

Assembly Bill No. 70—Assemblymen Kirkpatrick, McCleary, Sibley, Allen, Anderson, Arberry Jr., Atkinson, Conklin, Denis, Gansert, Giunchigliani, Goicoechea, Hardy, Hogan, Koivisto, McClain, Munford, Ocegüera, Parks, Parnell, Pierce and Smith

Joint Sponsor: Senator Carlton

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to school property; expressing the sense of the Legislature concerning the use of school buildings and facilities by groups and organizations that are not part of a school district; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Under existing law, the boards of trustees of school districts are required to provide for regulations for the use of school buildings and grounds for civic meetings and recreational activities. (NRS 393.0717)

This bill expresses the sense of the Legislature that the school districts adopt or revise applicable policies and regulations governing the use of school buildings and facilities by groups and organizations that are not part of the school district in a certain manner.

WHEREAS, Communities benefit when public schools are recognized and respected as focal points for intellectual, social and cultural development; and

WHEREAS, Public schools are public facilities and, to the extent possible, should serve the public in as many ways as possible; and

WHEREAS, There are groups and organizations in our communities whose goals and efforts complement the goals and efforts of public schools and are of direct benefit to pupils enrolled in public schools; and

WHEREAS, It is beneficial for school districts to help support, to the extent possible, such groups and organizations, which may include, without limitation:

1. Youth-oriented groups and organizations that serve the pupils enrolled in a public school and help promote the fundamental missions of a school district; and

2. Adult groups and organizations that foster relationships between parents and schools; and

WHEREAS, School districts may help support those groups and organizations by:

1. Allowing the use of public school buildings and facilities by those youth-oriented groups and organizations that serve the pupils of a public school and promote the fundamental missions of the school district; and

2. Providing those groups and organizations the opportunity to perform service projects, upon the mutual agreement of the school district and the group or organization, in lieu of paying a fee for such use; and

WHEREAS, It remains vital for the school districts in this State to preserve per-pupil allocations for the operation of the public schools and to ensure that those dollars are not expended in support of groups and organizations whose missions do not directly support public education; now, therefore,

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. 1. The Legislature hereby encourages the board of trustees of each school district in this State to adopt policies, or, if applicable, to revise existing policies and regulations, governing the use of school buildings and facilities by groups and organizations that are not part of the school district in a manner that will minimize costs to the school district as well as minimize costs to those groups and organizations that are dedicated to the furtherance and benefit of the mission of the school district.

2. The Legislature hereby recognizes that the boards of trustees of the school districts in this State have a vested interest in ensuring that the operations of the school district are consistent with the policies and regulations adopted by the board of trustees. Therefore, the Legislature hereby encourages the board of trustees of each school district to exercise such authority as is necessary to ensure that a policy or regulation adopted by the board of trustees concerning the use of school buildings and facilities by groups and organizations that are not part of the school district be applied as consistently as possible by all schools located in that school district.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2005.