

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

(ON BEHALF OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION)

FEBRUARY 1, 1999

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Facilities

SUMMARY—Urges Board of Regents, Department of Education and school districts to take certain actions necessary to facilitate sharing certain information. (BDR R-862)

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Urging the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada, the Department of Education and the school districts to take certain actions that are necessary to facilitate the sharing of certain information to improve the system of public education in this state.

- 1 WHEREAS, The education of the children of this state and our nation is a
- 2 primary concern of the residents of this state and of the United States; and
- 3 WHEREAS, During the past 2 years, this state has developed and enacted
- 4 sweeping reforms in the system of public education to improve the
- 5 academic achievement of students, including, without limitation, rigorous
- 6 academic standards of content and performance; and
- 7 WHEREAS, The rigorous new academic standards of content and
- 8 performance and other reforms made to the system of public education in
- 9 this state demand a high level of academic performance by both students
- 10 and teachers; and
- 11 WHEREAS, The Education Trust is an independent nonprofit
- 12 organization whose mission is to encourage collaboration among schools,
- 13 colleges and universities to promote the common goal of providing a
- 14 quality system of education; and
- 15 WHEREAS, The Education Trust encourages universities and school
- 16 districts to offer constructive feedback to each other, to make joint
- 17 decisions about the academic qualifications of new teachers and to
- 18 establish academic standards for persons who desire to enter into the
- 19 teaching profession that are aligned to the academic standards established
- 20 for the pupils in public schools; and

1 WHEREAS, The Council to Establish Academic Standards for public
2 schools in this state has concluded that teaching children in elementary
3 school how to read is the highest educational priority of this state; and

4 WHEREAS, There is evidence that across the nation and in this state,
5 persons who are enrolled in educational programs for entry into the
6 teaching profession do not receive sufficient training in teaching children
7 how to read and how to apply basic mathematical principles of
8 computation; and

9 WHEREAS, As part of the reform made to the system of public education
10 in this state, each year the school districts of this state are required,
11 pursuant to NRS 385.347, to report the percentage of students who
12 graduate from high school and who subsequently enroll in remedial
13 courses in reading, writing or mathematics at a university or community
14 college within the University and Community College System of Nevada;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Pursuant to NRS 396.548, the Board of Regents of the
17 University of Nevada requires employees of the University and
18 Community College System of Nevada to provide to the board of trustees
19 of each school district of this state information regarding:

20 1. The number of pupils who graduated from a high school in the
21 district in the immediately preceding year and enrolled in remedial courses
22 in reading, writing or mathematics; and

23 2. Any costs incurred by the University and Community College
24 System of Nevada to provide such remedial instruction; and

25 WHEREAS, The University and Community College System of Nevada
26 reported that for the summer and fall of 1997, more than 1,187 students
27 who graduated from high schools within this state were required to
28 complete remedial programs in mathematics or English, or both subjects,
29 and the cost of providing such remedial instruction was approximately
30 \$414,000; and

31 WHEREAS, Further collaboration between the University and
32 Community College System of Nevada and the school districts of this state
33 that will increase the flow of information concerning the progress of
34 students in meeting the new academic standards and teachers in teaching
35 the new academic standards is essential to foster the success of the reforms
36 made to the system of public education in this state; and

37 WHEREAS, The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C.
38 § 1232g, is a Federal Law that is designed to protect the privacy of the
39 educational records of students in elementary, secondary and
40 postsecondary schools; and

41 WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act,
42 postsecondary educational institutions may not release information that

1 reveals personal information about the student without the consent of the
2 student; and

3 WHEREAS, The ability of school districts to acquire accurate and
4 detailed information about the academic readiness of freshmen at the
5 community colleges and universities of the University and Community
6 College System of Nevada who recently graduated from high schools in
7 this state is crucial for the school districts to tailor their academic programs
8 so that future students are prepared for the challenges of postsecondary
9 education; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY
11 CONCURRING, That the members of the 70th session of the Nevada
12 Legislature urge the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to
13 ensure that the universities and community colleges within the University
14 and Community College System of Nevada obtain, in accordance with the
15 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the consent of students as is
16 necessary for the universities and community colleges to provide the
17 school districts of this state with more detailed information about the
18 academic readiness of freshmen and the academic deficiencies of students
19 in mathematics, English and science; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That as part of the collaboration between the University and
21 Community College System of Nevada and the school districts of this
22 state, the members of the 70th session of the Nevada Legislature urge the
23 school districts to provide constructive feedback to the colleges of
24 education of the University and Community College System of Nevada
25 concerning the strengths and areas for improvement of teachers who are
26 trained in such colleges in teaching students the rigorous new academic
27 standards adopted for this state; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Department of Education shall provide assistance
29 to the collaboration by means of the statewide automated system of
30 information concerning pupils that is maintained by the Department or by
31 means of other sources of information concerning pupils maintained by the
32 Department; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the Department of Education, in cooperation with the
34 University and Community College System of Nevada, shall study the
35 effectiveness of the collaboration between the University and Community
36 College System of Nevada and the school districts of this state and submit
37 a report of the results of its study and any recommendations for legislation
38 to the members of the 71st session of the Nevada Legislature; and be it
39 further

40 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a
41 copy of this resolution to the Board of Regents of the University of
42 Nevada, the board of trustees of each school district in this state and the
43 Superintendent of Public Instruction.

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