

Assembly Bill No. 220—Assemblymen Ocegüera, 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

Joint Sponsors: Senators Leslie, Horsford and Denis

CHAPTER.....

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:

Existing law encourages the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to review periodically their mission for higher education to determine whether there is unnecessary duplication of programs or courses at institutions within the Nevada System of Higher Education which might be more appropriate for a different institution. (NRS 396.504) This bill encourages the Board to: (1) examine and audit the function, strengths and most efficient use of the facilities, resources and staff of each institution within the System; (2) examine and audit the educational opportunities, programs and services offered by those institutions; and (3) implement measures pursuant to which the educational needs of students and prospective students will be met in the most economical and efficient manner possible, including revising the courses of study offered at the various institutions so that programs of remedial education, continuing education and entry-level higher education are conducted at community colleges within the System; programs of baccalaureate-level higher education are conducted at state colleges within the System; and programs of baccalaureate-level higher education in other disciplines and graduate-level higher education and research are conducted at universities within the System and the Desert Research Institute.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Each type of institution of higher education within the Nevada System of Higher Education is uniquely situated to



provide different educational opportunities for its students, including, without limitation, remedial education, continuing education, entry-level higher education, baccalaureate-level higher education, and graduate-level higher education and research; and

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

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

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

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

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 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.

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

