

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1366

Introduced by Assembly Member Lopez

February 27, 2015

An act to add Section 68130.6 to the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1366, as introduced, Lopez. Public postsecondary education: Dream Resource Centers.

Existing law establishes the segments of the public postsecondary education system in the state, including the University of California administered by the Regents of the University of California, the California State University administered by the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

Existing law requires that a student, other than a nonimmigrant alien, as defined, who has attended high school in California for 3 or more years, who has graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent thereof, who has registered at or attends an accredited institution of higher education in California not earlier than the fall semester or quarter of the 2001–02 academic year, and who, if he or she is an alien without lawful immigration status, has filed an affidavit, as specified, is exempt from paying nonresident tuition at the California Community Colleges and the California State University.

This bill would require the California Community Colleges and the California State University, and would request the University of California, to create Dream Resource Centers on each campus to assist

certain students by streamlining access to all available financial aid and academic opportunities for those students. By requiring community colleges to create Dream Resource Centers, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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 these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: yes.

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

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to increase enrollment and
4 graduation rates among students meeting the requirements of
5 Assembly Bill 540 of the 2001–02 Regular Session (Firebaugh,
6 Ch. 814) by requiring the creation of Dream Resource Centers at
7 public institutions of higher education.

8 (b) It is estimated that each year approximately 65,000
9 undocumented students graduate from high schools, and while
10 California has been a leader in enacting innovative and bold laws
11 to provide opportunities for undocumented youth to attain higher
12 education, only 20 percent of these students attend college. Many
13 undocumented youth and their families are unaware of recent
14 policy changes, such as the enactment of Assembly Bill 540 of the
15 2001–02 Regular Session, the California Dream Act of 2011, and
16 the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), that
17 make college graduation more attainable. Currently, the majority
18 of college campuses do not have a centralized location that provides
19 specialized support services and resources for students meeting
20 the requirements of Assembly Bill 540 of the 2001–02 Regular
21 Session.

22 (c) The creation of Dream Resource Centers would save staff
23 time and resources by streamlining all available financial aid and
24 academic opportunities for students meeting the requirements of

1 Assembly Bill 540 of the 2001–02 Regular Session. These Dream
2 Resource Centers would seek to empower and create a safe and
3 welcoming environment for those students. These centers would
4 increase enrollment, transfer, and graduation rates among this
5 population.

6 (d) A number of college campuses have acknowledged the needs
7 and challenges of these students and have created Dream Resources
8 Centers. These include: the University of California, Los Angeles;
9 the University of California, Davis; the California State University,
10 Los Angeles; the California State University, Fullerton; and the
11 California State University, Northridge. These centers provide,
12 among other things, informational workshops, legal clinics,
13 information on programs available to undocumented immigrants,
14 and peer mentoring and support services to increase awareness of
15 existing programs and available resources, enhance professional
16 development, and increase employment opportunities.

17 SEC. 2. Section 68130.6 is added to the Education Code, to
18 read:

19 68130.6. The California Community Colleges and the
20 California State University shall, and the University of California
21 is requested to, create Dream Resource Centers on each campus
22 to assist students meeting the requirements set forth in Section
23 68130.5 by streamlining access to all available financial aid and
24 academic opportunities for those students.

25 SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
26 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
27 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
28 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
29 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.