

Date of Hearing: April 5, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Patrick O'Donnell, Chair

AB 616 (Aguiar-Curry) – As Introduced February 14, 2017

SUBJECT: Pupil instruction: California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science: funding: tuition

SUMMARY: Extends from January 1, 2018 to January 1, 2023 provisions of existing law related to tuition and financial aid for the California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science (also known as COSMOS) to provide intensive educational enrichment for pupils who have demonstrated academic excellence in mathematics and science.
- 2) Specifies that pupils who have demonstrated academic excellence in mathematics and science and who meet one of the following criteria shall be eligible for admission:
 - a) The pupil has graduated, or will graduate, from the 8th grade at the end of the school year immediately preceding the summer school session for which he or she is applying;
 - b) The pupil is currently enrolled in any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive; or
 - c) The pupil graduated from high school during the school year immediately preceding the summer school session for which he or she is applying.
- 3) Expresses the intent of the Legislature that at least 50 percent, but not more than 75 percent, of the actual costs of the California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science for each fiscal year be financed by state funds beginning in the 1999–2000 fiscal year, with the balance of the operating costs financed with fees and private support.
- 4) Requests the Regents of the University of California (UC) to set a tuition fee within a range that corresponds to actual program costs, up to but not exceeding \$2,810 per session in the year 2012, and increase this fee by up to 5 percent each year thereafter.
- 5) Expresses the intent of the Legislature that the UC award full or partial scholarships on the basis of need and that pupils who are unable to pay all or part of the fee may petition the University of California for a fee reduction or waiver to ensure that a qualified applicant is not denied admission solely because of his or her inability to pay part or all of the fee.
- 6) Specifies that any public announcement regarding the summer school program should include notification that need-based scholarships are available and information regarding the procedure for applying for a scholarship award.
- 7) States that, for pupils who are not California residents, it is the intent of the Legislature that the Regents of the UC set a tuition fee that is not less than the total actual costs to the summer school of services per pupil.

- 8) Authorizes funds raised from the private sector to be used by the summer school for general program operating costs, scholarships, program augmentation, public relations, recruitment activity, or special projects.
- 9) Sunsets these provisions on January 1, 2018.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS:

Background. The California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science, also known as, COSMOS, is an intensive four-week summer residential program for pupils with a demonstrated aptitude for academic and professional careers in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Pupils completing grades 8-12 have the opportunity to work with faculty, researchers, and scientists while exploring advanced STEM topics beyond those usually offered in California high schools.

The program is offered at four UC campuses: UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC San Diego, and UC Santa Cruz. Each campus can accommodate about 150 pupils for each summer session, and admission is competitive. In 2015 39% of the 3,924 applicants were accepted. For the years 2011 to 2015, inclusive, 49.3% of the participants were male and 50.7% were female. For the same time period, the participation rate by ethnicity was 50.6% Asian, 21.5% White, 16.8% Latino, 2.0% Black, 0.8% Native American, 5.0% Other, and 3.9% Decline to State/Unknown.

COSMOS costs and funding. The average cost per pupil for COSMOS is \$6,500, which includes instruction and room and board. In 2015, the maximum tuition was \$3,250, which is equal to the maximum amount of \$2,810 that was allowed in 2012, as increased by 5% in each subsequent year (the maximum increase allowed by law). The program received \$1.643 in state funds in 2015 and another \$195,000 in private donations.

Full and partial financial assistance is available to families making up to \$85,000. For example, a family of four with a yearly income of \$43,000 could have qualified for a full scholarship, while a family of four with a yearly income of \$80,000 could have qualified for a 25% scholarship (\$813).

Reason for the bill. Existing law, which establishes the current tuition and annual rate of increase, sunsets on January 1, 2018. The purpose of this bill is to extend the sunset date to January 1, 2023.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

University of California

Opposition

None received

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