

Committee Action:
Do Pass _____
Amend & Do Pass _____
Other _____

Assembly Committee on Education

This measure may be considered for action during today's work session.

ASSEMBLY BILL 217

Revises provisions governing higher education. (BDR 34-464)

Sponsored By: Assembly Members Watts, González, Anderson, Considine, and C. H. Miller, and Senators Flores, Doñate, and Neal, et al.

Date Heard: March 21, 2023

Fiscal Notes: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

Assembly Bill 217 requires the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) to waive certain fees for homeless or unaccompanied pupils. It limits the documentation the Board of Regents is required to request in such circumstances, includes provisions regarding the waiver amount, and requires that each institution within NSHE designate one employee as a point of contact for fee waiver questions. The bill also makes changes to the Liaison for Post-Secondary Education for Homeless Pupils within NSHE, including revising the Liaison's duties, and it requires NSHE institutions to take certain actions relating to the Liaison. The bill authorizes the Board of Regents to require an NSHE institution to provide certain students with priority registration for courses that provide certain credits. Finally, it defines certain terms and makes conforming changes.

Amendments: One amendment was proposed for this measure.

1. Assemblyman Watts submitted an amendment removing the authorization for the Board of Regents to grant priority registration for homeless or unaccompanied pupils and certain foster youth, clarifying that a fee waiver shall be granted for a pupil identified as a homeless or unaccompanied pupil at any time prior to achieving age 25, and adding language requiring certain documentation.

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**State of Nevada
Assembly**

Eighty-Second Session

**AB 217 Conceptual Amendment
Proposed by Asm. Watts**

1. Delete Section 3 authorizing the Board of Regents to grant priority registration for homeless or unaccompanied pupils and certain foster youth.

Intent: Based on a recommendation from NSHE, this provision would be difficult to administer at this time.

2. Amend Section 4 (1)(a) to clarify that to be eligible the student must have been a homeless or unaccompanied at any point prior to achieving age 25.

(a) Is identified as a homeless or unaccompanied pupil **at any time prior to achieving age 25.**

Intent: Aligns bill with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of youth homelessness, as well as several other states that have tuition waivers for homeless students (California, Maine, and Oregon).

3. Amend Section 4 (4) as follows:

The Board of Regents ~~may~~ **shall** request documentation from a person requesting a waiver pursuant to subsection 1 as it deems necessary to verify that such a person was a homeless or unaccompanied pupil ~~is~~, **except that:**

Intent: To require documentation of the student's circumstance as requested by NSHE.