

Assembly Bill No. 450–Committee on Education

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to workforce development; directing the Governor of the State of Nevada to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning opportunities to align workforce training and programs offered by community colleges in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

This bill directs the Governor to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning opportunities to align the need for workforce training and the programs offered by community colleges in this State to meet the needs of the economy of this State. This bill: (1) establishes the membership of the committee; (2) establishes the subjects that the committee is required to study; and (3) requires the committee to report its findings to the Governor, the Chair of the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada and the Legislature on or before August 1, 2022.

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

WHEREAS, The workforce development system in Nevada is in need of meaningful transformation to meet the needs of the evolving economy in this State, a need that has only been magnified by the current public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada System of Higher Education, which is governed by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada, encompasses several different types of institutions of higher education, including, without limitation, community colleges; and

WHEREAS, Community colleges have always been and will remain critical to efforts to develop the workforce in this State as the economy continues to expand and diversify, both in the areas of existing trades and professions and the emerging careers of the future economy; and

WHEREAS, Community colleges in this State provide a broad spectrum of education, from traditional degree programs to certificate and training programs, all of which are essential to developing the workforce in this State; and

WHEREAS, Certain community colleges provide essential public higher education services for vast areas of rural Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Recent economic downturns in this State highlight the need for community colleges to be more closely aligned with the diverse students, business communities and regions of this State that they serve; and



WHEREAS, In order to maximize the opportunities offered by community colleges in this State and the expanding economy, Nevada must take a cooperative approach to identifying opportunities for realigning education and training funding, increasing coordination and collaboration among partners within the workforce system and establishing accountability for statewide workforce development going forward; and

WHEREAS, With an evolving state economy and workforce, Nevada must ensure that the higher education funding formula incentivizes the education and training of tomorrow's workforce; and

WHEREAS, It is important to determine whether new methods of coordinating, governing or funding community colleges in this State are necessary to improve and advance the purpose of community colleges in this State; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. 1. The Governor of the State of Nevada shall appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning opportunities to align the need for workforce training and the programs offered by community colleges to meet the needs of the evolving economy in Nevada. The committee shall analyze the coordinating and governance structures of and funding mechanisms for community colleges in this State to ensure efficient coordination among all of the workforce development partners in Nevada.

2. The committee shall be composed of:

(a) One member who is a representative of the Office of Economic Development;

(b) Three members who are representatives of local chambers of commerce or economic development entities, one of whom must be a representative from northern Nevada and two of whom must be representatives from southern Nevada;

(c) One member who is a representative of a labor organization in this State and who has, or has had, a defined role in a jointly administered apprenticeship program recognized by the State Apprenticeship Council;

(d) The Superintendent of Public Instruction;

(e) The Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education; and

(f) One member who is a president of a community college in the Nevada System of Higher Education.



3. The Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education and one representative from private industry shall serve as co-chairs of the committee.

4. The co-chairs of the committee may jointly create and appoint subcommittees, if necessary, to achieve the mission of the committee.

5. Members of the committee serve without compensation and are not entitled to any per diem.

6. The committee shall consult with and solicit input from persons and organizations, including, without limitation, the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, the American Association of Community Colleges and the National Association of System Heads, with expertise in matters relevant to the coordinating and governing structures of and funding methods for community colleges in this State.

7. In conducting its study, the committee shall review and examine areas that include, without limitation, the following:

(a) National best practices of governance of and funding for community colleges;

(b) Effective relationships among local school districts, workforce development and community colleges, including, without limitation, any recommendations concerning how this State can strengthen such relationships to improve student achievement;

(c) Effective relationships between business and industry and community colleges, including, without limitation, any recommendations concerning how this State can strengthen such relationships to better prepare students for entry into the workforce;

(d) The mission of each community college in this State, which must include a determination of whether, over the 10-year period immediately preceding the review, the mission of the community college has changed and whether changes to the academic programs of the community college have enhanced or undermined that mission; and

(e) Other matters that are necessary to fulfill the mission of the committee, as determined by the co-chairs.

8. The committee shall submit a report of its findings, including, without limitation, any proposed changes to the coordinating and governance structures of or funding methods for community colleges in this State and any recommendations for legislation to the Governor of the State of Nevada, the Chair of the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau not later than August 1, 2022, for transmittal to the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature.



9. The Office of the Governor and the Nevada System of Higher Education shall provide administrative and technical assistance to the committee or any subcommittee appointed pursuant to this section.

10. As used in this section, "labor organization" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 613.230.

Sec. 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of NRS 218D.430 and 218D.435, a committee, other than the Assembly Standing Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Standing Committee on Finance, may vote on this act before the expiration of the period prescribed for the return of a fiscal note in NRS 218D.475. This section applies retroactively from and after March 22, 2021.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

