

Date of Hearing: June 2, 2020

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

AB 2341 (McCarty) – As Amended May 4, 2020

Policy Committee: Higher Education

Vote: 12 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill authorizes the California Community College (CCC) Chancellor's Office to establish, subject to appropriation, a grant program within community colleges to provide additional funds for services in support of postsecondary education for formerly and currently incarcerated students.

Specifically, the bill authorizes the CCC Chancellor's Office to enter into agreements with up to 50 CCCs to administer a grant program to expand the number of formerly and currently incarcerated students participating and succeeding in the community colleges. In addition, the CCC Board of Governors (BOG) is to adopt regulations for the program and shall review applications for the funds from CCCs. Funds are to be used for various support and services for formerly and currently incarcerated students, including tutoring, counseling and professional development for faculty and staff.

The bill allows the CCC Board of Governors to designate up to 5% of the grant funds allocated for program administration. It also requires, beginning December 31, 2022, and every two years thereafter, the CCC BOG submit a report to the Governor describing the program's impacts and makes recommendations on expanding the program to additional CCCs.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) One-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs of between \$5 million and \$10 million for the grant program. (More discussion of the rationale for this amount in grant funding is provided below.)
- 2) Minor and absorbable General Fund costs to the CCC Chancellor's Office to administer the grant program. The Chancellor's Office indicates it currently has staff dedicated to programs for formerly and currently incarcerated students and that the 5% designated in the bill for administration would cover costs.

COMMENTS:

Background. AB 1809 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 33, Statutes of 2018, created a grant program similar to the grant program created by this bill. Specifically, AB 1809 appropriated \$5 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to the CCC for a one-time reentry grant program to support currently and formerly incarcerated students. The bill required a report on the use of these funds by July 31, 2022.

According to the CCC Chancellor's Office, 44 colleges received \$113,000 each from the \$5 million appropriated in AB 1809. The colleges receiving funds reported need in excess of those funds. For this reason, the CCC Chancellor indicates \$10 million in funding for the grant program would better align with need.

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