

Assembly Bill No. 429—Committee
on Government Affairs

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to veterans; requiring the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation to designate certain critical need occupations; authorizing the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to grant a waiver of certain fees to veterans who enroll in certain graduate degree programs; authorizing the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to determine whether certain grants are available and apply for such grants; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law establishes the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation. (NRS 232.900-232.960) The Department works to support employment and economic independence for disadvantaged, displaced or disabled residents of this State. (NRS 232.910) **Section 1** of this bill requires the Department to designate occupations as critical need occupations within the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics or health science for the purposes of waiving fees pursuant to **section 4** of this bill. **Section 2** of this bill makes a conforming change.

Existing law authorizes the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to grant a waiver of certain fees for certain persons with a connection to the Armed Forces. (NRS 396.544, 396.5442, 396.5445) **Section 4** authorizes the Board of Regents to grant a partial waiver of registration fees and other fees to a veteran in certain circumstances. **Section 4** requires that a veteran may receive such a grant only if: (1) the veteran has completed a bachelor's degree and is enrolled in or plans to enroll in a graduate degree program related to certain occupations in science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics and health science; and (2) the veteran or a third party will cover the remainder of the cost of the graduate degree program. **Section 4** also requires the veteran to maintain a 2.75 grade point average. **Section 5** of this bill authorizes the Board of Regents to apply for grants to assist the Nevada System of Higher Education in funding the costs of the waiver of fees granted to a veteran pursuant to **section 4**. **Section 5** also authorizes the Board of Regents to accept gifts, grants, bequests and donations of money to fund the cost of providing the waiver of fees to a veteran.

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

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

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

The Department shall designate which occupations are critical need occupations within science, technology, engineering, arts,



mathematics or health science fields for the purpose of a waiver of registration fees and other fees granted to a veteran pursuant to section 4 of this act.

Sec. 2. NRS 232.900 is hereby amended to read as follows:

232.900 As used in NRS 232.900 to 232.960, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act*, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Department" means the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation.

2. "Director" means the Director of the Department.

Sec. 3. Chapter 396 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 4 and 5 of this act.

Sec. 4. 1. *The Board of Regents may grant a waiver of not less than half of the total registration fees and other fees for a veteran who is a bona fide resident of this State if:*

(a) The veteran has completed a bachelor's degree and is enrolled in or plans to enroll in a graduate degree program within the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics or health science designated as a critical need occupation by the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation pursuant to section 1 of this act; and

(b) The veteran or a third party will pay the remainder of the registration fees and other fees of the graduate degree program.

↪ For the purpose of this subsection, a scholarship or a waiver of registration fees or other fees received by the veteran for any reason other than this subsection is deemed to be a payment by a third party.

2. A veteran is eligible for a waiver pursuant to subsection 1 if the veteran maintains at least a 2.75 grade point average, on a 4.0 grading scale, each semester or the equivalent of a 2.75 grade point average if a different scale is used.

3. As used in this section, "veteran" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 417.005.

Sec. 5. 1. *The Board of Regents may determine whether grants are available to assist the Nevada System of Higher Education in defraying the costs of granting the waiver of registration fees and other fees to a veteran pursuant to section 4 of this act and apply for and accept any such grant.*

2. The Board of Regents may accept gifts, grants, bequests and donations to fund waivers of registration fees and other fees granted to veterans pursuant to section 4 of this act.

Sec. 6. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2019.

