

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to education; directing the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the governance structure of and funding methods for community colleges in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law provides for the administration of community colleges by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada within the Nevada System of Higher Education. (NRS 396.020) **Section 2** of this bill directs the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the governance structure of and funding methods for community colleges in this State. **Section 3** of this bill requires the committee to appoint two or more subcommittees, including the Subcommittee on Governance and Funding and the Subcommittee on Academics and Workforce Alignment, and to develop the mission and duties of each subcommittee. **Section 3.5** of this bill requires the Legislative Counsel Bureau and the Nevada System of Higher Education to provide administrative and technical assistance to the committee and its subcommittees at the request of the Chair of the committee.

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. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

1. The Nevada System of Higher Education, which is governed by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada, encompasses several different types of institutions of higher education, including, without limitation, community colleges;
2. Community colleges are a key component of the State Plan for Economic Development developed by the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development;
3. Certain community colleges have a regional presence for vast areas of rural Nevada;
4. Recent economic problems in this State highlight the need for community colleges to be responsive to the students, business communities and regions of this State that they serve; and
5. It is important to determine whether a new method of governing and funding community colleges in this State is necessary to improve and advance the purpose of the State’s community colleges.



Sec. 2. 1. The Legislative Commission shall appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the governance structure of and funding methods for community colleges in this State.

2. The committee must be composed of six Legislators as follows:

(a) Two members appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate;

(b) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly;

(c) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and

(d) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Assembly.

3. The Majority Leader of the Senate shall appoint a Chair and Vice Chair of the committee.

4. The committee shall consult with and solicit input from persons and organizations with expertise in matters relevant to the governance structures of and funding methods for community colleges in this State.

5. The committee shall submit a report of its findings, including, without limitation, any proposed changes to the governance structure of or funding methods for community colleges in this State and any recommendations for legislation, to the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Sec. 3. In studying the governance structures of and funding methods for community colleges in this State, the committee appointed pursuant to section 2 shall:

1. Appoint two or more subcommittees, which must include:

(a) The Subcommittee on Governance and Funding, which consists of:

(1) Three members who are members of the committee appointed pursuant to section 2 of this act, appointed by the Chair of the committee;

(2) One member who is a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada, appointed by the Chair of the Board;

(3) One member who is a representative of K-12 education, appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction;

(4) Two members who are representatives of local governments, appointed by the Nevada Association of Counties, or its successor organization;

(5) One member who is a representative of local governments, appointed by the Nevada League of Cities, or its successor organization; and



(6) Any other members appointed by the Chair of the committee.

(b) The Subcommittee on Academics and Workforce Alignment, which consists of:

(1) Three members who are members of the committee appointed pursuant to section 2 of this act, appointed by the Chair of the committee;

(2) One member who is a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada, appointed by the Chair of the Board;

(3) Three members who are representatives of the business and economic development communities of this State, one of whom must be a representative of northern Nevada, one of whom must be a representative of southern Nevada and one of whom must be a representative of rural Nevada, appointed by the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development;

(4) One member who is a representative of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, appointed by the Director of the Department; and

(5) Any other members appointed by the Chair of the committee.

2. Develop the mission and duties of each subcommittee appointed pursuant to subsection 1, which must include, without limitation:

(a) Reviewing national best practices of governance of and funding methods for community colleges;

(b) Examining effective relationships among local school districts, workforce development and community colleges and making recommendations concerning how this State can strengthen such relationships to improve student achievement;

(c) Examining effective relationships between business and industry and community colleges and making recommendations concerning how this State can strengthen such relationships to better prepare students for entry into the workforce;

(d) Reviewing the mission of each community college in this State, which must include a determination of whether, over the 10-year period immediately preceding the review, the mission of the community college has changed and whether changes to the academic programs of the community college have enhanced or undermined that mission; and

(e) Determining whether it is advisable to transfer the administration of community colleges from the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to another governmental entity and:



(1) If such a transfer is determined to be advisable, determining the best methods of accomplishing the transfer; and

(2) If such a transfer is determined not to be advisable, determining whether there are other options available that would improve the governance structure of and funding methods for community colleges.

Sec. 3.5. The Legislative Counsel Bureau and the Nevada System of Higher Education shall provide administrative and technical assistance to the committee appointed pursuant to section 2 of this act and its subcommittees as requested by the Chair of the committee.

Sec. 4. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2013.

