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THIRD READING

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Bill No: AB 602  
Author: Haney (D)  
Amended: 6/16/25 in Senate  
Vote: 21

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SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 6-1, 7/2/25  
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Cortese, Gonzalez, Laird  
NOES: Choi

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-13, 6/2/25 - See last page for vote

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**SUBJECT:** Public postsecondary education: student behavior: drug and alcohol use: rehabilitation programs

**SOURCE:** University of California Student Association  
Youth Power Project

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**DIGEST:** This bill requires the University of California (UC) Regents, the California State University (CSU) Trustees to adopt student behavior policies by July 1, 2026, that exempt students seeking medical treatment for personal drug or alcohol use from disciplinary action if they complete an approved rehabilitation program, as specified.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing Federal law:

- 1) Establishes the U.S. Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Requires, as a condition for federal funding, that institutions of higher education implement a program to prevent the use of illicit drugs and abuse of alcohol by students and employees. The program must include a standard of conduct policy that prohibits the use of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees on the campus and at institutional activities and requires there to be

clear disciplinary sanctions for the violation of the drug and alcohol policy.  
(United States Code Title 20, Chapter 28, Subchapter I, Part B, Section 1011i)

Existing State law:

- 1) Establishes the UC as a public trust to be administered by the Regents and grants the Regents full powers of organization and governance subject only to legislative control as necessary to ensure the security of funds, compliance with terms of its endowments, and the statutory requirements around competitive bidding and contracts, sales of property, and the purchase of materials, goods, and services. (Article IX, Section (9) (a) of the California Constitution)
- 2) Stipulates no provision of the Donahue Higher Education Act shall apply to the UC unless the UC Regents adopts the provision. (Education Code (EC) § 67400)
- 3) Establishes the CSU system, made of 23 campuses, and bestows upon the CSU Trustees, through the Board of Trustees, the power, duties, and functions with respect to the management, administration, and control of the CSU system. (EC § 66606 and § 89030 et. seq.)
- 4) Establishes the California Community Colleges (CCC) under the administration of the Board of Governors of the CCC, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. The CCC shall be comprised of community college districts. (EC § 70900)
- 5) Establishes that CCC districts are under the control of a board of trustees, known as the governing board, who has the authority to establish, maintain, operate, and govern one or more community colleges, within its district as specified. (EC § 70902)
- 6) Requires the CCC, CSU, UC College of the Law, San Francisco, UC, and any postsecondary education institution receiving public funds for student financial aid to authorize the appropriate officials on each campus to compile records of all occurrences reported to campus police, campus security personnel, or campus safety authorities of and arrests for, crimes that are committed on campus and that involve violence, hate violence, theft, destruction of property, illegal drugs or alcohol intoxication. (EC § 67380 (a) (1))
- 7) Requires the CCC, CSU, and UC to adopt specific rules and regulations governing student behavior, along with the applicable penalties for violations of rules and regulations. The institutions shall adopt procedures by which all

students are informed of such rules and regulations with applicable penalties.  
(EC § 66300)

- 8) Requires health centers on campus of the CCC and CSU to provide two doses of opioid overdose reversal medication to each housing facility and sorority/fraternity housing on campus. Establishes training for residential advisors and housing managers for how to use the opioid reversal medication. Requires students to be notified each semester or term of the location of the opioid overdose medication on campus. States the primary concern of the CCC and CSU is to keep students safe and that disciplinary measures will not be imposed for incidents that result from the use of the overdose reversal medication. (EC § 67384.5)
- 9) Requires the governing board of each CCC district and the Trustees of the CSU, and requests the Regents of the UC to do the following:
  - a) Collaborate with campus-based and community-based recovery advocacy organizations to provide educational and prevention information provided by the State Department of Public Health about opioid overdose during the campus orientation. The educational and prevention materials should include information about the location of fentanyl test strips and opioid overdose reversal medication on campus.
  - b) Notify students of the locations of fentanyl test strips on campus via email.
  - c) Have each campus health center do the following:
    - i) Apply to use the statewide standing order issued by the State Public Health Officer to distribute dosages of a federally approved opioid overdose reversal medication and to participate in the Naloxone Distribution Project;
    - ii) If approved, distribute the federally approved opioid overdose medication in accordance with the terms and conditions of the State Department of Health Care Services;
    - iii) Stock and distribute fentanyl strips with written instructions on how to properly use the fentanyl test strips. (EC § 67384)

This bill:

- 1) Requires, in adopting the policies governing student behavior, the UC Regents and the CSU Trustees to place in the highest priority the health, safety, and

well-being of the campus community and, by July 1, 2026, adopt, or provide for the adoption of, policies governing student behavior that:

- a) Exempt a student receiving medical treatment for the personal use of drugs or alcohol from disciplinary action with respect to the use of drugs or alcohol in violation of the policies governing student behavior, provided the student completes an appropriate rehabilitation program.
  - b) Offer a student who violates drug or alcohol use policies the chance to complete an appropriate rehabilitation program.
- 2) Prohibits the exemption from disciplinary actions and the requirement that the student be offered a chance to complete a rehabilitation program from applying to a student who receives medical treatment for personal drug or alcohol use and is subject to disciplinary sanction(s) for additional violations of policies governing student behavior.
  - 3) Requires that in order for the exemption on disciplinary action and the requirement that the student be offered a chance to complete a rehabilitation program to apply to a student who is in violation of the institution's drug and alcohol use policies, the student be required to participate in an appropriate rehabilitation program with the timeframe set by the campus administrator overseeing student disciplinary actions. This bill requires that if the student does not complete the appropriate rehabilitation program, they are to be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the institution's policies governing student behavior.
  - 4) Provides that nothing in this bill prohibits the institution from including in the student's administrative file information about the appropriate rehabilitation program completed and the exemption from disciplinary action.
  - 5) Limits the number of times that the exemption from disciplinary action and the requirement that the student be offered a chance to complete a rehabilitation program may be applied to a student to once in an academic semester, quarter, or term as defined by a campus. This bill requires that for subsequent violations in the same academic semester, quarter, or term the student be subject to disciplinary proceedings, at the conclusion of which the institution may impose disciplinary action or offer the student the chance to complete an appropriate rehabilitation program.

- 6) States that it is the intent of the Legislature for a campus of the CSU and the UC to provide restorative justice practices for disciplinary proceedings for violations of the institution's rules and regulations related to drug and alcohol use, when deemed appropriate based on the totality of the circumstances.
- 7) States that this bill does not in any way modify or affect the requirements under state or federal law for the reporting of crimes that occur on campus as it pertains to drug possession, drug manufacturing, drug distribution, and drug use.
- 8) Defines "appropriate rehabilitation program" to mean an appropriate counseling, treatment, rehabilitation, or other diversion program, and may include, but is not limited to, participating in meetings with a school counselor or attending a drug education group.

## Comments

- 1) *Need for this bill.* According to the author, "AB 602 confronts California's campus overdose crisis head-on by removing the threat of academic punishment for students who seek emergency help. Every second counts during an overdose, yet too many students hesitate to call 911—paralyzed by fear that saving a life could cost them their education. This bill makes one thing clear: no student should ever have to choose between saving a life and protecting their future. AB 602 empowers students to act without fear, breaks the cycle of silence and shame, and lays the foundation for safer, more compassionate campuses across California."
- 2) *College campuses maintain codes of student conduct.* Existing law requires public higher education institutions to adopt rules and regulations governing student behavior. Typically, these codes of conduct include consequences for drug and alcohol use. Disciplinary action may include expulsion or suspension but may also include satisfactory completion or participation in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program. Some campuses, like UC Davis, have adopted medical amnesty policies known as the Aggies Act to align with California's Good Samaritan law. Specifically, it covers incidents where a student experiencing an alcohol- or drug-related overdose seeks medical assistance or any other person who, in good faith, seeks medical assistance on behalf of the person experiencing the overdose. The student who experienced the medical emergency may be assigned to a professional counselor for a consultation. Amnesty applies once the incident qualifies for the Aggies Act

and the student meets counseling requirements. The author asserts that there is no uniform policy across the CSU or UC systems regarding medical amnesty in overdose situations from academic or disciplinary sanctions. Further, while California's 911 Good Samaritan Law provides limited criminal immunity in overdose situations, those protections do not extend to disciplinary actions taken by colleges and universities. This bill attempts to extend a similar amnesty protection for students seeking medical help for substance abuse.

- 3) *Efforts to prioritize student well-being.* The State has adopted measures to address substance abuse on college campuses. Current law, established by SB 367 (Hurtado, Chapter 218, Statutes of 2022), mandates that campuses distribute opioid overdose reversal medication and provide educational resources and preventive information about opioid overdose, including the use and location of the medication on campus. Additionally, AB 1841 (Weber, Chapter 942, Statutes of 2024) sought to expand access to opioid overdose reversal medication in student housing and requires training for residential advisors and house managers. The sponsors of this measure, the UC Student Association, argue that these policies do not fully protect students from disciplinary action when seeking or administering lifesaving aid. They also assert that this legal gap, combined with inconsistent disciplinary policies, has created a crisis on California college campuses—where students are forced to choose between saving a life and protecting their academic future.
- 4) *Promotes restorative justice practices.* This bill seeks to align with efforts that encourage students to seek medical help in emergencies without the fear of facing strict disciplinary action or academic penalties. Under this measure, students who breach substance use policies are mandated to participate in a rehabilitation program within a timeline established by a campus administrator. This program may include counseling, treatment, rehabilitation, or other diversion programs such as participating in meetings with a school counselor or attending a drug education group. Notably, the medical amnesty does not apply if the student also violates any other behavioral policies, such as committing acts of violence. This bill specifies that a student may utilize medical amnesty once per semester, which is more frequent than the provisions under the Aggies Act, allowing its use only once in a two- year period.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No    Fiscal Com.: Yes    Local: No

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 7/14/25)

University of California Student Association (co-source)

Youth Power Project (co-source)  
California Youth Empowerment Network  
Drug Policy Alliance  
Mental Health America of California

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 7/14/25)

None received

**ASSEMBLY FLOOR:** 59-13, 6/2/25

**AYES:** Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

**NOES:** Alanis, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa

**NO VOTE RECORDED:** Bains, Castillo, Chen, Hoover, Irwin, Lackey, Sharp-Collins

Prepared by: Olgalilia Ramirez / ED. / (916) 651-4105  
7/15/25 16:21:41

\*\*\*\* **END** \*\*\*\*