

Introduced by Senator Becker

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Berman and Mullin)

January 31, 2022

An act to add Sections 76302, 76303, and 76396.5 to the Education Code, relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 893, as introduced, Becker. Community colleges: San Mateo County Community College District: California College Promise.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law requires community college districts to charge students an enrollment fee of \$46 per unit per semester.

This bill would authorize the San Mateo County Community College District to charge students an enrollment fee less than \$46 per unit per semester. If the San Mateo County Community College District charges a fee rate less than \$46 per unit per semester, the bill would require the governing board of the community college district to adopt a policy that establishes eligibility requirements for fee rate modifications, as specified, and a requirement to prepare a fiscal impact statement, including a 3-year projection of the fiscal impact of fee rate modifications on the community college district, as specified. The bill would specify that the San Mateo County Community College District is not eligible for state reimbursement for the difference between the fee rate charged and the \$46 per unit per semester enrollment fee. The bill would require the San Mateo County Community College District to only provide the fee rate modification to students who reside within the boundary of the community college district.

Existing law establishes the California College Promise, to be administered by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. Existing law requires the chancellor to distribute funding, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to community college districts to fund colleges that meet prescribed requirements. Existing law authorizes a community college that receives funding under the program to, among other things, waive some or all of the fees for up to 2 academic years for first-time students who are enrolled in 12 or more semester units or the equivalent at the college and complete and submit either a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or a California Dream Act application.

This bill would authorize the San Mateo County Community College District to use existing funds for the implementation of the California College Promise, and to provide assistance to students for the total cost of attendance. The bill would define total cost of attendance for a student attending a community college as including all items prescribed in a specified federal statute. The bill would require the San Mateo County Community College District to only use local unrestricted general funds for purposes of implementing the California College Promise for students who reside within the boundary of the community college district.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the San Mateo County Community College District.

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 76302 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:
3 76302. Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section
4 76300, the governing board of the San Mateo County Community
5 College District may charge a fee rate less than that prescribed by
6 subdivision (b) of Section 76300 if all of the following
7 requirements are met:
8 (a) The governing board of the community college district adopts
9 a policy that establishes eligibility requirements for fee rate
10 modifications, including a provision that grants priority to students
11 with the greatest financial need for fee rate modifications when

1 other fee rate modifications are not provided to those students.
2 The policy shall include a requirement to prepare a fiscal impact
3 statement, including a three-year projection of the fiscal impact
4 of fee rate modifications on the community college district. The
5 fiscal impact statement shall be presented at a public meeting of
6 the governing board of the community college district and made
7 available to the public.

8 (b) The community college district is not eligible for state
9 reimbursement for the difference between the fee rate charged by
10 the community college district and the fee rate prescribed by
11 subdivision (b) of Section 76300 unless provided for elsewhere.

12 (c) The community college district only provides the fee rate
13 modification to students who reside within the boundary of the
14 community college district.

15 SEC. 2. Section 76303 is added to the Education Code, to read:

16 76303. The total cost of attendance for a student attending a
17 community college shall be defined to include all items prescribed
18 in Section 108711 of Title 20 of the United States Code.

19 SEC. 3. Section 76396.5 is added to the Education Code, to
20 read:

21 76396.5. (a) (1) In addition to funding received pursuant to
22 subdivision (b) of Section 76396, the San Mateo County
23 Community College District may use existing funds to support the
24 implementation of this article and to provide assistance to students
25 for the total cost of attendance.

26 (2) The San Mateo County Community College District may
27 only use local unrestricted general funds for the purposes described
28 in this section for students who reside within the boundary of the
29 community college district.

30 (b) For purposes of this section, “total cost of attendance” has
31 the same meaning as specified in Section 76303.

32 SEC. 4. The Legislature finds and declares that a special statute
33 is necessary and that a general statute cannot be made applicable
34 within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California
35 Constitution because of the unique circumstances of the San Mateo
36 County Community College District that necessitate greater
37 flexibility in the use of local resources to support students basic

- 1 needs and removal of financial barriers for students to access higher
- 2 education in a high cost-of-living region.

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