

SENATE BILL NO. 223—SENATORS BEERS,
CEGAVSKE, RAGGIO AND WASHINGTON

MARCH 6, 2007

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN GOEDHART,
SEGERBLOM, SETTELMAYER AND STEWART

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Directs the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study to develop a plan to deconsolidate the Clark County School District. (BDR S-339)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; directing the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study to develop a plan to deconsolidate the Clark County School District; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

1 WHEREAS, Public education plays a crucial role in producing
2 well informed, educated and productive members of society; and

3 WHEREAS, The current organizational system of public
4 education in Nevada was established in 1956, wherein the county
5 school districts were created, the boundaries of which are
6 coterminous with the boundaries of the counties of this State; and

7 WHEREAS, The population of the State of Nevada in 1956 was
8 240,100, with Clark County accounting for 40 percent of that
9 population; and

10 WHEREAS, The population of the State of Nevada has
11 dramatically increased during the past 50 years so that Nevada now
12 has a population of over 2.4 million, with Clark County accounting
13 for over 71 percent of that population; and



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1 WHEREAS, In 1995, the Legislature directed the Legislative
2 Commission to conduct an interim study on the feasibility of
3 reconfiguring the structure of the school districts in this State (File
4 No. 161, Statutes of Nevada 1995, at page 3033); and

5 WHEREAS, Since the completion of that study in 1996, Clark
6 County has continued to experience an extraordinarily rapid
7 population growth; and

8 WHEREAS, During the 1995-1996 school year, the Clark County
9 School District had an enrollment of 166,788 pupils, and during the
10 2006-2007 school year, the District had an enrollment of 293,801
11 pupils; and

12 WHEREAS, During the 1995-1996 school year, the Clark County
13 School District was the 10th largest school district in the country,
14 and by the 2004-2005 school year, the Clark County School District
15 was the 5th largest school district in the country; and

16 WHEREAS, The deconsolidation of the Clark County School
17 District is necessary to ensure that the system of public education
18 can more effectively educate the pupils who reside in Clark County
19 and be responsive to the concerns of the other residents of Clark
20 County; now, therefore,

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22 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
23 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
24

25 **Section 1.** 1. The Legislative Commission shall appoint an
26 interim committee, composed of three members of the Assembly
27 and three members of the Senate, one of whom must be appointed as
28 Chairman of the committee, to conduct a study to develop a plan for
29 the deconsolidation of the Clark County School District by dividing
30 the School District into smaller school districts which cover smaller
31 geographic areas and serve fewer pupils than the School District
32 currently serves.

33 2. The committee shall enter into a contract with a qualified,
34 independent, nationally recognized consultant to assist the
35 committee in conducting the study and developing a plan for
36 deconsolidation.

37 3. The committee shall develop a plan for the deconsolidation
38 of the Clark County School District which must:

39 (a) Set forth:

40 (1) The number of school districts that will be located in
41 Clark County after the deconsolidation and the geographic
42 boundaries of those school districts;

43 (2) The organizational structure of each school district that
44 will be located in Clark County after the deconsolidation;



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(3) The manner in which the assets and outstanding bonded indebtedness of the Clark County School District will be proportionally divided among the school districts that are located in Clark County after the deconsolidation;

(4) The composition and manner of election of the boards of trustees of the school districts that are located in Clark County after the deconsolidation;

(5) The manner in which the licensed teachers and other educational personnel who are currently employed by the Clark County School District will be assigned or reassigned to the school districts that are located in Clark County after the deconsolidation;

(6) The number of pupils who will be enrolled in each school district;

(7) The specific steps that must be taken by the Legislature to carry out the plan;

(8) The proposed effect of the deconsolidation on the academic achievement of pupils who reside within Clark County and the educational effectiveness of the public schools within the County; and

(9) A timeline to carry out the plan;

(b) Ensure that a uniform system of education will continue to be offered throughout this State in accordance with Section 2 of Article 11 of the Constitution of the State of Nevada;

(c) Comply with all applicable judicial precedents and constitutional requirements, including, without limitation, requirements relating to racial and ethnic composition; and

(d) Ensure that the new school districts will be eligible for apportionments and allowances from the State Distributive School Account pursuant to NRS 387.121 to 387.126, inclusive.

4. The committee may accept money contributed from private sources and, to the extent that money from private sources is available, shall use such money to pay for the expenses incurred in developing its plan.

5. Any recommended legislation proposed by the committee must be approved by a majority of the members of the Senate and a majority of the members of the Assembly appointed to the committee.

6. The Legislative Commission shall submit the results of the study, including, without limitation, the plan for deconsolidation developed by the committee and any recommendations for legislation to the 75th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Sec. 2. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Legislative Commission the sum of \$250,000 for the costs relating to hiring a consultant to assist the interim committee created pursuant to section 1 of this act to conduct a



1 study to develop a plan for the deconsolidation of the Clark County
2 School District.
3 2. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by
4 subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30,
5 2009, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity
6 to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise
7 transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated
8 money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after
9 September 18, 2009, by either the entity to which the money was
10 appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently
11 granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General
12 Fund on or before September 18, 2009.
13 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

