

SENATE BILL NO. 227—SENATORS KIECKHEFER,  
KIHUEN; HARRIS AND WOODHOUSE

MARCH 9, 2015

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Creates the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program.  
(BDR 34-216)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included  
in Executive Budget.

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; creating the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program; providing for the calculation and award of grants under the Program to qualified students enrolled in community colleges and state colleges of the Nevada System of Higher Education; requiring the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to submit to the Legislature a biennial report on the Program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

1 This bill creates the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program. Under the  
2 Program, the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada is required to award  
3 grants to eligible students who are enrolled in community colleges and state  
4 colleges that are part of the Nevada System of Higher Education to pay for a  
5 portion of the cost of education at such institutions. **Section 3** of this bill sets forth  
6 the criteria for eligibility for such a grant. **Section 4** of this bill requires the Board  
7 of Regents or a designee of the Board to: (1) calculate the maximum amount of the  
8 grant which a student is eligible to receive; (2) determine the actual amount each  
9 eligible student will receive; and (3) make grants to all eligible students. **Section 4**  
10 provides that any money awarded under the Program must be used only to pay the  
11 cost of education of a student and not for any other purpose. **Section 5** of this bill  
12 requires the Board of Regents to adopt regulations prescribing the procedures and  
13 standards for determining eligibility, the methodology for calculating the financial  
14 need of a student and the process by which a student may meet certain requirements  
15 for eligibility for a grant. **Section 6** of this bill authorizes the Board of Regents to  
16 accept gifts, grants, bequests and donations to fund grants awarded under the  
17 Program.



\* S B 2 2 7 R 2 \*

**Section 7** of this bill requires the Board of Regents to submit a biennial report on the Program to the Legislature. The report must include information regarding: (1) the number of grants awarded under the Program; (2) the average amount of each grant; and (3) the percentage of students awarded grants who remained in school and who eventually earned a degree or certificate.

---

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 the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act.

**Sec. 2.** *As used in sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, "Program" means the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program created by section 3 of this act.*

**Sec. 3. 1.** *The Silver State Opportunity Grant Program is hereby created for the purpose of awarding grants to eligible students to pay for a portion of the cost of education at a community college or state college within the System.*

*2. The Board of Regents shall administer the Program.*

*3. In administering the Program, the Board of Regents shall for each semester, subject to the limits of money available for this purpose, award a grant to each eligible student to pay for a portion of the cost of education at a community college or state college within the System.*

*4. To be eligible for a grant awarded under the Program, a student must:*

*(a) Be enrolled, or accepted to be enrolled, during a semester in at least 15 credit hours at a community college or state college within the System;*

*(b) Be enrolled in a program of study leading to a recognized degree or certificate;*

*(c) Demonstrate proficiency in English and mathematics sufficient for placement into college-level English and mathematics courses pursuant to regulations adopted by the Board of Regents for such placement;*

*(d) Be a bona fide resident of the State of Nevada for the purposes of determining pursuant to NRS 396.540 whether the student is assessed a tuition charge; and*

*(e) Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid provided for by 20 U.S.C. § 1090.*

**Sec. 4. 1.** *For each eligible student, the Board of Regents or a designee thereof shall:*

*(a) Calculate the maximum amount of the grant which the student is eligible to receive. The maximum amount of such a*



\* S B 2 2 7 R 2 \*

1 *grant must not exceed the amount equal to the cost of education of*  
2 *the student minus the amounts determined for the student*  
3 *contribution, family contribution and federal contribution to the*  
4 *cost of education of the student.*

5 *(b) Determine the actual amount of the grant which will be*  
6 *awarded to each student, which amount must not exceed the*  
7 *maximum amount calculated pursuant to paragraph (a), but*  
8 *which may be in a lesser amount if the Board of Regents or a*  
9 *designee thereof, as applicable, determines that the amount of*  
10 *money available for all grants for any semester is insufficient to*  
11 *award to all eligible students the maximum amount of the grant*  
12 *which each student is eligible to receive.*

13 *(c) Award to each eligible student a grant in the amount*  
14 *determined pursuant to paragraph (b).*

15 *2. Money received from a grant awarded under the Program*  
16 *must be used by a student only to pay for the cost of education of*  
17 *the student at a community college or state college within the*  
18 *System and not for any other purpose.*

19 **Sec. 5. 1. The Board of Regents:**

20 *(a) Shall adopt regulations prescribing the procedures and*  
21 *standards for determining the eligibility of a student for a grant*  
22 *from the Program.*

23 *(b) Shall adopt regulations prescribing the methodology by*  
24 *which the Board of Regents or a designee thereof will calculate:*

25 *(1) The cost of education of a student at each community*  
26 *college and state college within the System, which must be*  
27 *consistent with the provisions of 20 U.S.C. § 1087ll.*

28 *(2) For each student, the amounts of the student*  
29 *contribution, family contribution and federal contribution to the*  
30 *cost of education of the student.*

31 *(3) The maximum amount of the grant for which a student*  
32 *is eligible.*

33 *(c) Shall adopt regulations prescribing the process by which*  
34 *each student may meet the credit-hour requirement described in*  
35 *paragraph (a) of subsection 4 of section 3 of this act for eligibility*  
36 *for a grant awarded under the Program.*

37 *(d) May adopt any other regulations necessary to carry out the*  
38 *Program.*

39 *2. The regulations prescribed pursuant to this section must*  
40 *provide that:*

41 *(a) In determining the student contribution to the cost of*  
42 *education, the student contribution must not exceed the amount*  
43 *that the Board of Regents determines the student reasonably could*  
44 *be expected to earn from employment during the time the student*  
45 *is enrolled at a community college or state college within the*



\* S B 2 2 7 R 2 \*

1 *System, including, without limitation, during breaks between*  
2 *semesters. This paragraph and any regulations adopted pursuant*  
3 *to this section must not be construed to require a student to seek or*  
4 *obtain employment as a condition of eligibility for a grant under*  
5 *the Program.*

6 *(b) Determination of the family contribution to the cost of*  
7 *education must be based on the family resources reported in the*  
8 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid submitted by the student.*

9 *(c) Determination of the federal contribution to the cost of*  
10 *education must be equal to the total amount that the student and*  
11 *his or her family are expected to receive from the Federal*  
12 *Government as grants.*

13 **Sec. 6.** *In addition to any direct legislative appropriation*  
14 *from the State General Fund, the Board of Regents may accept*  
15 *gifts, grants, bequests and donations to fund grants awarded*  
16 *under the Program.*

17 **Sec. 7.** *On or before February 1 of each odd-numbered year,*  
18 *the Board of Regents shall submit to the Director of the*  
19 *Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the next regular*  
20 *session of the Legislature a written report on the Program which*  
21 *must include, without limitation, information regarding:*

22 *1. The number of students during the immediately preceding*  
23 *school year who were awarded grants under the Program.*

24 *2. The average amount of each grant awarded under the*  
25 *Program for the immediately preceding school year.*

26 *3. The success of the Program, including, without limitation,*  
27 *information regarding the percentage of students awarded grants*  
28 *since the creation of the Program who have remained enrolled at*  
29 *a community college or state college within the System and the*  
30 *percentage of students awarded grants since the creation of the*  
31 *Program who have been awarded a degree or certificate.*

32 **Sec. 8.** *The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do*  
33 *not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a*  
34 *requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.*

35 **Sec. 9.** (Deleted by amendment.)

36 **Sec. 10.** (Deleted by amendment.)

37 **Sec. 11.** This act becomes effective:

38 *1. Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting*  
39 *regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative*  
40 *tasks necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and*

41 *2. On July 1, 2015, for all other purposes.*

