

SENATE BILL NO. 449—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MARCH 28, 2011

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing tuition charges, registration fees and other fees assessed against students in the Nevada System of Higher Education. (BDR 34-932)

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

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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; authorizing the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to fix tuition charges and assess registration fees and other fees based on the demand for or the costs of providing the academic program or major for which the tuition charges are fixed or the registration fees are assessed; requiring the Board of Regents to establish a program authorizing scholarships, reduced fees and tuition and forgiveness of student loans for students who are economically disadvantaged under certain circumstances; requiring the Board of Regents to make certain reports to the Legislature under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Existing law authorizes the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to fix
2 tuition charges for students at all campuses of the Nevada System of Higher
3 Education. The tuition charges are in addition to any registration fees or other fees
4 assessed against a student. (NRS 396.540) This bill authorizes the Board of
5 Regents, in fixing tuition charges and assessing registration fees and other fees, to
6 adjust the amount of the tuition charges and registration and other fees based on the
7 demand for or the costs of carrying out the academic program or major for which
8 the tuition charges or registration or other fees are assessed. The adjustment may be
9 based on factors such as the cost of professional instruction, the cost of laboratory
10 resources and ancillary costs. This bill provides that if the Board of Regents adjusts
11 the amount of tuition charges, registration fees or other fees based on the demand



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for or the cost of an academic program or major, the Board is required to establish a program to authorize scholarships, reduced fees and tuition and forgiveness of student loans for students who are economically disadvantaged and who are enrolled in academic programs or majors which are more costly as a result of the adjustments authorized by this bill.

This bill requires the Board of Regents to submit an annual report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature, or to the Legislative Commission if the Legislature is not in session, which identifies the demand for and the costs of each academic program and major and includes a schedule of all tuition charges, registration fees and other fees assessed for each academic program and major.

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

Section 1. Chapter 396 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. In fixing a tuition charge for students at any campus of the System as provided by NRS 396.540 and in setting the amount of registration fees and other fees which are assessed against students, the Board of Regents may provide for the adjustment of the amount of the tuition charge or registration fee or other fee based on the demand for or the costs of carrying out the academic program or major for which the tuition charge, registration fee or other fee is assessed, including, without limitation, the costs of professional instruction, laboratory resources and other ancillary support.

2. If the Board of Regents provides for the adjustment of tuition charges, registration fees or other fees in the manner authorized by subsection 1, the Board of Regents shall establish a program to authorize scholarships, reduced fees and tuition and the forgiveness of student loans for students who are economically disadvantaged and who are enrolled in academic programs or majors for which the adjustment of tuition charges, registration fees or other fees in the manner authorized by subsection 1 results in an increase in the costs of enrollment in such programs or majors.

3. If the Board of Regents provides for the adjustment of tuition charges, registration fees or other fees in the manner authorized by subsection 1, the Board of Regents shall, on or before February 1 of each year, submit a written report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature, or to the Legislative Commission if the Legislature is not in session, which must, without limitation:

(a) Identify the demand for each academic program and major;



1 ***(b) Identify the costs of providing each academic program and***
2 ***major; and***

3 ***(c) Include a schedule of all tuition charges, registration fees***
4 ***and other fees assessed for each academic program and major.***

5 ***4. As used in this section, “tuition charge” has the meaning***
6 ***ascribed to it in NRS 396.540.***

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

