

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 ~~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 an exception to the credit hour requirement; prescribing the order of priority in which grants under the Program must be awarded; 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 is
11 enrolled in his or her final semester of study. **Section 3** of this bill makes
12 conforming changes.

13 **Section 2** of this bill prescribes the order of priority in which grants must be
14 awarded, which is based on the number of credit hours in which the student is



15 enrolled, or accepted to be enrolled, and whether the student is enrolled, or
16 accepted to be enrolled, in the final semester of a program of study.

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

34 396.954 1. For each eligible student, the Board of Regents or
35 a designee thereof shall:

36 (a) Calculate the maximum amount of the grant which the
37 student is eligible to receive. The maximum amount of such a grant
38 must not exceed the amount equal to the cost of education of the



1 student minus the amounts determined for the student contribution,
2 family contribution and federal contribution to the cost of education
3 of the student.

4 (b) Determine the actual amount of the grant which will be
5 awarded to each student, which amount must not exceed the
6 maximum amount calculated pursuant to paragraph (a), but which
7 may be in a lesser amount if the Board of Regents or a designee
8 thereof, as applicable, determines that the amount of money
9 available for all grants for any semester is insufficient to award to
10 all eligible students *in a category prescribed in subsection 2* the
11 maximum amount of the grant which each student is eligible to
12 receive.

13 ~~[(e) Award]~~

14 *2. The Board of Regents or a designee thereof shall award to*
15 ~~each eligible student~~ *eligible students* a grant in the amount
16 determined pursuant to paragraph (b) ~~[-~~

17 ~~—2.] of subsection 1 in the following order of priority:~~

18 *(a) First, to eligible students who are enrolled in at least 15*
19 *credit hours at a community college or state college within the*
20 *System;*

21 *(b) If money is available after awarding grants to all eligible*
22 *students described in paragraph (a), to remaining eligible students*
23 *who are enrolled, or accepted to be enrolled, in the final semester*
24 *of a program of study at a community college or state college*
25 *within the System; and*

26 *(c) If money is available after awarding grants to all eligible*
27 *students described in paragraphs (a) and (b), to remaining eligible*
28 *students.*

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

33 **Sec. 3.** NRS 396.956 is hereby amended to read as follows:

34 396.956 1. The Board of Regents:

35 (a) Shall adopt regulations prescribing the procedures and
36 standards for determining the eligibility of a student for a grant from
37 the Program.

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

40 (1) The cost of education of a student at each community
41 college and state college within the System, which must be
42 consistent with the provisions of 20 U.S.C. § 10871l.

43 (2) For each student, the amounts of the student contribution,
44 family contribution and federal contribution to the cost of education
45 of the student.



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

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

7 (d) May adopt any other regulations necessary to carry out the
8 Program.

9 2. The regulations prescribed pursuant to this section must
10 provide that:

11 (a) In determining the student contribution to the cost of
12 education, the student contribution must not exceed the amount that
13 the Board of Regents determines the student reasonably could be
14 expected to earn from employment during the time the student is
15 enrolled at a community college or state college within the System,
16 including, without limitation, during breaks between semesters. This
17 paragraph and any regulations adopted pursuant to this section must
18 not be construed to require a student to seek or obtain employment
19 as a condition of eligibility for a grant under the Program.

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

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

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

