

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 220—ASSEMBLYMEN OCEGUERA, BOBZIEN, SMITH, KIRKPATRICK, CONKLIN; AIZLEY, ANDERSON, ATKINSON, BENITEZ-THOMPSON, BROOKS, BUSTAMANTE ADAMS, CARLTON, CARRILLO, DONDERO LOOP, FLORES, FRIERSON, HAMMOND, HARDY, HICKEY, HOGAN, KIRNER, MASTROLUCA, MUNFORD, NEAL, OHRENSCHALL, PIERCE AND WOODBURY

MARCH 1, 2011

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS LESLIE, HORSFORD AND DENIS

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Encourages the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to implement measures to ensure the educational needs of students and prospective students will be met. (BDR 34-725)

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 the Nevada System of Higher Education; encouraging the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to examine, audit and revise certain aspects of the System to ensure the educational needs of students and prospective students will be met in an economical and efficient manner; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 Existing law encourages the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to
- 2 review periodically their mission for higher education to determine whether there is
- 3 unnecessary duplication of programs or courses at institutions within the Nevada
- 4 System of Higher Education which might be more appropriate for a different
- 5 institution. (NRS 396.504) This bill encourages the Board to: (1) examine and
- 6 audit the function, strengths and most efficient use of the facilities, resources
- 7 and staff of each institution within the System; (2) examine and audit the
- 8 educational opportunities, programs and services offered by those institutions; and



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9 (3) implement measures pursuant to which the educational needs of students and
10 prospective students will be met in the most economical and efficient manner
11 possible, including revising the courses of study offered at the various institutions
12 so that programs of remedial education, continuing education and entry-level higher
13 education are conducted at community colleges within the System; programs of
14 baccalaureate-level higher education for teachers and nurses and other related
15 medical fields are conducted at state colleges within the System; and programs of
16 baccalaureate-level higher education in other disciplines and graduate-level higher
17 education and research are conducted at universities within the System and the
18 Desert Research Institute.

1 WHEREAS, The Board of Regents of the University of Nevada
2 governs the Nevada System of Higher Education; and

3 WHEREAS, The Nevada System of Higher Education
4 encompasses several different types of institutions of higher
5 education, including, without limitation, universities, colleges and
6 community colleges; and

7 WHEREAS, Each type of institution of higher education within
8 the Nevada System of Higher Education is uniquely situated to
9 provide different educational opportunities for its students,
10 including, without limitation, remedial education, continuing
11 education, entry-level higher education, baccalaureate-level higher
12 education, and graduate-level higher education and research; and

13 WHEREAS, Over time, the number of institutions of higher
14 education within the Nevada System of Higher Education expands
15 and the focus of each such institution is defined and further
16 redefined; and

17 WHEREAS, To the extent that the educational programs of the
18 institutions of higher education within the Nevada System of Higher
19 Education can be tailored specifically to meet the needs of different
20 categories of students, both the System and its students may be
21 better served and able to realize significant cost savings; and

22 WHEREAS, To the extent that the educational programs of the
23 institutions of higher education within the Nevada System of Higher
24 Education are not tailored specifically to meet the needs of different
25 categories of students, inefficiencies and redundancies may result;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, In the present economic climate, it is more important
28 than ever before to ensure that the institutions of higher education
29 within the Nevada System of Higher Education are meeting the
30 needs of their respective students and prospective students in the
31 most affordable, cost-effective and efficient manner possible; now,
32 therefore,



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

Section 1. NRS 396.504 is hereby amended to read as follows:
396.504 **1.** The Legislature hereby encourages the Board of Regents to ~~review~~:

(a) Examine and audit the function, strengths and most efficient use of the facilities, resources and staff of each institution to address the needs of the students of the System.

(b) 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.

(c) Examine and audit the educational opportunities, programs and services offered by the institutions within the System to ensure that those opportunities, programs and services are tailored appropriately to:

(1) The different categories of students and prospective students having varied aptitudes, aspirations and educational needs;

(2) The jobs and industries likely to be employing the students; and

(3) The state economic development plan.

(d) Insofar as is practicable to achieve the goals set forth in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c), implement measures pursuant to which the educational needs of students and prospective students will be met by providing:

(1) Programs of remedial education, continuing education and entry-level higher education at community colleges.

(2) Programs of baccalaureate-level higher education for teachers and nurses and related medical fields at state colleges.

(3) Programs of baccalaureate-level higher education in other disciplines and graduate-level higher education and research at universities and the Desert Research Institute.

(e) On or before September 1 of each year, provide a report of its findings and any adjustments made and actions taken as a result of those findings to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmission to the Interim Finance Committee and the next regular session of the Nevada Legislature.

2. The System is encouraged to review the core curriculum at each institution to determine whether there is parity among the institutions of the System.



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1 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2011.

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