ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1930

Introduced by Assembly Members Medina, Gonzalez, and Quirk-Silva
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Arambula, Berman, McCarty, O’Donnell, Luz Rivas, Rodriguez, and Weber)

January 15, 2020

An act to add Section 66205.4 to the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 1930, as introduced, Medina. Public postsecondary education: University of California and California State University: student eligibility policy.

Existing law establishes the University of California, under the administration of the Regents of the University of California, and the California State University, under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University, as the 2 segments of public postsecondary education in the state generally authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees. The Donahoe Higher Education Act sets forth the missions and functions of the segments of postsecondary education in this state. Provisions of the act apply to the University of California only to the extent that the regents act, by appropriate resolution, to make those provisions applicable. A provision of the act expresses the intent of the Legislature that, in determining the standards and criteria for undergraduate and graduate admissions to the University of California and the California State University, the governing bodies of the segments
develop processes that, among other things, strive to be fair and are easily understandable.

This bill would require the trustees, and request the regents, before making any change in student eligibility policy that adds eligibility requirements that impact students across its segment, to coordinate with the other segment to align their respective student eligibility policies and to commission an independent study by a third-party research organization to assess the impact of the change in student eligibility policy on the eligibility rates of the graduates of public secondary schools who are members of underrepresented student groups.

The bill would also require, if either the trustees or the regents approve a change in student eligibility policy that adds eligibility requirements that impact students across its segment, that an implementation committee be convened to develop a multiyear plan for that segment to work with the public elementary and secondary school system, the California Community Colleges, and the governing body of the other segment to implement the change, and would require in those circumstances annual progress reports to the Governor, the Legislature, and the governing body of the other segment, as specified. If such a change in student eligibility requirements is approved by either the trustees or the regents between January 1, 2020, and the operative date of this bill, the bill would additionally require the trustees or request the regents, as applicable, to commission an independent study by a third-party research organization to assess the actual impact of this change, as specified.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: \( \frac{2}{3} \). 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 66205.4 is added to the Education Code, to read:

   66205.4. (a) Before making any change in student eligibility policy that adds eligibility requirements that impact students across its segment, the Trustees of the California State University shall, and the Regents of the University of California are requested to, do both of the following:
Coordinate with the other segment to try to align their respective student eligibility policies. It is the intent of the Legislature that there be a common set of clear state public university eligibility requirements for public school pupils.

(2) Commission an independent study by a third-party research organization to assess whether the change in student eligibility policy under consideration would have a disparate impact on the eligibility rates of the graduates of public secondary schools who are members of underrepresented student groups. It is the intent of the Legislature that the segments should not pursue student eligibility policies that would have such a disparate impact.

(b) (1) If, on or after the operative date of the act that adds this section, either the Trustees of the California State University or the Regents of the University of California approve a change in student eligibility policy that adds eligibility requirements that impact students across their segment, the trustees shall, and the regents are requested to, do both of the following:

(A) Convene an implementation committee that shall develop a multiyear plan for that segment to work in partnership with the public elementary and secondary school system, the California Community Colleges, and the governing body of the other segment to implement the change.

(B) Each academic year between the approval of the change in student eligibility policy by the trustees or the regents and the effective date of that policy change, the implementation committee established under this subdivision shall provide annual progress reports to the Governor, the Legislature, and the governing bodies of the two segments. The report to the Legislature shall comply with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

(2) If, between January 1, 2020, and the operative date of the act that adds this section, either the Trustees of the California State University or the Regents of the University of California approve a change in student eligibility policy that adds eligibility requirements that impact students across their segment, the trustees shall, and the regents are requested to, do both of the following:

(A) Commission an independent study by a third-party research organization to make an assessment as specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a), except that the assessment shall be required to analyze the actual, as well as the projected, impact of the change in student eligibility policy that was approved.
Comply with the requirements of paragraph (1).

(c) The segments shall use existing resources to implement this section.

(d) As used in this section, “segment” means the California State University or the University of California.

SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order to ensure that pupils who are currently preparing themselves academically to ensure that they are eligible for the University of California or the California State University are properly informed of proposed changes to those segments’ student eligibility policies, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.