

**Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
(Nevada WICHE Commission)**

Nevada System of Higher Education
System Administration Building
2601 Enterprise Road
Reno, NV 89512
Room 114

Video or Telephone Conference Connection from the Meeting Site to:

Nevada System of Higher Education
System Administration Building
4300 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Room 105

Thursday, August 31, 2023, 3:00 pm

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENDA AND PUBLIC MEETING

Below is an agenda of all items scheduled to be considered. Notification is hereby provided that items on the agenda may be taken out of the order presented, including moving an item to a different day if the meeting is noticed for more than one day, two or more agenda items may be combined for consideration, and an agenda item may be removed from the agenda or discussion relating to an item on the agenda may be delayed at any time.

Some agenda items are noted as having accompanying reference material. The agenda and associated reference material may also be accessed on the Internet by visiting the Nevada Office of WICHE website at: <https://nvwiche.nevada.edu/>. Copies of reference material and any supporting materials that are submitted to the Nevada WICHE Commission after the posting of this agenda and before or during the meeting will be made available at the NV WICHE Commission Office, 2601 Enterprise Road, Reno, Nevada 89512. A copy may be requested by contacting Director Patty Porter by email at nvwiche@nevada.edu or by telephone at 775-784-4901. Copies of any such additional materials will also be available at Nevada WICHE Commission website at: <https://nvwiche.nevada.edu/>.

The Commission is pleased to make reasonable accommodations for any member of the public who has a disability and wishes to attend the meeting. If special arrangements are necessary, please notify us via email at nvwiche@nevada.edu or call 775-784-4901 as far in advance as possible.

BOARD

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Fred Lokken, Executive Commissioner _____
Ms. Cathy Dinauer, Commissioner _____
Mr. Dale Erquiaga, Commissioner _____

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION ONLY

Public comment will be taken during this agenda item. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name. The Executive Commissioner may elect to allow additional public comment on a specific agenda item when that agenda item is being considered.

In accordance with Attorney General Opinion No. 00-047, as restated in the Attorney General’s Open Meeting Law Manual, the Chair may prohibit comment if the content of that comment is a topic that is not relevant to, or within the authority of, the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education, or if the content is willfully disruptive of the meeting by being irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers.

2. MINUTES

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

The Commission will consider approval of the minutes from the July 7, 2023, meeting.

(Ref. 2-WICHE Commission Meeting Minutes, July 7, 2023)

ESTIMATED TIME: 5 minutes

3. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

INFORMATION ONLY

The WICHE Commissioners will provide updates on their activities as commissioners.

ESTIMATED TIME: 15 minutes

4. DIRECTOR UPDATE

INFORMATION ONLY

Director Patty Porter will provide the Commissioners with an update on the Nevada Office of WICHE activities.

ESTIMATED TIME: 10 minutes

**5. UPDATE ON CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY TO ENACT SB 342**

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Director Patty Porter and Deputy General Counsel Carrie Parker will provide the Commissioners with an update on contract negotiations with Utah State University pursuant to the terms of SB 342 and the Commissioners’ direction provided at the July 7, 2023, meeting. Possible action may include instruction to Director Porter and Deputy General Counsel Parker regarding the minimum commitments that the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (Nevada WICHE Commission) requires of Utah State University and guidance regarding next steps in the negotiations with Utah State University and communications with the Nevada Legislature Interim Finance Committee and/or other representatives of the Legislature.

(Ref. 3-Nevada Senate Bill 342 Enrolled)

ESTIMATED TIME: 30 minutes

6. APPOINTMENT TO REGIONAL WICHE LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

The Commission may take action to appoint Nevada State Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop to the regional WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee.

ESTIMATED TIME: 5 minutes

7. NEW BUSINESS INFORMATION ONLY

Items for consideration at future meetings may be suggested. Any discussion of an item under “New Business” is limited to description and clarification of the subject matter of the item, which may include the reasons for the request, and no substantive discussion may occur at this meeting on new business items in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law (NRS 241.010 *et seq.*).

8. PUBLIC COMMENT INFORMATION ONLY

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This agenda has been posted at the following locations:

- Nevada WICHE’s website: <https://nvwiche.nevada.edu/>
- Nevada System of Higher Education: 2601 Enterprise Road, Reno, NV 89512
- Nevada System of Higher Education: 4300 S. Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89119
- Nevada Public Notice Website: <https://notice.nv.gov>

**Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
(Nevada WICHE Commission) Minutes**

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Video or Telephone Conference Connection from the Meeting Site to:

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4300 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Room 105

Friday, July 7, 2023, 2:00 pm

Members Present: Mr. Fred Lokken, Executive Commissioner
Ms. Cathy Dinauer, Commissioner
Mr. Dale Erquiaga, Commissioner

Others Present: Ms. Patty Porter, Director, Nevada Office of WICHE
Ms. Carrie Parker, Deputy General Counsel, NSHE
Ms. Patricia Charlton, Acting Vice Chancellor, NSHE Department of Academic and Student Affairs
Ms. Donna Healy, Executive Assistant, NSHE Department of Academic and Student Affairs and Community Colleges
Nevada State Senator Pete Goicoechea, District 19
Dr. Dirk Vanderwall, Interim Dean and Professor, Utah State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Clinical and Life Sciences
Dr. Kerry Rood, Associate Dean and Professor, Utah State University Department of Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Sciences (ADVS)
Sheila Bray, Community Partnerships Coordinator for Clark County, University of Nevada, Reno Extension
Dr. Mike Teglas, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), Associate Professor & Student Advisor, University of Nevada, Reno, Department of Agriculture, Veterinary and Rangeland Sciences.

Executive Commissioner Fred Lokken called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

1. **Information Only – Public Comment**
There was no public comment.

2. Approved – Minutes

The Nevada WICHE Commission approved the minutes from its March 17, 2023 meeting. (*Ref. 2-WICHE Commission Meeting Minutes, March 17, 2023*)

Commissioner Dinauer moved approval of the March 17, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Erquiaga seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Update on Passage of Nevada Senate Bill (SB) 342, Provision for Veterinary Medicine in the 2023 Nevada Legislative Session

- Patty Porter, Director, Nevada Office of WICHE, introduced Carrie Parker, NSHE Deputy General Counsel and legal counsel to the Nevada Office of WICHE, and began to give an overview of SB 342.
- Pete Goicoechea, Nevada State Senator, District 19, noted that there have been many conversations over the years regarding the desire for enhanced ability to assist students with getting into veterinary school. He has served on the WICHE Veterinary Medical Advisory Board.
 - The Nevada Office of WICHE is the right place for this program; we have agreed upon how it will work and determining the legal details is all that remains to be done.
 - Hopefully the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) will approve this at their August 9, 2023 meeting. That is coming up quickly so probably looking at October.
 - Executive Commissioner Lokken noted that the bill provides a deadline of “by 2025.”
 - Senator Goicoechea thanked Executive Commissioner Lokken for his direction and support with getting WICHE involved in this project.
- Dr. Mike Teglas, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), Associate Professor & Student Advisor, University of Nevada, Reno, Department of Agriculture, Veterinary and Rangeland Sciences, shared that he has served as the representative for the Nevada WICHE-PSEP program and also served as a programmatic reviewer for the Utah State University (USU) Department of Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Sciences program prior to the inception of the USU College of Veterinary Medicine.
 - UNR and its College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources (CABNR) have been intimately involved from the get go, this is not a UNR focused bill, the support from this bill goes to all Nevada residents regardless of what institution they graduate from.
 - Without the Nevada Office of WICHE to do the follow-up work, this process would be difficult.
- Dr. Dirk Vanderwall, Interim Dean and Professor, Utah State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Clinical and Life Sciences, noted that USU is excited about this program.
 - Utah, like Nevada and other states, has been interested in how they can train “homegrown” veterinarians to meet the needs of their state.
 - The USU School of Veterinary Medicine functioned in partnership (2+2 program) with Washington State University (WSU) for eleven years; classes of 30 students spent their first two years at USU, then completed their third and fourth years at WSU.
 - Their graduates are now serving 24 of the 29 counties in Utah.

- Prior to the establishment of the 2 + 2 program with Washington State University, Utah has been a participant of the regional WICHE program where 3 to 7 Utah residents through Utah WICHE program to attend veterinary program out of state.
- With the success of the 2 + 2 program with WSU in 2022 Utah legislative session funding was approved to expand and establish a full four year College of Veterinary Medicine at USU. Goal is to admit first class in fall of 2025 and the class of 2029.
- WSU accredits the 2+2 program, but USU is in the process of achieving their own accreditation with American Veterinary Medical Association for their 4-year program.
- Partnership with WSU 2 + 2 program has set USU up for success with their own full 4-year program. Over the past 11 years, they have had 235 graduation-eligible students, with 230 completing their degrees.
 - This equates to a 98% success rate; USU is continuing that success with their own 4-year program.
- Dr. Kerry Rood, Associate Dean and Professor, Utah State University Department of Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Sciences (ADVS), stated that he has a long history with and is a firm believer in WICHE and its mission, which is all about opportunity for students, and in this case, opportunities for veterinary students.
 - Layered on top of the mission is the goal to have students fill the needs in a state or area or in a type of practice; we have a record of success in doing just that and in providing the students with incentives to return to their states. They have a track record of recruiting the right people, training them, and having them come back.
- Senator Goicoechea stated that background information they received was that they would stand up the program with 80 students total of which 40 are Utah state residents and 40 nonresidents of which Nevada would have 10 and asked if there are similar agreements with other states.
 - Dr. Vanderwall noted that the current class size is 30, including 20 from Utah and 10 non-residents.
 - Scale up of USU class size will increase to 80, including 40 from Utah and 40 for non-resident students (including up to 10 positions reserved for Nevada residents).
 - Regarding the composition of the admissions committee, the admissions process is highly regulated by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education.
 - Work can be done for Nevada to identify the students who can best serve the needs of the state.
 - The current facility can accommodate 40-45 students; the fall of 2025 class will be capped from 40-45 students but that would still allow admission for up to 10 Nevada residents for fall cohort. The cap is due to the need for a new veterinary medical building for classroom and laboratory instruction space to educate years 1, 2, 3 of the new program.
 - The 4th year students will be distributed throughout real world clinical practices in Utah, intermountain region and in Nevada.
 - The new building will be available in fall 2026, increasing the class size to 80 students, including 40 in-state and 40 out-of-state students.
- Executive Commissioner Lokken asked for an explanation of the timeframe for identifying the 10 Nevada students for fall 2025.

- Dr. Vanderwall stated that the program will take place in Logan, Utah.
- Dr. Vanderwall shared that they are looking to open the admissions process in late 2024 or early 2025, with the deadline of April 15 for students to make their commitments.
- He also noted that the USU College of Veterinary Medicine is currently undergoing the accreditation process and recently submitted a required self-study document.
- There will be a 5-day site visit at USU in September 2023; they will give a consolidative assessment of their status in moving forward in the accreditation process.
- Sometime in 2024, a subsequent comprehensive site visit will occur, after which the self-study will be updated.
- Based on the findings from that visit, the AVMA accreditation body will choose to provide (or not provide) a letter of reasonable assurance of accreditation.
- For the first class in 2025, USU will not be using the VMCAS (Veterinary Medical College Application Service) system. VMCAS is a clearinghouse for applicants to apply to veterinary schools instead they will be using their USU Graduate school application. After 2025 they anticipate using VMCAS.
- Commissioner Dinauer inquired about the cost of tuition for the 4-year veterinary program.
 - Dr. Vanderwall stated that it is about \$27K/yr. for residents and \$60K/yr. for non-residents plus some fees (with a waiver currently offered of \$12K, leaving it at slightly over \$50K).
 - Resident tuition has increased at approximately 3.5% per year.
 - The non-resident tuition has increased by approximately 2.7% per year.
- Director Porter gave a line-by-line overview of SB 342 and noted that the Nevada Office of WICHE includes two programs, the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP), which works in collaboration with regional WICHE, and the Health Profession Education Program (HPEP), which is based in Nevada and not affiliated with regional WICHE.
 - This program will be under the HPEP program because it has provisional (not full) accreditation, which is required for the PSEP program.
 - The only amendment to NRS language allows Veterinary Medicine under HPEP to fulfill their service obligation anywhere in the State of Nevada.
 - The bill provides an \$8 million dollar one-shot appropriation for Nevada Office of WICHE to contract with Utah State University Veterinary Medical School to provide stipends for cost of out-of-state tuition for 70 Nevada residents to earn a doctorate degree in veterinary medicine. between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2034.
 - The selection of HPEP recipients for this program must be in consultation with two licensed veterinarians. This is not regarding admission but selection of recipients for this program.
 - Requirements for the program are in statute and require applicants to be a Nevada resident for one year prior to application and admittance to program.
 - Money appropriated cannot be given directly to USU. The signed contract must be approved by the Nevada Legislative Interim Finance Committee (IFC) before it can be allocated.
 - Any remaining balance of the appropriation cannot be committed for expenditure after June 2025.
 - The appropriation for 2023-2025 also includes funding for a Program Officer I position to support implementation of the program for the Nevada Office of WICHE.

- (Ref. 3 – Nevada SB 342 Enrolled)
- (Ref. 4 – Nevada Revised Statute Chapter 397)
- The funding for this position is not included in the \$8M bill funding; it is designated for this biennium and the request will need to be repeated for future funding.

Discussion

- Senator Pete Goicoechea asked if there is any problem with USU being able to spend the funds prior to the deadline.
 - Dr. Dirk Vanderwall, Interim Dean and Professor, Utah State University (USU) College of Veterinary Medicine, Clinical and Life Sciences, noted that from the standpoint of receiving the funds from Nevada, that they will then be expended over the course of subsequent years and he sees no issues with that but he is not the lawyer; the stipend funds will be utilized for the non-resident tuition portion for Nevada students once they start enrolling in the program.
 - Dr. Kerry Rood, Associate Dean and Professor, Utah State University Department of Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Sciences (ADVS), shared that they have been in contact with their legal counsel and ready to proceed with this process and he sees no problem with meeting the October 1, 2024 target date but he is not legal counsel for the university
 - Senator Goicoechea stated that IFC meet every other month so if we do not meet in October we can look at December but time is of the essence.
 - Commissioner Erquiaga noted that we have a 4-year cohort that will start in fall of 2025 (of up to 10 slots) and we are allowed up to 70 slots under this bill, but the program expires in 2034; we will get 6 cohorts in this period of time.
 - We must allow 4 years for the final cohort recipient to graduate so we will not be giving any new stipends after fall 2030.
 - This is a partial stipend which will not provide the full cost for each of the 70 Nevada students; we are only carrying the difference between the in-state and out-of-state tuition.
 - Dr. Vanderwall noted that we can expect to see continued growth in nonresident and resident tuition rates and are estimating future tuition costs at this point.
 - Commissioner Erquiaga said it looks like the stipend would be \$24-27,000 year.
 - Senator Goicoechea stated that the costs may rise for the students, but the program will give them placement in the program and will save them a great deal of money.
 - Commissioner Erquiaga asked if we would be selecting students in late 2024 who would be admitted in 2025 or would we wait until 2025 (for Nevadans to be admitted) then award stipends.
 - Dr. Vanderwall stated that if the admissions process is opened in late 2024 or early 2025, Nevada residents would be able to apply to the USU College of Veterinary Medicine.
 - The details of the admissions process need to be determined, but from an accreditation standpoint, at least 50% of the members of the admissions committee need to be full-time faculty members.
 - One question we have for the AVMA Council on Education accrediting body is whether the faculty members need to be faculty at USU or can faculty from other institutions serve on the committee. Answer remains to be determined.

- The USU College of Veterinary Medicine Admission Committee will evaluate Nevada resident applicants and vet whether they fulfill the criteria to be admitted to USU College of Veterinary Medicine. USU will not rank applicants. They will only access the Nevada applicants how many, or all, are qualified to be admitted to USU Veterinary School of Medicine. USU would then transfer the information back to the Nevada based selection group that meets the criteria of the senate bill, at least two practicing Veterinarians, etc.
- The Nevada selection group would use this list and select the 10 Nevada residents that would be admitted in that class cycle.
- Director Porter noted that the Nevada Office of WICHE responsibility is in selecting the stipend recipient and they do not have a part in determining admission to the program. Director Porter's concern is that if the office has input into the admission decision that creates a potential liability for the Nevada Office of WICHE. For example, if 20 Nevada residents apply and the Nevada selection group only chooses 10 what happens to the other 10? Currently applicants must show proof that they have been fully admitted to the school prior to applying for the stipend.
- Senator Goicoechea stated that the Nevada Office of WICHE will only review and rank the applications, then send the applications to the admissions office, removing liability from the Nevada Office of WICHE.
- Carrie Parker, Deputy Legal Counsel, NSHE, asked if applications received by the Nevada Office of WICHE are for students that have already been fully admitted to USU.
 - Dr. Vanderwall noted that is somewhat correct; they still need to iron out the details in determining at what point each individual applicant has been fully admitted or determined to meet the admissions criteria, thus a two-step process, which first step involves USU identifying those who meet admission requirement and ranking by the Nevada selection committee. Step 2 would be communication from State of Nevada or USU, prefer State of Nevada, inform those not selected for the support stipend they either fall back into general non-resident applicant pool or does USU put in place option for offering those not selected would be admitted if they select their program.
- Dr. Rood noted that they may extend offers to students, who may decline the offers; we need to have flexibility to go to the next person on the list.
 - The admission process is driven according to the requirements of the accrediting body and Nevada (with the veterinarians) will participate in the ranking process of the qualified applicants. Those selected and declined the spot would be offered to the next person on the list.
 - Unfortunately, there will be more qualified students than funding for stipends; those students not selected for the stipend would likely be well qualified to be extended out-of-state (non-resident) positions.
 - There is an April 15 deadline that is standard with all the veterinary schools for offer acceptance.
 - The process of admissions, ranking, and extending offers must occur well before April 15; typically, these things take place during the months of December and January, with some extending into February.
 - Executive Commissioner Lokken noted that the law requires that we start expending the funds by 2024.

- Director Porter reminded all that the \$8M must be spent by June 30, 2025, and recommended that those offered admission are students that are going to be admitted to their program.
 - Deputy Counsel Parker concurred with that recommendation that the list that is sent to WICHE are those who have been admitted and to follow the normal established process used by WICHE. From a risk perspective the offer of admission should be a complete offer with no contingencies.
- Executive Commissioner Lokken noted that student complaints have come into the Nevada Office of WICHE and regional WICHE because they are unhappy with the outcome of decisions.
- Dr. Vanderwall stated that the process must be transparent and visible on the website; the accrediting body expects transparency with the entire admission process which would include the application process for Nevada WICHE students and for those who are not admitted.
- Executive Commissioner Lokken noted that we have the WICHE model and will figure this out; the Commission may opt to make this a standing committee.
- Deputy Counsel Parker stated that a subcommittee which is a group of more than one person which makes recommendation to the parent body is also a public body (subject to open meeting law) thus if the subcommittee is making recommendations to the commissioners it would be subject to Nevada Open Meeting law.
- Dr. Teglas noted that the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) provides future veterinarians with the opportunity to apply to multiple schools at once; decisions made are not just based on cost in choosing their school and even with support could choose to go elsewhere.
- Commissioner Erquiaga stated that in Section 2 of the bill there is a requirement to spend the money, for any purpose, by September 19, 2025.
 - Understood that the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) would release the funds to WICHE (based on a memorandum of understanding (MOU)), then WICHE would enter into a contract with USU where it would be held and distributed over 10 years to 70 students.
 - Now in reviewing the bill it states that USU cannot spend the funds after 2025 and that it cannot be spent for any purpose by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or to the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred.
- Sheila Bray, Community Partnerships Coordinator for Clark County, University of Nevada, Reno Extension, stated that the intent was for these types of things to be discussed in the MOU; clarification should occur in that document.
- Director Porter noted that the agency that needs to provide clarification is the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB).
- Senator Goicoechea stated the key is in the words “any remaining balance of the appropriation” and that at the point we transfer the \$8M there will be no remaining balance.
 - He noted that he will coordinate with Director Porter to reach out to LCB to obtain this clarification.

4. Delegation to Negotiate Contact with Utah State University

Delegate to the Director of the Nevada Office of WICHE and NSHE Deputy General Counsel the responsibility of negotiating a contract with Utah State University to enact SB342.

Commissioner Erquiaga moved to approve the delegation of the Director of the Nevada Office of

WICHE and NSHE Deputy General Counsel the responsibility of negotiating a contract with Utah State University to enact SB342. Commissioner Dinauer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Contract Terms to Negotiate with Utah State University

Direct the Director of the Nevada Office of WICHE and NSHE Deputy General Counsel to negotiate the contract with Utah State University based on any or all of the following recommended terms and any additional brought up under this agenda item.

Recommended items to request from Utah State University in the contract:

- 1) Provide designated staff member for Nevada resident applicants and continuing student questions. A Utah State University staff member would also act as a liaison to the Nevada Office of WICHE.
- 2) Annual recruitment and retention plan for Nevada residents.
- 3) Biannual reporting regarding out of state difference covered by funds provided by Nevada for Nevada program participants with remaining unused balance.
- 4) Unused stipend balance has the flexibility to roll to another Nevada resident who has been admitted to Utah State University Veterinary School.
- 5) Biannual reporting of Nevada program participants academic standing and program progress.
- 6) Support Nevada graduates will receive in seeking licensure and employment in Nevada. If the program has not received full accreditation by the end of first graduating class, what will Utah State University do for Nevada graduates.
- 7) Annual reporting of program accreditation status and updates to Nevada WICHE Commission and Nevada Office of WICHE.
- 8) The stipend grant amount will be adjusted to reflect any changes in out of state tuition rate for Nevada residents or provide a locked in tuition rate for the duration of the agreement.
- 9) Take into consideration disposition and expenditure requirements of \$8 million appropriation.

Commissioner Erquiaga moved to approval to authorize Director Porter and General Counsel Parker to negotiate the eight items and to add a ninth item to take into consideration the disposition and expenditure of the \$8M appropriation. Commissioner Dinauer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion:

- Deputy General Counsel Parker noted that approval of this motion would not confine the negotiations, which will be done in the best interest of WICHE and with standard terms.
- Executive Commissioner Lokken stated that IFC requires 30 days to submit agenda item and appreciates it will be intense to meet and asked when next IFC meeting. Director Porter replied October 12, 2023.
- Director Porter stated that she will be sending out dates for future related meetings as soon as possible.
- Dr. Kerry Rood stated that he can represent their conversation with their legal counsel and that they are eager to get started to make this happen.
- Senator Goicoechea asked if it would be a problem for USU to spend the \$8M by the deadline.
 - Dr. Vanderwall stated that there is always money to spend on. They can put that toward a new building and can make an IOU to the State of Nevada.

6. New Business

- There was no new business.

7. Public Comment

- Executive Commission Lokken thanked the entire group for their efforts in this project and noted that it is nice to see when regional WICHE works; the idea of creating the group has made it possible for us to offer this program.
 - He is planning to report on this to the Regional WICHE.
- Commissioner Erquiaga thanked Senator Pete, Dr. Teglas, and Sheila Bray for their work on this bill, the creation of which has been a really nice partnership.

Meeting adjourned at 3:38 pm

Prepared and submitted by:

Patty A. Porter

Director, Nevada Office of WICHE

Senate Bill No. 342—Senators Goicoechea, Titus, Seevers Gansert, Buck, Stone; Daly, Donate, Dondero Loop, Flores, Hammond, Hansen, Krasner and Pazina

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to veterinary medicine; revising provisions relating to certain requirements for participants in a program administered by the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education; requiring the Office to enter into certain contracts and implement certain programs relating to veterinary medicine; making appropriations; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law requires the three Commissioners from the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education to choose applicants who apply for a program administered by the Nevada Office which provides financial support to assist the applicants in attending colleges and universities located within the states and territories that are signatories to the Western Regional Education Compact. (NRS 397.020, 397.060) Existing law further requires a participant who receives a stipend from such a program to complete a practice obligation in a health professional shortage area or an area with a medically underserved population in this State. (NRS 397.0645) **Section 1** of this bill provides that this requirement does not apply to a participant who receives a stipend to participate in a program to earn a degree of doctor of veterinary medicine.

Section 2 of this bill makes an appropriation from the State General Fund to the Interim Finance Committee for allocation to the Nevada Office to enter into a contract with Utah State University for a program to provide stipends for the out-of-state tuition of 70 residents of Nevada to earn a degree of doctor of veterinary medicine from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Utah State University.

Section 3 of this bill makes an appropriation from the State General Fund to the Interim Finance Committee for allocation to the Nevada Office for the salary, benefits and operating costs of a Program Officer I position to assist the Nevada Office in carrying out the program to provide stipends.

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

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

Section 1. NRS 397.0645 is hereby amended to read as follows:

397.0645 1. A participant must repay the stipend received by the participant unless the participant:

(a) Graduates with a degree, certificate or similar credential in the area for which the participant received the stipend.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 397.0685, practices, in Nevada, the profession for which the degree, certificate or similar



credential was awarded for 1 year for each year the participant receives a stipend.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 397.069:

(1) Commences the participant's practice obligation within 1 year after the completion or termination of the education, internship or residency for which the participant received the stipend.

(2) Completes the participant's practice obligation within 5 years after the completion or termination of the education, internship or residency for which the participant received the stipend.

(d) Reports the participant's practice status annually to the Nevada Office on forms provided by the Nevada Office.

(e) Maintains the participant's permanent residence in the State of Nevada throughout the period of the participant's practice obligation. For purposes of this paragraph:

(1) Merely owning a residence in this State does not satisfy the requirement that a participant must maintain a permanent residence in this State.

(2) A participant who leaves the State for a limited period of time without forming the intent of changing the participant's permanent residence is not considered to have moved the participant's residence.

(f) If the participant received the stipend to participate in a program administered by the Nevada Office ~~to~~ *other than a program for veterinary medicine*, completes the practice required by paragraph (b) of subsection 1 in a health professional shortage area or an area with a medically underserved population in this State.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, if a participant does not meet the requirements prescribed in subsection 1, the three Nevada State Commissioners, acting jointly:

(a) Shall convert the stipend into a loan to be repaid in accordance with NRS 397.064 from the first day of the term for which the participant received the stipend.

(b) Shall assess a default charge against the participant if the participant received the stipend to participate in a program administered by the Nevada Office.

(c) May assess a default charge against the participant if the participant received the stipend to participate in a program administered by the office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education established pursuant to Article 7 of the Compact.

3. If the period for the required practice is only partially completed, the three Nevada State Commissioners, acting jointly,



may decrease the amount owed under the loan for the time the participant practiced his or her profession as required.

4. As used in this section:

(a) “Area with a medically underserved population” means an area:

(1) Designated as such by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 254c; and

(2) Which meets any additional requirements prescribed by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services.

(b) “Health professional shortage area” means a geographic area:

(1) Designated as such by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 254e; and

(2) Which meets any additional requirements prescribed by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services.

Sec. 2. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Interim Finance Committee for allocation to the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education the sum of \$8,000,000 for entering into a contract with Utah State University to carry out the program required pursuant to subsection 2.

2. The Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education shall enter into a contract with Utah State University to implement a program administered by the Nevada Office to provide stipends for the costs of the out-of-state portion of tuition for 70 residents of the State of Nevada to earn a degree of doctor of veterinary medicine from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Utah State University during the period commencing on July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2034. The contract must require the Nevada Office, pursuant to NRS 397.060, and in consultation with at least 2 licensed veterinarians, as defined in NRS 638.007, to select from among Nevada residents who apply for the program described in this subsection and who have at least 1 year of residence in this State immediately before applying for the program, those who are most qualified to participate in the program.

3. Money appropriated by subsection 1 may only be allocated by the Interim Finance Committee upon submittal by the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education of a signed contract between the Nevada Office and Utah State University to carry out the program required pursuant to subsection 2.

4. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30,



2025, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September 19, 2025, by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 19, 2025.

Sec. 3. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Interim Finance Committee for allocation to the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education for the salary, benefits and operating costs of a Program Officer I position to assist the Nevada Office in carrying out the program required pursuant to subsection 2 of section 2 of this act the following sums:

For the Fiscal Year 2023-2024	\$79,719
For the Fiscal Year 2024-2025	\$76,132

2. Money appropriated by subsection 1 may only be allocated by the Interim Finance Committee upon submittal by the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education of a signed contract between the Nevada Office and Utah State University to carry out the program required pursuant to subsection 2 of section 2 of this act.

3. Any balance of the sums appropriated by subsection 1 remaining at the end of the respective fiscal years must not be committed for expenditure after June 30 of the respective fiscal years by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September 20, 2024, and September 19, 2025, respectively, by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 20, 2024, and September 19, 2025, respectively.

Sec. 4. 1. This section and sections 1 and 2 of this act become effective upon passage and approval.

2. Section 3 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

