

Senate Bill No. 128—Senators Denis, Kieckhefer;
Donate and Dondero Loop

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Bilbray-Axelrod, Flores, González,
Martinez, Marzola and Torres

CHAPTER.....

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:

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

