Assembly Bill No. 501–Assemblymembers
Yeager and Jauregui

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to education; authorizing the approval of academic credit for outdoor recreational activities under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law prescribes certain courses of study required for a pupil to be promoted to high school or to graduate from high school. (NRS 390.600, 392.033) Existing law requires that a pupil be allowed to apply not more than one credit towards the number of credits required for graduation from high school if the pupil completes certain approved projects. (NRS 389.165) This bill authorizes the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school to authorize a pupil enrolled in junior high or middle school or high school to receive credit toward the number of credits required for the pupil to be promoted to high school or to graduate from high school, as applicable, for completing certain approved outdoor recreational activities outside of school hours.

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 389 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school may authorize a pupil enrolled in junior high or middle school or high school who completes an outdoor recreational activity that is approved pursuant to subsection 2 to receive credit toward the total number of credits required for promotion to high school or graduation from high school, as applicable. Any credit earned for completing an outdoor recreational activity pursuant to this section must be applied towards the pupil's elective course credit.

2. The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school may approve for credit pursuant to subsection 1 an outdoor recreational activity that:

(a) Is completed outside of school hours;

(b) Requires a pupil to spend a significant amount of time outdoors; and

(c) Teaches the pupil skills that are relevant to outdoor education which may include, without limitation:

(1) Identifying plants and animals native to this State;

(2) Building trails;

(3) Restoring natural habitats;

(4) Outdoor survival skills;

(5) Outdoor recreational skills, including, without limitation, hiking and archery; and

(6) Bird watching.

3. If the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school approves outdoor recreational activities for credit pursuant to subsection 1, the board of trustees or governing body, as applicable, shall prescribe the:

(a) Maximum amount of total credits that a pupil may earn for completing outdoor recreational activities;

(b) Rules regarding how a pupil may apply for such credit upon the completion of an approved outdoor recreational activity; and

(c) Procedures for obtaining the consent of a parent or legal guardian of a pupil before the pupil may participate in an outdoor recreational activity for which credit will be granted.

4. This section shall not be construed to require the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school to provide, facilitate or spend money to provide, facilitate or sponsor any outdoor recreational activity.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

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