SENATE BILL NO. 391–COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MARCH 19, 2001

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Creates Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education scholarship trust fund (BDR 34-282)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

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17 18 Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; creating the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education scholarship trust fund; providing for the award of scholarships from the fund to certain students; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 397 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

- 1. The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education scholarship trust fund is hereby created, to be administered by the three commissioners from the State of Nevada, acting jointly. The commissioners may accept gifts, grants, bequests and donations for deposit in the fund. All money received from persons who are required to repay a scholarship pursuant to subsection 5 must be deposited in the fund.
- 2. The money in the fund remains in the fund and does not revert to the state general fund at the end of any fiscal year.
- 3. The money in the fund must be used solely to provide scholarships to students who are certified to study to practice in a profession which could benefit an underserved area of this state. Within the limits of money available in the fund, each year at least:
 - (a) Five scholarships must be awarded for the nursing profession;
- (b) Five scholarships must be awarded for the mental health profession; and
- 19 (c) Five scholarships must be awarded for the teaching 20 profession.



The three commissioners from the State of Nevada, acting jointly, may award additional scholarships to persons in other professions which could benefit an underserved area of this state.

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- 4. As a condition for receipt of a scholarship, a student must agree to practice for at least 1 year in an underserved area of this state in the profession in which he is certified to study. The terms and conditions of the scholarship, including, without limitation, the terms and conditions for repayment of the scholarship, must be set forth in a contract between the student and the grantor.
- 5. If a student who receives a scholarship does not practice for at least 1 year in an underserved area of this state in the profession in which he was certified to study, the student shall repay the scholarship subject to the terms and conditions prescribed pursuant to subsection 6.
 - 6. The three commissioners from the State of Nevada, acting jointly:
- (a) Shall adopt regulations that prescribe the terms and conditions for repayment of a scholarship if a student fails to practice for at least 1 year in an underserved area of this state in the profession in which he was certified to study.
- (b) May adopt such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.
- 7. As used in this section, "profession which could benefit an underserved area in this state" includes, without limitation, nursing, mental health and teaching.
- **Sec. 2.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the state general fund to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education scholarship trust fund created pursuant to section 1 of this act for the 2002-2003 fiscal year, the sum of \$75,000.
- 2. The three commissioners from the State of Nevada, acting jointly, shall use the money appropriated by subsection 1 to provide scholarships to students pursuant to section 1 of this act.
- 31 Sec. 3. 1. This section becomes effective on July 1, 2001.
- 32 2. Section 1 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 2001, for the purpose of adopting regulations and on July 1, 2002, for all other purposes.
 - 3. Section 2 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 2002.

