

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 1374 (Niello) – As Amended June 16, 2026

Policy Committee:	Judiciary	Vote:	12 - 0
	Higher Education		10 - 0

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

SUMMARY:

This bill authorizes a postsecondary educational institution chief administrative officer, or their designee, to seek a temporary restraining order, at the discretion of the court, in the case of unlawful violence or a credible threat of violence towards a campus. This bill also expands the course of conduct for which a temporary restraining order may be sought to include telephone calls or sending correspondence, including email correspondence, to a campus or its students, employees, or chief administrative officer. Lastly, the bill requires the Judicial Council, on or before January 1, 2028, to adopt or modify forms necessary for implementation.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) One-time costs of approximately \$80,000 in the first year of implementation, up to \$1.2 million in the second year, and approximately \$400,000 ongoing annually (General Fund) to the Department of Justice (DOJ) to hire additional staff and procure IT services necessary to implement the bill, particularly to accommodate the expansion of eligible courses of conduct for which temporary restraining order may be sought. According to DOJ, in addition to the cited costs, a delayed implementation of July 1, 2029, is needed to facilitate implementation of this bill.
- 2) Minor and absorbable costs to Judicial Council.
- 3) Minor and absorbable costs for the UC, CSU, and CCCs to adjust existing policies as needed to reflect additional authority provided by this bill. However, to the extent the additional authority results in several campuses of the UC, CSU, and CCC having to file for restraining orders against individuals, administrative costs statewide could reach into the hundreds of thousands of dollars, cumulatively statewide (General Fund and Proposition 98 General Fund).
- 4) Cost pressures (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) of an unknown but potentially significant amount to the courts to hear and adjudicate additional applications for restraining orders and misdemeanor violations of those orders. Actual costs will depend on the number of orders sought and the number of violations prosecuted. It generally costs about \$1,000 to operate a courtroom for one hour.

Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a need for increased funding for courts from the General Fund.

The state budget provides annual General Fund backfills to the Trial Court Trust Fund to offset revenue reductions, totaling approximately \$117.3 million in 2025-26.

COMMENTS:

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

Campus leaders are responsible for safeguarding thousands of students, faculty, and staff, yet under existing law they lack clear standing to obtain civil protective orders when the institution itself is the target. SB 1374 provides a clear, court supervised mechanism to intervene early, before threats escalate into acts of violence on campus.

- 2) **Background.** Existing law provides a number of circumstance-specific restraining orders intended to help a person who requests protection from a person who has made credible threats against them. A restraining order typically starts as a temporary restraining order. If a temporary restraining order has been granted, a hearing must be held within 21 days for the judge to decide whether to extend the restraining order. A willful violation of a restraining order is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in county jail. In California, there are gun violence restraining orders, domestic violence restraining orders, workplace violence restraining orders, and, pertinent to this bill, school violence restraining orders. Current law authorizes the administrator of a public postsecondary educational institution in California to seek and obtain a school violence restraining order to protect a student. This bill expands such authority to apply to restraining orders to protect a campus property or facility. Additionally, current law defines the course of conduct for which a restraining order may be sought to include telephone calls or emails to a student, which this bill expands to include potentially any form of correspondence, not limited to phone calls or emails, and includes correspondence sent to a campus, its employees, or a chief administrative officer.

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