

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 155—ASSEMBLYMEN TORRES, MCCURDY, ASSEFA, NEAL, BILBRAY-AXELROD; BACKUS, BENITEZ-THOMPSON, COHEN, DURAN, FLORES, FRIERSON, FUMO, GORELOW, JAUREGUI, MARTINEZ, MILLER, MONROE-MORENO, MUNK, NGUYEN AND SWANK

FEBRUARY 15, 2019

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing the eligibility requirements for grants awarded under the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program. (BDR 34-674)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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

AN ACT relating to education; reducing the minimum number of credit hours required per semester for eligibility for a grant awarded under the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program; creating certain exceptions to the credit hour requirement; providing that grant money received by colleges pursuant to the Program does not revert; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law creates the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program. Under the
2 Program, the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada is required to award
3 grants to eligible students to pay for a portion of the cost of education at a
4 community college or state college that is part of the Nevada System of Higher
5 Education. One of the requirements for eligibility for such a grant is that a student
6 be enrolled, or accepted to be enrolled, during a semester in at least 15 credit hours
7 at a community college or state college that is part of the Nevada System of Higher
8 Education. (NRS 396.952) **Section 1** of this bill reduces the minimum number of
9 such required credit hours to 12 credit hours and provides that a student who is
10 enrolled in fewer than 12 credit hours is still eligible for a grant if the student: (1) is
11 enrolled in his or her final semester of study; or (2) receives a waiver of the 12
12 credit hour requirement from the student’s college based on hardship. **Section 1**
13 also provides that a student who loses his or her eligibility for a grant because he or
14 she was not enrolled in 12 credit hours during a semester: (1) may regain his or her
15 eligibility for a grant in future semesters by satisfying the 12 credit hour
16 requirement during a semester for which he or she is not eligible for a grant; and (2)



17 will lose eligibility permanently if he or she fails for a second time to satisfy the 12
18 credit hour requirement in a subsequent semester.

19 **Section 2** of this bill provides that money provided to a community college or
20 state college for a grant awarded on behalf of a student under the Silver State
21 Opportunity Grant Program does not revert and any remaining amount must be
22 carried forward and used for grants for eligible students in a subsequent semester.

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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 396.952 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 396.952 1. The Silver State Opportunity Grant Program is
3 hereby created for the purpose of awarding grants to eligible
4 students to pay for a portion of the cost of education at a community
5 college or state college within the System.

6 2. The Board of Regents shall administer the Program.

7 3. In administering the Program, the Board of Regents shall for
8 each semester, subject to the limits of money available for this
9 purpose, award a grant to each eligible student to pay for a portion
10 of the cost of education at a community college or state college
11 within the System.

12 4. To be eligible for a grant awarded under the Program, a
13 student must:

14 (a) ~~Be~~ *Except as otherwise provided in this section, be*
15 enrolled, or accepted to be enrolled, during a semester in at least
16 ~~15~~ *12* credit hours at a community college or state college within
17 the System;

18 (b) Be enrolled in a program of study leading to a recognized
19 degree or certificate;

20 (c) Demonstrate proficiency in English and mathematics
21 sufficient for placement into college-level English and mathematics
22 courses pursuant to regulations adopted by the Board of Regents for
23 such placement;

24 (d) Be a bona fide resident of the State of Nevada for the
25 purposes of determining pursuant to NRS 396.540 whether the
26 student is assessed a tuition charge; and

27 (e) Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid
28 provided for by 20 U.S.C. § 1090.

29 *5. A student who is enrolled, or accepted to be enrolled, in the*
30 *final semester of his or her program of study in less than 12 credit*
31 *hours at a community college or state college within the System is*
32 *eligible for a grant awarded under the Program.*

33 *6. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, if a student*
34 *does not satisfy the requirements of paragraph (a) of subsection 4*
35 *during one semester of enrollment, the student is not eligible for a*



1 *grant awarded under the Program for the succeeding semester of*
2 *enrollment. If such a student:*

3 *(a) Subsequently satisfies the requirements of paragraph (a) of*
4 *subsection 4 in any subsequent semester in which he or she is not*
5 *eligible for a grant awarded under the Program, the student is*
6 *eligible for a grant awarded under the Program for his or her next*
7 *semester of enrollment.*

8 *(b) Fails a second time to satisfy the requirements of*
9 *paragraph (a) of subsection 4 during any subsequent semester, the*
10 *student is no longer eligible for a grant awarded under the*
11 *Program.*

12 *7. If a student does not satisfy the requirements of paragraph*
13 *(a) of subsection 4 during a semester of enrollment, the student*
14 *may apply for a waiver from the requirements of that paragraph*
15 *for that semester from the community college or state college*
16 *based on hardship arising out of the individual circumstances of*
17 *the student. The community college or state college shall grant the*
18 *waiver if it determines that the individual circumstances warrant a*
19 *waiver.*

20 **Sec. 2.** NRS 396.954 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21 396.954 1. For each eligible student, the Board of Regents or
22 a designee thereof shall:

23 (a) Calculate the maximum amount of the grant which the
24 student is eligible to receive. The maximum amount of such a grant
25 must not exceed the amount equal to the cost of education of the
26 student minus the amounts determined for the student contribution,
27 family contribution and federal contribution to the cost of education
28 of the student.

29 (b) Determine the actual amount of the grant which will be
30 awarded to each student, which amount must not exceed the
31 maximum amount calculated pursuant to paragraph (a), but which
32 may be in a lesser amount if the Board of Regents or a designee
33 thereof, as applicable, determines that the amount of money
34 available for all grants for any semester is insufficient to award to
35 all eligible students the maximum amount of the grant which each
36 student is eligible to receive.

37 (c) Award to each eligible student a grant in the amount
38 determined pursuant to paragraph (b).

39 *2. Any money received by a community college or state*
40 *college within the System for a grant awarded under the Program*
41 *on behalf of an eligible student at the community college or state*
42 *college does not revert and any remaining amount must be carried*
43 *forward and used for grants awarded under the Program for*
44 *eligible students in a subsequent semester.*



1 **3.** Money received from a grant awarded under the Program
2 must be used by a student only to pay for the cost of education of
3 the student at a community college or state college within the
4 System and not for any other purpose.

5 **Sec. 3.** NRS 396.956 is hereby amended to read as follows:
6 396.956 1. The Board of Regents:

7 (a) Shall adopt regulations prescribing the procedures and
8 standards for determining the eligibility of a student for a grant from
9 the Program.

10 (b) Shall adopt regulations prescribing the methodology by
11 which the Board of Regents or a designee thereof will calculate:

12 (1) The cost of education of a student at each community
13 college and state college within the System, which must be
14 consistent with the provisions of 20 U.S.C. § 1087II.

15 (2) For each student, the amounts of the student contribution,
16 family contribution and federal contribution to the cost of education
17 of the student.

18 (3) The maximum amount of the grant for which a student is
19 eligible.

20 (c) Shall adopt regulations prescribing the process by which
21 each student may meet the credit-hour requirement described in
22 ~~[paragraph (a) of subsection 4 of]~~ NRS 396.952 for eligibility for a
23 grant awarded under the Program.

24 (d) May adopt any other regulations necessary to carry out the
25 Program.

26 2. The regulations prescribed pursuant to this section must
27 provide that:

28 (a) In determining the student contribution to the cost of
29 education, the student contribution must not exceed the amount that
30 the Board of Regents determines the student reasonably could be
31 expected to earn from employment during the time the student is
32 enrolled at a community college or state college within the System,
33 including, without limitation, during breaks between semesters. This
34 paragraph and any regulations adopted pursuant to this section must
35 not be construed to require a student to seek or obtain employment
36 as a condition of eligibility for a grant under the Program.

37 (b) Determination of the family contribution to the cost of
38 education must be based on the family resources reported in the Free
39 Application for Federal Student Aid submitted by the student.

40 (c) Determination of the federal contribution to the cost of
41 education must be equal to the total amount that the student and his
42 or her family are expected to receive from the Federal Government
43 as grants.



1 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2019.

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