

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 and sets forth powers and duties of P-16
Council. (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 and the transition from secondary
education to higher education; creating a body to be
known as the P-16 Council to assist in the coordination
between elementary, secondary and higher education;
providing for the organization, powers and duties of the
Council; and providing other matters properly relating
thereto.

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 Nevada System of Higher Education.
- 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



1 Nevada Legislature, the Board of Regents and the Executive Branch
2 of the State Government work together as partners in developing a
3 needed public agenda to advance higher education in this State.

4 3. Implementation of the recommendations made by the
5 Committee to Evaluate Higher Education Programs, created
6 pursuant to Assembly Bill No. 203 of the 72nd Session of the
7 Nevada Legislature, must be evaluated, and such evaluation should
8 include, without limitation, an examination of the costs and sources
9 of funding associated with the implementation of those
10 recommendations.

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

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

20 6. Coordination between elementary, secondary and higher
21 education must be strengthened to ensure that pupils in the 12th
22 grade are prepared adequately to make the transition from secondary
23 education to higher education or careers. To this end, a body should
24 be established to coordinate education from the level of preschool
25 through the completion of a bachelor's degree, to be known as the
26 P-16 Council.

27 **Sec. 2.** 1. The P-16 Council, consisting of 14 voting
28 members, is hereby created.

29 2. The Council consists of:

30 (a) The Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education;

31 (b) The Superintendent of Public Instruction;

32 (c) Three members appointed by the Chancellor of the Nevada
33 System of Higher Education;

34 (d) Three members appointed by the Superintended of Public
35 Instruction;

36 (e) Two members appointed by the Majority Leader of the
37 Senate, as follows:

38 (1) One member of the general public; and

39 (2) One member of the Senate;

40 (f) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, as
41 follows:

42 (1) One member of the general public; and

43 (2) One member of the Assembly;

44 (g) One member of the general public, appointed by the
45 Minority Leader of the Senate; and



(h) One member of the general public, appointed by the Minority Leader of the Assembly.

3. The Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall serve as the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council, alternating positions each fiscal year. The Chancellor and the Superintendent shall draw lots to determine who will serve as Chairman during the first fiscal year.

4. During fiscal years in which:

(a) The Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education serves as Chairman of the Council, the Nevada System of Higher Education shall provide administrative support for the Council.

(b) The Superintendent of Public Instruction serves as Chairman of the Council, the Department of Education shall provide administrative support for the Council.

5. A vacancy on the Council must be filled in the same manner as the initial appointment.

6. For each day or portion of a day during which they attend a meeting of the Council or are otherwise engaged in the business of the Council:

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

(b) The members of the Council who are not Legislators serve without salary, but are entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally.

7. Any member who is absent from two consecutive meetings of the Council:

(a) Forfeits his membership on the Council; and

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

Sec. 3. 1. The P-16 Council shall examine and evaluate the need in this State for the expansion of existing programs of higher education and the need for the creation of new programs of higher education for the purpose of ensuring:

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

(b) The collaboration among the business community, members of the academic community and political leaders to set forth a process for incorporating technology-based economic development in the overall economic growth and diversification strategies for the Nevada System of Higher Education;



(c) The successful transition of pupils enrolled in high schools in this State into the Nevada System of Higher Education; and

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

2. In addition to the duties set forth in subsection 1, the Council may consider:

(a) Developing a plan for accommodating growth within Nevada's public system of higher education;

(b) Developing a plan to evaluate the programmatic needs of Nevada's public system of higher education, including, without limitation:

(1) The role of higher education in assisting the public schools in this State in increasing the number of pupils who graduate from high school;

(2) Measures to ensure that pupils who graduate from the public schools in this State are prepared to enter a college or university; and

(3) Identification of areas of expertise in research that may be fostered;

(c) Developing a plan for examining the role of higher education in promoting the literacy of adults; and

(d) The development of a strategic-level financing plan for the public system of higher education in Nevada.

3. The Council shall recommend to the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education and the Legislature such action as may be needed for the efficient and effective operation of higher education in Nevada if this State is to progress economically and socially.

4. On or before January 1 and July 1 of each year, the Council shall prepare and submit a written report of its activities, findings and any recommendations to the:

(a) Legislative Commission;

(b) Legislative Committee on Education;

(c) Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education; and

(d) State Board of Education.

➔ In addition, the report prepared for January 1, 2007, must be submitted to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmission to the 74th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Sec. 4. The P-16 Council may hold public hearings at such times and places as it deems necessary to afford the general public and representatives of governmental agencies and of organizations interested in higher education or in the coordination between elementary, secondary and higher education an opportunity to present relevant information and recommendations.



- 1 **Sec. 5.** The P-16 Council may apply for and accept any gifts,
- 2 grants, donations or contributions from any source to:
- 3 1. Carry out the provisions of this act; and
- 4 2. Contract with consultants to assist the Council in carrying
- 5 out its duties.
- 6 **Sec. 6.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2005, and expires
- 7 by limitation on February 1, 2007.



