

AB 982 (Laird) Student Health Services Fee Bill
Signed by Governor 9/22/05

Background Information

- AB 982

“Under existing law, community college district governing boards are required to adopt regulations exempting from health supervision and services fees all low-income students (BOGW A, B, Special Category and C)...”

“The bill would delete the provision requiring the exemption of certain students from health supervision and services fee.”

Comments: This bill relates **only** to low-income students (BOGW A, B, or C). It **does not** have any impact on the other group of students the college is already exempting from the fee.

- Bill is effective January 1, 2006

Comment: It is the college district’s governing board decision as to what semester they implement the change.

- Section 1 (c)

“Allowing districts to charge a health fee for students who do not pay enrollment fees.....”

Comment: This is permissive. It **does not** require college district governing board to charge the health fee for students who have a BOGW. The board may choose to remain status quo.

- Section 2 (b)

“...the governing board may decide whether the fee shall be mandatory or optional.”

Comment: This is permissive. The college district’s governing board **may** choose to mandate the fee for a group of low-income students (i.e., BOGW A, B, Special Category or C).

- Section 2 (c)

Under this section, it requires the governing board to exempt only two groups of students (i.e., prayer related and apprenticeship program).

Comments: These groups of students are already included on the college’s exempt-list for the fee. If the intent is to help support and improve ongoing health services to students, we need to reassess our list of exempt students.

- This bill makes no reference to students receiving enrollment fee waiver under Special Categories such as: Dependent of a Deceased or Disabled California Veteran; Dependent of Individual Killed in September 11th, 2001 Terrorist Attack; Dependent of Law Enforcement or Fire Suppression Personnel Killed in Line of Duty; Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient of Child of Recipient.

Comments: We currently do not waive the health fees for these students since they are not listed in the Education Code section 76355 regarding health fee exempt students. However, we have received recent interpretations stating these special categories fall under BOGW B status as well.