

SENATE BILL NO. 310—SENATOR KIECKHEFER

MARCH 17, 2017

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing the credit-hour requirement for eligibility under the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program. (BDR 34-878)

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; revising provisions governing the credit hours required for eligibility under the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program; 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 System. (NRS 396.952)  
8 This bill makes an exception to the minimum requirement of 15 credit hours during  
9 a semester if a student is in the final semester of his or her program of study.  
10 Additionally, if a course required for a student’s program of study is not offered at  
11 or does not have any available space at a community college or state college that is  
12 part of the System during a semester and the student enrolls in the course at a  
13 university that is part of the System, this bill requires that the credit hours of the  
14 course at the university be counted towards the 15 credit-hour requirement for  
15 eligibility for a grant under the Program.

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



1 students to pay for a portion of the cost of education at a community  
2 college or state college within the System.

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

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

9 4. ~~For~~ *Except as otherwise provided in this section, to* be  
10 eligible for a grant awarded under the Program, a student must:

11 (a) Be enrolled, or accepted to be enrolled, during a semester in  
12 at least 15 credit hours at a community college or state college  
13 within the System;

14 (b) Be enrolled in a program of study leading to a recognized  
15 degree or certificate ~~at~~ *at a community college or state college*  
16 *within the System;*

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

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

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

26 5. *A student who is enrolled, or accepted to be enrolled, in*  
27 *less than 15 credit hours during a semester at a community college*  
28 *or state college within the System is eligible for a grant awarded*  
29 *under the Program if the student is enrolled, or accepted to be*  
30 *enrolled, in the final semester of his or her program of study.*

31 6. *If a course required for a student's program of study is not*  
32 *offered at or does not have any available space at a community*  
33 *college or state college within the System during a semester and*  
34 *the student enrolls in the course at a university within the System,*  
35 *the credit hours of the course at the university must be counted*  
36 *towards the credit-hour requirement in paragraph (a) of*  
37 *subsection 4.*

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

39 396.954 1. For each eligible student, the Board of Regents or  
40 a designee thereof shall:

41 (a) Calculate the maximum amount of the grant which the  
42 student is eligible to receive. The maximum amount of such a grant  
43 must not exceed the amount equal to the cost of education of the  
44 student minus the amounts determined for the student contribution,



1 family contribution and federal contribution to the cost of education  
2 of the student.

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

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

13 2. ~~Money~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6 of*  
14 *NRS 396.952, money* received from a grant awarded under the  
15 Program must be used by a student only to pay for the cost of  
16 education of the student at a community college or state college  
17 within the System and not for any other purpose.

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

19 396.956 1. The Board of Regents:

20 (a) Shall adopt regulations prescribing the procedures and  
21 standards for determining the eligibility of a student for a grant from  
22 the Program.

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

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

28 (2) For each student, the amounts of the student contribution,  
29 family contribution and federal contribution to the cost of education  
30 of the student.

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

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

37 (d) May adopt any other regulations necessary to carry out the  
38 Program.

39 2. The regulations prescribed pursuant to this section must  
40 provide that:

41 (a) In determining the student contribution to the cost of  
42 education, the student contribution must not exceed the amount that  
43 the Board of Regents determines the student reasonably could be  
44 expected to earn from employment during the time the student is  
45 enrolled at a community college or state college within the System,



1 including, without limitation, during breaks between semesters. This  
2 paragraph and any regulations adopted pursuant to this section must  
3 not be construed to require a student to seek or obtain employment  
4 as a condition of eligibility for a grant under the Program.

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

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

12 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2017.

