take effect. Nonresident tuition fee increases shall be gradual, moderate, and predictable. The fee may be paid in installments, as determined by the governing board of the district.

(e) (1) The fee established by the governing board pursuant to subdivision (d) shall represent for nonresident students enrolled in 30 semester units or 45 quarter units of credit per fiscal year one or more of the following:

(A) The amount that was expended by the district for the expense of education as defined by the California Community Colleges Budget and Accounting Manual in the preceding fiscal year increased by the projected percent increase in the United States Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Finance for the current fiscal year and succeeding fiscal year and divided by the FTES (including nonresident students) attending in the district in the preceding fiscal year. However, if for the district's preceding fiscal year FTES of all students attending in the district in noncredit courses is equal to, or greater than, 10 percent of the district's total FTES attending in the district, the district may substitute the data for expense of education in grades 13 and 14 and FTES in grades 13 and 14 attending in the district.

(B) The expense of education in the preceding fiscal year of all districts increased by the projected percent increase in the United States Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Finance for the fiscal year and succeeding fiscal year and divided by the FTES (including nonresident students) attending all districts during the preceding fiscal year. However, if the amount calculated under this paragraph for the succeeding fiscal year is less than the amount established for the current fiscal year or for any of the past four fiscal years, the district may set the nonresident tuition fee at the greater of the current or any of the past four-year amounts.

(C) An amount not to exceed the fee established by the governing board of any contiguous district.

(D) An amount not to exceed the amount that was expended by the district for the expense of education, but in no case less than the statewide average as set forth in subparagraph (B).

(E) An amount no greater than the average of the nonresident tuition fees of public community colleges of no less than 12 states that are comparable to California in cost of living. The determination of comparable states shall be based on a composite cost-of-living index as determined by the United States Department of Labor or a cooperating government agency.

(2) The additional revenue generated by the increased nonresident tuition permitted under the amendments made to this subdivision during the 2009–10 Regular Session shall be used to expand and enhance services to resident students. In no event shall the admission of nonresident students come at the expense of resident enrollment.

(f) The governing board of each community college district also shall adopt a tuition fee per unit of credit for nonresident students enrolled in more or less than 15 units of credit per term by dividing the fee determined in subdivision (e) by 30 for colleges operating on the semester system and 45 for colleges operating on the quarter system and rounding to the nearest whole dollar. The same rate shall be uniformly charged nonresident students attending any terms or sessions maintained by the community college. The rate charged shall be the rate established for the fiscal year in which the term or session ends.

(g) Any loss in district revenue generated by the nonresident tuition fee shall not be offset by additional state funding.

(h) Any district that has fewer than 1,500 FTES and whose boundary is within 10 miles of another state that has a reciprocity agreement with California governing student attendance and fees may exempt students from that state from the mandatory fee requirement described in subdivision (a) for nonresident students.

(i) Any district that has more than 1,500, but less than 3,001, FTES and whose boundary is within 10 miles of another state that has a reciprocity agreement with California governing student attendance and fees may, in any one fiscal year, exempt up to 100 FTES from that state from the mandatory fee requirement described in subdivision (a) for nonresident students.

(j) The attendance of nonresident students who are exempted pursuant to subdivision (h) or (i), or pursuant to paragraph (3), (4), (5), or (6) of subdivision (a), from the mandatory fee requirement described in subdivision (a) for nonresident students may be reported as resident FTES for state apportionment purposes. Any nonresident student reported as resident FTES for state apportionment purposes who is exempt pursuant to paragraph (6) of subdivision (a), or pursuant to subdivision (h) or (i), shall pay a per unit fee that is three times the amount of the fee established for residents pursuant to Section 76300. That fee is to be included in the FTES adjustments described in Section 76300 for purposes of computing apportionments.

**SEC. 1.5.** Section 76140 of the Education Code is amended to read:

**76140.** (a) A community college district may admit, and shall charge a tuition fee to, nonresident students, except that a community college district may exempt from all or parts of the fee any person described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (6), and shall exempt from all of the fee any person described in paragraph (4), (5), or (7):

(1) All nonresidents who enroll for six or fewer units. Exemptions made pursuant to this paragraph shall not be made on an individual basis.

(2) Any nonresident who is both a citizen and resident of a foreign country, if the nonresident has demonstrated a financial need for the exemption. Not more than 10 percent of the nonresident foreign students attending any community college district may be so exempted. Exemptions made pursuant to this paragraph may be made on an individual basis.

(3) (A) A student who, as of August 29, 2005, was enrolled, or admitted with an intention to enroll, in the fall term of the 2005–06 academic year in a regionally accredited institution of higher education in Alabama, Louisiana, or Mississippi, and who could not continue the student's attendance at that institution as a direct consequence of damage sustained by that institution as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

(B) The chancellor shall develop guidelines for the implementation of this paragraph. These guidelines shall include standards for appropriate documentation of student eligibility to the extent feasible.

(C) This paragraph shall apply only to the 2005–06 academic year.

(4) A special part-time student, other than a person excluded from the term "immigrant," for purposes of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. Sec. 1101), pursuant to paragraph (15) of subsection (a) of Section 1101 of Title 8 of the United States Code, admitted pursuant to Section 76001, 76003, or 76004.

(5) A nonresident student who is a United States citizen who resides in a foreign country, if that nonresident meets all of the following requirements:

(A) Demonstrates a financial need for the exemption.

(B) Has a parent or guardian who has been deported or was permitted to depart voluntarily under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act in accordance with Section 1229c of Title 8 of the United States Code. The student shall provide documents from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services evidencing the deportation or voluntary departure of the student's parent or guardian.

(C) Moved abroad as a result of the deportation or voluntary departure specified in subparagraph (B).

(D) Lived in California immediately before moving abroad. The student shall provide information and evidence that demonstrates the student previously lived in California.

(E) Attended a public or private secondary school, as described in Sections 52 and 53, in the state for three or more years. The student shall provide documents that demonstrate the student's secondary school attendance.

(F) Upon enrollment, the student will be in the student's first academic year as a matriculated student in California public higher education, as that term is defined in subdivision (a) of Section 66010, will be living in California, and will file an affidavit with the institution stating that the student intends to establish residency in California as soon as possible.

(6) (A) A student who attends Lake Tahoe Community College and who has residence, pursuant to subparagraph (B), in one of the following communities in Nevada:

- (i) Incline Village.
- (ii) Kingsbury.
- (iii) Round Hill.
- (iv) Skyland.
- (v) Stateline.
- (vi) Zephyr Cove.

(B) Residence shall be determined pursuant to Article 5 (commencing with Section 68060) of Chapter 1 of Part 41 of Division 5. A person shall have residence in one of the communities listed in subparagraph (A) if the person has lived in the community for more than one year immediately before seeking the fee exemption pursuant to this paragraph.

(C) The governing board of the Lake Tahoe Community College District shall adopt rules and regulations for determining a student's residence classification and for establishing procedures for an appeal and review of the residence classification. No more than 200 students shall be exempted from payment of a nonresident tuition fee under this paragraph in any academic year.

(7) (A) A nonresident student who enrolls in a credit English as a second language (ESL) course at a California Community College and who is any of the following:

- (i) A recent immigrant, as defined in Section 1101(a)(15) of Title 8 of the United States Code.
- (ii) A recent refugee, as defined in Section 1101(a)(42) of Title 8 of the United States Code.
- (iii) A person who has been granted asylum by the United States, as defined in Section 1158 of Title 8 of the United States Code.

(B) This exemption shall apply only to individuals who, upon entering the United States, settled in California and who have resided in California for less than one year.

(C) This exemption shall apply only to the tuition fee for credit ESL courses.

(b) A community college district may contract with a state, a county contiguous to California, the federal government, or a foreign country, or an agency thereof, for payment of all or a part of a nonresident student's tuition fee.

(c) Nonresident students shall not be reported as full-time equivalent students (FTES) for state apportionment purposes, except as provided by subdivision (j) or another statute, in which case a nonresident tuition fee shall not be charged.

(d) The nonresident tuition fee shall be set by the governing board of each community college district not later than March 1 of each year for the succeeding fiscal year. The governing board of each community college district shall provide nonresident students with notice of nonresident tuition fee changes during the spring term before the fall term in which the change will take effect. Nonresident tuition fee increases shall be gradual, moderate, and predictable. The fee may be paid in installments, as determined by the governing board of the district.

(e) (1) The fee established by the governing board of a community college district pursuant to subdivision (d) shall represent for nonresident students enrolled in 30 semester units or 45 quarter units of credit per fiscal year one or more of the following:

(A) The amount that was expended by the community college district for the expense of education as defined by the California Community Colleges Budget and Accounting Manual in the preceding fiscal year increased by the projected percent increase in the United States Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Finance for the current fiscal year and succeeding fiscal year and divided by the FTES (including nonresident students) attending in the community college district in the preceding fiscal year. However, if for the community college district's preceding fiscal year FTES of all students attending in the community college district in noncredit courses is equal to, or greater than, 10 percent of the community college district's total FTES attending in the community college district, the community college district may substitute the data for expense of education in grades 13 and 14 and FTES in grades 13 and 14 attending in the community college district.

(B) The expense of education in the preceding fiscal year of all community college districts increased by the projected percent increase in the United States Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Finance for the fiscal year

and succeeding fiscal year and divided by the FTES (including nonresident students) attending all community college districts during the preceding fiscal year. However, if the amount calculated under this paragraph for the succeeding fiscal year is less than the amount established for the current fiscal year or for any of the past four fiscal years, the community college district may set the nonresident tuition fee at the greater of the current or any of the past four-year amounts.

(C) An amount not to exceed the fee established by the governing board of any contiguous community college district.

(D) An amount not to exceed the amount that was expended by the community college district for the expense of education, but in no case less than the statewide average as set forth in subparagraph (B).

(E) An amount no greater than the average of the nonresident tuition fees of public community colleges of no less than 12 states that are comparable to California in cost of living. The determination of comparable states shall be based on a composite cost-of-living index as determined by the United States Department of Labor or a cooperating government agency.

(2) The additional revenue generated by the increased nonresident tuition permitted under the amendments made to this subdivision during the 2009–10 Regular Session shall be used to expand and enhance services to resident students. The admission of nonresident students shall not come at the expense of resident enrollment.

(f) The governing board of each community college district also shall adopt a tuition fee per unit of credit for nonresident students enrolled in more or less than 15 units of credit per term by dividing the fee determined in subdivision (e) by 30 for colleges operating on the semester system and 45 for colleges operating on the quarter system and rounding to the nearest whole dollar. The same rate shall be uniformly charged to nonresident students attending any terms or sessions maintained by the community college. The rate charged shall be the rate established for the fiscal year in which the term or session ends.

(g) Any loss in community college district revenue generated by the nonresident tuition fee shall not be offset by additional state funding.

(h) Any community college district that has fewer than 1,500 FTES and whose boundary is within 10 miles of another state that either (1) has a reciprocity agreement with California governing student attendance and fees, or (2) participates in the Western Undergraduate Exchange, may exempt students from that state, or may exempt students from those states that participate in the Western Undergraduate Exchange, from the mandatory fee requirement described in subdivision (a) for nonresident students.

(i) Any community college district that has more than 1,500, but fewer than 3,001, FTES and whose boundary is within 10 miles of another state that either (1) has a reciprocity agreement with California governing student attendance and fees, or (2) participates in the Western Undergraduate Exchange, may, in any one fiscal year, exempt up to 100 FTES from that state or from states that participate in the Western Undergraduate Exchange from the mandatory fee requirement described in subdivision (a) for nonresident students.

(j) The attendance of nonresident students who are exempted pursuant to subdivision (h) or (i), or pursuant to paragraph (3), (4), (5), or (6) of subdivision (a), from the mandatory fee requirement described in subdivision (a) for nonresident students may be reported as resident FTES for state apportionment purposes. Any nonresident student reported as resident FTES for state apportionment purposes who is exempt pursuant to paragraph (6) of subdivision (a), or pursuant to subdivision (h) or (i), shall pay a per-unit fee that is one and one-half times the amount of the fee established for residents pursuant to Section 76300. That fee shall be included in the FTES adjustments described in Section 76300 for purposes of computing apportionments.

**SEC. 2.** Section 1.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 76140 of the Education Code proposed by both this bill and Assembly Bill 1998. That section shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2023, (2) each bill amends Section 76140 of the Education Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after Assembly Bill 1998, in which case Section 1 of this bill shall not become operative.

**SEC. 3.** 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.