

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 06/27/2024
POSITION: Neutral, note concerns

BILL NUMBER: AB 1780
AUTHOR: Ting, Philip Y

BILL SUMMARY: Independent institutions of higher education: legacy and donor preference in admissions: prohibition.

This bill, commencing September 1, 2025, specifies that an independent institution of higher education shall not provide a legacy preference or donor preference in admissions to an applicant as part of the regular or early action admissions process.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Department of Justice (DOJ) estimates that this bill will result in ongoing General Fund costs of \$235,000 to hire two additional positions to review, investigate, and enforce potential violations by independent educational institutions. Any requests for additional resources will be reviewed for justification during the annual budget process.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is neutral on this bill because it supports efforts to ensure transparency in postsecondary institution admissions and fair and appropriate admissions practices, but notes that this bill could create ongoing General Fund costs of \$235,000 for DOJ to hire two additional positions to review, investigate, and enforce potential violations by independent educational institutions.

This bill:

- Requires, on or before June 30, 2026, and annually thereafter, an independent institution of higher education to report to the Legislature and DOJ the following:
- Whether the independent institution of higher education complied with the requirements of not providing a legacy preference or donor preference in admissions to an applicant as part of the regular or early action admissions process.
- If the independent institution of higher education failed to comply with the requirements of not providing a legacy preference or donor preference in admissions to an applicant.
 - When reporting its violations, the independent institution of higher education shall include further information for all enrolled students admitted that academic year in its report.
Requires that the DOJ post the names of the independent institutions of higher education that violate this bill's provisions on its website.

Analyst/Principal Date Program Budget Manager Date
Anaya, Alexander/ Ferguson, Chris
Nguyen, Michelle

Department Deputy Director Date

Governor's Office: By: Date: Position Approved
Position Disapproved

Ting, Philip Y

06/27/2024

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COMMENTS (continued)

- Defines numerous terms.

Existing law requires: (1) on or before June 30, 2020, and annually from 2021 to 2024, the University of California, California State University, and any independent institution of higher education that participated in the Cal Grant program to report to the Legislature whether they provided to applicants in the admissions process any preferential treatment based upon their relationship to a donor or alumni and (2) institutions that have reported providing preferential treatment to report on the number of applicants meeting and not meeting the institution's admissions standards who were offered admission, accepted the offer, and enrolled at the institution.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)						Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)						
	CO RV	PROP 98	FC	2024-2025 FC	2025-2026 FC	2026-2027 FC		
0820/Justice	SO	No	C	235	C	235	C	235 0001