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MEMORANDUM

Coded: AA-2012-03

Date: February 3, 2012

To: CSU Provosts and Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs
CSU Vice Presidents for Student Affairs

From: 
Eric G. Forbes
Assistant Vice Chancellor

Subject: Extended Eligibility Priority Registration for Veterans

Senate Bill 813, approved by the Governor on September 30, 2011 and filed with the Secretary of State on September 30, 2011, amended Section 66025.8 of the California Education Code. This section requires the California State University (CSU) to extend priority enrollment to any member and former member of the Armed Forces of the United States, who are residents of California, *within 4 years of leaving active duty* rather than the previous limit of 2 years.

Campuses must continue to provide priority enrollment to students meeting this definition, but also have the discretion to utilize a broader definition in accordance with existing local programs supporting veterans or active duty military personnel. Campuses of the CSU should provide priority registration opportunities as follows:

- Priority in registration should be made available to any member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States who has been admitted to the campus.
- Such priority shall be made available for any academic term beginning within *four* years of such student's having left active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

The legislation does not contain information on the "order of priority" for individuals who meet the criteria above. It is requested that qualified individuals be granted the highest possible priority, e.g. higher than other priority groups. Campuses may provide priority registration for periods longer than which is required by statute.

CSU Campuses

Bakersfield • Channel Islands • Chico • Dominguez Hills • East Bay • Fresno • Fullerton • Humboldt • Long Beach • Los Angeles • Maritime Academy • Monterey Bay Northridge • Pomona • Sacramento • San Bernardino • San Diego • San Francisco • San José • San Luis Obispo • San Marcos • Sonoma • Stanislaus

Questions concerning the matter addressed here may be referred to Carolina Cardenas, Associate Director of Outreach and Early Assessment Program at ccardenas@calstate.edu / (562) 951-4724 or Nathan Evans, Director of Enrollment Management Services at nevans@calstate.edu / (562) 951-4726.

Attachments

- c: Chancellor Charles B. Reed
- Dr. Ephraim Smith, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer
- Dr. Ron Vogel, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
- Ms. Carolina Cardenas, Associate Director, Outreach and Early Assessment Program
- Mr. Nathan Evans, Director of Enrollment Management Services
- Directors/Coordinators of veterans programs
- Directors of Admissions and Records
- State University Registrars

Senate Bill No. 813

CHAPTER 375

An act to amend Section 66025.8 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

[Approved by Governor September 30, 2011. Filed with
Secretary of State September 30, 2011.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 813, Committee on Veterans Affairs. Public postsecondary education: veterans' enrollment.

Existing law requires the California State University and each community college district, and requests the University of California, with respect to each campus in their respective jurisdictions that administers a priority enrollment system, to grant priority for registration for enrollment to any member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States, as defined, for any academic term attended at one of these institutions within 2 years of leaving active duty.

This bill would grant priority enrollment to these members or former members of the Armed Forces of the United States, who are residents of California, within 4 years of leaving active duty.

Because the bill would impose additional duties on community college districts, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 66025.8 of the Education Code is amended to read:

66025.8. (a) The California State University and each community college district shall, and the University of California is requested to, with respect to each campus in their respective jurisdictions that administers a priority enrollment system, grant priority in that system for registration for enrollment to any member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States, and who is a resident of California, who has received an honorable discharge, a general discharge, or an other than honorable discharge, and to any member or former member of the State Military Reserve, for any academic term attended at one of these institutions within four years of leaving state or

federal active duty. A former member of the Armed Forces of the United States or the State Military Reserve who received a dishonorable discharge or a bad conduct discharge is not eligible for priority registration for enrollment pursuant to this section.

(b) (1) For the purposes of this section, “Armed Forces of the United States” means the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, National Guard, Naval Militia, Navy, and the reserve components of each of those forces, including the California National Guard.

(2) As used in this section, “member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States” includes, but is not necessarily limited to, any student who is called to active military duty compelling that student to take an academic leave of absence.

SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.