

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 15, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 302

**Introduced by Assembly Members De La Torre and Ruskin
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Evans, Lieber, *Portantino*, and
Price)**

February 9, 2007

An act to amend Sections 66021.2 and 69435 of the Education Code, relating to student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 302, as amended, De La Torre. Cal Grant B Entitlement Awards: ~~access awards;~~ *award amount.*

Existing law, the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program, establishes the Cal Grant B Entitlement Awards under the administration of the Student Aid Commission, and establishes eligibility requirements for awards under these programs for participating students attending qualifying institutions. Under existing law, a Cal Grant B award ~~shall be~~ *is* used only for tuition, student fees, and access costs in a for-credit institutional program that is not less than one academic year in length. In no event ~~shall~~ *may* the total award exceed the applicant's calculated financial need. Existing law establishes that the maximum Cal Grant B award for a student attending the University of California or the California State University ~~shall~~ equal the mandatory systemwide fees in the segment attended by the student, except that in the first year of enrollment in a qualifying institution, the maximum Cal Grant B award to a student ~~shall be~~ *is* the amount of the access award, as specified. Under existing law, the maximum Cal Grant B award for students attending nonpublic institutions ~~shall equal~~ *equals* the amount

of the tuition award plus the amount of the access costs, as specified, except that in the first year of enrollment in a qualifying institution, the maximum award ~~shall be only for~~ *is* the amount of the access award.

This bill would delete the provisions of the Cal Grant Program that limit the maximum amount of Cal Grant B awards to the access award amount received by students attending the University of California, California State University, or nonpublic institutions, during the student’s first academic year. *The bill would specify that the Cal Grant B award include the access award amount and an additional amount to pay tuition and fees. The bill would make conforming changes to the law.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 66021.2 of the Education Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 66021.2. Consistent with the state’s historic commitment to
- 4 provide educational opportunity by ensuring both student access
- 5 to and selection of an institution of higher education for students
- 6 with financial need, the long-term policy of the
- 7 Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program
- 8 established pursuant to Chapter 1.7 (commencing with Section
- 9 69430) of Part 42 shall be as follows:
- 10 (a) Commencing with the 2001–02 academic year and every
- 11 year thereafter, an applicant for a Cal Grant A or B award shall
- 12 receive an award that is not in excess of the financial need amount
- 13 determined by the Student Aid Commission pursuant to Section
- 14 69432.9 if he or she complies with all of the following
- 15 requirements:
- 16 (1) Demonstrates financial need under the criteria adopted
- 17 pursuant to Section 69432.9.
- 18 (2) Attains a grade point average, as defined in Section 69432.7,
- 19 meeting the requirements of Chapter 1.7 (commencing with Section
- 20 69430) of Part 42.
- 21 (3) Complies with each of the eligibility criteria applicable to
- 22 the type of Cal Grant award for which he or she is applying.

1 (b) (1) The maximum Cal Grant A award for a student attending
2 the University of California or the California State University shall
3 equal the mandatory systemwide fees in each of those segments.

4 (2) The maximum Cal Grant B award for a student shall equal
5 the mandatory systemwide fees in the segment attended by the
6 student, except for community college students who receive
7 waivers from the Board of Governors of the California Community
8 Colleges, plus the access award calculated as specified in Article
9 3 (commencing with Section 69435) of Chapter 1.7 of Part 42.

10 (c) The maximum Cal Grant awards for students attending
11 nonpublic institutions shall be as follows:

12 (1) The maximum Cal Grant A award shall equal the tuition
13 award level established in the Budget Act of 2000, or the amount
14 as adjusted in subsequent annual budget acts.

15 (2) The maximum Cal Grant B award shall equal the amount
16 of the tuition award as established in the Budget Act of 2000, or
17 the amount as adjusted in subsequent annual budget acts, plus the
18 amount of the access costs specified in Section 69435.

19 (d) Commencing with the 2000–01 academic year, and each
20 academic year thereafter, the Cal Grant C award shall be utilized
21 only for occupational or technical training.

22 (e) Commencing with the 2000–01 academic year, and each
23 academic year thereafter, the Cal Grant T award shall be used only
24 for one academic year of full-time attendance in a program of
25 professional preparation that has been approved by the California
26 Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

27 (f) An institution of higher education in this state that
28 participates in the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal
29 Grant Program shall not reduce its level of per capita need-based
30 institutional financial aid to undergraduate students, excluding
31 loans, below the total level awarded in the 2000–01 academic year.

32 (g) The implementation of the policy set forth in this section
33 shall maintain a balance between the state’s policy goals of
34 ensuring student access to and selection of an institution of higher
35 education for students with financial need and academic merit.

36 (h) It is the policy of the State of California that the
37 Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program
38 supplement the federal Pell Grant program.

1 (i) An award under the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos
2 Cal Grant Program shall not guarantee admission to an institution
3 of higher education or admission to a specific campus or program.

4 SEC. 2. Section 69435 of the Education Code is amended to
5 read:

6 69435. (a) (1) Commencing with the 2001–02 academic year,
7 and each academic year thereafter, a Cal Grant B award shall be
8 used only for tuition, student fees, and access costs in a for-credit
9 instructional program that is not less than one academic year in
10 length.

11 (2) The Cal Grant B award ~~may include an additional access~~
12 ~~award amount to pay tuition or fees, or both, shall include an~~
13 ~~access award and an additional amount to pay tuition and fees to~~
14 attend college at a public or private four-year college or university
15 or other qualifying institution for all Cal Grant B awards pursuant
16 to paragraph (2) of subdivisions (b) and (c) of Section 66021.2.
17 The total award in any year shall not exceed the applicant's
18 calculated financial need.

19 ~~(3) The commission shall adopt regulations specifying the~~
20 ~~criteria used to determine which applicants, if any, receive both~~
21 ~~tuition and fees plus the access award. Priority shall be given to~~
22 ~~students with the lowest expected family contribution pursuant to~~
23 ~~Section 69432.7 and the highest level of academic merit.~~

24 (b) An award for access costs under this article shall be in an
25 annual amount not to exceed one thousand five hundred fifty-one
26 dollars (\$1,551). This amount may be adjusted in the annual Budget
27 Act.