
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 202—ASSEMBLYMEN
JOINER; SWANK AND THOMPSON

PREFILED FEBRUARY 13, 2017

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS CANCELA AND RATTI

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program. (BDR 34-722)

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; providing for the award of grants under the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program to qualified students enrolled in universities within the Nevada System of Higher Education; providing that money received from a grant awarded under the Program may be used to pay for the cost of education at more than one community college, state college or university within the System; 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 who are enrolled in community colleges and state
4 colleges that are part of the Nevada System of Higher Education to pay for a
5 portion of the cost of education at such institutions. (NRS 396.952) **Sections 1-4** of
6 this bill provide that students who are enrolled in a university that is a part of the
7 System are also eligible for a grant under the Program. **Section 2** of this bill
8 additionally provides that money received from a grant awarded under the Program
9 may be used to pay for the cost of education at more than one community college,
10 state college or university within the System.



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
4 students to pay for a portion of the cost of education at a community
5 college, ~~for~~ state college *or university* within the System.

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

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

12 4. To be eligible for a grant awarded under the Program, a
13 student must:

14 (a) Be enrolled, or accepted to be enrolled, during a semester in
15 at least 15 credit hours at a community college, ~~for~~ state college *or*
16 *university* within the System;

17 (b) Be enrolled in a program of study leading to a recognized
18 degree or certificate;

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

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

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

28 ➔ *If a student is enrolled or accepted to be enrolled at more than*
29 *one institution within the System, the credit hours in which the*
30 *student is enrolled or accepted to be enrolled at those institutions*
31 *must be aggregated for the purposes of paragraph (a).*

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

33 396.954 1. For each eligible student, the Board of Regents or
34 a designee thereof shall:

35 (a) Calculate the maximum amount of the grant which the
36 student is eligible to receive. The maximum amount of such a grant
37 must not exceed the amount equal to the cost of education of the
38 student minus the amounts determined for the student contribution,
39 family contribution and federal contribution to the cost of education
40 of the student.

41 (b) Determine the actual amount of the grant which will be
42 awarded to each student, which amount must not exceed the



1 maximum amount calculated pursuant to paragraph (a), but which
2 may be in a lesser amount if the Board of Regents or a designee
3 thereof, as applicable, determines that the amount of money
4 available for all grants for any semester is insufficient to award to
5 all eligible students the maximum amount of the grant which each
6 student is eligible to receive.

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

9 2. Money received from a grant awarded under the Program
10 ~~must~~ :

11 (a) *Must* be used by a student only to pay for the cost of
12 education of the student at a community college , ~~or~~ state college
13 *or university* within the System and not for any other purpose.

14 (b) *May be used by a student to pay for the cost of education of*
15 *the student at more than one community college, state college or*
16 *university within the System.*

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

18 396.956 1. The Board of Regents:

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

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

24 (1) The cost of education of a student at each community
25 college , ~~and~~ state college *and university* within the System, which
26 must be consistent with the provisions of 20 U.S.C. § 1087ll.

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

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

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

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

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

40 (a) In determining the student contribution to the cost of
41 education, the student contribution must not exceed the amount that
42 the Board of Regents determines the student reasonably could be
43 expected to earn from employment during the time the student is
44 enrolled at a community college , ~~or~~ state college *or university*
45 within the System, including, without limitation, during breaks



1 between semesters. This paragraph and any regulations adopted
2 pursuant to this section must not be construed to require a student to
3 seek or obtain employment as a condition of eligibility for a grant
4 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.** NRS 396.960 is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 396.960 On or before February 1 of each odd-numbered year,
14 the Board of Regents shall submit to the Director of the Legislative
15 Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the next regular session of the
16 Legislature a written report on the Program which must include,
17 without limitation, information regarding:

18 1. The number of students during the immediately preceding
19 school year who were awarded grants under the Program.

20 2. The average amount of each grant awarded under the
21 Program for the immediately preceding school year.

22 3. The success of the Program, including, without limitation,
23 information regarding the percentage of students awarded grants
24 since the creation of the Program who have remained enrolled at a
25 community college , ~~or~~ state college *or university* within the
26 System and the percentage of students awarded grants since the
27 creation of the Program who have been awarded a degree or
28 certificate.

29 **Sec. 5.** The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do
30 not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a
31 requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

32 **Sec. 6.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2017.

