

Date of Hearing: May 10, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chris Holden, Chair

AB 322 (Mathis) – As Amended March 23, 2023

Policy Committee:	Higher Education	Vote:	12 - 0
	Military and Veterans Affairs		11 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the California State University (CSU) and California Community Colleges (CCC), and requests the University of California (UC), to provide certain information to students who are veterans and their dependents.

Specifically, this bill requires, no later than the 2025-26 academic year, each campus of the CSU and the CCC, and requests each campus of the UC, to include within first-year student and transfer student orientations the location and contact information of the campus point of contact for students who are veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and members of the California State Guard and the California National Guard, and their dependents. Each campus point of contact is also to develop a document that includes information on policies, resources, and services for these students and their dependents. The document is to be available in hard copy form at the location of the campus point of contact and the campus is to post the document, along with the information provided at the student orientation, on the campus's website.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) One-time and ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs of about \$135,000 to CCCs to update policies and procedures, add information to general orientation, develop a document, and disseminate the document in paper and online. This assumes costs of about \$1,500 for each of the state's 115 CCC campuses.

The state would need to reimburse these costs to CCC, if the Commission on State Mandates determines the bill's requirements to be a reimbursable state mandate.

- 2) One-time and ongoing General Fund costs in the tens of thousands of dollars to UCs to update policies and procedures, add information to general orientation, develop a document, and disseminate the document in paper and online. This assumes costs of about \$1,500 for each of the state's nine UC campuses.
- 3) One-time and ongoing General Fund costs in the tens of thousands of dollars to CSUs to update policies and procedures, add information to general orientation, develop a document, and disseminate the document in paper and online. This assumes costs of about \$1,500 for each of the state's 23 CSU campuses.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Although many universities and colleges currently offer useful and potentially lifesaving veteran services, including staff, facilities and materials that assist with housing resources, disability accommodation, financial aid, peer mentoring, access to counselors and tutoring; many veterans and National Guard members are either unaware of these facilities, are not provided with practical information on how to access the available resources, or are not encouraged to use the services within student orientation.

- 2) **Background.** Current law requires CCC and CSU, and requests UC, to provide students with certain information during student orientations to ensure student safety, health, well-being, and academic success, including information on sexual violence, cyberbullying, and CalFresh food benefits, among others. This bill adds information about veteran services to student orientations and requires campuses to provide other information to veteran students.

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