

Date of Hearing: August 20, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 67 (Seyarto) – As Introduced January 13, 2025

Policy Committee:	Higher Education	Vote:	10 - 0
	Military and Veterans Affairs		8 - 0

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

SUMMARY:

This bill extends eligibility for certain state financial aid programs to family members of a member of the armed forces who maintains California as their state of residence, even if the family member did not graduate from a California high school.

Specifically, this bill provides Cal Grant and Middle Class Scholarship Program (MCSP) eligibility to a student who was not a resident of California at the time of high school graduation or its equivalent but meets all other applicable eligibility requirements and is a dependent natural or adopted child, stepchild, or spouse of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States stationed outside of California on active duty, if the member of the Armed Forces of the United States otherwise maintains California as their state of legal residence.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Unknown, potentially significant, ongoing General Fund costs to provide additional Cal Grants or MCSP to newly eligible students. Costs would depend on the number of students newly qualifying for Cal Grants and MCSP and the amount of their grant received. For example, if 15 students each received a tuition awards to attend UC at the 2024-25 academic year tuition cost of \$14,436, costs would be about \$216,540.
- 2) Minor and absorbable General Fund costs to the California Students Aid Commission (CSAC) to accommodate these changes to Cal Grant and MCSP.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Background.** Cal Grant is a postsecondary financial aid program administered by CSAC. Cal Grant is California's primary state-funded student financial aid program. Students must meet income and eligibility requirements to receive an award, including state residency requirements. The program offers multiple types of Cal Grant awards, based on what institution a student receiving a Cal Grant attends and other variables. Students may use their awards for tuition or non-tuition expenses, depending on the type of Cal Grant. In the 2023-24 fiscal year, the state awarded \$2.29 billion to students through Cal Grants.

MCSP is a postsecondary financial aid program administered by CSAC. A student must meet income and eligibility requirements to receive an award, including state residency requirements. Students may use their awards for tuition or non-tuition expenses. The award is

designed for students with higher income levels than those students eligible for Cal Grant. In the 2023-24 fiscal year, the state awarded \$568 million to students through the MCSP.

- 2) **Related Legislation.** AB 88 (Ta) of the current legislative session, is identical to this bill. AB 88 is currently awaiting hearing with the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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