

Assembly Bill No. 280—Assemblymen Giunchigliani,
Conklin, Denis, Hogan, Horne, Koivisto and Ohrenschall

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating higher education; requiring the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to ensure that students enrolled in a program for the education of teachers are instructed in the academic standards required for high school pupils; requiring access to library facilities for students enrolled at an institution within the University and Community College System of Nevada; specifying that a student at a university or state college within the System completes a full course of study for the issuance of a diploma of graduation from the System if he satisfies the requirements for graduation and a degree as set forth in the catalog of the university or state college that is in effect at the time of enrollment or at the time of graduation, whichever the student elects; revising the terms of office of members of the Board of Regents; revising provisions regarding the degrees and transferability of credits earned within the System; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law provides for the establishment of courses of study and academic standards for the public schools in this State. (Chapter 389 of NRS)

This bill requires the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to work with the State Board of Education and the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools to ensure that students enrolled in a program for the education of teachers are provided instruction in the standards for high school pupils.

Existing law sets forth the requirements for issuance of a baccalaureate degree by the Board of Regents. (NRS 396.560)

This bill specifies the manner in which a student is determined to have completed a full course of study for the issuance of a diploma of graduation from the System.

Existing law prescribes 6-year terms of office for the members of the Board of Regents. (NRS 396.040)

This bill reduces the terms of office to 4 years. The current members elected will continue to serve out their 6-year terms of office. This provision becomes effective only if AJR 11 of the 72nd Session of the Nevada Legislature is not passed by the 73rd Session of the Legislature.

Existing law requires that all credits earned at a community college within the System be transferable to a university or state college within the System if the course catalog identifies the course by the same title and description. (NRS 396.568)

This bill requires that all courses earned at a community college within the System automatically transfer to a university or state college within the System and removes the requirements regarding the course catalog.

This bill also provides that a student who has been awarded an associate's degree must be enrolled as a junior if he enrolls in any institution within the

System. This bill further provides that a student enrolled at any campus of the System must be granted access to library facilities available within the System and must be adequately informed of those facilities.

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

Section 1. Chapter 396 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. *The Legislature hereby encourages the Board of Regents to review periodically their mission for higher education, as the number of institutions within the System expands and the focus of each institution is defined and further redefined, to determine whether there is unnecessary duplication of programs or courses within the System which might be more appropriate for a different institution. The System is encouraged to review the core curriculum at each institution to determine whether there is parity among the institutions of the System.*

Sec. 3. *The Board of Regents shall, in cooperation with the State Board and the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools, ensure that students enrolled in a program developed by the System for the education of teachers are provided instruction regarding the standards of content and performance required of pupils enrolled in high schools in this State.*

Sec. 4. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 5. *A student who is enrolled in a university, state college or community college within the System must be granted access to all the library facilities that are available to students enrolled in any of the institutions within the System and must be adequately informed of the library services that are available.*

Sec. 6. NRS 396.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:

396.040 1. The Board of Regents consists of 13 members elected by the registered voters within the districts described in NRS 396.0415 to 396.046, inclusive.

2. The members of the Board of Regents must be elected as follows:

(a) At the general election in ~~2002,~~ 2008, and every ~~6~~ 4 years thereafter, one member of the Board of Regents must be elected from districts 2, 3, 5 and 10.

(b) At the general election in ~~2004,~~ 2010, and every ~~6~~ 4 years thereafter, one member of the Board of Regents must be elected from districts 6, 7, 8, 11 and 13.

(c) At the general election in 2006, and every ~~6~~ 4 years thereafter, one member of the Board of Regents must be elected from districts 1, 4, 9 and 12.

3. Each member of the Board of Regents must be a resident of the district from which he is elected.

Sec. 7. NRS 396.560 is hereby amended to read as follows:

396.560 1. Upon the recommendation of a president of a branch within the System, the Board of Regents shall issue to those who worthily complete the full course of study in the school of mines or in the school of agriculture, or in the school of liberal arts, or in any equivalent course that may hereafter be prescribed, a diploma of graduation, conferring the proper academic degree, from the System.

2. The Board of Regents shall not issue such a diploma to a ~~{person}~~ **student** who has not completed the full course of study as set forth in ~~{subsection 1.}~~ **this section.**

3. For the purposes of this section, a student at a university or state college within the System completes the full course of study for a diploma of graduation if, in accordance with the policy of the Board of Regents, he satisfies the requirements for graduation and a degree as set forth in the catalog of the university or state college that is in effect at the time the student:

(a) First enrolls in the university or state college or is admitted to the academic program or department of the student's major if the program or department has a formal process for admitting students to the program or department; or

(b) Graduates,

↳ whichever the student elects. A student who changes his major must elect the catalog of the year of the latest change of the major or the year of graduation. A student may not elect a catalog that is more than 10 years old at the time of his graduation.

Sec. 8. NRS 396.568 is hereby amended to read as follows:

396.568 ~~{In accordance with the policy of the Board of Regents, all}~~

1. All credits earned by a student in a course at a community college within the System, including, without limitation, all credits earned in a course toward the award of an associate's degree ~~{including, without limitation, a degree of associate in applied science, must be accepted and applied}~~ **must automatically transfer** toward the course work required of the student in his major or minor, or other course work required of the student, for the award of a baccalaureate degree upon graduation of the student from any university or state college within the System. ~~{if the catalog for the community college:~~

~~— 1. Designates the course as transferable by the System;~~

~~— 2. Identifies the course by the same title as the equivalent required course offered at a university or state college, as applicable; and~~

~~3. Contains the same description for the course as the equivalent required course offered at a university or state college, as applicable.]~~

2. Pursuant to the policy of the Board of Regents, a student who is awarded an associate's degree:

(a) Shall be deemed to have completed the course of study required of a sophomore.

(b) If he enrolls in another institution within the System, must be enrolled as a junior.

3. All credits earned toward the completion of a degree of associate of arts, associate of science or associate of business must automatically transfer toward the course work required for the award of a baccalaureate degree upon the graduation of the student from any university or college within the System.

↪ If the transfer of credit pursuant to this section is denied and the student believes that the credit should be applied to his degree, he may appeal the decision. The appeal process must be made available to all students and may be posted on the website of the System.

Sec. 9. If section 6 of this act becomes effective, the members of the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada who are in office on July 1, 2005, shall serve out the term of office for which they were elected.

Sec. 10. If a committee related to higher education is created by the Legislature, that committee is encouraged to participate in any review conducted by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada pursuant to section 2 of this act and to report back to the Legislature on the status of the review.

Sec. 11. 1. This section and sections 1 to 5, inclusive, 8, 9 and 10 of this act become effective upon passage and approval.

2. Section 7 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 2005.

3. Section 6 of this act becomes effective only if Assembly Joint Resolution No. 11 of the 72nd Session of the Nevada Legislature is not passed by the 73rd Session of the Nevada Legislature.