

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to education; requiring the board of trustees of a school district to employ certain student teachers as substitute teachers under certain circumstances; requiring the Legislative Committee on Education to study issues relating to the use of long-term substitute teachers; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes a school district to enter into an agreement for the assignment of student teachers within the school district for training purposes. (NRS 391.095) **Section 1** of this bill requires a school district which has entered into such an agreement to employ certain student teachers as substitutes when licensed teachers are not available to fill those positions. **Section 3** of this bill requires the Legislative Committee on Education to conduct a study of issues relating to the use of long-term substitute teachers during the 2007-2009 interim.

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

Section 1. Chapter 391 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. A board of trustees of a school district that has entered into an agreement pursuant to NRS 391.095 shall, before assigning a long-term substitute who is not a licensed teacher, assign a student teacher who satisfies the requirements of subsection 2 as a substitute teacher.

2. A student teacher who has completed not less than 4 weeks of student teaching in a school district pursuant to NRS 391.095 may apply to the board of trustees of that school district for employment as a substitute teacher. The application must include the written approval of:

(a) The teacher who supervises the student teacher through the Nevada System of Higher Education or accredited postsecondary educational institution, as applicable; and

(b) The teacher who is responsible for supervising the student teacher in the classroom.

3. If a school district employs a student teacher as a substitute teacher pursuant to this section, the school district shall ensure that the student teacher is:

(a) Assigned to teach in the subject area and grade level, as applicable, in which the student teacher is completing his student teaching.



(b) Supervised by a licensed teacher. A licensed teacher so assigned must:

(1) Be available to assist the student teacher and observe the student teacher on a periodic basis; and

(2) Oversee the management of the classroom, instructional duties and administrative duties of the student teacher.

4. A student teacher who is employed as a substitute teacher pursuant to this section is entitled to the rate of pay otherwise payable to substitute teachers employed by the school district for each day the student teacher works as a substitute teacher. Nothing in this section entitles a student teacher who is not employed as a substitute teacher to be paid for time spent completing his student teaching, including, without limitation, time spent completing course work and assignments required for completion of a program of study offered by the Nevada System of Higher Education or an accredited postsecondary educational institution.

5. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the board of trustees of a school district that employs a student teacher as a substitute teacher pursuant to this section shall, in consultation with the employee organization representing licensed teachers in the school district, provide for compensation of the licensed teacher who supervises the student teacher pursuant to subsection 3 that is in addition to the regular salary of the licensed teacher. The board of trustees is not required to provide additional compensation to:

(a) A licensed teacher who is employed by the school district for the primary purpose of supervising student teachers and who is not otherwise employed for the purpose of providing classroom instruction to pupils; or

(b) A licensed teacher who receives compensation from the Nevada System of Higher Education or an accredited postsecondary educational institution for supervising student teachers.

6. As used in this section, "student teacher" means a student of a branch of the Nevada System of Higher Education or an accredited postsecondary educational institution who is assigned to teach for training purposes pursuant to NRS 391.095.

Sec. 2. NRS 391.273 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.273 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 4 and 10 ***H*** and except for persons who are supervised pursuant to section 1 of this act, the unlicensed personnel of a school district must be directly supervised by licensed personnel in all duties which



are instructional in nature. To the extent practicable, the direct supervision must be such that the unlicensed personnel are in the immediate location of the licensed personnel and are readily available during such times when supervision is required.

2. Unlicensed personnel who are exempted pursuant to subsection 4 must be under administrative supervision when performing duties which are instructional in nature.

3. Unlicensed personnel may temporarily perform duties under administrative supervision which are not primarily instructional in nature.

4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, upon application by a superintendent of schools, the Superintendent of Public Instruction may grant an exemption from the provisions of subsection 1. The Superintendent shall not grant an exemption unless:

(a) The duties are within the employee's special expertise or training;

(b) The duties relate to the humanities or an elective course of study, or are supplemental to the basic curriculum of a school;

(c) The performance of the duties does not result in the replacement of a licensed employee or prevent the employment of a licensed person willing to perform those duties;

(d) The secondary or combined school in which the duties will be performed has less than 100 pupils enrolled and is at least 30 miles from a school in which the duties are performed by licensed personnel; and

(e) The unlicensed employee submits his fingerprints for an investigation pursuant to NRS 391.033.

5. The exemption authorized by subsection 4 does not apply to a paraprofessional if the provisions of 20 U.S.C. § 6319 and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto require the paraprofessional to be directly supervised by a licensed teacher.

6. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall file a record of all exempt personnel with the clerk of the board of trustees of each local school district, and advise the clerk of any changes therein. The record must contain:

(a) The name of the exempt employee;

(b) The specific instructional duties he may perform;

(c) Any terms or conditions of the exemption deemed appropriate by the Superintendent of Public Instruction; and

(d) The date the exemption expires or a statement that the exemption is valid as long as the employee remains in the same position at the same school.



7. The Superintendent of Public Instruction may adopt regulations prescribing the procedure to apply for an exemption pursuant to this section and the criteria for the granting of such exemptions.

8. Except in an emergency, it is unlawful for the board of trustees of a school district to allow a person employed as a teacher's aide to serve as a teacher unless the person is a legally qualified teacher licensed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. As used in this subsection, "emergency" means an unforeseen circumstance which requires immediate action and includes the fact that a licensed teacher or substitute teacher is not immediately available.

9. If the Superintendent of Public Instruction determines that the board of trustees of a school district has violated the provisions of subsection 8, he shall take such actions as are necessary to reduce the amount of money received by the district pursuant to NRS 387.124 by an amount equal to the product when the following numbers are multiplied together:

- (a) The number of days on which the violation occurred;
- (b) The number of pupils in the classroom taught by the teacher's aide; and
- (c) The number of dollars of basic support apportioned to the district per pupil per day pursuant to NRS 387.1233.

10. The provisions of this section do not apply to unlicensed personnel who are employed by the governing body of a charter school, unless a paraprofessional employed by the governing body is required to be directly supervised by a licensed teacher pursuant to the provisions of 20 U.S.C. § 6319 and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

Sec. 3. 1. The Legislative Committee on Education shall, during the 2007-2009 interim, study issues relating to the use of long-term substitute teachers, including, without limitation:

- (a) The effect of the use of long-term substitutes who are not licensed teachers on the performance of pupils and the effect of the use of student teachers as substitutes pursuant to section 1 of this act on the performance of pupils;
- (b) The number of long-term substitutes employed in this State and the number employed by each school district, including, without limitation, the number who are not licensed teachers;
- (c) The number of student teachers employed as substitutes pursuant to section 1 of this act in this State and the number employed by each school district;



(d) The average time for which a long-term substitute is assigned to a single class;

(e) Methods to reduce the use of long-term substitutes, including, without limitation, methods to reduce the number of long-term substitutes who are not licensed teachers or not student teachers employed pursuant to section 1 of this act; and

(f) Any other issues relating to the use of long-term substitutes.

2. The Legislative Committee on Education may appoint a subcommittee to conduct the study required pursuant to subsection 1 or may request that an appropriate entity which is responsible for studying the coordination of elementary, secondary and postsecondary education in this State conduct the study and report to the Committee.

3. On or before February 1, 2009, the Legislative Committee on Education shall submit a report of the results of the study conducted pursuant to this section and any recommendations for legislation to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmission to the 75th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Sec. 4. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

