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TESTIMONY

BILL: SB242 INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR JUVENILES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

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Good morning Chairman Amodei and members of the Judiciary Committee. I am Gerthie Polk, Chief of Youth Parole Bureau.

I am here to support SB 242, which renounces and repeals the provisions of the existing Interstate Compact on Juveniles. The Interstate Compact was originally written in 1955. The changes made to the Interstate Compact on Juveniles were undertaken when the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) conducted a National Survey in 1999. The purpose of the survey was to solicit opinions of officials at various state levels regarding the effectiveness of the Interstate Compact. As a result of the survey, the three most common recommendations to improve the compact were:

- Develop better enforcement and accountability measures.
- Provide more training to state and local juvenile justice officials.
- Improve the speed and quality of communications through the use of technology.

Starting in June of 2000, an advisory group composed of twenty-four policy experts reviewed and analyzed the information obtained from the OJJDP survey.

The following recommendations were made for the Interstate Compact for Juveniles to provide for:

- Establishment of an independent compact operating authority.
- Gubernatorial appointment of a representative to a National Governing Commission.
- A rule making authority and provisions for sanctions.
- A mandatory funding mechanism to support staff, data collection, training, education, etc.
- Collection of standardized information and information sharing
Coordination/Cooperation with the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision and Interstate Compact for Placement of Children.

If SB242 is enacted, Nevada will be required to:

- Identify a representative to work on the National Commission (meets at least one time per year).
- Set up or identify a seven (7) member State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision consisting of the Compact Administrator, gubernatorial appointees including at least one representative of a victims group, one member of the Senate, one member of the Assembly, and one district judge.
- Develop new rules and policies concerning the operation of the Compact in Nevada .
- Conduct training for juvenile justice professionals on the provisions of the new Interstate Compact for Juveniles and required restructuring of Nevada's Compact operations and procedures.

SB242 requires that expenses arising pursuant to the Interstate Compact for Juveniles be paid from the Reserve for Statutory Contingency Account.

There would be no fiscal impact for FY 04. The projected fiscal note for FY 05 is \$82,242.

Effective Date: The Compact will become effective and binding after thirty-five jurisdictions have legislatively enacted it into law. The initial effective date will be the latter of July 1, 2004 or upon enactment of the thirty-fifth jurisdiction.