

SENATE BILL NO. 195—SENATOR HARDY

FEBRUARY 25, 2015

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to higher education.
(BDR 34-509)

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; creating the Office of the Western Regional Higher Education Compact within the Office of the Governor; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes the Governor to employ certain persons to provide an appropriate staff for the Office of the Governor, including, without limitation, the Office of Economic Development, the Office of Science, Innovation and Technology and the Governor's mansion. (NRS 223.085) **Section 4** of this bill additionally authorizes the Governor to employ certain persons to provide an appropriate staff for the Office of the Western Regional Higher Education Compact.

Existing law directs the Governor to execute a compact with certain other states for the purpose of forming a Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. (NRS 397.010) The compact requires the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education to enter into certain contractual agreements with certain institutions offering graduate or professional education in other member states in order to increase the opportunities for residents of member states to obtain graduate or professional degrees. (NRS 397.020) **Sections 3 and 5** of this bill create the Office of the Western Regional Higher Education Compact within the Office of the Governor.

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

Section 1. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 2. (Deleted by amendment.)



* S B 1 9 5 R 1 *

Sec. 3. NRS 397.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

397.030 1. In furtherance of the provisions contained in the Compact, there must be three Commissioners from the State of Nevada, appointed by the Governor ~~to serve in the Office of the Western Regional Higher Education Compact created by section 5 of this act.~~

2. The qualifications and terms of the three Nevada State Commissioners must be in accordance with Article 4 of the Compact. A Nevada State Commissioner shall hold office until his or her successor is appointed and qualified, but the successor's term expires 4 years after the legal date of expiration of the term of his or her predecessor.

3. Any Nevada State Commissioner may be removed from office by the Governor upon charges and after a hearing.

4. The term of any Nevada State Commissioner who ceases to hold the required qualifications terminates when a successor is appointed.

Sec. 4. NRS 223.085 is hereby amended to read as follows:

223.085 1. The Governor may, within the limits of available money, employ such persons as he or she deems necessary to provide an appropriate staff for the Office of the Governor, including, without limitation, the Office of Economic Development, the Office of Science, Innovation and Technology, *the Office of the Western Regional Higher Education Compact* and the Governor's mansion. Any such employees are not in the classified or unclassified service of the State and, except as otherwise provided in NRS 231.043 and 231.047, *and section 5 of this act*, serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

2. The Governor shall:

(a) Determine the salaries and benefits of the persons employed pursuant to subsection 1, within limits of money available for that purpose; and

(b) Adopt such rules and policies as he or she deems appropriate to establish the duties and employment rights of the persons employed pursuant to subsection 1.

3. The Governor may:

(a) Appoint a Chief Information Officer of the State; or

(b) Designate the Administrator as the Chief Information Officer of the State.

➤ If the Administrator is so appointed, the Administrator shall serve as the Chief Information Officer of the State without additional compensation.

4. As used in this section, "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Division of Enterprise Information Technology Services of the Department of Administration.



1 **Sec. 5.** Chapter 232 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 ***1. There is hereby created within the Office of the Governor***
4 ***the Office of the Western Regional Higher Education Compact.***

5 ***2. The Governor shall propose a budget for the Office of the***
6 ***Western Regional Higher Education Compact.***

7 ***3. Employees of the Office of the Western Regional Higher***
8 ***Education Compact are not in the classified or unclassified service***
9 ***of this State and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.***

10 **Sec. 6.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

