
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1346 (DeMaio) - Public postsecondary education: residency: dependents of members of the Armed Forces: reenrollments

Version: February 21, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0, M.&V.A. 4 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill 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.

Fiscal Impact:

- The University of California estimates between \$37,600 and \$75,200 in lost revenues each year as a result of the bill.
- The California State University indicates that any administrative costs associated with verifying students' nonresident classification would be minor, while the Chancellor's Office estimates no costs to community colleges.

Background: Existing law 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.

Existing law 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.

Existing law 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.

Existing law 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 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 thereafter retired as an active member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Proposed Law: 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: Current law extends in-state residency classification to a dependent of an Armed Forces member stationed in the state on active duty. If the member is transferred out of state or has retired, current law provides that the in-state residency classification of a student who is the dependent of that Armed Forces member may be retained but is contingent upon continuous enrollment at the institution. This bill would authorize the retention of in-state residency classification when the student is granted reenrollment. 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."

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