Date of Hearing: May 3, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chris Holden, Chair

AB 680 (Blanca Rubio) – As Introduced February 13, 2023

Policy Committee: Higher Education Vote: 9 - 1

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

SUMMARY:

This bill provides another path for nonresident students to become exempt from paying nonresident tuition at California's public college and universities. Specifically, the bill exempts any nonresident student who completes either 60-semester units of credit or 90-quarter units of credit at any CCC campus or earns an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) at a CCC from paying nonresident tuition for any future enrollment at California's public colleges and universities.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Unknown, ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund or General Fund costs, potentially in the hundreds of thousands of dollars to millions of dollars annually, for UC, CSU, and CCC to exempt more students from paying nonresident tuition. Costs would depend on the number of students who complete either 60-semester units of credit or 90-quarter units of credit at a CCC campus or earn an ADT at a CCC and on the institutions at which they enroll. For example, if a student enrolled at a UC, costs to the state would be significantly higher than if a student enrolled at a CCC. This is because UC tuitions is much higher than CCC tuition.

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.

COMMENTS:

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

An estimated 100,000 to 150,000 undocumented students attend a public college or university in California, yet many of these students cannot gain timely access to in-state tuition because they are incentivized to remain enrolled at a California Community College longer than the minimum time necessary...AB 680 rectifies this wrong by clarifying that community college students can qualify for a nonresident tuition exemption after meeting certain graduation requirements, ensuring more undocumented students can transfer, complete their bachelor's degree, and enter the workforce.

2) **Background.** The cost difference between paying resident tuition at UC, CSU, or CCC, and paying nonresident tuition at one of these educational segments is significant. Currently,

nonresident students at UC pay about \$30,000 in additional systemwide tuition and fees annually. CSU nonresident students pay about \$12,000 more each year in tuition than do resident students. CCC nonresident students pay about \$7,000 more each year in tuition. SB 68 (Lara), Chapter 496, Statutes of 2017, made various changes to residency for in-state tuition purposes. One change was requiring three years of full-time attendance and attainment of credits at a California school or CCC or at a combination of such schools to gain resident tuition, regardless of citizenship status.

This bill requires a student who has enrolled in the credit equivalent of two years at a CCC or earns an ADT at a CCC to be assessed the resident tuition rate for any future enrollment at California's public colleges and universities. (ADT is a special associate's degree that allows a CCC student to more easily transfer to a CSU.)

3) **Prior Legislation**. SB 1141 (Limón), Chapter 490, Statutes of 2022, modified eligibility for a nonresident tuition exemption at a public college or university by removing the two-year cap on full-time attendance in credit courses at a campus of the CCC that may count towards the three-year total attendance requirement.

SB 68 (Lara), Chapter 496, Statutes of 2017, made various changes to residency for in-state tuition purposes, including requiring three years of full-time attendance and attainment of credits at a California school or CCC or at a combination of such schools in order to gain resident tuition.

SB 1160 (Durazo), of the 2021-22 Legislative Session, would have extended the exemption from paying nonresident tuition at California's public postsecondary institutions to nonresident international students. The bill was held on Senate Appropriations Committee's suspense file.

AB 1620 (Santiago), of the 2019-20 Legislative Session, would have required CCC and CSU, and requested UC, to charge in-state tuition to students who have attended either two years of (a) a California school or CCC or (b) a California elementary or secondary school. The bill was held on this committee's suspense file.

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