

SENATE BILL NO. 374—SENATOR LEE

MARCH 21, 2011

Referred to Committee on Revenue

SUMMARY—Creates the Committee to Study the Funding of Higher Education. (BDR S-992)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
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; creating the Committee to Study the Funding of Higher Education; prescribing the powers and duties of the Committee; making appropriations; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 This bill creates the Committee to Study the Funding of Higher Education,
2 establishes the composition of the Committee and prescribes the powers and duties
3 of the Committee. This bill further makes appropriations for the purposes of: (1)
4 conducting a study of the funding of higher education; and (2) paying for the cost
5 of the participation of the members of the Committee who are Legislators.

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

- 1 **Section 1.** 1. The Committee to Study the Funding of Higher
2 Education, consisting of 12 voting members and 4 nonvoting
3 members, is hereby created.
4 2. The following persons shall serve as voting members of the
5 Committee:
6 (a) Three members of the Senate, two of whom are appointed by
7 the Majority Leader of the Senate and one of whom is appointed by
8 the Minority Leader of the Senate;
9 (b) Three members of the Assembly, two of whom are
10 appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and one of whom is
11 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Assembly;



(c) Three members of the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada, appointed by the Chair of that Board; and

(d) Three members appointed by the Governor.

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

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

(b) Three persons who are employed by the Nevada System of Higher Education.

4. The Chair of the Legislative Commission shall designate one of the members of the Committee as Chair of the Committee.

5. The Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau shall provide the necessary professional staff and a secretary for the Committee.

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

(a) The voting members of the Committee 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 218A.655.

(b) The voting members of the Committee who are members of the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada are entitled to receive travel expenses and a 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.

Sec. 2. The Committee shall:

1. Compare the existing method of funding higher education in Nevada with the methods used in other states;

2. Determine whether the other methods would be appropriate and useful in Nevada, whereby different missions of universities, state college, colleges and research institutes are appropriately considered in the funding of public higher education in Nevada;

3. Review the funding of remediation in the context of instructional delivery methods;

4. Consider the retention of resident registration fees and nonresident tuition outside of the state supported operating budget;

5. Consider funding in the context of completed courses in contrast to the current method of funding enrollments; and

6. Consider rewarding institutions within higher education for achieving defined goals for graduating students.



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1 **Sec. 3.** The Committee may hold public hearings at such times
2 and places as it deems necessary to afford the general public and
3 representatives of governmental agencies and of organizations
4 interested in higher education an opportunity to present relevant
5 information and recommendations.

6 **Sec. 4.** The Committee may employ such educational and
7 financial consultants as it deems necessary for this study.

8 **Sec. 5.** The Committee may accept and use all gifts and grants
9 which it receives to further its work.

10 **Sec. 6.** There is hereby appropriated from the State General
11 Fund to the Legislative Fund the sum of \$150,000 for the purpose of
12 conducting a study of the funding of higher education as provided in
13 sections 1 to 5, inclusive, of this act.

14 **Sec. 7.** There is hereby appropriated from the State General
15 Fund to the Legislative Fund the sum of \$18,064 for the purpose of
16 the paying for the cost of the participation of the members of the
17 Committee who are Legislators as provided in sections 1 to 5,
18 inclusive, of this act.

19 **Sec. 8.** Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by
20 section 6 or 7 of this act must not be committed for expenditure after
21 June 30, 2013, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or
22 any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or
23 otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the
24 appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose
25 after September 20, 2013, by either the entity to which the money
26 was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently
27 granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General
28 Fund on or before September 20, 2013.

29 **Sec. 9.** The Committee shall submit to the Legislative
30 Commission a report of its findings and recommendations for
31 legislation before the commencement of the 77th Session of the
32 Nevada Legislature.

33 **Sec. 10.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2011.

