
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1669 (Pacheco) - Student health: medical leaves of absence: mental health

Version: June 15, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Policy Vote: ED. 6 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill requires, commencing with the 2027-28 academic year, private and public postsecondary educational institutions to adopt a written policy allowing students to take a voluntary medical leave of absence for at least a period of up to one academic year and specifies criteria for inclusion in the adopted policy.

***** **ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE** *****

**The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 13, 2026**

Fiscal Impact:

- The University of California estimates one-time General Fund costs of up to \$2 million for administrative and technical startup costs and approximately \$1 million ongoing for maintenance and administrative costs. These costs include the updating of programming for new policy definitions and to allow students to drop all classes without providing an official notice of withdrawal.
- The California State University estimates ongoing General Fund costs in the mid-hundreds of thousands of dollars each year for campuses to provide ongoing case management compliance monitoring, and additional one-time General Fund costs of \$440,000 or \$20,000 per campus to update systemwide leave policies, computer systems and procedures, and systems/process updates and website changes.
- The Chancellor's Office estimates one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs ranging between \$2.4 million to \$5.4 million for community college districts statewide to develop and implement a new medical leave of absence policy, including the adoption of a formal medical leave of absence status that preserves a student's enrollment, academic standing, and guaranteed right to return without reapplication.

Author Amendments: Provide that the bill does not waive competency, clinical, laboratory, or other graduation or licensure requirements established by a postsecondary educational institution, accrediting agency, or governmental licensing authority, and does not supersede federal student aid regulations.

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