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Senate Bill 197: Reorganization/Chapter 62, etc.  
Senator Valerie Wiener  
March 7, 2003

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for the record, I am State Senator Valerie Wiener, representing Clark County, District 3.

Today I appear before you to urge your support for Senate Bill 197, which repeals—and then re-organizes—all sections of NRS that deal with juvenile justice, juvenile corrections, and interstate compact.

As a brief background, let me explain how this project evolved and why I am the legislator who has the privilege of bringing this bill to THIS legislature.

I first came to the legislature in 1997. Since that time, I have introduced 16 bills—and facilitated seven others for committees that I chaired—that, directly or indirectly, involve juvenile justice. This issue area has been important to me for a very long time. I have written books, delivered programs, and performed community service related to juvenile justice for more than 20 years.

Sooooooo . . . with this personal and political history on my side . . . several months ago, Judge Diane Steel from Clark County, asked me if I would be interested in introducing a bill to reorganize our state's juvenile justice statutes. As you can see, I said "yes." Senate Bill 197 is the end-product of that response. SB 197, in particular, represents a collaborative effort to provide assistance to anyone who needs to navigate these statutes that affect juveniles, their families, and their communities. I might add, at this time, that Governor Guinn also had a keen interest in reorganizing the statutory scheme for juvenile justice. Knowing that I was involved in this process, the Governor very kindly withdrew his bill to avoid an expensive and time-consuming duplication of efforts. So, to you, Governor Guinn, and his staff, I want to say thank-you.

As I do with many of my bills, I assembled a team to tackle this project. Many of those invaluable team-members will testify today on the bill before you. Today, on the record, I want to thank each and every one of you for your invaluable contributions to the drafting of SB 197.

Certainly, with any project of this size, it was MOST important to get the extraordinary support of the Legislative Counsel Bureau. I want to offer a special thanks to Brenda Erdoes, our Legislative Counsel, who many, many months ago agreed to my drafting request. She was kind enough to assign two superb bill drafters to this project to ensure that we could have it ready for introduction during this legislative session.

To the drafters . . . our own Brad Wilkinson and his able colleague Stephanie Haft . . . I want to say a very BIG Thank You. Your consistent, intelligent, insightful efforts and patience with this project can serve as a positive influence for ALL of us involved in the legislative process.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the bill before you represents an extraordinary effort in reviewing and reorganizing . . . into a manageable chapter . . . every section of Nevada law related to juvenile justice, juvenile corrections, and interstate compact.

In that vein, I want to stress that the intent of this bill was to REORGANIZE statutes, NOT to address substantive issues. However, by the mere exercise of reorganization, the bill drafters needed to include some minor substantive changes to produce a consistent, coherent document.

I also want to add that I have told the legislative contributors that it is important for us to pass this reorganization bill in its present form. If, with usage during the months that follow this session, they find a need to make additional changes, then we can do that next session. I am aware, however, that others who did not participate in the reorganization process want to appear before the committee today. They might have some recommendations for substantive changes or corrections. I will eagerly listen as they present this information to the committee.

At this time, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I would like to ask Brad Wilkinson to come to the witness table to present SB 197 to the committee. Following his presentation of the bill—at your pleasure, Mr. Chairman—several witnesses who were involved in the bill's development will provide their testimonies. After the witnesses have offered their comments, it is my hope that the members of the committee will vote in favor of Senate Bill 197.

Thank you.

Supreme Court of Nevada  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Supreme Court Building  
201 South Carson Street, Suite 250  
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4702



RONALD R. TITUS  
Director and  
State Court Administrator

March 6, 2003

Senator Mark Amodei  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Nevada Legislature  
Legislative Building, Room 2128  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Senator Valerie Wiener  
Member, Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Nevada Legislature  
Legislative Building, Room 2100  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Senators Amodei and Wiener:

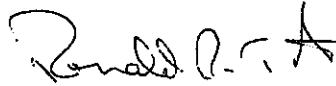
On behalf of the Supreme Court of Nevada, enclosed is a proposed amendment to Senate Bill 197, sponsored by Senator Wiener and pending in the Senate Committee on Judiciary. As of today, the bill is scheduled for committee hearing on Friday, March 7, 2003, at 8 a.m.

The Supreme Court recognizes that it is desirable to have a representative of the court in attendance at the hearing to present the amendment. However, due to the meeting of the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada scheduled on the same day as the committee hearing, all court representatives will be unavailable. As such, I respectfully request this amendment proposal be submitted for consideration at the March 7 committee hearing in the absence of a court representative.

Senators Amodei and Wiener  
March 6, 3003  
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Thank you for your consideration of this amendment and for entering the request into the record of proceedings. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Christine Kuhl, Court Services Analyst, or me at (775) 684-1706.

Sincerely,



Ronald R. Titus  
Director and State Court Administrator

RRT/ck

Enc.

cc: Justices, Supreme Court of Nevada  
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Nicolas C. Anthony, Committee Policy Analyst, Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Bradley Wilkinson, Committee Counsel, Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Lydia Lee, Committee Manager, Senate Committee on Judiciary

**Senate Bill 197**  
**Proposed Amendment**  
**For Consideration at the March 7, 3003**  
**Meeting of the Senate Committee on Judiciary**

Proposed by Justice Mark Gibbons  
Supreme Court of Nevada  
(775) 684-1500

Amend Senate Bill 197 Section 43.1 and 43.4 by adding the following language, as indicated in underlined text:

Sec. 43. 1. *Except as otherwise provided in this section, the*  
7-4 *juvenile court or chief judge of the judicial district may appoint any person to act as a*  
7-5 *master of the*  
7-6 *juvenile court if the person is qualified by previous experience,*  
7-7 *training and demonstrated interest in the welfare of children to act*  
7-8 *as a master of the juvenile court.*  
7-9 2. *A probation officer shall not act as a master of the juvenile*  
7-10 *court unless the proceeding concerns:*  
7-11 *(a) A minor traffic offense; or*  
7-12 *(b) A child who is alleged to be a habitual truant.*  
7-13 3. *If a person is appointed to act as a master of the juvenile*  
7-14 *court, the person shall attend instruction at the National College*  
7-15 *of Juvenile and Family Law in Reno, Nevada, in a course*  
7-16 *designed for the training of new judges of the juvenile court on the*  
7-17 *first occasion when such instruction is offered after the person is*  
7-18 *appointed.*  
7-19 4. *If, for any reason, a master of the juvenile court is unable*  
7-20 *to act, the juvenile court or chief judge of the judicial district may appoint another*  
7-21 *qualified person to*  
7-22 *act temporarily as a master of the juvenile court during the period*  
7-23 *that the master who is regularly appointed is unable to act.*  
7-24 5. *The compensation of a master of the juvenile court:*  
7-25 *(a) May not be taxed against the parties.*  
7-26 *(b) Must be paid out of appropriations made for the expenses*  
*of the district court, if the compensation is fixed by the juvenile*  
*court.*