An act to add Section 66014.4 to the Education Code, relating to postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST


Under the Donahoe Higher Education Act, the segments of postsecondary education in this state are the University of California, the California State University, the California Community Colleges, independent institutions of higher education, and private postsecondary educational institutions. Existing law requires each campus of the California State University, and requests each campus of the University of California, to post on its internet website information about the market cost of a one-bedroom apartment in the areas surrounding that campus where its students commonly reside.

This bill would require institutions in the California Community Colleges, California State University, or the University of California systems, independent institutions of higher education, and private postsecondary educational institutions to each calculate, and include at a minimum, specified items, including room and board, in a calculation of a full-time student’s cost of attendance at that institution. This
bill would require that calculation to include, at a minimum, specified items, including room and board. The bill would require an institution to calculate student costs for room and board for a student as living with family as a dependent, living on campus, or living independently off campus, as specified, and for the institution to update the calculation for room and board each fiscal year using the most recent fiscal year data available. By imposing additional duties on community college districts, this 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 the statutory provisions noted above.


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

SECTION 1. Section 66014.4 is added to the Education Code, to read:

66014.4. (a) This section shall be known, and may be cited, as the Housing Cost of Attendance Act.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 67400, institutions in the California Community Colleges, California State University, or the University of California systems, the independent institutions of higher education, and private postsecondary educational institutions shall each calculate and include, at a minimum, the following items in a calculation of a full-time student’s cost of attendance at that institution:

(1) Tuition and fees.

(2) Allowance for books and supplies.

(3) (A) Room and board.

(B) For the purposes of determining the amount for room and board to include in a student’s cost of living calculation, an institution shall do all of the following:

(i) Designate a student as one of the following and prepare a cost of housing for the applicable designation:

(I) Living with family as a dependent.
(II) Living on campus.

(III) Living independently off campus.

(ii) For (I) Except as provided in subclause (II), for students designated as living independently off campus, use the cost of housing for a one-bedroom unit in the community immediately surrounding the institution, as established by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to Section 1437f(c)(1)(A) of Title 42 of the United States Code (42 U.S.C.A., Sec. 1437f), and published on the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development’s internet website pursuant to Section 1437f(c)(1)(B) of Title 42 of the United States Code.

(II) An institution may use sources other than that specified in subclause (I) to determine the cost of housing if the cost determined by those sources is higher than that determined pursuant to subclause (I). For an institution that uses its own independently created housing cost for students living independently off campus, the methodology shall be posted on the institution’s internet website.

(iii) Update the calculation for the cost of room and board each fiscal year using the most recent fiscal year data available.

(4) Transportation.

(5) Personal expenses.

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.