

Date of Hearing: July 16, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 307 (Cervantes) – As Amended June 26, 2025

Policy Committee:	Higher Education	Vote:	7 - 2
	Judiciary		9 - 2

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

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Trustees of the California State University (CSU), and requests the Regents of the University of California (UC), to ensure that an undocumented student's inability to satisfy their academic requirements due to an immigration enforcement activity at their institution does not affect the student's nonresident tuition exemption.

The bill also requires the CSU, and requests the UC, to ensure that staff and the designated Dreamer Resource Liaisons at each campus assist undocumented students in accessing all financial aid and academic resources available and adopt a systemwide policy to address course grades, administrative withdrawal, and reenrollment for undocumented students.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No state costs.

COMMENTS:

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

SB 307 seeks to empower our universities to implement comprehensive support systems for undocumented students, ensuring they receive not only legal assistance but also proactive measures that prioritize their educational journey. This legislation encourages institutions to develop tailored strategies and policies that facilitate the continuation of higher education for these students, safeguarding against potential disruptions. In an environment where the current federal administration has committed to mass deportations, undocumented students face an urgent threat to their stability and safety.

2) **Background. *Undocumented Students.*** According to the American Immigration Council and Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, there are approximately 408,000 undocumented students enrolled in colleges and universities in the United States, with an estimated 87,000 of these students attending universities in California. Many of California's undocumented students have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, which is a federal designation, established in 2012, providing for a deferral of removal action of an individual for a specified number of years so that eligible individuals may have work authorization. However, ongoing litigation has prevented the federal government from

approving new applications since July 16, 2021. Should DACA end, recipients will face the risk of deportation similar to all other undocumented individuals.

Support for Undocumented Students. The California Legislature has made a concerted effort to ensure that DACA recipients and undocumented students in general have the ability to earn a college degree and feel safe on campus. For example, in 2017, the Legislature passed the California Values Act, SB 54 (De León), Chapter 495, Statutes of 2017, which limited local law enforcement agencies' sharing of inmate information with federal immigration agencies, and prohibited law enforcement agencies from using their resources for immigration enforcement or from cooperating in immigration enforcement activities. SB 54 also required the Attorney General to publish various model policies regarding local entities' involvement or cooperation with immigration enforcement. Such policies were updated in December 2024 and include limiting assistance with immigration enforcement at public schools, public libraries, health care facilities, courthouses, various state agencies, and universities, which public schools, health care facilities operated by the state, and courthouses are required to implement.

The model policies for colleges and universities include that colleges and universities must provide students and their families with an annual notice of the institution's policies for privacy of students' personal information, including information regarding their immigration status, and that colleges and universities must advise all students, faculty, and staff to immediately notify the office of the campus chancellor or president, or their designee, when they are advised that an immigration officer is planning to, will, or has entered the campus for immigration enforcement purposes.

Further, the model policies require that, if there is reason to suspect that a student, faculty member, or staff member has been taken into custody for immigration enforcement, the college or university must notify the person's emergency contact that the person may have been taken into custody. SB 54 encouraged, but did not require, that the UC, CSU, and CCCs implement these model policies.

Additionally, current law requires universities to make all reasonable efforts to assist a student subject to an immigration order to retain their eligibility for financial aid, fellowship stipends, exemption from non-resident tuition, housing stipends or services, and other funding or benefits they received. While existing law requires each CSU and UC campus to have a designated Dreamer Resource Liaison knowledgeable in available financial aid resources, legal services, and academic opportunities to assist students, including undocumented students, this bill requires the CSU Trustees, and requests the UC Regents, to ensure that this liaison assists undocumented students in accessing all financial aid and academic resources available to undocumented students. This bill protects a CSU or UC undocumented student's exemption from nonresident tuition if the student is unable to satisfy their academic requirements as a result of an immigration enforcement activity on their campus while also requiring the CSU Trustees, and requesting the UC Regents, to adopt a systemwide policy addressing course grades, administrative withdrawal, and reenrollment for such students who are unable to attend their course by the final drop date.