

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 9, 2023

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2023–24 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1575

Introduced by Assembly Member Irwin

February 17, 2023

~~An act relating to postsecondary education.~~ *An act to add Section 66023.9 to the Education Code, relating to postsecondary education.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1575, as amended, Irwin. Postsecondary education: ~~student mental health~~. *designated advocates: notification.*

Existing law defines “segments of postsecondary education” as the California Community Colleges, the California State University, the University of California, independent institutions of higher education, and private postsecondary educational institutions. Existing law authorizes each campus of the California State University, the California Community Colleges, and the University of California to establish a campus mental health hotline for students to access mental health services remotely. Existing law also requires certain postsecondary educational entities to adopt, and to implement at each of their respective campuses or other facilities, a written procedure or protocols to ensure, to the fullest extent possible, that students, faculty, and staff who are victims of sexual assault or domestic violence receive treatment and information, as provided.

This bill would require the segments of postsecondary education to, upon enrollment of a student at their segment, notify a student regarding the student’s ability to select a designated advocate. The bill would require the segments of postsecondary education to, concurrently with notifications sent to a student, send notifications to the student’s

designated advocate about specific administrative, academic, health, and disciplinary notices. The bill would require the segments to allow a student to opt into which notices are sent to the student’s designated advocate, as provided, and would authorize a student to select, revoke, and replace their designated advocate, as provided. By imposing new requirements on community colleges, the bill would establish 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.

~~Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, the California State University under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University, and the University of California under the administration of the Regents of the University of California as the 3 segments of public postsecondary education in the state. Existing law authorizes each campus of the California State University, the California Community Colleges, and the University of California to establish a campus mental health hotline for students to access mental health services remotely.~~

~~This bill would declare the Legislature’s intent to enact subsequent legislation relating to student mental health at postsecondary educational institutions.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes.
 State-mandated local program: ~~no~~-yes.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 66023.9 is added to the Education Code,
- 2 to read:
- 3 66023.9. (a) The segments of postsecondary education shall,
- 4 upon enrollment of a student at their segment, notify a student
- 5 regarding the student’s ability to select a designated advocate.
- 6 (b) The segments of postsecondary education shall, concurrently
- 7 with notifications sent to a student, send notifications to the

1 student's designated advocate about specific administrative,
2 academic, health, and disciplinary notices. The segments of
3 postsecondary education shall provide a student with a list of the
4 types of notices that may be sent and shall allow a student to opt
5 into which notices are sent to the student's designated advocate.

6 (c) A student may select any adult to be the student's designated
7 advocate by providing the adult's name and contact information
8 to the segment of postsecondary education. A student may revoke
9 or replace their selected designated advocate at any time. At the
10 request of a student, a segment of postsecondary education may
11 assign the student a designated advocate who may be a volunteer,
12 mental health crisis organization, or nonemployee campus
13 community member, if any are available.

14 (d) Section 67400 shall not apply to this section.

15 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
16 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
17 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
18 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
19 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

20 ~~SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact~~
21 ~~subsequent legislation relating to student mental health at~~
22 ~~postsecondary educational institutions.~~