

AB 1285
(Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program)

Introduced by Assembly Member Paul Fong on February 22, 2013

- Existing law states that when students are awarded Cal Grant B, only the top 2% will get their tuition, fees, books, and living expenses paid in their first year of college, while the other 98% will only have their books and living expenses paid.
- As of right now, Cal Grant B awards students \$1,473 per year.

What this Bill Will Do

- The bill would delete the top 2% cap, and provide for the academic years 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017 a gradual increase of students having all their college expenses paid for in their first year.
EX: 25% of students in 2014-2015, then 50% of students in 2015-2016, then 75% of students in 2016-2017.
- After these academic years, **all** Cal Grant B Entitlement recipients will be eligible for their expenses (tuition, fees, books, and living expenses) to be paid for in their 1st year of college.
- The bill is currently in the Senate for Hearings, while the Assembly has passed it through.

The Assembly of Higher Education (Committee)

- Shall adopt regulations specifying criteria to determine applicants by prioritizing the students of lowest expected family contribution and of higher level academic merit.
- Access cost award shall not exceed \$1,551(usually \$1,473) and the student's calculated financial need.
-May be subject to change according to the annual Budget Act of California's Legislature.
- Fiscal Effects: Estimated to be around \$117.4 million in 2014-2015, although institutionalization may be in 2015-2016.

Reasoning

- When Cal Grant B was authorized in 1960 by the "College Opportunity Grant Program" it was assumed that lowest income students wouldn't go to a four-year college, and instead to a community college first, therefore the program allowed 1st year tuition/ payments to be paid for only to top 2% of recipients.
-However, more students are now attending 4 year colleges, and must take on debts to cover their 1st year because their awarded Cal Grant B isn't into full effect until their second year.
- Expands access to higher education and allows low-income students to attend college of their choice.

REGISTERED SUPPORT

American Association of University Women, California Community College Association of Student Trustees, California Competes, California Federation of Teachers, California State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, California State Student Association, Community College League of California, NAACP Los Angeles, National Council of La Raza, Public Advocates Inc., Southern California College Access Network, Student Senate for California Community Colleges, The Education Trust-West, The Institute for College Access & Success, University of California Student Association, Young Invincibles.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml;jsessionid=12fc1a476615d7a28f247b3d03be?bill_id=201320140AB1285

Types of Cal Grants and Their Categories

Cal Grant A	Cal Grant B	Cal Grant C
<p>Entitlement Award -Provided to middle-income students that attend 4-year institutions that offer A.A.s/ B.A.s. -Students must be enrolled in an instructional program that’s not less than 2 academic years in length. -Pays for tuition/ fees alone (\$5,472-\$12,192)</p>	<p>Entitlement Award -Provided to low-income students that are enrolled for at least one academic year. -Pays for books/ living expenses, but not for tuition/ fees for 1st – year students. (\$1,473) - After 1st year, grant can pay for tuition/ fees as well. *Be advised that Cal Grant B recipients shouldn’t use all 400% of their funds at their community college because money can used to pay for their tuition at their 4-year university.</p>	<p>Entitlement Award -Provided to students pursuing career technical/ vocational training. -Pays for books, tools, and equipment. (\$547) *up to \$2,462 if attending a school other than Community College. -Funding available for up to 2 years.</p>
<p>Competitive Award Students who aren’t eligible for Cal Grant A Entitlement must have at least a 3.0 GPA, and meet previous requirements.</p>	<p>Competitive Award Students who aren’t eligible for Cal Grant B Entitlement must have at least a 2.0 GPA, and meet previous requirements.</p>	<p>Competitive Award N/A</p>
<p>Transfer Entitlement Award Must have at least a 2.4 GPA, meet financial need, and be under 28 years old.</p>	<p>Transfer Entitlement Award Must have at least a 2.4 GPA, meet financial need, and be under 28 years old.</p>	<p>Transfer Entitlement Award N/A</p>

<http://www.calgrants.org/index.cfm?navid=11> <http://www.csac.ca.gov/cgm/Chap02.pdf>