

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**Seventy-Third Session
May 23, 2005**

The Committee on Ways and Means was called to order at 2:20 p.m., on Monday, May 23, 2005. Chairman Morse Arberry Jr. presided in Room 3137 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. All exhibits are available and on file at the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Morse Arberry Jr., Chairman
Ms. Chris Giunchigliani, Vice Chairwoman
Mr. Mo Denis
Mrs. Heidi S. Gansert
Mr. Lynn Hettrick
Mr. Joseph M. Hogan
Mrs. Ellen Koivisto
Ms. Sheila Leslie
Mr. John Marvel
Ms. Kathy McClain
Mr. Richard Perkins
Mr. Bob Seale
Mrs. Debbie Smith
Ms. Valerie Weber

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Stevens, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Steve Abba, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Mark Krmpotic, Senior Program Analyst
Anne Bowen, Committee Secretary
Lila Clark, Committee Secretary

Sheila Leslie, Assemblywoman, Washoe County District 27, identified herself for the record and introduced Mark Krmpotic, Senior Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau. Assemblywoman Leslie commended Mr. Krmpotic for his work and read the following report into the record:

THE JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE FOR K-12/HUMAN RESOURCES HAS COMPLETED ITS REVIEW OF THE BUDGETS FOR THE WELFARE DIVISION AND DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING CLOSING RECOMMENDATIONS. THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S CLOSING ACTIONS RESULTED IN AN OVERALL DECREASE IN GENERAL FUNDS OF APPROXIMATELY \$3.6 MILLION OVER THE BIENNIUM.

WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (BA 101-3228) WELFARE-1: THE MEDICARE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003 ESTABLISHED A

PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT THAT WILL BEGIN JANUARY 2006. THE WELFARE DIVISION IS REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH AND DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR TWO NEW CATEGORIES OF MEDICARE PART D. THE SUBCOMMITTEE SUPPORTED THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO ADD ONE NEW POSITION TO ESTABLISH POLICY AND STATE PLAN PROVISIONS AND MANAGE THESE CATEGORIES ON AN ONGOING BASIS.

IN RESPONSE TO A FEDERAL REQUIREMENT UNDER THE IMPROPER PAYMENTS INFORMATION ACT OF 2002, WHICH REQUIRES MEDICAID AGENCIES TO PERFORM REVIEWS OF MEDICAID CLAIMS, SERVICES AND ELIGIBILITY BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2005, THE GOVERNOR RECOMMENDED TWO NEW POSITIONS FOR THE WELFARE DIVISION TO PERFORM MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY REVIEWS. THE DIVISION INDICATED DURING TESTIMONY THAT UPON THE RELEASE OF FINAL REGULATIONS IN AUGUST 2005, AS MANY AS 30 POSITIONS MAY BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE MANDATE. THE SUBCOMMITTEE SUPPORTS THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO ADD TWO POSITIONS TO COMPLY WITH THE MANDATE BUT WAS CONCERNED OVER THE POTENTIAL TO ADD 30 NEW POSITIONS DURING THE INTERIM. THE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVED A LETTER OF INTENT TO EXPRESS THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATE SHOULD BE LIMITED TO RESOURCES APPROVED IN THE WELFARE ADMINISTRATION BUDGET DURING THE 2005-07 BIENNIUM.

TO ASSIST WITH MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE FLEXIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY (HIFA) WAIVER BEGINNING JULY 2006, THE SUBCOMMITTEE CONCURS WITH THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO INCREASE FUNDING BY \$425,039 IN FY 2006 AND \$37,634 IN FY 2007 TO PROVIDE FOR MASTER SERVICE AGREEMENT PROGRAMMING AND SUPPORT COSTS TO MAKE THE REQUIRED SYSTEM CHANGES.

WELFARE FIELD SERVICES (BA 101-3233) WELFARE-17: UNDER THE HIFA WAIVER, THE DIVISION WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR EXPANDED MEDICAID COVERAGE TO PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND FOR DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH INSURANCE FOR EMPLOYEES OF SMALL EMPLOYERS. THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION INCLUDED 11 NEW POSITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY WORK ASSOCIATED WITH THIS EXPANSION. BASED ON SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF HIFA UNTIL JULY 2006, THE AGENCY DETERMINED THAT 3 POSITIONS COULD BE REDUCED FROM THE TOTAL RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR. THE SUBCOMMITTEE WAS CONCERNED WHETHER THE REQUIREMENTS OF HIFA WARRANTED ALL OF THE RECOMMENDED POSITIONS, GIVEN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED TANF CASELOADS EXPERIENCED BY THE DIVISION. THE SUBCOMMITTEE REDUCED THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION BY 8 POSITIONS AND APPROVED 3 POSITIONS TO SUPPORT ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS FOR HEALTH INSURANCE FOR EMPLOYEES OF SMALL EMPLOYERS.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE SUPPORTED THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO RELOCATE THE CHARLESTON AND HENDERSON OFFICES IN LAS VEGAS; HOWEVER, THE SUBCOMMITTEE DID NOT SUPPORT THE ADDITION OF NEW

MODULAR FURNITURE TOTALING \$160,000 FOR THE HENDERSON OFFICE.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE SUPPORTED THE BUDGET AMENDMENT TO WITHDRAW 11 POSITIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR TO ADDRESS REQUIREMENTS OF THE MEDICARE MODERNIZATION ACT. BASED ON REVIEW OF REGULATIONS RELEASED IN JANUARY, THE DIVISION DETERMINED THE IMPACT ON ITS FIELD OPERATIONS WOULD NOT BE AS SIGNIFICANT AS ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED.

WELFARE/TANF (BA 101-3230) WELFARE-28: THE 2003 LEGISLATURE APPROVED ADDITIONAL GENERAL FUNDS IN EXCESS OF THE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT REQUIREMENT OF \$8.3 MILLION IN FY 2004 AND \$23.2 MILLION IN FY 2005 TO ASSIST WITH MEETING INCREASES IN TANF CASES PROJECTED OVER THE 2003-05 BIENNIUM. AS A RESULT OF REDUCED TANF CASELOADS, THE DIVISION WAS ABLE TO REVERT ITS FY 2004 GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION IN EXCESS OF THE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT AND CARRY A \$12 MILLION TANF RESERVE INTO FY 2005. BASED ON REVISED CASELOAD PROJECTIONS, THE DIVISION NOW ESTIMATES AN APPROXIMATE \$10.2 MILLION TANF RESERVE TO BE CARRIED FORWARD INTO THE 2005-07 BIENNIUM AND REVERSION OF \$21.2 MILLION IN GENERAL FUNDS AT THE END OF FY 2005. BASED ON CLOSING ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE WITH RESPECT TO CASELOAD REVISIONS, AND THE IMPACT FROM THE DIVISION'S REVISED COST ALLOCATION, THE DIVISION ESTIMATES AN \$11 MILLION TANF RESERVE TO EXIST AT THE END OF THE 2005-07 BIENNIUM.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE SUPPORTS REVISED TANF CASELOAD PROJECTIONS PREPARED BY THE DIVISION WITH REVIEW FROM STAFF. A TOTAL OF 21,006 CASES ARE RECOMMENDED IN FY 2006, A DECREASE FROM 24,244 RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND 21,770 CASES ARE RECOMMENDED IN FY 2007, A DECREASE FROM 25,770 RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR. THE DOLLAR IMPACT OF CASELOAD PROJECTIONS RESULTS IN A SAVINGS OF APPROXIMATELY \$4.2 MILLION IN FY 2006 CONSISTING OF FEDERAL TANF FUNDING AND APPROXIMATELY \$4.6 MILLION IN FY 2007 REPRESENTING \$2.8 MILLION IN GENERAL FUNDS AND \$1.8 MILLION IN FEDERAL TANF FUNDING.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVED A LETTER OF INTENT FOR THE DIVISION TO REPORT TO IFC ON PERFORMANCE INDICATORS REFLECTING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FUNDING PROVIDED IN THE BUDGET FOR VOCATIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE SUPPORTS A LETTER OF INTENT TO EXPRESS THE COMMITTEE'S DESIRE FOR THE WELFARE DIVISION TO PASS A REGULATION TO ALLOW BATTERED IMMIGRANT SPOUSES WHO HAVE ESTABLISHED THEIR ELIGIBILITY THROUGH A SELF PETITION PROCESS UNDER THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT TO BE ALLOWED TO QUALIFY FOR THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE, REGARDLESS OF THE DATE OF ENTRY THUS POTENTIALLY GIVING THEM THE MEANS TO SURVIVE INDEPENDENTLY FROM THEIR ABUSER.

Ms. Leslie noted that Budget Account 3230 had been closed in the Senate without approval of the Letter of Intent. The Assembly had approved the Letter of Intent, however, and that item would go on a list of issues to be resolved with the Senate.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT (101-3238) WELFARE-33: THE SUBCOMMITTEE CONCURRED WITH THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET WITH MINOR TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS.

CHILD SUPPORT FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT (101-3239) WELFARE-40: THE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVED THE CHILD SUPPORT FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

ASSISTANCE TO AGED AND BLIND (101-3232) WELFARE-42: THE SUBCOMMITTEE SUPPORTS THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FOR INCREASES IN PROJECTED CASELOADS WITH DECREASES BASED ON REVISED CASELOAD PROJECTIONS DEVELOPED BY THE DIVISION.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVED AN INCREASE IN THE STATE PAYMENT FOR GROUP CARE OPERATORS BASED ON ANNUAL INCREASES IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SINCE 1987. IN CONSIDERING AN ADJUSTMENT TO THE RATE, THE SUBCOMMITTEE DETERMINED THAT THE INCREASE SHOULD BE APPLIED TO THE STATE SHARE OF THE COMBINED RATE REPRESENTING APPROXIMATELY 41 PERCENT. INCREASES IN GENERAL FUNDS RESULTING FROM THE RATE INCREASE TOTAL APPROXIMATELY \$84,000 EACH YEAR.

Ms. Leslie stated the aforementioned item was something the Senate had initiated, but after the Assembly had voted for the rate increase, the Senate had removed it.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVED A LETTER OF INTENT FOR THE WELFARE DIVISION TO CONTINUE TO REPORT TO THE IFC OVER THE UPCOMING BIENNIUM PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTING THE ANNUAL SSI COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE.

CHILD ASSISTANCE AND DEVELOPMENT (101-3267) WELFARE-44: THE SUBCOMMITTEE CONCURS WITH THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO FUND THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEVADA CHILD CARE SYSTEM TO REPLACE THE PRIVATE CHILD CARE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CURRENTLY USED BY PROGRAM CONTRACTORS AND TO CENTRALIZE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL FUNCTIONS.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVED THE CONSOLIDATION OF CATEGORIES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE QUALITY ASSURANCE CATEGORY.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE WELFARE (101-4862) WELFARE-51: IN CONSIDERING INCREASED FUNDING ABOVE THE ALLOWABLE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE CAP, THE SUBCOMMITTEE NOTED MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES PROPOSED IN SENATE BILL 123, WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE. THE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVED THE BUDGET AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH FUNDING IN EXCESS OF THE

ALLOWABLE ADMINISTRATIVE CAP. IN APPROVING THE BUDGET THE SUBCOMMITTEE DIRECTED THE DIVISION TO RETURN TO THE IFC WITH PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM REVISIONS TO REFLECT THE MAJOR PORTIONS OF S.B. 123 IMPACTING THE ENERGY ASSISTANCE ACCOUNT.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE SUPPORTED THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FOR INCREASED FUNDING TO ADDRESS CASELOAD INCREASES TOTALING \$6.3 MILLION IN FY 2006 AND \$6.4 MILLION IN FY 2007 WITH A LETTER OF INTENT TO HAVE THE DIVISION REPORT ON ENERGY ASSISTANCE CASES ON A SEMI-ANNUAL BASIS AND TO INCLUDE IN THE REPORT PROPOSED CHANGES IN REGULATIONS TO LIMIT ASSISTANCE ALLOWABLE FOR EACH HOUSEHOLD BASED ON REDUCED LEVELS OF FUNDING.

THE COMMITTEE WILL NOTE THAT PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE DIVISION'S COST ALLOCATION COMBINED WITH REVISED TANF CASELOAD PROJECTIONS RESULTS IN A DECREASE IN GENERAL FUNDS OF APPROXIMATELY \$3.6 MILLION OVER THE BIENNIUM. DECISIONS MADE BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE AND REVISED COST ALLOCATIONS ADJUSTMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN REFLECTED IN THE ATTACHED CLOSING SHEETS PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE. STAFF REQUESTS AUTHORITY FROM THE COMMITTEE TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS REFLECTING COMMITTEE ACTIONS AND CHANGES IN THE DIVISION'S COST ALLOCATION.

ASSEMBLYMAN MARVEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE CLOSING REPORT FOR THE BUDGET ACCOUNT WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, WELFARE DIVISION.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

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Chairman Arberry requested a bill draft request from the Committee for a constitutional amendment regarding property tax.

Mark Stevens, Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated the bill draft request was related to a number of discussions that had been held concerning the constitutional provision for fair and equitable treatment of like properties when A.B. 489 had been on the table.

ASSEMBLYMAN MARVEL MOVED FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL DRAFT REQUEST REGARDING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REGARDING FAIR AND EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF LIKE PROPERTIES.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GIUNCHIGLIANI SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

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Assembly Bill 36: Requires Director of Department of Human Resources to include in State Plan for Medicaid requirement that young adults who have "aged out" of foster care are eligible for Medicaid. (BDR 38-668)

Mr. Stevens explained that A.B. 36 would provide Medicaid coverage for foster care children that "aged out" of the system at age 18 and would allow Medicaid coverage for those individuals through the age of 20. There had been a number of fiscal notes produced for the bill during the session. Mr. Stevens said the latest one received from the Budget Division would cost \$214,233 of General Funds in the first year of the biennium, and \$323,194 in the second year of the biennium, and there would be federal matching funds available to support some costs. The bill would have a January 1, 2006, start date.

Mr. Stevens said that if the Committee chose to process A.B. 36 he would recommend that the funding required to finance the bill be amended into the bill.

Ms. Leslie urged the Committee to support A.B. 36, with the revised funding amount. A report issued in the past week, according to Ms. Leslie, showed that foster children who received the type of support requested in the bill were much more likely to go on to lead successful lives.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN LESLIE MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
A.B. 36.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

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Assembly Bill 289: Requires Administrator of Office of Historic Preservation of Department of Cultural Affairs to establish stewardship program for protection of cultural resources. (BDR 33-554)

Mr. Stevens explained that A.B. 289 would establish a stewardship program for the protection of cultural resources within the Office of Historic Preservation and would require one additional position within the Office of Historic Preservation at a cost estimated to be \$62,000 the first year of the biennium and \$77,000 the second year of biennium. If the Committee chose to process the bill, Mr. Stevens recommended that the funding be amended into the bill.

Ms. Giunchigliani said she would make the motion with the change of using room tax funds instead of General Funds, because it was a cultural program.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GIUNCHIGLIANI MOVED AMEND AND DO
PASS A.B. 289.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN LESLIE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

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Assembly Bill 310: Makes appropriation for establishment of 2-1-1 telephone number in certain areas of State to provide residents with information concerning services available to children and families. (BDR S-829)

Mr. Stevens explained that A.B. 310 would establish a 2-1-1 telephone number in certain areas of Nevada. The Department of Human Resources had proposed

amendments to the bill, which were provided to the Committee, [Exhibit B](#), "Amendment to Bill: A.B. 310."

Ms. Stevens said A.B. 310 included a \$200,000 appropriation, which could be one-shot money, or be paid during the first year of the biennium after July 1, 2005, if the Committee chose to process the bill.

Assemblywoman Smith commented that the amendment ([Exhibit B](#)) came right out of the bill that the interim committee had developed for the bigger 2-1-1 program and that bill had died in the first half of the session. Mrs. Smith said the amendment simply put in place all of the necessary language to accomplish implementation of the system.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SMITH MOVED AMEND AND DO PASS
A.B. 310.

ASSEMBLYMAN DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

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[Assembly Bill 376 \(1st Reprint\):](#) Provides for various benefits for members of Nevada National Guard who are called into active service. (BDR 36-1072)

Mr. Stevens explained that A.B. 376 provided for various benefits for members of the Nevada National Guard when they were on active duty. There was a \$2.5 million appropriation for each year of the biennium. Mr. Stevens said that could be reduced somewhat and the Committee could discuss what amount would be appropriate if they chose to process the bill. In addition, Mr. Stevens pointed out a technical note and said the Committee might want to create an account rather than a fund. A.B. 376 created the Patriot Relief Fund, and Mr. Stevens said usually it was better to create an account instead of a fund in the State accounting system.

Assemblyman Perkins stated he agreed that creating an account would be better than creating a fund. Mr. Perkins commented that A.B. 376 provided life insurance policies for those who were mobilized and was estimated to cost approximately \$250,000 per year.

Mr. Perkins said the rest of the relief fund was for those who were called up and moved from a fairly good-paying job in Nevada to the \$18,000 per year the federal government paid. Those National Guard members for whom the decrease in pay caused a hardship could apply to the Adjutant General for relief. The money could also be used for textbooks for those who availed themselves of a college education in Nevada.

Mr. Perkins suggested that approximately \$400,000 per year would cover all those needs.

Chairman Arberry suggested providing \$1 million for both years of the biennium.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GIUNCHIGLIANI MOVED TO AMEND AND DO
PASS A.B. 376.

ASSEMBLYMAN HOGAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

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Assembly Bill 413: Makes appropriation to State Department of Agriculture for grants to counties to perform weed control. (BDR S-1120)

Mr. Stevens said A.B. 413 appropriated funds to the State Department of Agriculture for grants to counties to perform weed control. Testimony in hearings held previously indicated that it should be a revolving fund and should not be a reversion. Mr. Stevens indicated the idea was to perform the work and ultimately the cost for that work would be reimbursed back to the fund. If the Committee chose to process the bill, the reversion language needed to be removed. Mr. Stevens said he had amended the language that would set up the revolving fund and remove the reversion language and place the function within the Department of Agriculture for administration.

ASSEMBLYMAN MARVEL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
A.B. 413.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GIUNCHIGLIANI SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

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Assembly Bill 462: Increases salaries of certain constitutional officers. (BDR 18-847)

Mr. Stevens said A.B. 462 would provide an increase in compensation for constitutional officers upon the next election cycle. Those individuals who were elected would receive an increase in compensation if the bill was processed. Mr. Stevens said the consumer price index (CPI) growth from 1998, the last time an increase had been given to constitutional officers, had been compared with the projected 2006 CPI numbers. That increase was 20.49 percent. Mr. Stevens stated that if those numbers were updated, taking into consideration a few more months of actual data and updated projections, the increase would be 21.8 percent.

Chairman Arberry said the Committee would take no action at the present time.

Assembly Bill 411 (1st Reprint): Requires appropriate safety restraints in school buses. (BDR 34-260)

Ms. Giunchigliani stated that she would forward proposed amendments to A.B. 411 to all Committee members.

Chairman Arberry recessed the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Chairman Arberry reconvened the meeting at 2:54 pm.

Assembly Bill 189 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to Nevada Equal Rights Commission. (BDR 18-406)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN MOVED TO RESCIND THE ACTION
ON A.B. 189.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN KOIVISTO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Giunchigliani said she would make a motion to amend and do pass with added language and the removal of Section 15 based upon the passage of S.B. 36.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GIUNCHIGLIANI MOVED TO AMEND AND DO
PASS A.B. 189.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN LESLIE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

**Assembly Bill 525: Makes appropriation for innovative educational programs.
(BDR S-1352)**

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GIUNCHIGLIANI MOVED TO RESCIND
ACTION ON A.B. 525.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Giunchigliani noted that \$25 million had originally been appropriated for A.B. 525, but she recommended appropriating \$100 million for the fund. The name of the account would be changed to Fund for School Innovation Programs and Prevention of Remediation and add full-day kindergarten to the list of grants.

Mr. Stevens said \$50 million for each year of the biennium had been recommended in The Executive Budget.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GIUNCHIGLIANI MOVED TO AMEND AND DO
PASS A.B. 525.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Stevens informed the Committee that the budget closing for the Division of Tourism had resulted in additional room tax funds. Typically the Committee would place those funds in budget accounts that were funded from the General Fund and some tourism-related purpose, such as State parks or museums. There was approximately \$3.2 million available the first year of the biennium and \$1.2 million the second year. The Assembly closing produced more room tax dollars than the Senate closing, according to Mr. Stevens. Staff recommended that when the Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Finance Committee met on Wednesday, if the differences could be resolved in the Tourism budget, either the State Parks or the State Museum budget could

be reopened to receive room tax funds, and the General Fund appropriation could be reallocated.

Chairman Arberry adjourned the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Anne Bowen
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman Morse Arberry Jr., Chairman

DATE:_____

<u>EXHIBITS</u>			
Committee Name: <u>Committee on Ways and Means</u>			
Date: <u>May 23, 2005</u>		Time of Meeting: <u>2:00 p.m.</u>	
Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
A.B. 310	B	Assemblywoman Debbie Smith	Amendment to Bill: A.B. 310