

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 319—ASSEMBLYMAN ROBERTS

MARCH 17, 2021

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Establishes a pilot program relating to dual credit courses. (BDR S-925)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

~

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

AN ACT relating to education; requiring the College of Southern Nevada to establish a pilot program to enhance opportunities for pupils to enroll in dual credit courses; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes a pupil enrolled in high school to enroll in a dual credit course. (NRS 389.300) Existing law requires each school district and charter school to enter into cooperative agreements with one or more community colleges, state colleges and universities to offer dual credit courses to pupils. (NRS 389.310) This bill establishes a pilot program for dual credit courses at the College of Southern Nevada. **Section 1** of this bill requires the College of Southern Nevada to enter into one or more cooperative agreements in accordance with existing law to offer a pilot program for dual credit courses. **Section 1** requires the cooperative agreement to include: (1) strategies to expand opportunities for enrollment in dual credit courses for certain pupils; (2) a plan to promote enrollment in dual credit courses through the pilot program; and (3) a system of instruction by which a pupil who participates in the pilot program may earn at least 15 college credits. **Section 2** of this bill requires the College of Southern Nevada and the board of trustees of a school district and governing body of a charter school that enters into a cooperative agreement pursuant to **section 1** to submit a report containing certain information related to the pilot program to: (1) the Governor; (2) the State Board of Education; (3) the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada; and (4) the Legislative Committee on Education. **Section 3** of this bill authorizes the College of Southern Nevada to apply for and accept any gift, donation, bequest, grant or other source of money to administer the pilot program. **Section 5** of this bill provides that the pilot program created by this bill expires by limitation on June 30, 2023.

WHEREAS, Dual credit courses represent an essential strategy in the statewide effort to develop a skilled and competitive workforce



1 by increasing the number of Nevadans who are ready for college or
2 a career upon graduation from high school and who successfully
3 attain a postsecondary credential, certificate or degree; and

4 WHEREAS, It is a strategic priority for this State to increase the
5 number of persons who complete a postsecondary credential,
6 certificate or degree, especially in high-demand occupations; and

7 WHEREAS, It is in the interest of this State to enhance existing
8 programs for dual credit courses whereby a pupil in high school may
9 earn college credit for courses taken in high school; and

10 WHEREAS, Expanding the opportunity to participate in dual
11 credit courses will allow dual credit courses to serve a broader range
12 of pupils in this State, including, without limitation, pupils who are
13 part of underserved or at-risk communities and communities with
14 historically low rates of participation in postsecondary education;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Successful implementation of dual credit courses
17 requires partnership and collaboration between public schools and
18 the Nevada System of Higher Education; and

19 WHEREAS, A pilot program using the dual credit program at the
20 College of Southern Nevada can be used to increase opportunities
21 for certain pupils within the service area of the College of Southern
22 Nevada; and

23 WHEREAS, The purpose of the pilot program described in this
24 act is to provide a model for achieving the strategic objectives of
25 this State relating to postsecondary education by enhancing the
26 opportunities for enrollment in dual credit courses available to
27 pupils in this State; now, therefore,

28
29 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
30 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
31

32 **Section 1.** 1. The College of Southern Nevada shall enter
33 into one or more cooperative agreements in accordance with the
34 provisions of NRS 389.310 to develop, create and administer a pilot
35 program to offer enhanced opportunities for pupils to enroll in dual
36 credit courses including, without limitation, dual credit courses
37 offered through a concurrent enrollment model. The cooperative
38 agreement must include, without limitation:

39 (a) Strategies to expand opportunities for enrollment in dual
40 credit courses for pupils who are:

41 (1) Part of underserved populations;

42 (2) At-risk;

43 (3) Interested in postsecondary education but may need
44 remedial courses in mathematics or English language arts; and



(4) Interested in pursuing a program of career and technical education in a high-demand occupation;

(b) A plan to promote enrollment in dual credit courses through the pilot program in public schools that are within the service region of the College of Southern Nevada, including, without limitation, the manner by which:

(1) Pupils and the parents or legal guardians of pupils will be informed of the pilot program as an educational option and mechanism for acceleration of opportunities for postsecondary education; and

(2) The College of Southern Nevada and the board of trustees of a school district or governing body of a charter school that entered into a cooperative agreement pursuant to this section will ensure timely and efficient access to libraries and support services including, without limitation, academic advising, counseling, tutoring and career planning services for pupils enrolled in the pilot program in order to address the progress of a pupil in the academic program established for the pupil pursuant to paragraph (d) of subsection 2 of NRS 389.310; and

(c) A system of instruction by which a pupil who participates in the pilot program may earn at least 15 college credits while still enrolled in high school.

2. The College of Southern Nevada may extend enrollment in remedial courses pursuant to subparagraph (3) of paragraph (a) of subsection 1 to a pupil who does not otherwise meet any requirements for eligibility to enroll in the pilot program delineated in the cooperative agreement.

3. As used in this section:

(a) "At-risk" means a pupil who has an economic or academic disadvantage such that he or she requires special services and assistance to enable him or her to succeed in educational programs. The term includes, without limitation, pupils who are members of economically disadvantaged families, pupils who are English learners, pupils who are at risk of dropping out of high school and pupils who do not meet minimum standards of academic proficiency. The term does not include a pupil with a disability.

(b) "Concurrent enrollment model" means the teaching of courses in a dual credit program:

(1) Principally in a high school classroom during the regular school day, either in a traditional setting or virtually;

(2) By a teacher employed at a high school who is approved to teach a dual credit course by a community college, state college or university; and



(3) To pupils who earn both high school and college credit for a course pursuant to a cooperative agreement between a high school and a community college, state college or university.

Sec. 2. 1. On or before August 1, 2022, the College of Southern Nevada and the board of trustees of a school district and governing body of a charter school that enters into a cooperative agreement pursuant to section 1 of this act shall submit a report with its findings and any recommendations relating to the pilot program established pursuant to section 1 of this act or for expanding opportunities for enrollment dual credit courses in this State to:

(a) The Governor;

(b) The State Board of Education;

(c) The Board of Regents of the University of Nevada; and

(d) The Legislative Committee on Education.

2. The report submitted pursuant to subsection 1 must include:

(a) Data on pupil participation and completion of dual credit courses in the pilot program; and

(b) The revenues and expenditures attributable to the activities of the pilot program for the immediately preceding school year.

Sec. 3. The College of Southern Nevada may apply for and accept any gift, donation, bequest, grant or other source of money to carry out the provisions of sections 1 and 2 of this act.

Sec. 4. The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

Sec. 5. 1. This section and section 4 of this act become effective upon passage and approval.

2. Sections 1, 2 and 3 of this act become effective:

(a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting regulations and performing any preparatory administrative tasks necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

(b) On July 1, 2021, for all other purposes.

3. Sections 1, 2 and 3 of this act expire by limitation on June 30, 2023.

