

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2212 (Bauer-Kahan) – As Amended April 23, 2026

Policy Committee:	Higher Education	Vote:	9 - 0
	Privacy and Consumer Protection		15 - 0

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

SUMMARY:

This bill requires a postsecondary education institution to update its sexual harassment complaint adjudication policies and campus student orientation information and training to include information on various forms of sexual exploitation, harassment, intimidation, bullying, and technology-facilitated harassment, as specified.

The bill requires the UC Los Angeles Center for the Study of Women, contingent upon an appropriation, to facilitate research on the prevention of, and adjudication of, sexual harassment, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, and technology-facilitated sexual harassment at postsecondary educational institutions.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) One-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs of an unknown but likely significant amount, possibly ranging from \$1.3 million to \$2.6 million, to community college districts (CCDs), collectively statewide, to update policies and add specified information to existing student orientations.
- 2) Minor one-time and annual ongoing General Fund costs to the campuses of the UC and CSU to update campus orientations and training modules as appropriate. While the individual campus costs may be minor, cumulatively statewide the aggregate costs to the campuses of the CSU and UC may present significant General Fund costs of an unknown amount, possibly in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- 3) One-time General Fund cost pressures of approximately \$450,000 for the Legislature to appropriate funds for the UC Los Angeles Center for the Study of Women to conduct required research.

COMMENTS:

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

The definition of “sexual harassment” in California’s Education Code was developed before generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools became widely available. As a result, higher education institutions lack uniform standards for defining, investigating, and remediating technology-facilitated sexual harassment. AB 2212, the HEAR Survivors Act, updates the definition of “sexual harassment” in the

Education Code to account for modern digital technologies, and requires that California's higher education institutions adopt and publish policies addressing technology-facilitated sexual harassment.

- 2) **Background.** Technology-facilitated gender-based violence or harassment can include cyberstalking, online harassment, death and rape threats, doxing, and the non-consensual sharing or threatened distribution of intimate images, including fake images. Most data suggest women and LBGTQIA+ individuals suffer this form of harassment at a disproportionate rate and demonstrate it can have real and lasting impacts on an individual's mental health. The requirements of this bill come directly from an informational hearing held by the Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection committee in 2025, which solicited several recommendations from experts in online misogyny and online sexual violence with one expert testifying that women suffering image-based abuse, such as deepfakes, are more likely to leave their jobs or experience major disruptions in their education. Proponents of this bill, such as the sponsors, Survivors+Allies, contend "updating institutional policies to explicitly address technology-facilitated sexual harassment will promote consistent campus responses, reduce stigma, and reinforce that digital abuse is no less serious than offline misconduct."

Analysis Prepared by: Aaron Heredia / APPR. / (916) 319-2081