

SENATE BILL NO. 156—SENATOR LEE

MARCH 2, 2005

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Encourages establishment of program of agronomy, horticulture, landscape ecology, and design and plant sciences within College of Agriculture of University of Nevada, Reno. (BDR S-823)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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:

- 1 Existing law authorizes the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to
- 2 prescribe programs of instruction, courses of study and research for the University
- 3 and Community College System of Nevada. (NRS 396.440)
- 4 This bill encourages the Board of Regents to establish a program of agronomy,
- 5 horticulture, landscape ecology, and design and plant sciences within the College of
- 6 Agriculture of the University of Nevada, Reno.

- 1 WHEREAS, In Nevada, the provision of services that include
- 2 lawncare, landscaping, groundskeeping, the restoration of lands
- 3 through the control of invasive weeds and revegetation with native
- 4 plants and grasses, supports approximately 15,000 jobs and
- 5 generates approximately \$750 million annually in direct sales; and
- 6 WHEREAS, The provision of these vital services requires a well-
- 7 educated and trained workforce; and



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

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

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

17
18 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
19 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
20

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

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

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

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

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

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

