

SENATE BILL NO. 391—SENATORS CEGAVSKE, GOICOECHEA,
HAMMOND, HUTCHISON, ROBERSON; GUSTAVSON, HARDY
AND SETTELMAYER

MARCH 18, 2013

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Directs the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the governance structure of and funding methods for community colleges in this State. (BDR S-952)

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 education; directing the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the governance structure of and funding methods for community colleges in this State; requiring the committee to determine the advisability of transferring the administration of community colleges to the Department of Education; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Existing law provides for the administration of community colleges by the
2 Board of Regents of the University of Nevada within the Nevada System of Higher
3 Education. (NRS 396.020) **Section 2** of this bill directs the Legislative Commission
4 to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the governance
5 structure of and funding methods for community colleges in this State. **Section 3** of
6 this bill requires the committee to determine the advisability of transferring the
7 administration of community colleges from the Board of Regents to the Department
8 of Education.



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

Section 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

1. The Nevada System of Higher Education, which is governed by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada, encompasses several different types of institutions of higher education, including, without limitation, community colleges;

2. Community colleges are a key component of the State Plan for Economic Development developed by the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development;

3. Certain community colleges have a regional presence for vast areas of rural Nevada;

4. Recent economic problems in this State highlight the need for community colleges to be responsive to the students, business communities and regions of this State that they serve; and

5. It is important to determine whether a new method of governing and funding community colleges in this State is necessary to improve and advance the purpose of the State's community colleges.

Sec. 2. 1. The Legislative Commission shall appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the governance structure of and funding methods for community colleges in this State.

2. The committee must be composed of six Legislators as follows:

(a) Three members appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, at least one of whom must be appointed from the membership of the Senate Standing Committee on Education during the 77th Session of the Nevada Legislature; and

(b) Three members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, at least one of whom must be appointed from the membership of the Assembly Standing Committee on Education during the 77th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

3. The committee shall consult with and solicit input from persons and organizations with expertise in matters relevant to the governance structures of and funding methods for community colleges in this State.

4. The committee shall submit a report of its findings, including, without limitation, any proposed changes to the governance structure of or funding methods for community colleges in this State and any recommendations for legislation, to the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature.



* S B 3 9 1 R 1 *

1 **Sec. 3.** 1. In studying the governance structures of and
2 funding methods for community colleges in this State, the
3 committee appointed pursuant to section 2 shall:

4 (a) Determine whether it is advisable to transfer the
5 administration of community colleges from the Board of Regents of
6 the University of Nevada to the Department of Education;

7 (b) If the committee determines that such a transfer is advisable,
8 determine the best methods of accomplishing the transfer; and

9 (c) If the committee determines that such a transfer is not
10 advisable, determine whether there are other options available that
11 would improve the governance structure of and funding methods for
12 community colleges.

13 2. In determining the best methods of accomplishing a transfer
14 as required by paragraph (b) of subsection 1, the committee may:

15 (a) Determine how the Department of Education will examine
16 and audit the function, strengths and most efficient use of the
17 facilities, resources and staff of each community college in this State
18 to address the needs of the students enrolled in the community
19 colleges;

20 (b) Examine how the Department of Education may
21 appropriately tailor educational opportunities, programs and services
22 offered by the community colleges to meet the needs of:

23 (1) Different categories of students and prospective students;

24 (2) Jobs and industries likely to be employing the students;
25 and

26 (3) The State Plan for Economic Development;

27 (c) Determine how the Department of Education will prepare a
28 comprehensive plan concerning the governance of community
29 colleges that explains, for a specified period, anticipated new
30 programs and expansions of existing programs, any associated costs
31 and the amounts and sources of money available to meet those
32 anticipated costs;

33 (d) Determine whether it is advisable for the Superintendent of
34 Public Instruction to:

35 (1) Prescribe rules and adopt regulations relating to the
36 governance of the community colleges and, if so, the types of rules
37 and regulations the Superintendent of Public Instruction would be
38 authorized or required to adopt;

39 (2) Appoint a Chancellor for the community colleges and, if
40 so, determine the qualifications and set the salary for the Chancellor;
41 and

42 (3) Set the salaries of the academic staff of the community
43 colleges; and



- 1 (e) Determine whether it is advisable for the Department of
- 2 Education to control the expenditures of money for the support and
- 3 maintenance of community colleges in this State.
- 4 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2013.

