
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2436 (Fong) - Public postsecondary education: tuition and fees: Team USA student athletes

Version: February 20, 2026
Urgency: No
Hearing Date: June 29, 2026

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0
Mandate: Yes
Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill 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.

Fiscal Impact:

- The University of California (UC) indicates that over the last three years, between 11 and 13 Team USA students have attended a UC representing a tuition differential of between \$431,970 and \$510,510. The bill's removal of the sunset date would allow such revenue losses to continue indefinitely.
- The California State University (CSU) indicates that any reduction of non-resident tuition and fees would be minor.

Background: Existing law provides that the public institutions of higher education apply uniform rules in determining whether a student be classified as a resident or a nonresident, and 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 are as follows:

- a) UC tuition is \$15,588 for residents and \$54,858 for nonresidents.
- b) CSU tuition is \$6,838 for residents and \$20,968 for nonresidents. All students pay a systemwide tuition fee, and nonresidents pay an additional fee per semester unit for tuition.
- c) California community colleges (CCCS) tuition is \$1,380 for residents and about \$9,000 to \$12,000 for nonresidents, assuming a full-time course load of 30 semester units. Specifically, resident students pay \$46 per unit and nonresident students pay roughly \$300 to \$400 per semester unit depending on the district.

Proposed Law: This bill 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.

This bill 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.

Related Legislation: AB 2747 (Nazarian, Chapter 972, Statutes of 2022) provided an exemption for Team USA student athletes training in California to receive the benefit of in-state resident tuition and fees until July 1, 2032.

Staff Comments: Current law 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. While students from both the UC and CSU have received a resident tuition classification, the number of students who have benefited is limited. 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 students attending CSU received this benefit.

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