

Assembly Bill No. 262—Assemblymen Anderson, Duran, Peters, Brittney Miller, Watts; Bilbray-Axelrod, Brown-May, Cohen, Considine, Flores, González, Gorelow, Martinez, Marzola, O’Neill, Orentlicher, Thomas and Torres

Joint Sponsors: Senators Brooks and Lange

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to education; prohibiting the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada from assessing registration fees, certain fees associated with course enrollment and laboratory fees against certain students; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Section 1.2 of this bill requires the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to grant a waiver of registration fees, per-credit fees or other fees associated with course enrollment and laboratory fees for a Native American student who demonstrates that the student: (1) is a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe or nation, all or part of which is located in this State, or who is certified by the enrollment department of such a tribe or nation or by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as being a descendant of an enrolled member of the tribe or nation, regardless of membership status; (2) is eligible for enrollment in a school within the Nevada System of Higher Education; (3) has been a resident of this State for at least 1 year; (4) has maintained at least a 2.0 grade point average, on a 4.0 scale, each semester, or the equivalent of a 2.0 grade point average if a different scale is used; and (5) has completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. **Section 1.4** of this bill requires the Board of Regents to prepare and submit an annual report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Nevada Legislature concerning the number of students eligible and the total funding available for such a waiver.

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 396 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 1.2 and 1.4 of this act.

Sec. 1.2. 1. *The Board of Regents shall grant a waiver of the payment of registration fees, laboratory fees and any other mandatory fees assessed each semester against a student who is Native American and demonstrates that the student:*

(a) Is a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe or nation, all or part of which is located within the boundaries of this State, or who is certified by the enrollment department of such a tribe or nation or by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as being a



descendant of an enrolled member of such a tribe or nation, all or part of which is located within the boundaries of this State, regardless of membership status;

(b) Is eligible for enrollment in a school within the System;

(c) Has been a resident of this State for not less than 1 year;

(d) Has maintained at least a 2.0 grade point average, on a 4.0 scale, each semester or the equivalent of a 2.0 grade point average if a different scale is used; and

(e) Has completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid provided for by 20 U.S.C. § 1090.

2. The amount of the waiver must be equal to:

(a) If the student is entitled to receive any federal educational benefits for a semester, the balance of registration fees, laboratory fees and any other mandatory fees assessed against the student that remain unpaid after the student's account has been credited with the full amount of the federal educational benefits to which the student is entitled for that semester; or

(b) If the student is not entitled to receive any federal educational benefits for a semester, the full amount of the registration fees, laboratory fees and any other mandatory fees assessed against the student for that semester.

3. The waiver must be granted to a student who enrolls in any program offered by a school within the System, including, without limitation, a trade or vocational program, a graduate program or a professional program.

4. For the purpose of assessing fees and charges against a person to whom such a waiver is granted, the person shall be deemed to be a bona fide resident of this State.

5. The Board of Regents may request documentation confirming that the student is a member or descendant of a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe or nation, all or part of which is located within the boundaries of this State.

Sec. 1.4. *The Board of Regents shall, on or before September 1 of each calendar year, prepare and submit a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Nevada Legislature that includes, without limitation, aggregated data for:*

1. The number of students that qualify for a waiver of registration fees, laboratory fees and any other mandatory fees pursuant to section 1.2 of this act.

2. The total funding made available for the waiver of registration fees, laboratory fees and any other mandatory fees



pursuant to section 1.2 of this act, including, without limitation, gifts, grants, donations and federal contributions.

Sec. 1.5. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 1.6. The first report that the Board of Regents is required to prepare and submit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau pursuant to section 1.4 of this act must be submitted on or before September 1, 2022.

Sec. 1.8. 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. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2021.

