AN ACT relating to education; providing for the identification of pupils for placement in more rigorous courses in certain core academic subjects; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law designates mathematics, English language arts and social studies as core academic subjects. (NRS 389.018) This bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt regulations that require each public school to establish and carry out a plan to identify pupils in grades 3 to 12, inclusive, for placement in more rigorous courses in those academic subjects. This bill requires a public school to place a pupil who is so identified in such a course unless the parent or guardian of the pupil submits to the principal of the school written notice of his or her objection to such placement. This bill also requires the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school to establish a more rigorous course in mathematics, English language arts or social studies if: (1) there are sufficient numbers of pupils enrolled in the highest level of course in that subject area offered in the school district or charter school who are identified for placement in a more rigorous course to warrant the establishment of such a course; and (2) the school district or charter school has sufficient financial resources to establish the more rigorous course.
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 389 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
thereof a new section to read as follows:

1. The State Board shall adopt regulations that require each
public school to establish and carry out a plan to identify pupils in
grades 3 to 12, inclusive, for placement in more rigorous courses
in mathematics, English language arts and social studies. The
regulations must require a school to use the criterion-referenced
examinations administered pursuant to NRS 390.105 and any
other methods determined appropriate by the State Board to
identify pupils for such placement.

2. If a pupil is identified for placement in a more rigorous
course pursuant to subsection 1 and such a course is offered at the
public school in which the pupil is enrolled:
   (a) The principal of the public school in which the pupil is
enrolled shall provide to the parent or guardian of the pupil
written notice that the pupil has been identified for such
placement which must include, without limitation:
      (1) The subject area for which the pupil has been identified
for such placement; and
      (2) A statement that the pupil will be placed in a more
rigorous course in that subject area unless the parent or guardian
submits to the principal a written notice of his or her objection to
such placement.
   (b) The pupil must be placed in the more rigorous course
unless the parent or guardian submits to the principal a written
notice of his or her objection to such placement.

3. The board of trustees of a school district or the governing
body of a charter school shall establish a more rigorous course in
mathematics, English language arts or social studies if:
   (a) There are sufficient numbers of pupils enrolled in the
highest level of a course in that subject area offered in the school
district or charter school who are identified for placement in a
more rigorous course pursuant to subsection 1 to warrant the
establishment of such a more rigorous course; and
   (b) The school district or charter school has sufficient
financial resources to establish the course.

4. The provisions of this section must not be construed to
require a school district or charter school to establish a course for
which sufficient financial resources are not available.

Sec. 2. The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 354.599 do not
apply to any additional expenses of a local government which are
related to the provisions of this act.
Sec. 3. This act becomes effective:
1. Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any
   regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative
   tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and
2. On January 1, 2020, for all other purposes.