

SENATE BILL NO. 69—COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE
OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

(ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE HIGHER
EDUCATION PROGRAMS)

FEBRUARY 16, 2005

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Creates Committee to Advance Higher Education in
Nevada. (BDR S-182)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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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 higher education; providing a legislative
declaration regarding the importance of higher education
and the need to develop a public agenda concerning
higher education; creating the Committee to Advance
Higher Education in Nevada and providing for its
organization, powers and duties; and providing other
matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 Existing law created the Committee to Evaluate Higher Education Programs to
- 2 evaluate various aspects of higher education and report its findings and
- 3 recommendations to the Board of Regents, the Legislative Commission and the
- 4 Legislative Committee on Education. The Committee ceased to exist on February 1,
- 5 2005. (Chapter 443, Statutes of Nevada 2003, at page 2676)
- 6 This bill creates the Committee to Advance Higher Education in Nevada to
- 7 continue the mission of the Committee to Evaluate Higher Education Programs.
- 8 The Committee will be responsible for: (1) evaluating existing and potential higher
- 9 education programs to assure that the programs meet the educational needs of
- 10 Nevada residents and that the programs improve the State economy; (2) creating a
- 11 plan to accommodate enrollment growth in Nevada's higher education system; (3)
- 12 developing a plan that addresses the strategic program needs of Nevada's higher
- 13 education system; (4) assisting in the development of a plan for examining the role
- 14 of Nevada's higher education system in promoting adult literacy; and (5) assisting
- 15 in the development of a strategic-level financing plan for Nevada's higher
- 16 education system.



17 This bill requires the Committee to present reports to the Board of Regents, the
18 Legislative Commission and the Legislative Committee on Education in 2007. The
19 Committee will expire on February 1, 2007.

20 This bill allows the Committee to accept gifts and grants to cover the costs of
21 its work.

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

1 **Section 1.** The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

2 1. The Board of Regents was created by the Nevada
3 Constitution and empowered to control and manage the affairs of
4 the University and Community College System of Nevada.

5 2. Matters relating to higher education are vitally important to
6 the future of the State of Nevada, its economy and the general
7 welfare of its residents. In light of the growing enrollments in
8 Nevada's public system of higher education, it is important that the
9 Nevada Legislature, the Board of Regents and the Executive Branch
10 of the State Government work together as partners in developing a
11 needed public agenda to advance higher education in this State.

12 3. Implementation of the recommendations made by the
13 Committee to Evaluate Higher Education Programs, created
14 pursuant to Assembly Bill No. 203 of the 72nd Session of the
15 Nevada Legislature, must be evaluated, and such evaluation should
16 include, without limitation, an examination of the costs and sources
17 of funding associated with the implementation of those
18 recommendations.

19 4. Many of the recommendations made by the Committee to
20 Evaluate Higher Education Programs, created pursuant to Assembly
21 Bill No. 203 of the 72nd Session of the Nevada Legislature, may
22 take a significant period of time to evaluate and implement.

23 5. The development of the agenda to advance higher education
24 should be carried out with a view toward seeking input from all
25 parties who have a stake in the advancement of higher education in
26 this State, including, without limitation, the students who participate
27 in Nevada's public system of higher education.

28 **Sec. 2.** 1. The Committee to Advance Higher Education in
29 Nevada, consisting of 14 voting members and 4 nonvoting
30 members, is hereby created.

31 2. The following persons shall serve as voting members of the
32 Committee:

33 (a) Five members of the Board of Regents, appointed by the
34 Chairman of that Board;



1 (b) Six members of the Legislature, three each from the Senate
2 and the Assembly, appointed by the Chairman of the Legislative
3 Commission; and

4 (c) Three members appointed by the Governor with appropriate
5 regard for their experience with and knowledge of matters relating
6 to higher education.

7 3. The Governor shall appoint the following persons to serve as
8 nonvoting members of the Committee:

9 (a) One person who is employed in the Budget Division of the
10 Department of Administration;

11 (b) Two persons who are employed by the University and
12 Community College System of Nevada; and

13 (c) One student who is currently enrolled in an institution within
14 the University and Community College System of Nevada.

15 4. The Chairman of the Board of Regents, the Chairman of the
16 Legislative Commission and the Governor shall each appoint two
17 alternate voting members to attend a scheduled meeting of the
18 Committee if a regular member is unable to attend. If any regular
19 member of the Committee is unable to attend a scheduled meeting
20 of the Committee, and notifies the Chairman of the Committee, the
21 Chairman or his designee shall notify the proper alternate member.
22 Such alternate member may then replace the regular member only at
23 that meeting with all the duties, rights and privileges of the replaced
24 member.

25 5. The Chairman of the Legislative Commission shall
26 designate one of the members as Chairman of the Committee.

27 6. A vacancy on the Committee must be filled in the same
28 manner as the initial appointment.

29 7. The Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau shall
30 provide the necessary professional staff and a secretary for the
31 Committee.

32 8. For each day or portion of a day during which they attend a
33 meeting of the Committee or are otherwise engaged in the business
34 of the Committee:

35 (a) The voting members of the Committee who are Legislators
36 are entitled to receive the compensation provided for a majority of
37 the members of the Legislature during the first 60 days of the
38 preceding regular session plus the per diem allowance provided for
39 state officers and employees generally and the travel expenses
40 provided pursuant to NRS 218.2207.

41 (b) The voting members of the Committee who are members of
42 the Board of Regents are entitled to receive travel expenses and a
43 per diem allowance at the rates established in NRS 396.070.



(c) The voting members of the Committee appointed by the Governor are entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally.

9. Any member who is absent from two consecutive meetings of the Committee:

(a) Forfeits his membership on the Committee; and

(b) Must be replaced as provided in this section for the filling of a vacancy.

Sec. 3. The Committee shall:

1. Continue to examine and evaluate the need in this State for existing and potential higher education programs to ensure:

(a) Economic progress and development within the State of Nevada; and

(b) That the educational needs of the residents of this State are being met.

2. Assist in the development of a plan for accommodating growth within Nevada's public system of higher education. The plan should include, without limitation:

(a) Methods by which enrollment at Nevada's universities may be limited and 4-year program capacity created at Nevada's baccalaureate teaching institutions.

(b) The development of university admission standards to select only students who are prepared for and can take advantage of academic institutions focused on research.

(c) Accommodation by Nevada State College of the majority of growth in enrollment of students into 4-year programs.

(d) Avoidance of the creation of 4-year institutions as branch campuses or organizational extensions of research universities.

3. Assist in the development of a plan to elevate the programmatic needs of Nevada's public system of higher education to the strategic level. The plan should include, without limitation:

(a) Addressing the role of higher education in assisting the public schools of this State to graduate a higher proportion of their pupils.

(b) Measures to ensure that pupils who graduate from the public schools of this State are prepared to enter a college or university.

(c) Identification of areas of expertise in research to be fostered, respectively, at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the University of Nevada, Reno, and the Desert Research Institute.

(d) Input from experts from a selection of leading universities within the United States to review plans and capacities relating to Nevada's public system of higher education.

4. Assist in the development of a plan for examining the role of higher education in promoting adult literacy, especially the basic literacy skills of young adults.



1 5. Assist in the development of a strategic-level financing plan
2 for the public system of higher education in Nevada. The plan
3 should include, without limitation:

4 (a) Recognition of the effect of any measures proposed to
5 accommodate growth, as described in the plan developed pursuant
6 to subsection 2.

7 (b) An assessment, for each institution, of the minimum level of
8 funding that is necessary to allow Nevada's institutions of higher
9 education to fulfill their missions at a high level of performance.
10 The assessment described in this paragraph should include strategies
11 for addressing shortfalls and surfeits of funding.

12 (c) Creation of a pool of funding from existing formula funding
13 that may be used as a performance incentive to improve educational
14 output at Nevada's institutions of higher education.

15 (d) Provision for one or more permanent investment funds to
16 allocate stable financial resources toward this State's high priority of
17 paying for public and higher education.

18 (e) Recommendations concerning, for each of Nevada's
19 institutions of higher education, the relative percentages of the
20 institutional budget that will be paid for by the State and by
21 students.

22 (f) The creation of a need-based financial aid system to ensure
23 that higher education remains affordable for even the most
24 economically needy of Nevada's residents.

25 (g) The integration of budgetary items related to capital
26 improvements with the overall plan to finance Nevada's public
27 system of higher education.

28 (h) An examination of proposals to allow Nevada's institutions
29 of higher education to finance the construction and replacement of
30 campus facilities in innovative ways and to establish budgetary
31 levels, exclusive of additional general fund appropriations, that will
32 allow those institutions to renew and renovate campus facilities on
33 an ongoing basis.

34 6. Recommend to the Board of Regents and the Legislature
35 such action as may be needed for the efficient and effective
36 operation of higher education in Nevada if the State is to progress
37 economically and socially.

38 **Sec. 4.** The Committee may hold public hearings at such times
39 and places as it deems necessary to afford the general public and
40 representatives of governmental agencies and of organizations
41 interested in higher education an opportunity to present relevant
42 information and recommendations.

43 **Sec. 5.** The Committee may employ such educational and
44 financial consultants as it deems necessary for this study.



1 **Sec. 6.** The Committee may accept and use all gifts and grants
2 which it receives to further its work.

3 **Sec. 7.** The Committee shall submit to the Board of Regents,
4 the Legislative Committee on Education and the Legislative
5 Commission a report of its findings and any recommendations for
6 legislation before the commencement of the 74th Session of the
7 Legislature.

8 **Sec. 8.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2005, and expires
9 by limitation on February 1, 2007.



