
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 1346 **Hearing Date:** June 3, 2026
Author: DeMaio
Version: February 21, 2025
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Olgalilia Ramirez

Subject: Public postsecondary education: residency: dependents of members of the Armed Forces: reenrollments.

Note: This bill has been referred to the Committees on Education and *Military and Veterans Affairs*. A “do pass” motion should include referral to the Committee on *Military and Veterans Affairs*.

SUMMARY

This bill extends eligibility for retaining resident classification for purposes of paying tuition at a public higher education institution to a dependent of an Armed Forces member who is granted reenrollment by the university, even if the Armed Forces member has been transferred out of state on military orders or has retired from active duty.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Generally known as the Uniform Residency Law, establishes a variety of residency requirements for students attending the California Community Colleges (CCC) or the California State University (CSU). The determination of such residency status is required in order to assess either resident or nonresident fees and tuition. The Regents of the University of California (UC) may, by resolution, make these provisions of law applicable to the UC (and historically have done so). (Education Code (EC) § 68000-68134)
- 2) Defines a “nonresident” as a student who does not have residence in the state for more than one year immediately preceding the residence determination date. (EC § 68018)
- 3) Establishes uniform residency requirements for purposes of ascertaining the amount of fees to be paid by students at CSU and CCC and establishes various exceptions to these residency requirements, including many for current and former members of the Armed Forces. (EC § 68074 and 68075)
- 4) Requires the CSU, and requests the UC, to require each campus in their respective systems to grant students the right to reenroll in their baccalaureate degree program after withdrawing or stopping out, if the student was in good academic standing with the university. (EC § 66208)

- 5) Prohibits a student who is attending, or has been admitted to, a public postsecondary educational institution from losing their resident classification if they are continuously enrolled at that institution and a dependent of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, even if that member is (1) thereafter transferred on military orders to a place outside this state where the member continues to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States, or (2) thereafter retired as an active member of the Armed Forces of the United States. (EC § 68074 (b))

ANALYSIS

This bill extends eligibility for retaining resident classification for purposes of paying tuition at a public higher education institution to a dependent of an Armed Forces member who is granted reenrollment by the university after withdrawing from a baccalaureate degree program, even if the Armed Forces member has been transferred out of state on military orders or has retired from active duty.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “AB 1346 is a powerful tool to help our military dependents unlock their educational opportunities. This proposal will support students who faced setbacks but are determined to continue their education. By enabling them to return to school and still benefit from resident tuition rates, this legislation recognizes California’s commitment to second chances and personal growth.”
- 2) ***Tuition rates and residency classification.*** California public higher education institutions are publicly subsidized. As a result, students classified as California residents pay lower tuition rates than nonresident students. Students classified as nonresidents may pay several times more than those charged the resident rate, making eligibility for in-state tuition a significant financial benefit for students.

Current law extends in-state residency classification to a dependent of an Armed Forces member stationed in this state on active duty. If the Armed Forces member is transferred out of state or has retired, current law further provides that the in-state residency classification of a student who is the dependent of an Armed Forces member may be retained, but is contingent upon continuous enrollment at the institution. This bill would additionally authorize the retention of in-state residency classification when the student is granted reenrollment. Under current law, reenrollment rights into a CSU or UC baccalaureate degree program may be granted to students who withdrew or “stopped out” from the program.

- 3) ***Related legislation.***

AB 2203 (Tangipa, 2026) would require, beginning with the 2028-29 academic year, each campus of the CSU and the CCC, and requests each campus of the UC, that administers a priority enrollment system, to provide priority enrollment to a student who receives a California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) fee

waiver or who is using any federal GI Bill benefits. AB 2203 has been referred to this Committee.

AB 2794 (Committee on Higher Education, 2026) would make technical and conforming changes to the EC regarding Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve program federal education benefits and eligibility for in-state resident tuition. AB 2794 has been referred to this committee.

SUPPORT

California State University

OPPOSITION

None received

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