
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 2436	Hearing Date:	June 17, 2026
Author:	Fong		
Version:	February 20, 2026		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Michelle Nguyen		

Subject: Public postsecondary education: tuition and fees: Team USA student athletes.

SUMMARY

This bill extends indefinitely the current exemption allowing Team USA student athletes training in California in an elite level program approved by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) to receive resident classification for tuition and fee purposes, by removing the existing July 1, 2032, sunset provision.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) States the intent of the Legislature that the public institutions of higher education apply uniform rules in determining whether a student be classified as a resident or a nonresident. (Education Code (EC) § 68000)
- 2) Requires each student enrolled or applying for admission to an institution provide the information and evidence of residence as deemed necessary by the governing board or district governing board, as appropriate, to determine their classification. (EC § 68041)
- 3) Provides that “resident” is a student who has a residence in the state for more than one year immediately preceding the residence determination date. (EC § 68017)
- 4) Provides that “resident classification” means classification as a resident, as specified, at the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), the California Maritime Academy, or a California community college (CCC). (EC § 68022)
- 5) Provides that “residence determination date” is a date or day established by the governing boards or district governing boards, as appropriate, for each semester, quarter, or term to determine a student’s residence. (EC § 68023)
- 6) Requires that a student classified as a nonresident pay nonresident tuition. (EC § 68050)

- 7) Allows, until July 1, 2032, Team USA student athletes training in the state in an elite level program approved by USOPC to receive resident classification for tuition and fee purposes. (EC § 68083)
- 8) Requires a Team USA student athlete to certify their participation in an Olympic or Paralympic elite level training program through supporting documentation through the USOPC verifying eligibility, and requires the student athlete to submit the supporting documentation to the campus they are attending at the UC, CSU, or CCCs. (EC § 68083)
- 9) Defines “Team USA student athlete” as any student athlete who meets the eligibility standards defined and approved by the USOPC and by the national governing body for the sport in which the athlete competes. (EC § 68083)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Extends indefinitely the current exemption allowing Team USA student athletes training in California in an elite level program approved by the USOPC to receive resident classification for tuition and fee purposes, by removing the existing July 1, 2032, sunset provision.
- 2) Repeals a provision, which would have become operative July 1, 2032, that states that any amateur student athlete in training at the United States Olympic Training Center in the City of Chula Vista is entitled to resident classification for tuition purposes.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “California is home to multiple Olympic training locations and hosts numerous elite-level training programs, which are jointly planned by the USOPC and [national governing body]. These programs are administered by athletic experts and coaches, while ensuring athletes have access to world-class training facilities. ... California is a leading destination for elite Olympic and Paralympic training programs.”

Further, the author states that, “Removing the sunset provision will ensure that Team USA student athletes who train in California continue to have access to resident tuition classification while balancing their academic and athletic commitments. Additionally, it serves as a critical incentive for elite athletes to train and study in California, reinforcing the state’s position as a premier destination for Olympic and Paralympic development. Without long-term certainty, athletes may choose other states or countries with more stable financial pathways.”

- 2) ***Extends exemption authorized by AB 2747 (Nazarian, Chapter 972, Statutes of 2022).*** AB 2747 authorizes, until July 1, 2032, Team USA student athletes training in the state in an elite level program approved by USOPC to receive resident classification for tuition and fee purposes. According to the author’s statements about this bill at the time, the intent of AB 2747 focused more on

providing an affordable college education for Olympic athletes to transition to their post-Olympic life: “Olympic athletes have dedicated the first portion of their lives to represent their nation on the world stage, but may be left with little resources to transition after their Olympic career is complete. AB 2747 supports Team USA student athletes by helping them prepare for their post athletic career through offering them in-state tuition at the [public segments] until they reach California residency status. If Team USA student athletes who come to California to train at an Olympic level training center were able to declare California resident status for their schooling, it would make college financially viable for many of them.”

The number of students who have benefited from this is limited. Students from both the UC and CSU have received a resident tuition classification as a result of AB 2747. During the 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 academic years, there were 11, 13, and 11 students at the UC, respectively, who paid in-state tuition and fee waivers as a result of this provision. During the 2025-26 academic year, three CSU students received this benefit.

- 3) ***About the USOPC.*** Founded in 1894, the USOPC serves as both the National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee for the United States. The USOPC is focused on serving America’s elite athletes, and is responsible for fielding US teams for the Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic, Pan American and Parapan American Games, and serving as the steward of the Olympic and Paralympic Movement in the US. The USOPC oversees the process by which US cities bid to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Youth Olympic Games, or the Pan American and Parapan American Games, and the USOPC also approves the US trials sites and procedures for the Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic, Pan American, and Parapan American Games team selections.
- 4) ***Los Angeles is hosting the 2028 Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games.*** The International Olympic Committee has selected Los Angeles as the Host City of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, returning the Summer Games to the US for the first time since Atlanta in 1996. Los Angeles will be hosting the Olympics for the third time (1932, 1984, and 2028) and the Paralympics for the first time. For the 2028 Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games, Long Beach will have the second-largest footprint outside of the downtown Los Angeles hub, which will be home to the Olympic Village and over a dozen sporting events. As the Summer Olympics are set to take place in Los Angeles, it is highly anticipated that more Team USA student athletes will train in California.

This bill seeks to remove the sunset provision for this nonresident tuition exemption for these specified Team USA athletes who are attending the CSU, UC, or the CCCs. The bill’s sponsor indicates providing a more affordable college education for these Team USA athletes could be a vital part of the host city’s Olympic legacy for the 2028 Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games, and that they hope to make this exemption permanent before the start of the Olympics.

- 5) ***Resident tuition.*** Existing law dictates that the public institutions of higher education apply uniform rules in determining whether a student be classified as a resident or a nonresident, and provides that a resident is a student who has a residence in the state for more than one year immediately preceding the residence

determination date. The difference in resident and nonresident tuition for the 2026-27 academic year for the public institutions of higher education can be stark:

- a) UC tuition is \$15,588 for residents and \$54,858 for nonresidents, which means nonresidents pay roughly 3.5 times more than residents for tuition.
- b) CSU tuition is \$6,838 for residents and \$20,968 for nonresidents, which means nonresidents pay roughly 3 times more than residents for tuition, assuming a full-time course load of 30 semester units. At the CSU, all students pay a systemwide tuition fee, and nonresidents pay an additional fee per semester unit for tuition.
- c) CCC tuition is \$1,380 for residents and roughly \$9,000 to \$12,000 for nonresidents, which mean nonresidents pay roughly 6 to 8 times more than residents for tuition, assuming a full-time course load of 30 semester units. At the CCC, resident students pay \$46 per unit, and nonresident students pay roughly \$300 to \$400 per semester unit depending on which district they are enrolled.

Independent institutions of higher education do not have resident or nonresident tuition level distinctions, so the provisions of this bill would not apply to those institutions or students enrolled at those institutions.

6) ***Related and Prior Legislation.***

AB 2747 (Nazarian, Chapter 972, Statutes of 2022) authorizes, until July 1, 2032, Team USA student athletes training in the state in an elite level program approved by USOPC to receive resident classification for tuition and fee purposes.

SUPPORT

LA28 (sponsor)
California Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

OPPOSITION

None received

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