

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 30, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1091

Introduced by Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia

February 27, 2015

An act to *amend Section 69432.9 of, and to add Sections ~~69433.91~~ 69432.92, 69433.92, and 69519.2 to* the Education Code, relating to student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1091, as amended, Eduardo Garcia. Student financial aid: Cal Grant Program.

The Cal Grant Program establishes the Cal Grant A and Cal Grant B Entitlement awards, the California Community College Transfer Entitlement awards, the Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards, the Cal Grant C award, and the Cal Grant T award under the administration of the Student Aid Commission, and establishes eligibility requirements for awards under these programs for participating students attending qualifying institutions.

This bill would require the commission ~~to: (1)~~ to develop and make available on its Internet Web ~~Site~~ *site* to each school district, (1) a graduation verification template for the school district to input and upload graduation data concerning its pupils for use by the commission, and (2) a report that lists the names of all grade 12 pupils within a school district who have and have not completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or the California Dream Act application for use by the school ~~district, and (2) district. The bill would require the~~

commission, to the greatest extent feasible, to align the collection and reporting of information between the United States Department of Education’s Free Application for Federal Student Aid system, the commission, and school districts, that is used to determine whether applicants are eligible for Cal Grants and whether to issue Cal Grant awards. The bill would also authorize the commission to require that verification of high school graduation or its equivalent be electronically submitted for all former grade 12 pupils who graduated from public schools, including charter schools, in the prior academic year, except for pupils who have opted out, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 69432.9 of the Education Code is amended
 2 to read:
 3 69432.9. (a) A Cal Grant applicant shall submit a complete
 4 official financial aid application pursuant to Section 69433 and
 5 applicable regulations adopted by the commission. Each pupil
 6 enrolled in grade 12 in a California public school, including a
 7 charter school, other than pupils who opt out as provided in
 8 subdivision (d), shall be deemed to be a Cal Grant applicant.
 9 (b) Financial need shall be determined to establish an applicant’s
 10 initial eligibility for a Cal Grant award and a renewing recipient’s
 11 continued eligibility using the federal financial need methodology
 12 pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 69506 and applicable
 13 regulations adopted by the commission, and as established by Title
 14 IV of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20
 15 U.S.C. Secs. 1070 et seq.).
 16 (1) “Expected family contribution,” with respect to an applicant
 17 or renewing recipient, shall be determined using the federal
 18 methodology pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 69506 (as
 19 established by Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act of
 20 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. Secs. 1070 et seq.)) and applicable
 21 rules and regulations adopted by the commission.
 22 (2) “Financial need” means the difference between the student’s
 23 cost of attendance as determined by the commission and the
 24 expected family contribution. The calculation of financial need

1 shall be consistent with Title IV of the federal Higher Education
2 Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. Secs. 1070 et seq.).

3 (3) (A) The minimum financial need required for receipt of an
4 initial and renewal Cal Grant A or C award shall be no less than
5 the maximum annual award value for the applicable institution,
6 plus an additional one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) of
7 financial need.

8 (B) The minimum financial need required for receipt of an initial
9 and renewal Cal Grant B award shall be no less than seven hundred
10 dollars (\$700).

11 (c) (1) The commission shall require that a grade point average
12 be submitted to it for all Cal Grant A and B applicants, except for
13 those permitted to provide test scores in lieu of a grade point
14 average.

15 (2) The commission shall require that a grade point average be
16 submitted to it electronically for all grade 12 pupils at public
17 schools, including charter schools, each academic year, except for
18 pupils who have opted out as provided in subdivision (d). Social
19 security numbers shall not be included in the information submitted
20 to the commission. However, if the commission determines that
21 a social security number is required to complete the application
22 for financial aid, the school, school district, or charter school may
23 obtain permission from the parent or guardian of the pupil, or the
24 pupil, if he or she is 18 years of age, to submit the pupil's social
25 security number to the commission.

26 (3) The commission shall require that each report of a grade
27 point average include a certification, executed under penalty of
28 perjury, by a school official, that the grade point average reported
29 is accurately reported. The certification shall include a statement
30 that it is subject to review by the commission or its designee.

31 (4) The commission shall adopt regulations that establish a grace
32 period for receipt of the grade point average and any appropriate
33 corrections, and that set forth the circumstances under which a
34 student may submit a specified test score designated by the
35 commission, by regulation, in lieu of submitting a qualifying grade
36 point average.

37 (5) It is the intent of the Legislature that high schools and
38 institutions of higher education certify the grade point averages of
39 their students in time to meet the application deadlines imposed
40 by this chapter.

1 (6) *It is the intent of the Legislature that the commission make*
2 *available to each high school and school district a report*
3 *identifying all grade 12 pupils within the high school or school*
4 *district, respectively, who have and have not completed the Free*
5 *Application for Federal Student Aid or the California Dream Act*
6 *Application.*

7 (d) (1) The school district or charter school shall, no later than
8 October 15 of a pupil's grade 12 academic year, notify, in writing,
9 each grade 12 pupil and, for a pupil under 18 years of age, his or
10 her parent or guardian that, pursuant to subdivision (a), the pupil
11 will be deemed a Cal Grant applicant unless the pupil opts out
12 within a period of time specified in the notice, which shall not be
13 less than 30 days. The required notice shall indicate when the
14 school will first send grade point averages to the commission. The
15 school district or charter school shall provide an opportunity for
16 the pupil to opt out of being automatically deemed a Cal Grant
17 applicant.

18 (2) (A) Until a pupil turns 18 years of age, only a parent or
19 guardian may opt the pupil out. Once a pupil turns 18 years of age,
20 only the pupil may opt himself or herself out and, if prior to the
21 conclusion of the notice period, the pupil may opt in over the prior
22 decision of a parent or guardian to opt out.

23 *SEC. 2. Section 69432.92 is added to the Education Code, to*
24 *read:*

25 *69432.92. (a) The commission may require verification of high*
26 *school graduation or its equivalent to be electronically submitted*
27 *for all former grade 12 pupils who graduated from public schools,*
28 *including charter schools, in the prior academic year, except for*
29 *pupils who have opted out as provided in subdivision (d) of Section*
30 *69432.9.*

31 *(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that high schools or high*
32 *school districts verify the graduation of their pupils in time to meet*
33 *the deadlines imposed by subdivision (e) of Section 69433.9.*

34 ~~SECTION 4.~~

35 *SEC. 3. Section 69433.92 is added to the Education Code, to*
36 *read:*

37 *69433.92. (a) The commission shall develop, and make*
38 *available on its Internet Web site to each school district, a*
39 *graduation verification template for use by the school district to*
40 *input and upload graduation verification data for its pupils, so that*

1 the commission can determine if those pupils are eligible for Cal
2 Grants.

3 (b) The commission shall, to the greatest extent feasible, align
4 the collection and reporting of information between the United
5 States Department of Education's Free Application for Federal
6 Student Aid system, the commission, and school districts that is
7 used to determine if applicants are eligible for Cal Grants and
8 whether to issue Cal Grant awards for students who attend
9 qualifying institutions.

10 ~~SEC. 2.~~

11 *SEC. 4.* Section 69519.2 is added to the Education Code, to
12 read:

13 69519.2. The commission shall develop, and make available
14 on its Internet Web site to each school district for the district's
15 use, a standard report that lists the names of all grade 12 pupils
16 within the school district who have and have not completed the
17 Free Application for Federal Student Aid or the California Dream
18 Act application.

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