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**AB-1968 Public postsecondary education: uniform informational guidance for sexual assault survivors.**  
(2021-2022)

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**Assembly Bill No. 1968**

**CHAPTER 115**

An act to add Chapter 15.9 (commencing with Section 67395) to Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

[ Approved by Governor July 19, 2022. Filed with Secretary of State July 19, 2022. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 1968, Seyarto. Public postsecondary education: uniform informational guidance for sexual assault survivors.

The Donahoe Higher Education Act sets forth the missions and functions of California's public higher education segments, including the California State University, comprising 23 campuses, and the University of California, comprising 10 campuses. Various provisions of the act specify the responsibilities of the Trustees of the California State University and the Regents of the University of California to develop, among other things, policies and procedures, information, and education and training programs for students, faculty, and staff regarding sexual assault and rape, sexual violence, and sexual harassment, as provided. Provisions of the act apply to the University of California only to the extent that the Regents of the University of California, by appropriate resolution, make them applicable.

This bill would require the Trustees of the California State University, and request the Regents of the University of California, to develop content and presentation standards and a model internet website template regarding the steps a campus community member who is a survivor of sexual assault may take immediately following the assault, as provided. The bill would require each campus of the California State University and request each campus of the University of California to develop and post on its campus internet website informational guidance regarding those steps based on those standards and model, as provided. The bill would require the trustees, and request the regents, to implement the bill's provisions using existing funds and resources.

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

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

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 15.9 (commencing with Section 67395) is added to Part 40 of Division 5 of Title 3 of the Education Code, to read:

**CHAPTER 15.9. Uniform Informational Guidance for Survivors of Sexual Assault**

**67395.** (a) In order to help campus community members quickly access relevant information and resources following a sexual assault, each campus of the California State University shall, and each campus of the University of California is requested to, develop and post on its internet website sexual assault informational guidance that is based on the content and presentation and model internet website template developed or updated pursuant to Section 67395.5.

(b) The sexual assault informational guidance required under subdivision (a) shall supplement other information related to sexual assault that is required to be provided to campus community members under state or federal laws, including pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 66281.5, paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 66281.8, and Sections 67385, 67385.7, 67386, and 67391.

(c) A campus with existing content on its internet website that is similar to the sexual assault informational guidance required by this section shall update the existing content as necessary based on the content and presentation and model internet website template developed or updated pursuant to Section 67395.5.

**67395.5.** (a) For the purposes described in subdivision (a) of Section 67395, and to ensure that sexual assault informational guidance is uniform across the internet websites of all campuses of each of their respective segments, the Trustees of the California State University shall, and the Regents of the University of California are requested to, develop both of the following:

(1) Standards for the content and presentation of information and resources regarding the steps a campus community member who is a survivor of a sexual assault might immediately take following the sexual assault, including the options, timing parameters, and potential outcomes relating to each step.

(2) A model internet website template incorporating the standards developed under paragraph (1).

(b) The standards and model described in subdivision (a) shall be developed in collaboration with sexual assault survivor advocates and others who work with sexual assault survivors, such as counselors, health care service providers, Title IX offices, law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and civil attorneys, in a manner informed by relevant experts and bona fide and reliable sources of relevant information, including, but not limited to, information relating to state and federal laws, best practices for internet website design, and the internet web pages of campuses with existing relevant content, such as those developed by a Center for Advocacy, Resources and Education (CARE) office or another campus office.

(c) The content standards required pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) may consist of general content guidance, specific language, or both, but shall address at least all of the following:

(1) Reporting the sexual assault to others who may provide emotional or other valuable help immediately following the sexual assault, such as advocates and counselors, health care service providers, and law enforcement agencies, and standards for a listing of the names, contact information, and services offered by each campus-based or community-based sexual assault resource.

(2) Receiving proper medical attention following the sexual assault, including forensic evidentiary exams and other medical testing options.

(3) Collecting and preserving evidence related to the sexual assault, including physical evidence and other types of evidence.

(d) The presentation standards required pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) may include general guidance, prescriptive guidance, or both, related to the structure for organizing and presenting the content in a manner that ensures it prominently calls attention to the information and resources on the internet website and is not obscured by other related or unrelated content. The presentation standards may include, but are not limited to, any of the following:

(1) The location of the content on the internet website, including a requirement for an internet web page that is dedicated solely to information and resources related to the steps a survivor might take immediately following a sexual assault and a prominent link on the homepage of the campus's internet website to that web page.

(2) Standards to ensure the manner of presenting the information is helpful to survivors who may view it following a traumatic sexual assault incident, including requirements for text and background formatting, the use of concise sentences, paragraphs, sections, and bullet lists when appropriate, and avoiding or limiting legal and highly technical terminology.

(3) Standards for accessibility and user interface, including the use of links to other internet web pages for the listing of survivor advocates and other resources, requirements related to readability on mobile devices or other electronic devices, and whether the information and resources are downloadable or searchable from the homepage of the campus's internet website.

(e) The Trustees of the California State University shall, and the Regents of the University of California are requested to, post the standards and model internet website template developed pursuant to this section on their respective internet websites for use by campuses pursuant to Section 67395. The standards and model internet website template shall be reviewed annually and updated as necessary.

**67395.7.** The Trustees of the California State University shall, and the Regents of the University of California are requested to, implement this chapter from existing funds and resources.