

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

PREFILED FEBRUARY 13, 2017

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JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS CANCELA AND RATTI

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Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Requires an interim study concerning the cost and affordability of higher education in this State. (BDR S-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.

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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:**

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

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

1       **Section 1.** 1. The Legislative Commission shall appoint a  
2 committee to conduct an interim study concerning the cost and  
3 affordability of higher education in the State of Nevada for students.

4       2. The committee must be composed of:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



- 1 (a) The average cost of higher education for a student relative to  
2 the average income earned by a student;
  - 3 (b) The affordability of higher education for a student in this  
4 State compared to other states;
  - 5 (c) Options for the creation of a need-based grant program for  
6 the purpose of awarding grants to eligible students to pay for a  
7 portion of the cost of education at an institution within the Nevada  
8 System of Higher Education similar to the Silver State Opportunity  
9 Grant Program created by NRS 396.952; and
  - 10 (d) Any programs, policies and funding that may make higher  
11 education more financially accessible to residents of this State,  
12 including, without limitation, an examination of the factors  
13 contributing to the current cost of higher education and ways to  
14 address them;
- 15 2. Examine and evaluate the need in this State for existing and  
16 potential programs of higher education to ensure economic progress  
17 and development and workforce development within this State and  
18 to ensure that the educational needs of its residents are being met;
  - 19 3. Identify areas of study which are of high priority and where  
20 needs are not currently being met, including, without limitation, the  
21 areas of nursing and teaching;
  - 22 4. Determine whether it is feasible to reallocate existing  
23 resources within institutions of the Nevada System of Higher  
24 Education to meet the critical needs of higher education in the State  
25 that are not currently being met;
  - 26 5. Determine whether legislative appropriations and student fee  
27 revenues are being efficiently distributed internally at each  
28 institution of the Nevada System of Higher Education;
  - 29 6. Examine whether the system of compensation for faculty at  
30 each institution of the Nevada System of Higher Education is  
31 appropriate in order to recruit and retain quality faculty that further  
32 programs of higher education and research; and
  - 33 7. Recommend to the Board of Regents of the University of  
34 Nevada and the Legislature such action as may be needed:
    - 35 (a) To address findings relating to the affordability and  
36 programs of higher education, including, without limitation, where  
37 long-term investments should be made to improve affordability and  
38 address workforce needs; and
    - 39 (b) For the efficient and effective operation of higher education  
40 in this State if the State is to progress economically and socially.
- 41 **Sec. 3.** The Legislative Counsel Bureau and the Nevada  
42 System of Higher Education shall provide administrative and  
43 technical assistance to the committee appointed pursuant to section  
44 1 of this act as requested by the Chair of the committee.



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

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