
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 307
Author: Cervantes (D)
Amended: 6/26/25
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 6-1, 4/23/25
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Cortese, Gonzalez, Laird
NOES: Choi

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-0, 4/29/25
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Arreguín, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Stern,
Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 30-3, 6/2/25
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon,
Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Laird, Limón,
McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson,
Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Alvarado-Gil, Choi, Strickland
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Reyes, Seyarto,
Valladares

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 47-4, 9/9/25 – Roll call not available.

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: immigration enforcement

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the California State University (CSU) Trustees and requests the University of California (UC) Regents to implement additional precautionary measures including, among other things, requiring adoption of a

systemwide policy on course grades, administrative withdrawal, and reenrollment for undocumented students unable to attend their courses due to immigration enforcement activity.

Assembly Amendments of 6/26/25 broaden the circumstances under which a student may retain their academic status and eligibility for the nonresident tuition exemption by including immigration enforcement activity.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the CSU, under the administration of the Trustees of the CSU, and the UC, under the administration of the Regents of the UC. (Education Code (EC) § 66600 and California Constitution, Article IX, Section 9)
- 2) Requires the Trustees of the CSU, the governing boards of community college districts, and independent institutions of higher education that are qualifying institutions for purposes of the Cal Grant Program, and requests the Regents of the UC, to the fullest extent consistent with state and federal law, to implement various precautionary measures when federal immigration enforcement activities are undertaken on campuses of those segments, as specified, including, among others, that those postsecondary entities advise all students, faculty, and staff to notify the Office of the Chancellor or President, or their designee, as soon as possible, if they are advised that an immigration officer is expected to enter, will enter, or has entered the campus to execute a federal immigration order. (EC § 66093.3 et seq.)
- 3) Requires in the event that an undocumented student is subject to a federal immigration order, ensure that both of the following occur:
 - a) In the event that an undocumented student is detained, deported, or is unable to attend to their academic requirements due to the actions of an immigration officer in relation to a federal immigration order, the college or university is to make all reasonable efforts to assist the student in retaining any eligibility for financial aid, fellowship stipends, exemption from nonresident tuition fees, funding for research or other educational projects, housing stipends or services, or other benefits they have been awarded or received, and permit the student to be reenrolled if and when the student is able to return to the college or university. It is the intent of the Legislature that, in implementing this paragraph, California colleges and universities make reasonable and

good-faith efforts to provide for a seamless transition in a student's reenrollment and reacquisition of campus services and supports.

- b) That staff is available to assist, in a sensitive manner, undocumented students and other students, faculty, and staff who may be subject to a federal immigration order or inquiry or who may face similar issues and whose education or employment is at risk because of federal immigration actions. (EC § 66093.3 (j))
- 4) Requires the California Community Colleges (CCC) and the CSU, and requests the UC, to designate a Dreamer Resource Liaison who is knowledgeable in available financial aid and other support services and academic opportunities for all students meeting the requirements for the exemption from paying nonresident tuition established by AB 540 (Firebaugh, Chapter 814, Statutes of 2001), including undocumented students. (EC § 66021.8.)
- 5) Exempts specified California nonresidents from paying nonresident tuition at UC, CSU, and CCC, also known as the AB 540 nonresident tuition waiver, if they graduated from a California high school and either 1) attended a California high school for three years or 2) earned the equivalent of three years of high school credit at a California high school and attended three years at some combination of California elementary or secondary schools are exempt from paying nonresident tuition. Students may also qualify if they meet a combination of specified time and coursework requirements and degree or unit requirements at a community college or adult school. (EC § 68130.5)

This bill:

- 1) Requires the CSU Trustees and requests the UC Regents do both of the following:
 - a) If an undocumented student is subject to immigration enforcement activity, ensure that the undocumented student's inability to satisfy the student's academic requirements at the institution due to immigration enforcement activity does not affect the student's qualification for the exemption from paying nonresident tuition, provided the student meets the prescribed requirements.

- b) Ensure that staff and the designated Dreamer Resource Liaison at the institution assist undocumented students in accessing all financial aid and academic resources available to undocumented students.
- c) Adopt a systemwide policy for addressing course grades, administrative withdrawal, and reenrollment for undocumented students who are unable to attend their courses by the final drop date due to immigration enforcement activity. The systemwide policy is to include a timeframe during which a student withdrawn for nonattendance is reenrolled and retains the same academic status they held before their withdrawal upon submitting written confirmation of their intent to return to the institution.

Comments

Need for this bill. According to the author, “in California, a significant number of undocumented college students face formidable obstacles due to their ineligibility for DACA, creating a complex web of challenges for both the students themselves and the institutions they attend. These challenges encompass not only employment and access to financial aid but also the constant threat of deportation, which looms over their educational aspirations. It is estimated that around 17,000 individuals in California are excluded from DACA because of decisions made during the Trump administration and various court rulings. Furthermore, nearly 100,000 Californians are ineligible for other reasons, adding to the complexity of their situation.

“With approximately 83,000 undocumented college students, California is home to the largest population of its kind in the United States. This demographic represents a vibrant and diverse cohort of young individuals eager to pursue their dreams yet hindered by their status. Recognizing their potential, our higher education systems must go beyond merely designating specific spaces and personnel to support undocumented youth. It is imperative that they establish comprehensive policies that not only facilitate support but also provide tangible resources for Dreamer Resource Liaisons. These resources should encompass well-structured plans and navigational tools aimed at empowering students to chart a successful course for their futures, ensuring that they receive the guidance and assistance necessary to thrive despite the obstacles they face.

“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. While all undocumented individuals are at risk, those without DACA face an even greater vulnerability. Therefore, it is imperative that we take definitive and preemptive actions to shield undocumented students from the fluctuating immigration policies that may jeopardize their academic pursuits and the relentless efforts they have invested in their education. By fostering a supportive and secure educational environment, we can help ensure that these students can thrive and achieve their dreams despite the challenges they encounter.”

Attempts to fill in gaps in existing policies. Current law requires UC and CSU to designate a Dreamer Resource Liaison who is knowledgeable in available financial aid resources, legal services, and academic opportunities to assist students, including undocumented students. Current law already mandates CSU and UC to provide assistance to undocumented students facing detention, deportation, or inability to fulfill academic requirements as a result of immigration actions. Institutions must make reasonable efforts to help these students retain their benefits and allow them to re-enroll when they return. This bill requires the CSU Trustees and requests UC to make sure that the Dreamer Resource Liaison position offers similar services. It explicitly prohibits immigration actions from affecting a student’s nonresident tuition exemption rather than making a reasonable effort to maintain that benefit. This bill further calls on CSU and UC to adopt a systemwide policy to address course grades, withdrawal, and reenrollment for undocumented students who are impacted by immigration enforcement activity. This bill seems to align with existing efforts aimed at supporting students continuing their college education with minimal disruption after being impacted by immigration enforcement actions.

The right to education is fundamental right. As cited in the Attorney General’s (AG) *Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California Colleges and Universities in Responding to Immigration Issues*, “Under the U.S. Constitution, all students have a right to receive an education without discrimination based on immigration status. In *Plyler v. Doe*, the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that undocumented immigrant students cannot be denied equal access to a public education on the basis of their immigration status. Under the California Constitution, all students and staff—regardless of immigration status— have a right to privacy and ‘the

inalienable right to attend campuses which are safe, secure and peaceful.’ The California Supreme Court has affirmed that an immigrant student’s right to an equal educational opportunity is ‘a vitally important right in our society.’ Protections are expressly codified in California law to assure educational access for all, regardless of a student’s immigration status, ‘in any [educational] program or activity conducted by an educational institution that receives, or benefits from, state financial assistance, or enrolls pupils who receive state financial aid.’” Notably, this state, as well as its colleges and universities, has invested in undocumented students by creating an affordable path for degree attainment with academic support. This bill attempts to secure continuity of education for these students.

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

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee analysis, this bill would have no state costs.

SUPPORT: (Verified 9/9/25)

California Charter Schools Association

California Faculty Association

California State Council of Service Employees International Union

California Undocumented Higher Education Coalition

CFT- A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO

OPPOSITION: (Verified 9/9/25)

1 Individual

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9/9/25 14:02:42

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