

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 265—ASSEMBLYMEN GUSTAVSON, ANGLE, BEERS,
CLABORN, COLLINS, GIBBONS, LEE, MANENDO AND NOLAN

MARCH 1, 2001

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Requires administration of certain examinations to determine reading level of certain pupils. (BDR 34-950)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Yes.
Effect on the State: No.

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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 education; requiring boards of trustees of school districts and governing bodies of charter schools to administer certain examinations to determine the reading level of pupils enrolled in certain grades; requiring the department of education to prepare a list of approved examinations to determine reading level; 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.** Chapter 389 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto
2 the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3.

3 **Sec. 2.** *The legislature declares that:*

4 *1. It is essential to the educational success of the children who are*
5 *enrolled in Nevada's public schools that they learn to read with*
6 *proficiency at an early grade level;*

7 *2. The intended goal of the legislature is that by the year 2004 and*
8 *each year thereafter, at least 90 percent of all children who are enrolled*
9 *in the third grade in public schools throughout this state will read at or*
10 *above the third-grade reading level; and*

11 *3. An educational system that is enhanced by the inclusion of:*

12 *(a) Instruction in reading and appropriate remediation; and*

13 *(b) Examinations to determine the reading level of children who are*
14 *enrolled in certain grade levels in elementary school,*
15 *will greatly improve the reading level of children who are enrolled in*
16 *public elementary schools throughout this state.*

17 **Sec. 3.** *1. In the spring semester of each school year, the board of*
18 *trustees of each school district shall administer to all pupils enrolled in*



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1 *public schools of the school district in grades 1, 2 and 3, an examination*
2 *to determine the reading level of pupils enrolled in those grades. In the*
3 *spring semester of each school year, the governing body of a charter*
4 *school that provides instruction to pupils enrolled in grades 1, 2 or 3*
5 *shall administer to all pupils enrolled in those grades at the charter*
6 *school an examination to determine the reading level of those pupils. The*
7 *board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter*
8 *school, as applicable, shall select the examination that is administered*
9 *for each grade level pursuant to this subsection from the list of approved*
10 *examinations prepared by the department pursuant to subsection 2.*

11 *2. On or before October 1 of each year, the department shall prepare*
12 *and publish a list of examinations to determine the reading level of*
13 *pupils enrolled in grades 1, 2 and 3 that have been approved by the*
14 *department for administration by the board of trustees of each school*
15 *district and the governing body of each charter school pursuant to*
16 *subsection 1. The examinations selected by the department must be*
17 *examinations that have been proven successful in determining the*
18 *reading level of pupils. The list must contain the name of each*
19 *examination that is approved for each grade level, the vendor, if any, of*
20 *the examination and the entity from which the examination may be*
21 *obtained. On or before October 15 of each year, the department shall*
22 *transmit a copy of the list to the board of trustees of each school district*
23 *and the governing body of each charter school.*

24 *3. The results of the examinations administered pursuant to*
25 *subsection 1 must be used by school districts and charter schools to*
26 *determine the reading level of pupils who take the examinations and to*
27 *provide appropriate remediation in reading to each pupil whose results*
28 *indicate that he is reading below grade level.*

29 *4. The board of trustees of each school district and the governing*
30 *body of each charter school shall submit to the department the results of*
31 *the examinations in the form and manner prescribed by the*
32 *superintendent of public instruction. The results of the examinations*
33 *must be reported for each school in which the examinations were*
34 *administered. Not later than 10 days after the department receives the*
35 *results of the examinations, the department shall transmit a copy of the*
36 *results to the legislative bureau of educational accountability and*
37 *program evaluation.*

38 **Sec. 4.** 1. Commencing with the spring semester of 2002, each
39 board of trustees of a school district and each governing body of a charter
40 school shall administer the examinations required by section 3 of this act.

41 2. Based upon the results of the examinations that are administered in
42 the spring semester of 2002, each school in which the examinations are
43 administered shall determine the actual number of pupils enrolled in the
44 third grade at the school who read at or above the third-grade reading level.
45 For purposes of this section, the percentage of pupils enrolled in the third
46 grade at a school who read at or above the third-grade reading level shall
47 be deemed the baseline for that school. Each school shall report its baseline
48 to the board of trustees of the school district or the governing body of the
49 charter school, as applicable. The board of trustees of each school district



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- 1 and the governing body of each charter school shall transmit a report of the
- 2 baseline for each school to the department of education and the legislative
- 3 bureau of educational accountability and program evaluation.
- 4 3. If the baseline for a school is less than 90 percent, the school shall:
- 5 (a) Determine whether the school is making satisfactory progress to
- 6 ensure that at least 90 percent of the pupils enrolled in third grade at the
- 7 school will read at or above grade level by the spring semester of 2004.
- 8 (b) Provide appropriate remediation in reading to pupils to ensure that at
- 9 least 90 percent of the pupils enrolled in third grade at the school will read
- 10 at or above grade level by the spring semester of 2004.
- 11 **Sec. 5.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2001.

