

SENATE BILL NO. 449—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MARCH 28, 2011

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing tuition charges, registration fees and other fees assessed against students in the Nevada System of Higher Education. (BDR 34-932)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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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 the Nevada System of Higher Education; authorizing the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to fix tuition charges and assess registration fees and other fees based on the demand for or the costs of providing the academic program or major for which the tuition charges are fixed or the registration fees are assessed; requiring the Board of Regents to establish a program authorizing scholarships and reduced fees for students who are economically disadvantaged under certain circumstances; requiring the Board of Regents to make certain reports to the Legislature; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law authorizes the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to fix
2 tuition charges for students at all campuses of the Nevada System of Higher
3 Education. The tuition charges are in addition to any registration fees or other fees
4 assessed against a student. (NRS 396.540) **Section 2** of this bill authorizes the
5 Board of Regents, in fixing tuition charges and assessing registration fees and other
6 fees, to adjust the amount of the tuition charges and registration and other fees
7 based on the demand for or the costs of carrying out the academic program or major
8 for which the tuition charges or registration or other fees are assessed. The
9 adjustment may be based on factors such as the cost of professional instruction, the
10 cost of laboratory resources and ancillary costs. **Section 2** also provides that if the
11 Board of Regents adjusts the amount of tuition charges, registration fees or other
12 fees based on the demand for or the cost of an academic program or major, the
13 Board is required to establish a program to authorize scholarships and reduced fees



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14 for students who are economically disadvantaged and who are enrolled in academic
15 programs or majors which are more costly as a result of the adjustments authorized
16 by this bill. Finally, **section 2** requires the Board of Regents to submit an annual
17 report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the
18 Legislature, or to the Legislative Commission if the Legislature is not in session,
19 which identifies the demand for and the costs of each academic program and major
20 and includes a schedule of all tuition charges, registration fees and other fees
21 assessed for each academic program and major.

22 **Section 3** of this bill requires the Board of Regents to submit a biennial report
23 to the Legislature including certain information on: (1) the number and percentage
24 of students who complete academic programs at an institution within the System
25 with a degree or certificate and a comparison with national statistics; (2) initiatives
26 undertaken by the Board of Regents to increase the rate of students who complete
27 academic programs with a degree or certificate; (3) based upon surveys of students,
28 the employment rate of students who complete a degree or certificate program and
29 the average starting salary; and (4) initiatives undertaken by the Board of Regents
30 to align the degree and certificate programs offered by institutions within the
31 System with the economic development goals identified by the Commission on
32 Economic Development.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 396 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.

3 **Sec. 2. 1.** *In fixing a tuition charge for students at any*
4 *campus of the System as provided by NRS 396.540 and in setting*
5 *the amount of registration fees and other fees which are assessed*
6 *against students, the Board of Regents may provide for the*
7 *adjustment of the amount of the tuition charge or registration fee*
8 *or other fee based on the demand for or the costs of carrying out*
9 *the academic program or major for which the tuition charge,*
10 *registration fee or other fee is assessed, including, without*
11 *limitation, the costs of professional instruction, laboratory*
12 *resources and other ancillary support.*

13 **2.** *If the Board of Regents provides for the adjustment of*
14 *tuition charges, registration fees or other fees in the manner*
15 *authorized by subsection 1, the Board of Regents shall establish a*
16 *program to authorize scholarships and reduced fees for students*
17 *who are economically disadvantaged and who are enrolled in*
18 *academic programs or majors for which the adjustment of tuition*
19 *charges, registration fees or other fees in the manner authorized*
20 *by subsection 1 results in an increase in the costs of enrollment in*
21 *such programs or majors.*

22 **3.** *If the Board of Regents provides for the adjustment of*
23 *tuition charges, registration fees or other fees in the manner*
24 *authorized by subsection 1, the Board of Regents shall, on or*
25 *before February 1 of each year, submit a written report to the*



1 *Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the*
2 *Legislature, or to the Legislative Commission if the Legislature is*
3 *not in session, which must, without limitation:*

4 (a) *Identify the demand for each academic program and*
5 *major;*

6 (b) *Identify the costs of providing each academic program and*
7 *major; and*

8 (c) *Include a schedule of all tuition charges, registration fees*
9 *and other fees assessed for each academic program and major.*

10 4. *As used in this section, "tuition charge" has the meaning*
11 *ascribed to it in NRS 396.540.*

12 **Sec. 3.** *The Board of Regents shall, on or before February 1*
13 *of each odd-numbered year submit a written report to the Director*
14 *of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the next*
15 *regular session of the Legislature which includes:*

16 1. *By institution within the System and by each academic*
17 *program at the institution:*

18 (a) *The number of students who enter the academic program;*

19 (b) *The percentage of students who complete the academic*
20 *program; and*

21 (c) *The average length of time for completion of the academic*
22 *program to obtain a degree or certificate.*

23 2. *A comparison of the data which is reported pursuant to*
24 *subsection 1 with available national metrics measuring how states*
25 *throughout the country rank in the completion of academic*
26 *programs leading to a degree or certificate and the average time*
27 *for completion of those programs.*

28 3. *Initiatives undertaken by the Board of Regents to increase*
29 *the rate of students who complete degree and certificate programs,*
30 *including initiatives to shorten the time to complete those*
31 *programs.*

32 4. *Based upon surveys of students who have completed an*
33 *academic program and obtained a degree or certificate, the*
34 *number and percentage of students who have obtained*
35 *employment within their field of study, and the average starting*
36 *salary, which must be reported by institution within the System*
37 *and by each academic program at the institution. The data must be*
38 *matched with industries identified in state economic development*
39 *goals to determine whether students who graduated and obtained*
40 *a degree or certificate are finding employment in those industries.*

41 5. *Initiatives undertaken by the Board of Regents to align the*
42 *degree and certificate programs offered by the institutions within*
43 *the System with the economic development goals identified by the*
44 *Commission on Economic Development.*



1 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2011.

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