

Senate Bill No. 104—Committee on Human Resources

and Facilities

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to education; revising provisions regarding the council to establish academic standards for public schools; delaying the prospective dates by which certain achievement and proficiency examinations used to measure the achievement of pupils in the standards of content and performance adopted by the state board of education must be administered in the public schools; prescribing the dates for the administration of a high school proficiency examination that measures the achievement of pupils in the standards of content and performance; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

Section 1. Section 45 of chapter 473, Statutes of Nevada 1997, at page 1780, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 45. 1. The council to establish academic standards for public schools, created pursuant to section 43 of this act, shall establish and submit to the state board of education:

(a) On or before September 1, 1998, standards of content and performance, including, without limitation, a prescription of the resulting level of achievement, based upon the content of each course, that is expected of pupils for the following courses of study:

- (1) English, including reading, composition and writing.
- (2) Mathematics.
- (3) Science.

(b) On or before ~~September 1, 1999,~~ **January 15, 2000,** standards of content and performance, including, without limitation, a prescription of the resulting level of achievement, based upon the content of each course, that is expected of pupils for the following courses of study:

- (1) Social studies.
- (2) Computer education.
- (3) Health and physical education.
- (4) The arts.

2. The council shall submit written recommendations to the state board of education:

(a) On or before November 1, 1998, on the type of examinations of achievement and proficiency to be administered statewide that may be used to measure the achievement of pupils in the standards of content and performance established by the council pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1. The recommendations must include the grades in which the examinations should be administered.

(b) On or before ~~November 1, 1999,~~ **January 15, 2000,** on the type of examinations of achievement and proficiency in social

studies to be administered statewide that may be used to measure the achievement of pupils in the standards of content and performance established by the council pursuant to subparagraph (1) of paragraph (b) of subsection 1. The recommendations must include the grades in which the examinations should be administered.

3. In developing the standards and examinations pursuant to subsections 1 and 2, the council shall:

(a) Hold at least eight meetings. The meetings must be held in at least four different counties during the period commencing August 1, 1997, and expiring ~~July 31, 1999.~~ *June 30, 2001.* At least four of these meetings must be held to hear public testimony concerning the proposed standards of content and performance and the examinations of achievement and proficiency.

(b) Consult with licensed educational personnel in the various school districts and with other persons who have knowledge and experience concerning standards of content and performance or examinations of achievement and proficiency in education.

(c) Review and consider any standards of content and performance and any examinations of achievement and proficiency:

(1) Adopted by this state;

(2) Adopted by the Commonwealth of Virginia or any other states;

(3) Adopted by the Federal Government; or

(4) Advocated in publications of entities, including, but not limited to, the "Standards Primer: A Resource for Accelerating the Pace of Reform," published in 1996 by the Education Leaders Council.

4. The state board of education shall adopt:

(a) On or before January 1, 1999, the standards of content and performance established by the council pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1, to take effect in the 1999-2000 school year.

(b) Examinations of achievement and proficiency to be administered statewide ~~;~~ *in selected grades, kindergarten through eighth,* commencing in the ~~1999-2000~~ *2000-2001* school year, to measure the achievement of pupils in the standards of content and performance adopted by the state board of education pursuant to paragraph (a). In adopting the examinations, the state board shall consider the written recommendations submitted by the council pursuant to subsection 2. The examinations must be scored by a single private entity or the department of education. *In the first year that the examinations are administered, the results of the examinations must be used solely to gather information and data concerning the examinations.*

(c) On or before ~~January 1,~~ *February 28,* 2000, the standards of content and performance established by the council pursuant to

paragraph (b) of subsection 1, to take effect in the 2000-2001 school year.

(d) Examinations of achievement and proficiency in social studies to be administered statewide ~~in~~ *in selected grades, kindergarten through eighth*, commencing in the ~~2000-2001~~ *2001-2002* school year, to measure the achievement of pupils in social studies in the standards of content and performance adopted by the state board pursuant to paragraph (c). In adopting the examinations, the state board shall consider the written recommendations submitted by the council pursuant to subsection 2. The examinations must be scored by a single private entity or the department of education. *In the first year that the examinations are administered, the results of the examinations must be used solely to gather information and data concerning the examinations.*

5. *Commencing in the 2001-2002 school year, the high school proficiency examination that, pursuant to subsection 6 of NRS 389.015, pupils must pass to receive a standard high school diploma must measure the performance of pupils on the standards of content and performance adopted by the state board of education pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 4. The high school proficiency examination that measures the performance of pupils on those standards must first be administered to pupils enrolled in grade 11 in the 2001-2002 school year, who must pass the examination before the completion of grade 12 to graduate with a standard high school diploma in the 2002-2003 school year. Pupils who graduate from high school in the 2001-2002 school year are not required to pass the examination that measures the performance of pupils on the standards adopted pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 4, but must pass the examination that is administered to pupils in the immediately preceding school year.*

6. The state board of education shall:

(a) On or before February 1, 1999, submit a written report to the council and to the director of the legislative counsel bureau for transmission to the 70th session of the Nevada legislature. The written report must include a description of the standards adopted by the state board of education.

(b) On or before February 1, 2001, submit a written report to the council and to the director of the legislative counsel bureau for transmission to the 71st session of the Nevada legislature. The written report must include a description of the standards adopted by the state board of education.

~~6.7~~ 7. In addition to the duties prescribed in subsections 1 and 2, the council shall:

(a) As soon as practicable, but not later than April 1, 1999

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(1) Submit to the governor, the senate standing committee on finance and the assembly standing committee on ways and means, written reports regarding the standards adopted by the state board of education pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 4.

(2) Submit to the director of the legislative counsel bureau for transmission to the 70th session of the Nevada legislature any recommendations for legislation that the council deems are necessary to incorporate into the public schools the standards that it established pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1.

(b) As soon as practicable, but not later than April 1, 2001:

(1) Submit to the governor, the senate standing committee on finance and the assembly standing committee on ways and means, written reports regarding the standards adopted by the state board of education pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 4.

(2) Submit to the director of the legislative counsel bureau for transmission to the 71st session of the Nevada legislature any recommendations for legislation that the council deems are necessary to incorporate into the public schools the standards that it established pursuant to paragraphs (a) or (b) of subsection 1.

~~[7.]~~ 8. The council shall, on or before June 30, 1999, and on or before June 30, 2001, report to the legislative committee on education, created pursuant to section 37 of this act, regarding the standards and examinations *that have been* adopted by the state board of education pursuant to subsection 4.

~~[8.]~~ 9. The council shall, on or before June 30, 2001, coordinate its duties pursuant to this section with the legislative bureau of educational accountability and program evaluation, created pursuant to section 41 of this act, to enable the bureau to continue the duties of the council of evaluating and reporting after June 30, 2001.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.