

SENATE BILL NO. 451—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 enrolled in institutions of the Nevada System of Higher Education. (BDR 34-933)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
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; providing that any increase in any tuition charge, registration fee or miscellaneous student fee assessed against a student by a university, state college or community college within the System must be retained by that institution and used to support academic programs and other services, activities and uses which advance the educational needs of the students enrolled at the institution and the educational goals of the institution or which otherwise benefit such students; requiring the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to submit an annual report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature or the Legislative Commission concerning the use of money collected from tuition charges, registration fees and other fees; 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 a tuition charge for certain students at all campuses of the Nevada System of
- 3 Higher Education. Tuition charges are in addition to registration fees and other
- 4 charges assessed against students. (NRS 396.540) This bill provides that any
- 5 increase in any tuition charge, registration fee or miscellaneous student fee assessed
- 6 against a student over the amount that would have been assessed on January 1,
- 7 2011, must be retained by the university, state college or community college at
- 8 which the student is enrolled. This bill further provides that money collected from



9 increases in tuition charges, registration fees and miscellaneous student fees must
10 be used to support academic programs and other services, activities and uses which
11 advance the educational needs of the students enrolled at the institution and the
12 educational goals of the institution or which otherwise benefit such students.

13 This bill requires the Board of Regents to submit an annual report to the
14 Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature, or to
15 the Legislative Commission if the Legislature is not in session, which must include
16 for each university, state college and community college information concerning:
17 (1) the allocation of money collected from tuition charges, registration fees and
18 other charges to each academic program; (2) progress in advancing the educational
19 goals of the institution; (3) whether the expenditure of money collected from tuition
20 charges, registration fees and other charges aligns with the economic development
21 goals identified by the Commission on Economic Development or any regional
22 economic development authority or local redevelopment agency for the region of
23 this State in which the institution is located; and (4) the number of students entering
24 each academic program or major and the number of certificates and degrees
25 awarded by each academic program and major.

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

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

3 *1. The amount of any tuition charge, registration fee or*
4 *miscellaneous student fee assessed against a resident or non-*
5 *resident student in excess of the amount that would have been*
6 *assessed as of January 1, 2011, must be retained by the university,*
7 *state college or community college at which the student is*
8 *enrolled. Money retained pursuant to this subsection must be used*
9 *by the university, state college or community college to support*
10 *academic programs and other services, activities and uses which*
11 *advance the educational needs of the students enrolled at the*
12 *institution and the educational goals of the institution or which*
13 *otherwise benefit such students.*

14 *2. The Board of Regents shall, not later than February 1 of*
15 *each year, submit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel*
16 *Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature in odd-numbered years*
17 *or the Legislative Commission in even-numbered years, a written*
18 *report concerning the use of money collected from tuition charges,*
19 *registration fees and other fees by each university, state college or*
20 *community college within the System. The report must include,*
21 *without limitation, for each university, state college or community*
22 *college within the System information concerning:*

23 *(a) The allocation of money collected from tuition charges,*
24 *registration fees and other fees to each academic program offered*
25 *by the university, state college or community college;*



1 (b) Progress in advancing the educational goals of the
2 institution;

3 (c) Whether the expenditure by the institution of the money
4 collected from tuition charges, registration fees and other fees
5 aligns with the economic development goals identified by the
6 Commission on Economic Development or any regional economic
7 development authority or local redevelopment agency for the
8 region of this State in which the institution is located; and

9 (d) The number of students entering each academic program
10 and major offered by the institution, and the number of
11 certificates and degrees awarded by each academic program and
12 major.

13 3. As used in this section:

14 (a) "Miscellaneous student fee" means any fee other than a
15 tuition charge or registration fee that, as of January 1, 2011, was
16 not being retained by the university, state college or community
17 college at which the student is enrolled. The term does not include
18 a special course fee, laboratory fee or differential program fee.

19 (b) "Tuition charge" has the meaning ascribed to it in
20 NRS 396.540.

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

