
SENATE BILL NO. 49—COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

PREFILED JANUARY 27, 1999

(ON BEHALF OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION)

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Facilities

SUMMARY—Revises provisions regarding council to establish academic standards for public schools. (BDR S-863)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

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

AN ACT relating to education; revising the standards of content and performance required to be adopted by the council to establish academic standards for public schools; 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.** Section 45 of chapter 473, Statutes of Nevada 1997, at page
2 1780, is hereby amended to read as follows:
3 Sec. 45. 1. The council to establish academic standards for
4 public schools, created pursuant to section 43 of this act, shall
5 establish and submit to the state board of education:
6 (a) On or before September 1, 1998, standards of content and
7 performance, including, without limitation, a prescription of the
8 resulting level of achievement, based upon the content of each
9 course, that is expected of pupils for the following courses of study:
10 (1) English, including reading, composition and writing.
11 (2) Mathematics.
12 (3) Science.
13 (b) On or before September 1, 1999, standards of content and
14 performance, including, without limitation, a prescription of the
15 resulting level of achievement, based upon the content of each
16 course, that is expected of pupils for the following courses of study:
17 (1) Social studies.

(2) Computer education ~~[-]~~ **and technology.**

(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, 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. 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:

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

4 (b) Examinations of achievement and proficiency to be
5 administered statewide, commencing in the 1999-2000 school year,
6 to measure the achievement of pupils in the standards of content and
7 performance adopted by the state board of education pursuant to
8 paragraph (a). In adopting the examinations, the state board shall
9 consider the written recommendations submitted by the council
10 pursuant to subsection 2. The examinations must be scored by a
11 single private entity or the department of education.

12 (c) On or before January 1, 2000, the standards of content and
13 performance established by the council pursuant to paragraph (b) of
14 subsection 1, to take effect in the 2000-2001 school year.

15 (d) Examinations of achievement and proficiency in social
16 studies to be administered statewide, commencing in the 2000-2001
17 school year, to measure the achievement of pupils in social studies in
18 the standards of content and performance adopted by the state board
19 pursuant to paragraph (c). In adopting the examinations, the state
20 board shall consider the written recommendations submitted by the
21 council pursuant to subsection 2. The examinations must be scored
22 by a single private entity or the department of education.

23 5. The state board of education shall:

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

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

34 6. In addition to the duties prescribed in subsections 1 and 2, the
35 council shall:

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

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

41 (2) Submit to the director of the legislative counsel bureau for
42 transmission to the 70th session of the Nevada legislature any
43 recommendations for legislation that the council deems are

1 necessary to incorporate into the public schools the standards that it
2 established pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1.

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

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

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

13 7. The council shall, on or before June 30, 1999, and on or
14 before June 30, 2001, report to the legislative committee on
15 education, created pursuant to section 37 of this act, regarding the
16 standards and examinations adopted by the state board of education
17 pursuant to subsection 4.

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

23 9. ***For the purposes of this section, "social studies" includes***
24 ***the subjects of history, geography, economics and government.***

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