

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2176**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Holden**

February 11, 2020

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An act to add Section 66014.6 to the Education Code, and to add Chapter 2.5 (commencing with Section 99120) to Part 11 of Division 10 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to transportation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2176, as introduced, Holden. Free student transit passes: eligibility for state funding.

Existing law declares that the fostering, continuance, and development of public transportation systems are a matter of state concern. Existing law authorizes the Department of Transportation to administer various programs and allocates moneys for various public transportation purposes.

This bill would require transit agencies to offer free student transit passes to persons attending the California Community Colleges, the California State University, or the University of California in order to be eligible for state funding under the Mills-Alquist-Deddeh Act, the State Transit Assistance Program, or the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program. The bill would also require a free student transit pass to count as a full price fare for purposes of calculating the ratio of fare revenues to operating costs.

The Donahoe Higher Education Act establishes the University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges as the 3 segments of public postsecondary education in the state. The provisions of the act apply to the University

of California only to the extent that the Regents of the University of California, by appropriate resolution, make them applicable.

This bill would prohibit the California Community Colleges, California State University, and University of California, if the regents adopt an appropriate resolution, from charging, as part of mandatory systemwide tuition or fees, students for any transit service offered by a transit agency required to provide free student transit passes pursuant to the above-described provisions.

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 66014.6 is added to the Education Code,  
2 to read:  
3 66014.6. The California Community Colleges, California State  
4 University, and University of California shall not charge, as part  
5 of mandatory systemwide tuition or fees, students for any transit  
6 service offered by a transit agency required to provide free student  
7 transit passes pursuant to Chapter 2.5 (commencing with Section  
8 99120) of Part 11 of Division 10 of the Public Utilities Code.

9 SEC. 2. Chapter 2.5 (commencing with Section 99120) is added  
10 to Part 11 of Division 10 of the Public Utilities Code, to read:

11  
12 CHAPTER 2.5. FREE STUDENT TRANSIT PASSES

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14 99120. Notwithstanding any other law, a transit agency shall  
15 offer free student transit passes to persons attending the California  
16 Community Colleges, the California State University, or the  
17 University of California in order to be eligible for state funding  
18 under the Mills-Alquist-Deddeh Act (Chapter 4 (commencing with  
19 Section 99200)), the State Transit Assistance Program (Article 6.5  
20 (commencing with Section 99310) of Chapter 4), or the Low  
21 Carbon Transit Operations Program created by Part 3 (commencing  
22 with Section 75230) of Division 44 of the Public Resources Code.

23 99121. A free student transit pass provided pursuant to Section  
24 99120 shall count as a full price fare for purposes of calculating  
25 the ratio of fare revenues to operating costs.

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