

SENATE BILL NO. 172—SENATORS DENIS,
DONDERO LOOP AND BUCK

MARCH 4, 2021

JOINT SPONSOR: ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to education.
(BDR 34-185)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: No.

CONTAINS UNFUNDED MANDATE (§ 1.5)
(NOT REQUESTED BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

~

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

AN ACT relating to education; requiring the State Board of Education to provide a uniform grading scale for certain courses; revising provisions governing dual credit courses; requiring the board of trustees of a school district and the governing body of a charter school to submit a report regarding such courses to the Legislative Committee on Education and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires the State Board of Education to adopt regulations that provide a uniform grading scale for all public high schools, including, without limitation, a grading scale for advanced placement courses and honors courses. (NRS 389.007) **Section 1** of this bill requires such regulations to include a uniform grading scale for dual credit courses and international baccalaureate courses and to assign the same weight to such courses as that assigned to advanced placement courses if the dual credit course or international baccalaureate course is in a core academic subject or a subject for which an advanced placement course is offered.

Existing law establishes provisions relating to dual credit courses. (NRS 389.300, 389.310) Under existing law, the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school must establish an application for enrollment



* S B 1 7 2 R 1 *

in a dual credit course. A pupil enrolled in high school who wishes to enroll in a dual credit course must use this application. Such a pupil may only enroll in a dual credit course if his or her application is approved and he or she has completed the prerequisites for the course. (NRS 389.300) **Section 5** of this bill eliminates those requirements.

Existing law requires a school district or charter school to enter into a cooperative agreement with a community college, state college or university to offer dual credit courses to pupils enrolled in the school district or charter school. Existing law sets forth various requirements that must be included in the cooperative agreement. (NRS 389.310) **Section 1.5** of this bill removes provisions relating to cooperative agreements to offer dual credit courses and instead requires a school district or charter school to establish a program for dual credit. **Section 1.5** also requires the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school to biennially submit a report on its program for dual credit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and the Legislative Committee on Education that may include, without limitation, certain information on the: (1) pupils enrolled in the program; (2) costs associated with the program; and (3) teachers employed by the school district or charter school who are involved in the program. **Section 1.5** requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada, school districts and charter schools, to adopt regulations prescribing the contents of the report.

Section 2 of this bill requires the Legislative Committee on Education to hold a meeting on dual credit courses in the 2021-2022 interim.

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

Section 1. NRS 389.007 is hereby amended to read as follows:

389.007 1. The State Board shall adopt regulations that prescribe a uniform grading scale for all public high schools, including, without limitation, a uniform grading scale for *dual credit courses, international baccalaureate courses*, advanced placement courses and honors courses. *The regulations adopted pursuant to this section must assign the same weight to dual credit courses and international baccalaureate courses as the weight assigned to advanced placement courses if the dual credit course or international baccalaureate course is a core academic subject designated pursuant to NRS 389.018 or a subject for which an advanced placement course is offered.*

2. The board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school that operates as a high school shall comply with the uniform grading scale.

Sec. 1.5. NRS 389.310 is hereby amended to read as follows:

389.310 1. Each school district and charter school shall ~~enter into cooperative agreements with one or more community colleges, state colleges and universities to offer~~ *establish a program for* dual credit ~~[courses to]~~ *, or partner with another school district or charter school that has already established a program for dual*



credit, whereby pupils enrolled in the school district or charter school ~~[-~~

~~—2. Each cooperative agreement entered into pursuant to this section must include, without limitation:~~

~~—(a) Provisions specifying the amount of credit to be awarded for the successful completion of the dual credit course;~~

~~—(b) A requirement that any~~ *may enroll in a dual credit course at a community college, state college or university that has been approved for dual credit pursuant to NRS 389.160. Any* credits earned by a pupil for the successful completion of a dual credit course must be applied toward earning a credential, certificate or degree, as applicable, at the community college, state college or university. ~~[that provides the dual credit course;~~

~~—(c) An explanation of the manner in which the tuition for the dual credit course will be paid, including, without limitation, whether:~~

~~—(1) The school district or charter school will pay all or a portion of the tuition for the dual credit course;~~

~~—(2) A pupil is responsible for paying all or a portion of the tuition for the dual credit course;~~

~~—(3) Grants from the Department are available and will be applied to pay all or a portion of the tuition for the dual credit course; and~~

~~—(4) Any other funding source, including federal funding sources or sources from private entities, will be applied by the school district or charter school to pay all or a portion of the tuition for the dual credit course;~~

~~—(d) A requirement that the school district or charter school establish an academic program for each pupil enrolled in the dual credit course that includes, as applicable, the academic plan developed for the pupil pursuant to NRS 388.205;~~

~~—(e) Assignment by the school district or charter school of a unique identification number to each pupil who is enrolled in the dual credit course;~~

~~—(f) A requirement that the community college, state college or university that provides the dual credit course retain the unique identification number assigned to each pupil pursuant to paragraph (e);~~

~~—(g) A written consideration and identification of the ways in which a pupil who is enrolled in a dual credit course can remain eligible for interscholastic activities; and~~

~~—(h) Any other financial or other provisions that the school district or charter school and the community college, state college or university that provides the dual credit course deem appropriate.~~



~~3. A community college, state college or university that offers a dual credit course shall provide to the Nevada System of Higher Education and the Department a copy of each cooperative agreement entered into by the community college, state college or university pursuant to subsection 1.~~

~~4. The Nevada System of Higher Education and the Department shall retain a copy of each cooperative agreement entered into pursuant to this section.]~~

2. On or before December 1 of each odd-numbered year, the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school shall submit a report on its program for dual credit established pursuant to subsection 1 to the Legislative Committee on Education and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmission to the next regular session of the Legislature. The Department, in consultation with the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada, school districts and charter schools, shall adopt regulations prescribing the information the report must include. The report may include, without limitation:

(a) The number of pupils enrolled in the program;

(b) A list of the courses in which pupils enroll;

(c) The number of pupils enrolled in each course;

(d) The demographics of the pupils enrolled in the program, including, without limitation, race, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, grade level and eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751 et seq.;

(e) The cost to the school district or charter school for establishing and maintaining the program;

(f) The cost to pupils for participating in the program; and

(g) The number of teachers employed by the school district or charter school who serve as the teacher of record for a dual credit course.

Sec. 2. The Legislative Committee on Education shall hold a meeting during the 2021-2022 interim relating to dual credit courses. The Committee shall:

1. Review the reports required to be submitted pursuant to section 1.5 of this act; and

2. Hear presentations from relevant stakeholders on information related to the reports required to be submitted pursuant to section 1.5 of this act and on any recommendations for legislation.

Sec. 3. 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. 4. The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any additional expenses of a local government that are related to the provisions of this act.

Sec. 5. NRS 389.300 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 6. 1. This section and sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act become effective upon passage and approval.

2. Section 1.5 of this act becomes effective:

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

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

3. Section 1 of this act becomes effective:

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

(b) On July 1, 2022, for all other purposes.

TEXT OF REPEALED SECTION

389.300 Application to enroll in dual credit course; approval or disapproval of application; prerequisites for dual credit course to be completed before enrollment in course.

1. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a pupil enrolled in high school, including, without limitation, a pupil enrolled in grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 in a charter school, who wishes to enroll in a dual credit course must, at least 60 days before the last day of the semester that immediately precedes the semester in which the pupil intends to enroll in a dual credit course, submit an application on the form prescribed pursuant to subsection 2 to the superintendent of schools of the school district or his or her designee or the administrator of the charter school, as applicable. The superintendent or his or her designee or the administrator of a charter school, as applicable, may, in his or her discretion, waive the period for submitting an application prescribed by this subsection.

2. The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school shall create, publish and make publicly available an application for enrollment in a dual credit course. The application must, without limitation:

(a) Provide for enrollment in more than one dual credit course using a single application;

(b) Specify the dual credit course or courses in which the applicant seeks to concurrently enroll; and



(c) Be consistent with any regulations adopted by the State Board.

3. The superintendent of schools of a school district or his or her designee or the administrator of a charter school, as applicable, shall approve or disapprove each application submitted pursuant to subsection 1 and provide notice of the approval or disapproval to the applicant.

4. A pupil must satisfactorily complete the prerequisites for a dual credit course before he or she may enroll in the course. If a pupil does not satisfactorily complete the prerequisites for a dual credit course, the community college, state college or university that provides the dual credit course may allow the pupil to enroll in another course for which the pupil has satisfactorily completed the prerequisites without requiring the pupil to submit a new application.

