

SENATE BILL NO. 496—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INTERIM  
STUDY CONCERNING COMMUNITY COLLEGES)

MARCH 23, 2015

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Establishes the Workforce Development Rapid  
Response Investment Program. (BDR 34-592)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included  
in Executive Budget.

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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 economic development; creating the Workforce  
Development Rapid Response Investment Fund; creating  
the Committee to Oversee the Workforce Development  
Rapid Response Investment Fund; providing for the  
Committee to award grants from the Fund to community  
colleges; making an appropriation; and providing other  
matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

This bill establishes a program for awarding grants to facilitate the expedited  
development of education programs by community colleges to ensure an educated  
and skilled workforce for industries targeted for growth in this State by the Office  
of Economic Development.

**Section 7** of this bill creates the Workforce Development Rapid Response  
Investment Fund and provides for administration of the Fund by the Committee to  
Oversee the Workforce Development Rapid Response Investment Program.

**Section 8** of this bill creates the Committee and establishes its composition.

**Section 9** of this bill authorizes the Committee to award grants from the Fund  
to community colleges. Money from a grant must be used to facilitate a rapid  
response by a community college in providing an educated and skilled workforce  
for certain industries targeted for growth in this State by the Office of Economic  
Development. The response may include changes to short- and long-term curricula  
as part of degree or certificate programs and investments in new equipment and  
repurposed facilities. The president or other chief administrative officer of a  
community college applying for a grant must approve each grant application before  
it is submitted to the Committee. When considering each application, the



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Committee may consider only the costs relating to the development and implementation of a specific program detailed in the application. When considering the costs of course instruction for any such program, the Committee may consider only 2 years of salary and benefits for course instructors, teachers or professors.

**Section 10** of this bill appropriates \$6,000,000 from the State General Fund to the Workforce Development Rapid Response Fund.

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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 9, inclusive, of this act.

**Sec. 2.** *As used in sections 2 to 9, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in sections 3, 4 and 5 of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.*

**Sec. 3.** *“Committee” means the Committee to Oversee the Workforce Development Rapid Response Investment Fund created by section 8 of this act.*

**Sec. 4.** *“Fund” means the Workforce Development Rapid Response Investment Fund created by section 7 of this act.*

**Sec. 5.** *“Office of Economic Development” means the Office of Economic Development created by NRS 231.043.*

**Sec. 6.** *The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:*

*1. The Office of Economic Development has targeted for growth in this State certain industries, including, without limitation, the aerospace and defense industry, health care and medical services industry and information technology industry;*

*2. The ability of this State to sustain growth in such targeted industries depends on the availability of an educated and skilled workforce;*

*3. As those targeted industries grow in this State through the attraction of new businesses, a strain will be placed on community colleges to respond rapidly to establish new curricula and to invest in new equipment and repurposed facilities for the education of the workforce for those industries;*

*4. The biennial budgeting process in this State is not conducive to such rapid response by the community colleges;*

*5. Many community colleges are expanding the industry-specific basic education programs that they offer, but additional investments are necessary if this State is to provide the educated and skilled workforce necessary to encourage growth in targeted industries in this State; and*



6. *The creation of a program to award grants to community colleges to help facilitate rapid responses by those colleges is critical to the continued economic development of this State.*

**Sec. 7.** *1. The Workforce Development Rapid Response Investment Fund is hereby created in the State Treasury.*

*2. The Committee shall administer the Fund.*

*3. The Fund consists of:*

*(a) All money appropriated by the Legislature.*

*(b) All money received from any other source for the purposes of the Fund.*

*4. The interest and income earned on the money in the Fund, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Fund.*

*5. The Fund is a continuing fund, and its money does not revert to the State General Fund at any time.*

**Sec. 8.** *1. The Committee to Oversee the Workforce Development Rapid Response Investment Fund is hereby created.*

*2. The Committee consists of the following seven members:*

*(a) Two members appointed by the Chancellor of the System.*

*(b) Two members appointed by the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development.*

*(c) Two members appointed by the Director of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation.*

*(d) One member appointed by the Governor who is a representative of a qualified nonprofit collaborative that is qualified pursuant to NRS 701B.921.*

*3. If the Chancellor, Executive Director or Director appoints himself or herself to serve on the Committee pursuant to paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of subsection 2, as applicable, and is unable to attend a meeting of the Committee, he or she may authorize an alternate to attend the meeting in his or her place.*

*4. Each member of the Committee:*

*(a) Serves a term of 2 years;*

*(b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c), may be reappointed by the appointing authority; and*

*(c) May not serve more than 2 consecutive terms.*

*5. A vacancy on the Committee must be filled by the appointing authority in the same manner as the original appointment.*

*6. At the first regular meeting of each odd-numbered year, the members of the Committee shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair by majority vote who shall serve until the next Chair or Vice Chair is elected. If a vacancy occurs in the Chair, the members of the Committee shall elect a member to fill the vacancy to serve for the unexpired term.*



1       7. *The Committee shall meet at least once every 3 months and*  
2 *may meet at such other times as deemed necessary by the Chair.*

3       8. *A majority of the members of the Committee constitutes a*  
4 *quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority of those*  
5 *members present at any meeting is sufficient for any official*  
6 *action taken by the Committee.*

7       9. *Each member of the Committee serves without*  
8 *compensation, except that each member is entitled to receive:*

9       (a) *The per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for*  
10 *state officers and employees generally; and*

11       (b) *Reimbursement for any other actual and reasonable*  
12 *expense incurred while performing his or her duties.*

13       **Sec. 9. 1.** *The Committee shall award grants from the*  
14 *Fund to community colleges pursuant to this section.*

15       2. *Money from a grant awarded from the Fund must be used*  
16 *to facilitate a rapid response in providing an educated and skilled*  
17 *workforce for industries targeted for growth in this State by the*  
18 *Office of Economic Development by the community college*  
19 *receiving the grant. The rapid response may include, without*  
20 *limitation, changes to short- and long-term curricula as part of*  
21 *degree or certificate programs and investments in new equipment*  
22 *and repurposed facilities.*

23       3. *Before submission to the Committee, an application for a*  
24 *grant to be awarded pursuant to this section must be approved by*  
25 *the president or other chief administrative officer of the*  
26 *community college applying for the grant. An application for a*  
27 *grant to more than one community college must be approved by*  
28 *the president or other chief administrative officer of each*  
29 *community college that would be awarded the grant.*

30       4. *In evaluating an application for a grant to be awarded*  
31 *pursuant to this section, the Committee shall consider only the*  
32 *costs relating to the development and implementation of a specific*  
33 *program detailed in the grant application. Costs of course*  
34 *instruction for any such program that may be considered may not*  
35 *exceed the costs for 2 years of salary and benefits for course*  
36 *instructors, teachers or professors.*

37       5. *The Committee shall establish procedures for accepting*  
38 *and reviewing applications for grants pursuant to this section and*  
39 *for awarding grants pursuant to this section.*

40       **Sec. 10.** *There is hereby appropriated from the State General*  
41 *Fund to the Workforce Development Rapid Response Investment*  
42 *Fund created by section 7 of this act, the sum of \$6,000,000.*

43       **Sec. 11.** *This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.*

