

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to higher education; encouraging the Board of Regents to establish a program of agronomy, horticulture, landscape ecology, and design and plant sciences within the College of Agriculture of the University of Nevada, Reno; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to prescribe programs of instruction, courses of study and research for the University and Community College System of Nevada. (NRS 396.440)

This bill encourages the Board of Regents to establish a program of agronomy, horticulture, landscape ecology, and design and plant sciences within the College of Agriculture of the University of Nevada, Reno.

WHEREAS, In Nevada, the provision of services that include lawncare, landscaping, groundskeeping, the restoration of lands through the control of invasive weeds and revegetation with native plants and grasses, supports approximately 15,000 jobs and generates approximately \$750 million annually in direct sales; and

WHEREAS, The provision of these vital services requires a well-educated and trained workforce; and

WHEREAS, Nevada's crop industry, including, without limitation, alfalfa and other hays, potatoes, onions, garlic, melons, barley, wheat, corn and oats, generates approximately \$250 million annually; and

WHEREAS, Organizations in the State of Nevada that represent the horticultural and commodity industries in the State have expressed a critical need for outreach and research services and support in many areas relating to agronomy and horticulture, including, without limitation, the management of weeds, pests and plant diseases, plant breeding and xeriscaping; and

WHEREAS, Despite the need for a well-educated and trained workforce in Nevada in the areas of agronomy, horticulture, landscaping ecology, and design and plant sciences, there is no baccalaureate program offered within the University and Community College System of Nevada that is specific to those industries in this State; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. The Legislature hereby encourages the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to:

1. Establish within the College of Agriculture of the University of Nevada, Reno, a program of agronomy, horticulture, landscape ecology, and design and plant sciences;

2. Offer a bachelor of science degree in those areas;

3. In addition to offering courses in those areas at the University of Nevada, Reno, offer courses in those areas at the Community College of Southern Nevada, other campuses within the University and Community College System of Nevada and through distance education, as determined appropriate by the Board of Regents; and

4. Submit a report to the 74th Session of the Nevada Legislature regarding the status of any action the Board of Regents has taken to establish a program of agronomy, horticulture, landscape ecology, and design and plant sciences in accordance with this section.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2005.