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AB234

Good afternoon, my name is Craig Kadlub and I am testifying on behalf of the Clark County School District, in opposition to this measure.

By way of background information, this legislation mirrors a portion of AB319 from the 2001 session. Although that bill didn't pass, I told Ms. Giunchigliani at that time that it wasn't necessary for us to wait two years to deal with the problem and that I would work on it in the interim, which I did. She is aware that I convened a committee comprised of school administrators and transportation staff, including bus drivers, field supervisors, the assistant director, and others, and we reviewed the concerns that AB319 from the last session was intended to address.

In essence, the transportation members of the committee concluded, and the others concurred, that it was not necessary to rewrite policies or regulations or seek changes to statutes, but it was necessary for both drivers and school administrators to do a better job of following the procedures that were already in place.

After arriving at this conclusion, it was agreed that transportation staff would work with the drivers on student discipline, and that the policies and procedures would be reviewed with all principals at the administrative meetings at the start of the school year. The meetings with all principals occurred in September and the information was provided and reviewed as promised. I sent a letter to Ms. Giunchigliani in October outlining the process and identifying the participants and explaining the outcome of our efforts. For the record, I have provided the secretary with a copy of the letter, and the relevant policies and procedures.

When this bill was introduced, I followed up with field supervisors to see if they felt progress had been made as a result of our efforts in the interim. Field supervisors are the transportation employees who approve all citations related to student conduct before they are submitted to schools – they are in the best position to know whether or not the drivers feel that schools are responding to their discipline problems. Without exception, the field supervisors I spoke with stated that things have improved since reviewing the respective responsibilities of drivers and administrators at the start of the year, and they stand by the original conclusion that there is still no need to change policy, regulation, or statute.

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ASSEMBLY EDUCATION

DATE: 3/31/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT

SUBMITTED BY: CRAIG KADLUB

Finally, I believe employees concerned about this matter should make some effort to work within the system to resolve their issues before bringing them to the state capital. But there is no evidence that this issue has been brought to the head of the operations division, the head of the instruction division, the superintendent, or the school board. And for those who believe that anonymity is essential when making a complaint, the heads of all employee organizations raise issues at school board meetings on behalf of their members, without mentioning names. But even this hasn't happened. The fact is, this matter has not been raised in the available forums at the local level.

In summary, the district has a process in place, which includes policy, regulation, progressive discipline for students, and procedures for drivers and school administrators. The committee, which included transportation staff, concluded that what we currently have is sufficient. We addressed the concern in the interim with positive results, and are willing to continue to address issues if they are raised. Those in the district who continue to be dissatisfied with the current procedures should make some effort to work within the system so that we are aware of and can address these concerns.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you not pass AB234.

Thank you.

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULATION

3533

SAFETY OF STUDENTS: TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES

- I. Student safety is one of the most important criterion in the operation of student transportation services.

A. Student Conduct

1. The Clark County School District has established Rules of Conduct for School Bus Riders, which the schools will distribute to the students and parents or guardians. The Rules of Conduct for School Bus Riders are also posted on each school bus.
2. Misconduct may be cause to suspend or deny transportation services to the student as determined by the principal of the student's assigned school.

B. Driver Responsibility

1. District school bus drivers will be employed in compliance with the defined requirements set for the position and must possess the appropriate license, endorsements, and Nevada Department of Transportation physical. Exceptions to this requirement will be with prior approval of the Director, Transportation Department or a designated representative and only in emergency situations as determined by the Director, Transportation Department.
2. Drivers are expected to consistently enforce the Rules of Conduct for School Bus Riders whenever students are aboard their buses. Drivers must follow the discipline guidelines set in the Clark County School District Transportation Department Employee Procedure Handbook.
3. Drivers are to maintain respectful unbiased relationships with the student passengers. Proper precautions must be taken to avoid physical injury to student passengers and/or school employees.
4. Student refusal to adhere to the rules and regulations is sufficient cause for a driver to request assistance from the appropriate law enforcement agency, which has the authority to deny transportation for the remainder of the route or trip.

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5. Drivers are to report student misconduct by issuance of a School Bus Incident Report. The report must state the specific circumstances of the violation.
6. Drivers must not permit weapons aboard a school bus. If a student with a weapon is discovered boarding, on board, or in the immediate vicinity of a school bus, the driver will immediately call the appropriate authorities. If the student has already boarded the bus, the driver will stop and secure the vehicle and wait for the proper authorities to arrive. The driver will not attempt to approach the student and possibly cause a violent reaction.

C. Responsibility of Principals

1. School buses and/or other District-owned vehicles operated by District employees are regarded as an extension of the school and classroom. It is, therefore, the responsibility of school principals to process and take the appropriate action regarding the School Bus Incident Report issued by drivers.
2. In an effort to maintain consistency between schools, the principal should take the appropriate disciplinary action as defined according to the category of offense:

CATEGORY I

1st Offense	Student-School Conference; Parent Notification
2nd Offense	Student-School-Driver Conference; Parent Notification and In-House Suspension or Detention
3rd Offense	Three-day Bus Suspension and Required Parent Conference
4th Offense	Loss of Riding Privileges for Remainder of School Year

CATEGORY II

1st Offense	Student-School Conference; Parent Notification
2nd Offense	Three-day Bus Suspension and Required Parent Conference
3rd Offense	Loss of Riding Privileges for Remainder of School Year

CATEGORY III

1st Offense	Three-day Bus Suspension and Required Parent Conference
2nd Offense	Loss of Riding Privileges for Remainder of School Year

3. The principal will mandate the length of in-house suspension and/or detention according to school policy. The principal will notify the Transportation Department of action taken.
4. If more than one category is indicated on the School Bus Incident Report, the principal shall determine the appropriate action based on the most serious offense.

D. Accidents Involving Transportation Vehicles

When a District vehicle or private vehicle being used under sanction of the District is involved in an accident, the authorized driver will immediately take appropriate action in accordance with applicable law enforcement agency requirements and district regulations for accidents involving school buses and District transportation vehicles.

E. Vehicle Maintenance

1. All vehicles used for student transportation shall be maintained in compliance with Nevada statutes.
2. The Business and Finance Services Division is responsible for developing and implementing procedures to ensure safety standards of student transportation vehicles.

Legal Reference: NRS Chapter 392 Pupils
State of Nevada Department of Education School Bus Standards
National Standards for School Transportation

Cross Reference: Transportation Department Employee Procedures Handbook,
Section VI

Review Responsibility: Business and Finance Services

Adopted: [3545.1:9/1/78;3545.12:12/14/72]

Revised: (6/77;9/1/78;5/14/81;2/23/89)

Pol. Gov. Review: 3533:6/28/01