

Assembly Bill No. 202–Assemblymen
Joiner, Cohen; Swank and Thompson

Joint Sponsors: Senators Cancela and Ratti

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to education; directing the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the cost and affordability of higher education in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Section 1 of this bill requires the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the cost and affordability of higher education in this State and prescribes the membership of the committee. **Section 1** also requires this committee to: (1) consult with and solicit input from persons and organizations with expertise in matters relevant to the cost of higher education and funding methods for higher education; and (2) submit a report of its findings and any recommendations to the Legislature. **Section 3** of this bill requires the Legislative Counsel Bureau and the Nevada System of Higher Education to provide administrative and technical assistance to the committee 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. 1. The Legislative Commission shall appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the cost and affordability of higher education in the State of Nevada for students.

2. The committee must be composed of:

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

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

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

(d) One voting member of the Legislature appointed by the Minority Leader of the Assembly;

(e) One nonvoting member of the general public who is a faculty member in the Nevada System of Higher Education appointed by the Chair of the Legislative Commission from among the names of nominees submitted by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada pursuant to subsection 3; and



(f) One nonvoting member of the general public who is a student enrolled in the Nevada System of Higher Education appointed by the Chair of the Legislative Commission from among the names of nominees submitted by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada pursuant to subsection 3.

3. The Board of Regents of the University of Nevada shall submit to the Legislative Commission the names of at least three:

(a) Faculty members in the Nevada System of Higher Education qualified for membership on the committee.

(b) Students enrolled in the Nevada System of Higher Education qualified for membership on the committee.

4. The Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint a Chair and a Vice Chair of the committee.

5. The committee shall consult with and solicit input from persons and organizations with expertise in matters relevant to the cost of higher education in this State and funding methods for higher education in this State.

6. The committee shall submit a report of its findings, including, without limitation, any recommendations for legislation, to the 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Sec. 2. In studying the cost and affordability of higher education in the State of Nevada, the committee appointed pursuant to section 1 of this act shall:

1. Examine the cost and affordability of higher education in the State of Nevada for students, including, without limitation:

(a) The average cost of higher education for a student relative to the average income earned by a student;

(b) The affordability of higher education for a student in this State compared to other states;

(c) Options for the creation of a need-based grant program for the purpose of awarding grants to eligible students to pay for a portion of the cost of education at an institution within the Nevada System of Higher Education similar to the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program created by NRS 396.952; and

(d) Any programs, policies and funding that may make higher education more financially accessible to residents of this State, including, without limitation, an examination of the factors contributing to the current cost of higher education and ways to address them;

2. Examine and evaluate the need in this State for existing and potential programs of higher education to ensure economic progress and development and workforce development within this State and to ensure that the educational needs of its residents are being met;



3. Identify areas of study which are of high priority and where needs are not currently being met, including, without limitation, the areas of nursing and teaching;

4. Determine whether it is feasible to reallocate existing resources within institutions of the Nevada System of Higher Education to meet the critical needs of higher education in the State that are not currently being met;

5. Determine whether legislative appropriations and student fee revenues are being efficiently distributed internally at each institution of the Nevada System of Higher Education;

6. Examine whether the system of compensation for faculty at each institution of the Nevada System of Higher Education is appropriate in order to recruit and retain quality faculty that further programs of higher education and research; and

7. Recommend to the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada and the Legislature such action as may be needed:

(a) To address findings relating to the affordability and programs of higher education, including, without limitation, where long-term investments should be made to improve affordability and address workforce needs; and

(b) For the efficient and effective operation of higher education in this State if the State is to progress economically and socially.

Sec. 3. The Legislative Counsel Bureau and the Nevada System of Higher Education shall provide administrative and technical assistance to the committee appointed pursuant to section 1 of this act as requested by the Chair of the committee.

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

