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SENATE BILL NO. 128—SENATORS DENIS, KIECKHEFER;  
DONATE AND DONDERO LOOP

FEBRUARY 17, 2021

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JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN BILBRAY-AXELROD, FLORES,  
GONZÁLEZ, MARTINEZ, MARZOLA AND TORRES

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Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Directs the State Treasurer to conduct a study concerning publicly funded scholarship and grant programs in this State. (BDR S-535)

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.

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AN ACT relating to higher education; directing the State Treasurer to conduct a study concerning the effectiveness of publicly funded scholarship and grant programs in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Existing law establishes certain publicly funded scholarship and grant programs  
2 for persons pursuing higher education. (*See, e.g.*, NRS 396.926, 396.952, 396.965)  
3 This bill directs the State Treasurer to contract with one or more qualified  
4 independent consultants to conduct a study concerning the effectiveness of such  
5 publicly funded scholarship and grant programs. This bill requires the State  
6 Treasurer, in conducting the study, to: (1) consult with and solicit input from the  
7 Nevada System of Higher Education; (2) review certain specific subjects relating to  
8 publicly funded scholarship and grant programs; and (3) submit a report of the  
9 findings of the study and any related recommendations to the Legislative  
10 Committee on Education. This bill further requires the Legislative Committee on  
11 Education to: (1) consult with and solicit input from certain persons in reviewing  
12 the report and recommendations; and (2) consider the report and recommendations  
13 when requesting the drafting of legislative measures.



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

1       **Section 1.** 1. The State Treasurer shall contract with one or  
2 more qualified independent consultants to conduct a study  
3 concerning the effectiveness of publicly funded scholarship and  
4 grant programs in this State for persons pursuing higher education,  
5 including, without limitation, the Governor Guinn Millennium  
6 Scholarship Program created by NRS 396.926, the Nevada Promise  
7 Scholarship Program created by NRS 396.965 and the Silver State  
8 Opportunity Grant Program created by NRS 396.952. The study  
9 must include, without limitation:

10       (a) A comprehensive review of student outcomes for scholarship  
11 and grant recipients, including, without limitation, the graduation  
12 rates and drop-out rates of scholarship and grant recipients.

13       (b) A comprehensive evaluation of the manner in which each  
14 scholarship or grant program is administered, including, without  
15 limitation:

16           (1) The administrative costs of each scholarship or grant  
17 program;

18           (2) The process for applying for and awarding a scholarship  
19 or grant; and

20           (3) The process for accessing the money received from a  
21 scholarship or grant.

22       (c) A comprehensive evaluation of the short-term and long-term  
23 financial viability of publicly funded scholarship and grant  
24 programs for persons pursuing higher education, including, without  
25 limitation, the projected future costs of administering such  
26 scholarship or grant programs.

27       (d) An evaluation of any other matter that the State Treasurer, in  
28 consultation with the Nevada System of Higher Education,  
29 determines is relevant to the study.

30       2. In conducting the study, the State Treasurer shall consult  
31 with and solicit input from the Nevada System of Higher Education.

32       3. On or before April 1, 2022, the State Treasurer shall submit  
33 a report of the findings of the study and any related  
34 recommendations to the Legislative Committee on Education,  
35 including, without limitation, recommendations for:

36           (a) Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of publicly  
37 funded scholarship and grant programs;

38           (b) Improving student outcomes for scholarship and grant  
39 recipients; and

40           (c) Reducing the administrative costs of each scholarship or  
41 grant program.



1 4. On or before September 1, 2022, the Legislative Committee  
2 on Education shall:

3 (a) Review the report and any recommendations submitted by  
4 the State Treasurer pursuant to subsection 3. In reviewing the report  
5 and recommendations, the Legislative Committee on Education  
6 shall consult with and solicit input from persons and entities charged  
7 with administering publicly funded scholarship and grant programs.

8 (b) Consider the report and any recommendations submitted by  
9 the State Treasurer pursuant to subsection 3 when requesting the  
10 drafting of legislative measures pursuant to paragraph (a) of  
11 subsection 3 of NRS 218D.160.

12 5. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 5 of NRS  
13 353B.350, the costs of carrying out the provisions of this section  
14 must be paid from the Endowment Account created pursuant to  
15 NRS 353B.350.

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

