

SENATE BILL NO. 388—SENATOR MATHEWS

MARCH 12, 1999

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Makes appropriation and provides for pilot program to facilitate availability of social workers in schools. (BDR S-1142)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

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

AN ACT relating to schools; providing for the establishment of a pilot program to facilitate the availability of social workers in schools; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

- 1 **Section 1.** 1. The Department of Education shall establish a pilot
2 program to facilitate the increased availability of school social workers in
3 school districts that apply to participate in the program.
4 2. The goal of the pilot program must be to employ 10 school social
5 workers to assist pupils in grades 6 to 12, inclusive, whose educational or
6 behavioral development is restricted as a result of social or emotional
7 issues, family circumstances or living in environments that impede their
8 individual abilities to learn. The Department of Education shall determine
9 from among the applications which school districts are most in need of such
10 a program and establish a program in those districts. The Department shall,
11 if appropriate applications are submitted, take such actions as are necessary
12 to assign at least one school social worker to a rural school district, one to a
13 northern school district and one to a southern school district. The program
14 established by the Department must include standards for evaluating the
15 program and describe the services that are to be provided by the school

1 social workers. The emphasis of those services must include prevention,
2 rehabilitation and intervention regarding such issues as gangs, teen
3 pregnancy, child abuse and neglect, adolescent suicide, domestic violence
4 and dropping out of school.

5 3. The Department of Education shall submit a report of the progress
6 of the program:

7 (a) On or before March 15, 2000, to the Director of the Legislative
8 Counsel Bureau for transmission to the Legislative Commission; and

9 (b) On or before January 15, 2001, to the Director of the Legislative
10 Counsel Bureau for transmission to the 71st session of the Nevada
11 Legislature.

12 4. As used in this section, "school social worker" means a social
13 worker who:

14 (a) Holds at least a master's degree from an accredited graduate school
15 of social work;

16 (b) Holds the appropriate license as required by the Board of Examiners
17 for Social Workers; and

18 (c) Holds an endorsement as a school social worker issued by the
19 Superintendent of Public Instruction.

20 **Sec. 2.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the state general fund to
21 the Department of Education the sum of \$1,000,000 for the establishment
22 of a pilot program pursuant to section 1 of this act.

23 2. The money appropriated in subsection 1 must not be used:

24 (a) To pay the salary and benefits of an employee who does not meet the
25 qualifications set forth in subsection 4 of section 1 of this act;

26 (b) To settle or arbitrate disputes between a recognized organization
27 representing employees of a school district and the school district or social
28 service agency; or

29 (c) To adjust the district-wide schedules of salaries and benefits of the
30 employees of a school district.

31 3. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1
32 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2001, and reverts to
33 the state general fund as soon as all payments of money committed have
34 been made.

35 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 1999.