

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, Free Tuition for Veterans

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Existing law authorizes the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to fix a tuition charge for students at all campuses of the Nevada System of Higher Education but requires that tuition be free for: (1) all students whose families have been bona fide residents of Nevada for at least 12 months before matriculation; (2) all students who themselves have been bona fide residents of Nevada for at least 12 months before matriculation; (3) public school teachers; (4) ~~private~~ private school teachers who satisfy certain criteria; (5) employees of the System; and (6) members of the Armed Forces of the United States. In other words, these groups are deemed residents for tuition purposes, and therefore are subject to pay resident registration fees only. Senate Bill 318 (Chapter ____, Statutes of Nevada 2009) provides that members of the Armed Forces of the United States must be on active duty and stationed in Nevada to receive free tuition. In addition, this bill provides that tuition must also be free for veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who were honorably discharged and who were on active duty and stationed at a military installation in the State of Nevada or certain other military installations on the date of discharge. Senate Bill 209 is effective July 1, 2009.

Staff recommends revising Board policy to align with the provisions of Senate Bill 318.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Title 4, Chapter 15, Section 3 to align the Board's current policy on tuition with the mandatory provisions of Senate Bill 318. (See attached Policy Proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This recommendation to amend Board policy is brought forward in response to the passage of Senate Bill 318 of the 2009 Session of the Nevada State Legislature.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- The proposed revisions supports members of the U.S. Armed Forces, not only while on active duty (which is the current policy of the Board), but also following discharge.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

None, as the provisions of Senate Bill 318 are mandatory.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____

Amends Current Board Policy: Title 4, Chapter 15, Section 3

Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____

Other: _____

Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No _____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 15, SECTION 3
Tuition

Additions appear in boldface italics, deletions are ~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 3. Tuition

1. Tuition shall never be charged to current enrollees or graduates of a Nevada high school.
- 2.