

SENATE BILL NO. 142—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

(ON BEHALF OF WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT)

FEBRUARY 15, 2001

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Makes appropriation to Washoe County School District for creation of pilot program to expand kindergarten instruction at selected elementary schools. (BDR S-456)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: 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 education; making an appropriation to the Washoe County School District for the creation of a pilot program to expand instruction in kindergarten at selected elementary 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.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the state general
2 fund to the Washoe County School District the sum of \$1,918,717 for the
3 creation of a pilot program to expand instruction in kindergarten at selected
4 elementary schools.
5 2. The Washoe County School District shall select 17 elementary
6 schools that the school district considers to be “at-risk” to participate in the
7 pilot program. The Washoe County School District shall:
8 (a) Extend the school day for kindergarten instruction to 180 minutes
9 per kindergarten session at each school that is selected for participation in
10 the pilot program.
11 (b) Designate four teams of reading and math curriculum experts,
12 consisting of two teachers per team, and assign the teams to the schools
13 selected for participation in the pilot program so that each school will
14 receive the services of a team on a rotational basis 1 day per school week.
15 3. For each school that participates in the pilot program, each team of
16 reading and math curriculum experts shall assist:
17 (a) Pupils who are enrolled in kindergarten in acquiring prereading and
18 premath skills;



1 (b) Teachers who provide instruction in kindergarten with methods to
2 teach prereading and premath skills,
3 to ensure that the pupils are prepared to achieve the academic standards
4 required by the State of Nevada and the Washoe County School District.
5 4. The money appropriated by subsection 1 must be used to pay for:
6 (a) The salaries, training or other compensation of teachers and other
7 educational personnel, teachers' aides and administrative support related to
8 the operation of the pilot program;
9 (b) Additional instructional materials required for the pilot program;
10 and
11 (c) Any other additional operating costs attributable to the operation of
12 the pilot program.
13 5. The money appropriated by subsection 1 must not be used to:
14 (a) Settle or arbitrate disputes or negotiate settlements between an
15 organization that represents licensed employees of the school district and
16 the school district.
17 (b) Adjust the schedules of salaries and benefits of employees of the
18 school district.
19 6. The Washoe County School District shall, at its own expense,
20 administer criterion-referenced tests in reading and math to those pupils
21 who participated in the pilot program during the 2001-2002 school year as
22 follows:
23 (a) In the spring semester of 2003 when the pupils are enrolled in the
24 first grade.
25 (b) In the spring semester of 2004 when the pupils are enrolled in the
26 second grade.
27 7. To assist the Washoe County School District in the evaluation of the
28 pilot program, the school district shall compare the results of the tests
29 administered pursuant to subsection 6 with the results of the criterion-
30 referenced tests administered to pupils in the first grade during the spring
31 semester of 2001 and in the second grade during the spring semester of
32 2002 at those schools selected for participation in the program.
33 8. During the 2001-2003 biennium, the Washoe County School
34 District shall submit periodic reports on the progress of the pilot program
35 to the Legislative Committee on Education. The Washoe County School
36 District shall submit a report evaluating the pilot program to the Legislative
37 Committee on Education on or before September 30, 2003, which includes,
38 without limitation, an evaluation of the test scores of the pupils who took
39 the tests required pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 6 and a
40 comparison of those test scores with the test scores of pupils enrolled in the
41 first grade during the spring semester of 2001, as required by subsection 7.
42 9. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1
43 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2003, and reverts to
44 the state general fund as soon as all payments of money committed have
45 been made.
46 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

