

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

**Seventy-Fourth Session  
March 19, 2007**

The Committee on Ways and Means was called to order by Chair Morse Arberry Jr. at 8:06 a.m., on Monday, March 19, 2007, in Room 3137 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at [www.leg.state.nv.us/74th/committees/](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/74th/committees/). In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (email: [publications@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:publications@lcb.state.nv.us); telephone: 775-684-6835).

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Assemblyman Morse Arberry Jr., Chair  
Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, Vice Chair  
Assemblywoman Barbara E. Buckley  
Assemblyman Mo Denis  
Assemblywoman Heidi S. Gansert  
Assemblyman Tom Grady  
Assemblyman Joseph P. (Joe) Hardy  
Assemblyman Joseph Hogan  
Assemblywoman Ellen Koivisto  
Assemblyman John W. Marvel  
Assemblywoman Kathy McClain  
Assemblyman David R. Parks  
Assemblywoman Debbie Smith  
Assemblywoman Valerie E. Weber

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell, Assembly District 38

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mark W. Stevens, Assembly Fiscal Analyst  
Steve Abba, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst  
Carol Thomsen, Committee Secretary  
Patricia Adams, Committee Assistant



Chairman Arberry opened discussion of A.B. 5.

**Assembly Bill 5: Revises provisions relating to the registration of certain heavier motor vehicles. (BDR 43-528)**

Assemblyman Hardy explained that A.B. 5 required the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to adopt staggered registration dates for vehicles that weighed more than 26,000 pounds and were registered through the Motor Carrier Division. The bill also allowed the DMV to set the dates of installment payments for the registration of vehicles within a fleet by regulation, rather than requiring payments on dates currently set in statute.

Dr. Hardy said that A.B. 5 further provided that vehicles with a declared gross weight in excess of 26,000, that were registered interstate, must have an application for registration filed with the DMV before the time the fee becomes delinquent, and if the application was to renew a registration, the application must be filed on or before December 1. The registration requirements become effective January 1, 2009.

Dr. Hardy reported that he pre-filed A.B. 5 on December 12, 2006, and the original version of the bill included an effective date of October 1, 2007. The original fiscal note prepared by the DMV for determining the costs associated with implementing the measure was based on the effective date of October 1, 2007. Dr. Hardy indicated that the previous fiscal note was approximately \$100,000, which included the costs associated with programming, regulations, registration, materials, and decals to revise annual renewal terms. However, before the bill was introduced to the Legislature, the effective date was changed to January 1, 2009.

Dr. Hardy noted that the change eliminated many of the costs for the DMV and the new fiscal note contained only the cost for enacting the regulations. The DMV indicated that the expenses related to enacting regulations to administer staggered registrations of motor carriers would be \$2,309 in FY 2007.

Assemblywoman Leslie stated that she was not well versed in the regulations for registering larger trucks, and she asked how trucks were currently being registered, how the bill would change that registration, and why there was a need to change the current registration process.

Dr. Hardy explained that the genesis of A.B. 5 was that DMV required large trucks and trailers to register prior to December 31 of each year. Therefore, the registration of heavy vehicles at the end of each year created a logistical problem for DMV. According to Dr. Hardy, there had been several attempts to correct the situation, and in fact, DMV had submitted A.B. 39, which was identical to A.B. 5. Both parties looked to change the registration dates to prevent every owner of large trucks from accessing the DMV offices during December of each year. Dr. Hardy stated that there had been objections and amendments that always killed the legislation. The theory was that legislation could be submitted that would not be amended and, hopefully, would receive legislative approval.

Dr. Hardy noted that the advantage of A.B. 5 was not only to DMV, but also to truck owners because the owners could spread out costs, which would provide a steady stream of revenue to DMV. Therefore, there was an advantage to the

trucking industry and an advantage to DMV to spread out the registration on large trucks.

Assemblywoman Buckley asked how DMV would determine the varying dates for registration. Dr. Hardy explained that DMV would determine how those dates would be established, and the legislation would allow DMV to devise a registration schedule.

Ms. Buckley asked whether persons from DMV could clarify the varying registration dates. Dr. Hardy replied that DMV would be required to make the determinations regarding establishment of the dates.

Chairman Arberry asked whether there was further testimony to come before the Committee regarding A.B. 5, and asked representatives from DMV to respond to Ms. Buckley's inquiry.

Edgar Roberts, Administrator, Motor Carrier Division, DMV, reported that the Division planned to move the expiration dates of one-half of its Nevada licensees to March 31, and one-half of its Nevada licensees to September 30 of each calendar year. Interstate apportioned vehicles in the International Registration Plan (IRP) program would continue to expire on December 31 of each year.

Ms. Buckley said, if she understood correctly, one-half of the licensees would register their vehicles in September and the remaining one-half would register in March.

Mr. Roberts explained that the Division would prorate fees of certain carriers that chose certain expiration dates. Mr. Roberts agreed with Ms. Buckley but reiterated that IRP carriers, licensed under the Interstate Apportionment Act, would retain the December 31 expiration date.

Ms. Buckley asked whether the Division would prorate the registration rate for carriers who were moved to the March 31 expiration date. Mr. Roberts concurred that DMV would prorate the registration for those vehicles, and the Division would encourage carriers to choose one of the dates, whichever worked out best for the carrier.

Assemblywoman Gansert said that it appeared that carriers would make the choice in December whether to pay registration fees for one quarter or three quarters. Mr. Roberts stated that was correct.

Mark Stevens, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), explained that both A.B. 5 and A.B. 39 would change the registration dates. He indicated that A.B. 5 initially included a fiscal note in the amount of \$100,000, with an effective date in 2007. When the effective date in A.B. 5 was changed to 2009, the DMV indicated that the fiscal note would be zero. Mr. Stevens said that LCB staff explored the differences in the fiscal notes, and were told that there were programming positions for DMV built into The Executive Budget, and as long as those positions were approved, the DMV could accomplish the task set forth in A.B. 5 by January 1, 2009. Therefore, if those positions were approved in DMV's budget, there would be no fiscal impact associated with A.B. 5.

Dennis Colling, Chief, Administrative Services Division, DMV, confirmed that Mr. Stevens was correct. The DMV was weaning itself from reliance on a contractor that dealt with motor carrier issues. During the 2005 Session, the

DMV added two programmer positions, thereby reducing its cost to the contractor by approximately \$250,000. Mr. Colling advised the Committee that DMV had requested one additional programmer position in 2007, in anticipation of completing the second phase of the three-phase project, at which time DMV would reduce its costs to the contractor by over \$300,000.

According to Mr. Colling, should the requested position not be approved by the 2007 Legislature, DMV would have to extend the time period needed to develop the necessary programming to accommodate the requirements of A.B. 5. Rather than an effective date of January 1, 2009, Mr. Colling felt it would take an additional year or two to change the regulations and develop the necessary programming to implement the requirements of A.B. 5 to eliminate the contractor who dealt with motor carrier issues.

Chairman Arberry asked whether there was further testimony to come before the Committee about A.B. 5.

Paul Enos, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Nevada Motor Transport Association (NMTA), stated that he was present to speak in favor of A.B. 5. Mr. Enos said the legislation would be of benefit to the industry because carriers could stagger the registration of their fleets. A trucking company with up to 100 trucks would not experience such a huge financial outgo in January of each year, if A.B. 5 passed, and could better manage its cash flow by splitting up the registration for its fleet.

Chairman Arberry asked whether there was further testimony to come before the Committee, either in favor of or opposition to A.B. 5 and, there being none, declared the hearing on A.B. 5 closed.

The Chairman opened the hearing on A.B. 131.

**Assembly Bill 131: Revises provisions governing career and technical education. (BDR 34-439)**

Bonnie Parnell, Assembly District 40, introduced herself to the Committee and stated that she had been involved in career and technical education (CTE) for the past few years. Assemblywoman Parnell indicated that she would briefly summarize the work of the Subcommittee to Study the Effectiveness of Career and Technical High Schools of the Legislative Committee on Education, and she pointed out that both A.B. 131 and A.B. 151 were the result of the findings of that subcommittee. Ms. Parnell referenced LCB Bulletin No. 07-4 entitled, "Subcommittee to Study the Effectiveness of Career and Technical High Schools—January 2007," [Exhibit C](#).

Ms. Parnell commented that she sat as Chair of the interim Subcommittee to Study the Effectiveness of Career and Technical High Schools, with Senator Barbara K. Cegavske sitting as Vice Chair. Senator Bernice Mathews and Assemblyman Chad Christensen sat as members of the subcommittee.

Ms. Parnell indicated that the subcommittee visited three different career and technical schools, (1) Southern Nevada Vocational Technical High School in Las Vegas; (2) The Regional Technical Institute in Washoe County; and (3) Academy of Career Education (ACE) Charter School in Reno.

Based on information uncovered by the subcommittee, Ms. Parnell identified the following findings:

1. Career and technical education courses were effective in educating students.
2. Career and technical education required a stable funding source and increased revenue.
3. Additional career and technical high schools were necessary to meet the interest of students and the needs of employers.
4. Tech Prep provided a means for high school students to start college and pursue a technical education major while still in high school.
5. Guidance counselors, who provided academic and career advice to students, were increasingly assigned non-guidance duties.
6. Schools and employers needed to make students and parents aware of opportunities available and skills needed to succeed in the 21st century.

Ms. Parnell pointed out that quite often best practices were discussed in education, and educators attempted to identify the best practices. Career and technical education was one “best practice” that was documented to be effective.

Ms. Parnell remarked that five of the six findings were included in bills that were before the Committee on today’s Agenda. The sixth finding regarding school counselors was addressed in A.B. 212.

Ms. Parnell said that other persons who planned to testify in support of A.B. 131 and A.B. 151 would share the favorable statistics regarding lower dropout rates and higher graduation rates and other pertinent information about CTE.

Ms. Parnell said she was excited to visit the CTE schools, at which she observed students doing well in their studies. Statistics that pointed to increased attendance rates, improved high school proficiency test scores, and higher graduation rates, proved that CTE schools were successful.

When the subcommittee visited the health occupational area of the Southern Nevada Vocational Technical High School, it looked like an actual hospital. Ms. Parnell explained that subcommittee members wondered why no students were present and discovered that the students were at work in area hospitals. Ms. Parnell stated that the cosmetology area of the CTE high school was quite large and accommodated students who, upon graduation, would be licensed and ready to enter the workforce. Ms. Parnell remarked that the air conditioning repair program at the Southern Nevada Vocational Technical High School was touted as one of the best in the country, and the ACE Charter High School in Reno was reported to have one of the best building and trades programs.

The CTE schools had to make sure that students were not being hired before they graduated, because the programs were that good. Ms. Parnell emphasized that CTE was an exciting program.

Ms. Parnell indicated that A.B. 131 addressed three issues in career and technical education. She explained that sections 1 and 2 of the bill added information about career and technical education to the State's annual accountability report. Currently, Ms. Parnell said, there was no requirement to provide information about such issues as enrollment, average daily attendance, dropout rates, and graduation data for students in CTE classes. Should A.B. 131 be passed by the Legislature, that information would be included in both the State and school district reports. Ms. Parnell remarked that the Subcommittee felt that because of the success of the CTE programs, parents should be privy to all available information.

Section 3 of A.B. 131 provided a way for school districts to join together for the purpose of building and operating regional career and technical high schools. Ms. Parnell believed that was extremely important, particularly for smaller districts, not only because of construction costs, but also because of the high cost of the equipment necessary in such schools. Section 3 also made provisions for governing those joint projects.

Ms. Parnell offered an example of a regional technical high school that encompassed school districts in Carson City, and Lyon, Storey, and Douglas counties, which would allow students from those areas to attend the same regional technical high school.

According to Ms. Parnell, Section 4 of A.B. 131 included language allowing the acceptance of gifts and grants from any source. In the case of CTE schools, that could mean additional funding from a local business or regional development authority.

Ms. Parnell said the subcommittee encouraged private/public partnerships to build regional CTE schools between school districts and other entities, such as regional development authorities, businesses, manufacturing businesses, and mining companies, depending upon the geographical location of the school. For example, classes could be designed to accommodate student learning in the field of mining, thereby creating a trained workforce for the mining industry.

Chairman Arberry asked whether A.B. 131 requested state funding for the CTE schools. Ms. Parnell said there was a fiscal note attached to A.B. 131 in the amount of \$50,000 from the Department of Education. That funding would be used to gather data to add the CTE information into the state accountability report.

Chairman Arberry asked whether there would be further requests for construction funding from the State. Ms. Parnell said there would not be a request for state funding for construction costs.

Ms. Parnell said that was the reason the subcommittee strongly encouraged joint or regional CTE schools that were also partnered with local businesses and regional developmental authorities. The subcommittee believed it was important to determine the governing structure of regional schools. Ms. Parnell emphasized that the only fiscal impact was the \$50,000 for the Department of Education.

Chairman Arberry said his concern was that after passage of the legislation, if school districts believed that the Legislature had issued a mandate, they would also believe that the state should participate in the funding so the districts could build regional CTE schools.

Assemblywoman Leslie commended Ms. Parnell for sponsoring A.B. 131. She noted that some of the state's best charter schools included career and technical education and were well designed for those purposes. Ms. Leslie asked whether the \$50,000 fiscal note represented a one-time request and would not be a recurring cost.

Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Nevada Department of Education (NDE), replied that A.B. 131 included a one-time cost of approximately \$50,000, which would be used to add fields, data collection, and reports regarding career and technical education to the Accountability Report Card (ARC) system. Once those constructs were developed, there would be no ongoing costs to the NDE.

Ms. Leslie noted that the \$50,000 was not currently included in the NDE's budget, and she asked whether that amount would be added. Ms. Dopf stated that was correct.

Assemblyman Marvel asked whether it would be possible for the CTE students to use the facilities provided by the labor unions for their apprenticeship programs.

Ms. Parnell said that was definitely a possibility. The subcommittee believed that everyone interested in CTE should work together and share facilities. Everything that could possibly be done should be done to promote CTE programs.

Mr. Marvel agreed and believed that the CTE schools had a significant impact on the state's dropout rate. When young people were allowed to pursue a field that was of interest to them, they became interested in learning again.

Ms. Parnell stated that the success of the programs was amazing. The State averaged an approximately 6.5 percent dropout rate, but when students were enrolled in only one CTE class, that rate dropped to 1.7 percent. When students enrolled in CTE schools, such as the Southern Nevada Vocational Technical High School or ACE Charter School, the rate dropped to below 1 percent.

Mr. Marvel said he had heard testimony that indicated some CTE students had actually learned to fly airplanes. Ms. Parnell opined that it was a very exciting program.

Chairman Arberry asked the Committee whether there were further questions regarding A.B. 131 and, hearing none, opened the hearing on A.B. 151, which was a companion bill to A.B. 131.

**Assembly Bill 151: Revises provisions relating to career and technical education. (BDR 34-441)**

Assemblywoman Parnell explained that A.B. 151 authorized the Superintendent of Public Instruction to make grants of money available to establish new programs, to maintain existing programs, to expand career and technical education (CTE) programs, and for expenses related to the advisory technical skills committee, established by the 2005 Legislature.

Ms. Parnell explained that sections 3 and 4 of the bill referenced conditions considered for receiving grant money. Of note, one part of section 4 provided that, in awarding grant money, consideration be given to whether or not

a district or charter school had supported a CTE program. There was an agreement between the schools and the Nevada System of Higher Education that college credits might be awarded to pupils who received a grade of "B" or above as a junior or senior in certain career and technical education classes. Ms. Parnell explained that she had observed programs within the Western Nevada Community College and the Truckee Meadows Community College, in which representatives from the colleges interviewed students who were taking CTE classes during their junior and senior years, and advised those students that if they maintained a grade of "B" or above, they would earn college credits. Ms. Parnell said that representatives from the colleges talked to students who had not considered a college education, and informed them that they already had acquired college credits. At times, students had completed almost one semester of college. Ms. Parnell believed that a program which allowed students to receive college credits also encouraged students to pursue higher education.

Subsection 3 of section 4 identified the desirability of providing matching funds for grant awards. Ms. Parnell said that was another area where the subcommittee wanted to stress the public/private partnership. The section was included as an opportunity and encouragement for schools to partner with businesses within the community.

Ms. Parnell explained that section 9 appropriated \$10 million for the establishment and expansion of career and technical education programs. The request included in the iNVEST 2007 program for CTE programs was approximately \$14 million.

Ms. Parnell advised the Committee that CTE programs provided a win-win situation because students benefited from the programs and remained in school. Carson High School was famous for its culinary arts program, and Ms. Parnell said that students who were not able to enter that program early in high school would often drop out of school.

Assemblyman Marvel asked whether there was a budget for the \$10 million allocation. Ms. Parnell said that the use of the funding was clearly defined, and schools would be required to apply for grants and show that the funds would be used to either establish a new program or expand existing CTE programs.

Mr. Marvel asked how the amount of \$10 million had been determined. Ms. Parnell replied that the bill explained that the amount had been requested by school districts to continue to expand programs and serve the number of interested students.

Ms. Dopf explained that information available from legislation that was proposed during the 2005 Session identified school-based needs and projections from the school districts about the funding needed to expand their CTE programs. The amount of \$10 million was based upon identification of needs by the school districts, and the funds would be allocated through a grant application process administered by the Nevada Department of Education (NDE). Ms. Dopf further explained that school districts would apply for grant funds from the NDE, and those grants would be evaluated on the basis of the criteria included in A.B. 151.

Ms. Dopf stated that the program proposed in the iNVEST 2007 plan was similarly constructed. The grants funding included in A.B. 151 would be for expansion of CTE programs, and the amount conformed to the figures provided by the superintendents and the boards of trustees.

Chairman Arberry asked whether there were guidelines about the amount of the grants to the school districts. For example, Clark County School District was quite large, and that district could probably utilize the entire \$10 million allocation for its CTE programs. The Chairman wondered whether there were limits on the amount each district could request.

Phyllis Dryden, Director, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, NDE, indicated that NDE received a \$1 million allocation for CTE programs from the 2005 Legislature. That allocation allowed NDE to establish a base for grants, but the \$1 million did not go far in covering grants on a statewide basis. The NDE established a base of \$10,000 so that rural areas could submit applications for grants. The NDE then reviewed the enrollment in CTE classes from the previous year and equitably split the funding among the districts.

Ms. Dryden explained that A.B. 151 allowed school districts to be competitive when applying for grants. Districts had to describe how well they served CTE students, and whether the district was expanding existing programs or creating additional CTE programs. The NDE would establish a base once again and assess the number of enrollments in CTE programs for the previous year, even though A.B. 151 did not specifically require such action.

Chairman Arberry believed that the language in the bill regarding the allocation of grant funding should be clarified. The Chairman noted that if school districts were unable to provide matching funds, they would still be allowed to apply for a grant.

Ms. Dryden explained that the language in the bill allowed the superintendent to offer a waiver if a school district was unable to raise matching funds. The issue of matching funds would be reviewed very carefully, recognizing that some school districts had better access to donations or other contributions from community resources than others, such as the Eureka and Lander School Districts, where there was little opportunity to solicit contributions.

Assemblyman Marvel asked whether the various mining companies had been asked to contribute to CTE programs. Ms. Parnell said that the mining industry would certainly be encouraged to become a partner in CTE programs. She could envision such a partnership in the northeastern area of the State. Ms. Parnell agreed that there was a shortage of skilled workers for the mining industry.

Chairman Arberry asked whether there was further testimony to come before the Committee in regard to A.B. 131 or A.B. 151.

Ms. Dopf thanked Assemblywoman Parnell and the interim Subcommittee for working with the NDE and the school districts to assist with the CTE programs. She noted that both the NDE and the school districts were very passionate about CTE programs because those programs worked for students. National models indicated that programs that included rigor and relevance were the ones that succeeded for students. Ms. Dopf said that the data documented that Nevada's CTE programs were rigorous and were infused with the required academic standards and content areas.

Ms. Dopf pointed out that CTE programs could not be used by students to avoid content standards, but rather provided a way for students to learn the content standards in a manner that was relevant to the various course offerings. Ms. Dopf noted that CTE classes were rigorous and relevant and held the interest of the students. The CTE programs produced significantly lower dropout rates, higher graduation rates, and improved proficiency scores for participating students compared to traditional classes.

Ms. Dopf referenced a brochure entitled, "Career & Technical Education," [Exhibit D](#), which captured some of the successes of the programs and provided data pertinent to the programs. Ms. Dopf encouraged members to review the brochure, and indicated that NDE was very proud of the programs and the results of those programs. Ms. Dopf also asked the Subcommittee to consider expansion of the programs to provide greater opportunities for students.

Assemblywoman Gansert asked whether the interim subcommittee considered creation of a committee to manage the grant funding as opposed to the NDE, similar to the grant funding approved by S.B. No. 404 of the 73rd Legislative Session. Ms. Parnell replied that the subcommittee had not considered a committee because the NDE was experienced in dealing with the CTE programs. The subcommittee did not want to create yet another committee to disburse funds. Ms. Parnell agreed with Chairman Arberry that the funds should be put into the base allotment formula.

Ms. Dopf explained that when the NDE conducted grants review, it outlined a rubric that was specific to the statute and other guidelines pertaining to the funds. The NDE then assembled a peer review group to review the rubric, analyze the grants, and make a final recommendation to the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding the distribution.

Be-Be Adams, Manager, Community Relations and Government Affairs, Barrick Gold of North America, Inc., testified that Barrick Gold had grown and changed, and with its power plant and mining operations, the company had a presence in seven of Nevada's rural counties. Ms. Adams advised the Committee that Barrick Gold employed approximately 3,000 persons, many of those in the vocational and technical fields. The company had found the CTE programs of great value in its quest to find skilled workers. Ms. Adams stated that Barrack Gold had supported CTE programs with grants for equipment since 1986. Therefore, Barrick Gold supported A.B. 131 and A.B. 151.

Chairman Arberry asked Ms. Adams whether Barrick Gold would be amenable to providing matching funds for the school districts to maintain the CTE programs. Ms. Adams replied that Barrick Gold would do whatever was necessary to help with the skilled labor force. She noted that the company had provided grant match money in the past and would be happy to do so in the future.

Ray Bacon, Nevada Manufacturers Association, said it was not often that he appeared before the Committee in favor of funding educational programs, other than the efforts by late Assemblywoman Jan Evans, which commenced with a \$1 million allocation to fund the "School to Work" program. That amount slowly increased to \$3 million and the State then attempted to secure federal funding, which ended in disaster for the program.

Mr. Bacon stated that the two bills were an effort to seek state funding to continue current CTE programs and create new programs. The focus was also on multiple county operations, which would be necessary in the rural areas. Mr. Bacon opined that CTE programs in Clark and Washoe counties should be

open to students from the rural areas. It was obvious, even years ago, that school-to-career technical programs worked, produced lower dropout rates, and provided industries with skilled workers. The largest single problem was the student capacity of the programs. Mr. Bacon said one of the earlier programs in Clark County graduated approximately 37 culinary students per year when the industry needed at least 200 culinary workers.

According to Mr. Bacon, the major problem was classroom capacity, and while the bills would not solve that problem entirely, it was a major step in the right direction. The CTE programs worked for students, the community, and industry. Mr. Bacon believed there were many programs throughout the country that Nevada failed to utilize. One of those programs, Project Lead the Way, was focused on engineering and science programs. There were 45 states participating in that program, and Nevada was the only state experiencing growth that did not participate.

John Wagner, The Burke Consortium, indicated that he was in favor of regional CTE high schools, as mentioned by Assemblywoman Parnell, and he agreed with Ms. Parnell's statements. Mr. Wagner explained he had past experience with CTE programs when he was employed with the Sony Company. He stated that he had volunteered to assist with television training through the Brewery Arts Center. He agreed with the need for CTE programs because of the dropout rate. Mr. Wagner stated that not every student wanted to attend college. He used the example of his grandson who did not want to attend college and was training as an electrician.

John Hutchings, Project Engineer, Granite Construction Company, advised the Committee that Granite supported A.B. 131 and A.B. 151. Mr. Hutchings indicated that Granite staff was currently comprised of approximately 85 percent craft, labor, and Operating Engineers employees, with the remaining 15 percent composed of both professional and managerial employees. The CTE programs provided both the skills and training for 85 percent of Granite's workforce in the field. Mr. Hutchings said examples of the skills that were provided were welding, plumbing, carpentry, heavy equipment operation, and auto mechanics.

As previously noted, not all students wanted to attend college, and the importance of CTE programs was that the programs provided students with the skills necessary to succeed in their chosen career path. Mr. Hutchings indicated that, not only did CTE programs provide training to succeed in the workforce, they also provided many of the skills and training needed to succeed in college.

Mr. Hutchings stated that he was a good example of CTE training. The core skills that he learned in CTE programs consisted of professional business writing, public speaking, computer skills, record keeping, and applied math. Those were skills that Mr. Hutchings said he used every day in his job for Granite Construction and those skills were one of the reasons that he had been successful in life and in his career.

Mr. Hutchings referenced [Exhibit D](#) and stated that the brochure contained statistics pertinent to CTE programs, such as higher graduation rates and less dropouts, which he believed should be commended.

The CTE programs helped prepare students for life. Mr. Hutchings commented that things happened in a student's life outside of the workforce and outside of school, and it was important to provide students with an education that could be utilized in all aspects of life. Mr. Hutchings said that CTE classes taught him

such things as how to replace electrical receptacles in a home, how to install a sprinkler or irrigation system, and even how to tie a Windsor Knot in his tie.

In conclusion, Mr. Hutchings remarked that Granite Construction Company offered its support to A.B. 131 and A.B. 151, and he believed that many of the other construction entities would also support the bills.

Chairman Arberry said there were many persons at the meeting who supported the legislation, and the bills contained language about the possibility of matching funds. The Chairman asked whether those who supported the bills would be willing to assist the school districts with the matching funds.

Mr. Hutchings said that on behalf of Granite Construction, he could not make that decision, but the branch manager was very supportive of education pursuits, as well as other community organizations. Mr. Hutchings said he was a member of the board of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) association, to which Granite Construction contributed annually. Mr. Hutchings commented that FFA was a direct product of career and technical education, and he believed that Granite Construction would support the school districts in their efforts to attain matching funds.

Jim Cooney, Public Policy Chairman, Nevada Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), indicated that currently 51 percent of high school students were enrolled in one or more CTE classes. The passage of A.B. 151 would create opportunities for additional students to experience the positive benefits of today's CTE programs. Ms. Cooney said the bill would create more diversity in CTE programs in Nevada for students enrolled in both comprehensive high schools and area career and technical centers, with the goals of keeping students in school, increasing graduation rates, lowering dropout rates, and making instruction relevant for the growing demand of a skilled workforce.

Mr. Cooney advised the Committee that ACTE urged support of the legislation. He commended Assemblywoman Parnell for her leadership of the interim subcommittee that studied CTE programs in Nevada.

Chairman Arberry asked Mr. Cooney whether ACTE would offer financial support to the school districts.

Mr. Cooney stated that he was a retired career and technical education teacher of 30 years, and he would support the CTE programs.

Dr. Craig Kadlub, Director, Government Affairs, Clark County School District (CCSD), believed that the case had been established and that data concerning the success of CTE programs was very compelling. He added that the CCSD had been an ardent and long-time supporter of CTE programs, and currently had five new CTE schools either in construction or on the drawing board. Dr. Kadlub said the CCSD also supported both bills because the legislation embodied most of the components of the iNVEST proposal related to CTE programs.

John Madole, Executive Director, Nevada Chapter, Associated General Contractors of America, Inc., indicated that the Associated Contractors supported both A.B. 131 and A.B. 151. Mr. Madole explained that the Associated Contractors, along with two other construction associations in Reno, through its members, had recently completed a \$1 million construction project for the Academy of Career Education (ACE) Charter High School in Reno.

In addition to that, the three construction associations co-signed a note for \$360,000 for the school. Mr. Madole commented that the association also raised approximately \$100,000 at a fund-raiser, and he believed that the contractors in the Reno area were doing their part in assisting CTE programming in the Reno area, both financially and through construction work. He stated that the contractors believed that the State should participate in funding the programs, as outlined in the proposed legislation.

Mike Cate, Pavers Plus, Inc., advised the Committee that he was very involved with the ACE High School in Reno. He stated that he supported CTE programs and believed that the State should assist with funding. Mr. Cate noted that contractors in the Reno area had raised \$160,000 for ACE High School, which depicted the level of contractor support for CTE programs. Career and technical education was a very important program for the State, for the students, and for industry. Mr. Cate asked that the Committee support the bills.

Norman Dianda, President and owner of Q&D Construction, stated that he had been in business for 43 years and was one of the largest employers in northern Nevada. Mr. Dianda said that over the summer months, Q&D Construction would employ between 1,100 and 1,200 people in the construction business.

Mr. Dianda indicated that he had been before the Legislature in the past and had said many times that Nevada's education system was failing because it ignored 60 percent of the students who could receive a very good education in a CTE program. Mr. Dianda agreed with statements made previously about the enthusiasm and involvement of students in the CTE programs. Those students would graduate with a good grade point average, and would be capable of attending college, but most importantly, the students would be trained to enter the workforce when they graduated from high school.

Mr. Dianda stated that he had not attended college, but had taken the basic courses during high school, such as business math, business English, and vocational education shop training, and had then served an apprenticeship.

Mr. Dianda believed that every student deserved an opportunity to attend CTE classes. He questioned what had become of the vocational education shops in high schools, which had been obliterated and were now gone from the schools. The school districts appeared to be trying to educate students to continue on to college, but that was not what was needed in the workforce today. Mr. Dianda stated that the workforce needed CTE-trained students.

According to Mr. Dianda, there were megaprojects under construction in the Las Vegas area, and he wondered where the people would be found to fill the jobs created by those projects. The workforce needed skilled people, and A.B. 131 and A.B. 151 would go a long way toward helping in that endeavor. Mr. Dianda opined that the Legislature should look ahead and stop ignoring 60 percent of the student population that could become a very productive part of the state's workforce. The students in other countries who were not going to attend college were placed in CTE programs, and upon graduation those students had the skills necessary to enter the workforce.

Mr. Dianda said the construction industry and many community entities, such as the Airport Authority, bent over backwards to help ACE Charter High School in Reno because those persons saw the need for CTE programs that produced trained workers. Mr. Dianda opined that the construction industry was willing to provide financial support, as it had done in the past, and would do so in the

future, but it was time for the Legislature to look further into the future and support CTE programs.

Assemblywoman Buckley thanked the previous speakers for leading the way for CTE programs. She stated she had toured ACE Charter High School in Reno, and it was remarkable to see how the students were engaged and connected to the classes, and were it not for ACE, those students probably would not be attending school. Ms. Buckley believed that CTE should be the trend for education in Nevada. She commended Assemblywoman Parnell and the interim subcommittee for making the issue of CTE programs a priority. Ms. Buckley said if there was one thing that the Legislature could do to help education with one-shot funding, it would be to provide funding for the CTE programs. Investing in education was the state's primary responsibility.

Bryn LaPenta, Washoe County School District, stated that she was present to voice support for A.B. 131 and A.B. 151. Career and technical education was fully supported by the Board of Trustees of the Washoe County School District, as the Board believed that those extensive programs, through relevance and rigor, helped keep the interest of students alive and helped students remain in school.

Tim Crowley, representing the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) commended the interim subcommittee for its research on the CTE issue and in bringing A.B. 131 and A.B. 151 forward. Mr. Crowley indicated that the NSHE would stand in support of both bills.

John Ainsworth, Northern Nevada Carpenter's Training Center, stated that he was the apprenticeship coordinator and represented over 200 apprentices in the training center. Mr. Ainsworth said that he dealt with the 60 percent of students who were not college-bound on a daily basis. He, himself, was one of those students and remained more inclined to hammering nails than he was to public speaking. Mr. Ainsworth said he was present at the meeting to ensure that those students who did not succeed in academics would succeed in life with the help of CTE programs. The bills currently under consideration by the Committee would help provide continuity in training and would allow students to graduate from high school with the skills to enter the workforce.

Mr. Ainsworth remarked that the Legislative Building was built by persons such as him, who had come straight from high school into the trades. The bills would help draw candidates for the carpentry training program. Mr. Ainsworth noted that the program drew a large transient population from larger metropolitan areas. Mr. Ainsworth commented that whatever the Legislature put into CTE programs would come back a hundred fold.

Doug Busselman, Executive Vice President, Nevada Farm Bureau Federation, said he was present to add the Bureau's support to A.B. 151. The farmer/rancher members of the Bureau had been involved in past support of CTE programs and would continue to be supportive in the future.

Lea Lipscomb, Retail Association of Nevada, stated that the Association represented approximately 2,500 retail business locations with more than 50,000 employees in Nevada. The Retail Association supported A.B. 131 and A.B. 151, as it supported enhancement of Nevada's CTE programs to continue producing a strong and diverse workforce.

Chairman Arberry asked whether there was anyone else who would like to speak in favor of, or in opposition to, A.B. 131 and A.B. 151 and, there being none, declared the hearing closed.

Chairman Arberry declared the Committee in recess at 9:10 a.m. Vice Chairwoman Leslie reconvened the Committee at 9:29 a.m. and opened the hearing on A.B. 254.

**Assembly Bill 254: Makes an appropriation for the Nevada Senior Olympics.  
(BDR S-683)**

Assemblywoman McClain explained that A.B. 254 contained the request for a small appropriation for a worthy cause, the Nevada Senior Olympics. The Senior Olympics had enjoyed some success in Nevada, and would like to offer more than just the competition. Ms. McClain stated that the Senior Olympics would like to incorporate wellness issues and programs for seniors to help them remain healthy and become more involved in the games.

Ms. McClain indicated that there were approximately 740,000 persons over the age of 50 residing in Nevada, which far surpassed the number of school-age children in the State. She believed that the Legislature should have some awareness of senior issues. She introduced Paul Pradia, President of the Board for Nevada Senior Games, Inc., and Reg Rod, Executive Director of Nevada Senior Games, Inc.

Mr. Pradia explained that he had moved to Nevada in 1995 and discovered Nevada Senior Games approximately two years ago. He advised the Committee that Mr. Rod would explain the program.

Mr. Rod thanked Assemblywoman McClain for sponsoring A.B. 254. Nevada Senior Games was not well advertised, and Mr. Rod stated that he had lived in Nevada for ten years before he became aware of the games. According to Mr. Rod, he became Executive Director of Nevada Senior Games, Inc., in 2005, at which time he noted that the 2005 Senior Olympic Games had generated 812 participants from a population of 750,000. In an effort to move the games in a new direction, Mr. Rod restructured the board and determined to expand the program from an athletic competition that ran for one month to an overall fitness program for seniors. The senior population in Nevada was growing very rapidly and was under-utilized and under-appreciated. Mr. Rod opined that seniors in Nevada were "throw-aways" who were placed in nursing homes on Medicaid or Medicare.

Mr. Rod stated that he had listened to previous testimony about funding to help the CTE programs for students. While he had no objections to funding to help students, he believed that some funding should be allocated to the senior population to help solve the growing problems in that population. Mr. Rod explained that the wellness program would be a year-around program of activities for seniors. When seniors were active, they suffered from fewer illnesses, which resulted in an economic return to the State, the community, and to seniors.

Mr. Rod explained that the Senior Olympics contained 29 different events, and those games would continue to be the cornerstone of Nevada Senior Games. Those 29 events included all seniors. In 2006, there were eight national records set, two international records set, and in the walk-a-thon, seniors participated in wheelchairs, with walkers, and with canes. The games included bowling, pool, and shuffleboard, in addition to track and field and swimming.

Mr. Rod stated that senior competitions in the local area included the Huntsman World Senior Games in St. George, Utah, which drew between 10,000 and 15,000 seniors a year.

According to Mr. Rod, the Huntsman Games received a \$1 million yearly contribution from the Huntsman Corporation, along with contributions from other sponsors. The Nevada Senior Games scheduled its Olympic events in close proximity to the Huntsman games so that seniors could travel to Nevada from St. George and save money on transportation. Mr. Rod indicated that Nevada Senior Games hoped to draw additional participants to its games from the Huntsman games.

The Arizona Senior Olympics in Phoenix were approximately the same size as the games in Nevada. The Arizona Olympics started each year with an allocation of \$350,000 from the city of Phoenix, plus two full-time employees.

Mr. Rod stated that during 2006 the Nevada Senior Games had increased participation in the Senior Olympic Games by 32 percent over the number of participants for the 2005 games. Nevada Senior Games hoped to have 3,000 participants at its games for 2007, 5,000 by 2008, and hoped to continue that growth each year. That growth seemed very ambitious, and Mr. Rod indicated that his main concern was that there might be too many participants for the 2007 games.

Mr. Rod stated that the shirt he was wearing depicted the sponsors who had contributed to the 2006 Olympic Games. Private companies contributed over \$50,000 for the 2006 games, and Nevada Senior Games had received almost \$20,000 for the 2007 games and had commitments from sponsors for an additional \$30,000 to \$40,000. Mr. Rod informed the Committee that Nevada Senior Games did have matching funds from the private sector.

Assemblywoman Leslie assumed that the organization was a 501(c)(3) tax exempt entity, and Mr. Rod stated that was correct. Ms. Leslie said the appropriation was for \$100,000 per year, and she asked whether Nevada Senior Games had prepared a budget for that funding.

Mr. Rod confirmed that Nevada Senior Games had prepared a budget and the money would be spent in various ways. First, the games needed additional exposure so that seniors knew about the games.

Ms. Leslie asked that Mr. Rod submit a budget that contained line items depicting how the funds would be spent. Mr. Rod stated that he would provide that information.

Mr. Rod explained that Nevada Senior Games spent \$8,000 on tee-shirts for the 2006 games, and Nevada Senior Games had a commitment from a health organization to pay the cost of the tee-shirts for the 2007 games, no matter how many participants signed up. Mr. Rod explained that it was difficult for Nevada Senior Games to complete a budget because many of the costs were projected. Only two people worked on the games during 2006, and there was a need to expand the workforce so there were sufficient employees to do the job. However, Mr. Rod indicated that there were new board members who were very knowledgeable in the area of senior games.

Assemblyman Marvel asked whether Assemblywoman McClain competed in the games. Ms. McClain stated that her joint sponsor on the bill was

Senator Valerie Wiener, who did compete in the games each year. Ms. McClain said she was encouraged to participate, but had not done so to date.

Chairman Arberry indicated that he had known Paul Pradia for many years, and he was an excellent golfer. Mr. Pradia thanked the Committee.

Chairman Arberry asked whether there were further questions or testimony to come before the Committee regarding A.B. 254 and, there being none, closed the hearing. The Chairman opened discussion on A.B. 262.

**Assembly Bill 262: Makes an appropriation to Teach for America to support the program in the Las Vegas Valley. (BDR S-923)**

Assemblyman Denis indicated that A.B. 262 would make an appropriation to Teach for America to support the program in the Las Vegas area. Mr. Denis introduced Charles "Chuck" Salter, Executive Director, Teach for America, Las Vegas, and Dr. George Ann Rice, the recently retired Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, Clark County School District.

Mr. Salter explained that Teach for America was the national teacher corps, which was founded 16 years ago. Teach for America recruited, selected, trained, and supported America's top college graduates who committed to teach for at least two years in the nations most underperforming or underresourced schools (Exhibit E). Mr. Salter indicated that during that two-year period, the teachers, or corps members, went above and beyond the traditional expectation of teachers and helped their students make dramatic academic gains, thereby putting the students on a different path in life.

According to Mr. Salter, during those two years the corps members gained the added insight, knowledge, and skills to become civic leaders and social advocates for educational equity, regardless of their career field.

Mr. Salter commented that Teach for America opened in Las Vegas in 2004, and it was currently finishing its third academic year. Currently, there were 126 teachers teaching in 39 of the lowest performing schools in the Clark County School District, reaching approximately 10,000 students a day. Over the past three years, Teach for America had gained the support of the school district, largely through the performance of its teachers.

In short, Mr. Salter said, Teach for America corps members aimed for a goal of moving their students forward one and one-half years in academic gains during one school year, thereby closing the achievement gap that was found between affluent schools and their lesser affluent counterparts. The results in Clark County were impressive. Mr. Salter indicated that during the first year, approximately 50 percent of the corps members reached that goal with their students, and 90 percent moved their students ahead one year or more in academic growth. During Teach for America's second year in Clark County, approximately 63 percent of its corps members attained the goal of moving their students forward one and one-half years in academic gains in one school year, and 90 percent of the corps members moved their students at least one year ahead, if not more. Mr. Salter stated that since corps members taught well into the month of August, Teach for America did not have the figures regarding student performance for the current year, but all indications were that the corps members would produce similar, if not better, results.

Mr. Salter said Teach for America had been acknowledged by the Clark County School District for the performance of corps members. The first year that corps members taught in Clark County, one corps member was named the new teacher of the year, and during the past three years, 12 corps members were named new teacher of the year.

Per Mr. Salter, the reason Teach for America was seeking the appropriation in A.B. 262 was to help the corps double in size. Currently, there were approximately 50 corps members teaching in the Clark County School District, and with the support of the State and the continued support of the community, Teach for America would bring at least 100 teachers a year to the Clark County School District, growing the number of corps members to 200, thereby reaching approximately 20,000 students in 50 of the lowest performing schools in the district.

Assemblywoman Smith said that the information provided by Mr. Salter regarding Teach for America was very impressive, and she asked whether Teach for America planned to expand its services to include the remaining school districts in Nevada.

Mr. Salter explained that Teach for America, as a national organization, was undergoing a five-year growth plan, and within the next three to four years it would open eight to ten new sites. He further explained that selection of those sites would be determined by a number of factors, and expansion to northern or rural Nevada was something that Teach for America would consider for the future. Mr. Salter stated that at the present time the need in Clark County was immense and, to date, Teach for America was not even close to filling the need as outlined by the district in Clark County. Once Teach for America found firm footing in Clark County and grew to the scale that was needed, and was able to fund that scale, it would be willing to explore expansion to other areas of Nevada.

According to Mr. Salter, the reason that Teach for America could not expand immediately was because of the geographic distance between Las Vegas and Reno or Carson City, which would require the opening of a separate region with no opportunity for overlap. The northern region would need to be completely self-sustaining as well, and until Teach for America attained its goals in Las Vegas, it would not expand to other areas.

Chairman Arberry asked whether Teach for America had approached the Clark County School District for possible funding assistance. Mr. Salter replied that the Clark County School District made a contribution to Teach for America in the amount of \$2,500 per year, per teacher.

Mr. Salter explained that the process of recruiting teachers, selecting and training teachers, and professionally supporting those teachers while in the classroom cost Teach for America approximately \$14,000 per year, per teacher. The district contribution was only a fraction of the overall cost to Teach for America. Mr. Salter said the reason that Teach for America did not seek greater funding from the district was because the organization sought to create a movement within the communities in which corps members operated, where people were invested and knowledgeable about what was happening in the education of their children. According to Mr. Salter, the \$1 million that Teach for America raised locally was mainly through contributions from corporations, foundations, and private individuals.

Chairman Arberry asked whether the appropriation requested in A.B. 262 would be used for teacher salaries. Mr. Salter replied that corps members were actually fully employed new teachers of the Clark County School District. The cost to Teach for America was for recruitment and selection of teachers at over 300 universities across the country and training corps members during the summer months, as well as the professional development and support of corps members while in the classroom.

Dr. Rice introduced herself to the Committee, and explained that she had retired two weeks previously as the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources for the Clark County School District. She stated that she had served 35 years with the district and was also a product of the Clark County School District.

Dr. Rice indicated that she was present at the hearing to speak in favor of A.B. 262 as a private citizen and also on behalf of the Clark County School District at its request.

Dr. Rice explained that the Clark County School District was in the third year of its partnership with Teach for America, and there were 128 corps teachers in 39 of the at-risk schools. The corps teachers were only placed in schools identified as at-risk. Dr. Rice said the experience had been so positive that the district was eager to take as many corps teachers as were available to the district. Principals stood in line to request corps teachers without the benefit of personal interviews.

The reason that Teach for America was such a positive program for the Clark County School District was that, of the factors over which the district had control, the most meaningful factor relative to student achievement was an effective teacher in the classroom. Dr. Rice explained that corps teachers were talented college graduates who majored in fields other than education and were the "cream of the crop" that came to Las Vegas from various well-known universities throughout the country. The Teach for America teachers received rigorous, focused training in at-risk urban settings and worked in at-risk schools during their initial training period. Dr. Rice said that corps teachers were observed and received feed-back and professional development while training in urban settings and were then sent to Las Vegas for an additional week of training in at-risk schools.

According to Dr. Rice, once corps teachers were in the classroom, Teach for America provided a program director and three full-time mentors for the teachers, who were regularly observed and received feed-back from the full-time mentors. Corps teachers continued to receive professional development in addition to that offered by the school district. Dr. Rice explained that Teach for America held four professional, eight-hour Saturday sessions, during which teachers were instructed about what was required to be a good teacher in an urban setting, and observed the results from their classes.

Dr. Rice stated that when corps teachers moved into the second year of their program, Teach for America held three professional, eight-hour Saturday sessions. Teach for America also had ongoing focused workshops, and similar to the school district, Teach for America set high expectations for its corps teachers.

Dr. Rice commented that Teach for America was a marvelous program, and Clark County had been extremely pleased with the corps teachers. The school district was working with the State Department of Education to adjust licensure requirements to accommodate the program, and once that occurred,

Teach for America would provide additional math and science teachers that the school district seemed unable to attract in other ways.

Dr. Rice asked that the Committee consider passage of A.B. 262, even beyond the amount of funding that had been requested.

Chairman Arberry asked how the program benefited teachers. Dr. Rice replied that the same might be asked of a legislator—why would a successful businessman take 120 days from his busy schedule to serve as a legislator—and the answer was because it mattered, and perhaps that legislator could make a difference. Dr. Rice said that Teach for America teachers were those who wanted to make a difference.

Mr. Denis stated that Brandy Johnson, a third grade corps teacher, was present at the meeting and could possibly address the Chairman's question.

Chairman Arberry noted that it was often difficult for legislators to make the decision to leave business and family for 120 days, and he wondered how corps teachers benefited from the program.

Mr. Denis said that many of the Teach for America recruits could go anywhere in corporate America and work in their chosen field. He asked Ms. Johnson to come forward and present testimony.

Ms. Johnson introduced herself to the Committee and stated she was a third grade teacher at the Laura Dearing Elementary School in Las Vegas. Ms. Johnson explained that she was originally from Arizona and had graduated from Arizona State University. Ms. Johnson stated that she was selected and recruited by Teach for America to move to Las Vegas and become a teacher. Ms. Johnson became a corps teacher so she could contribute to the community and the students, and she felt strongly about education.

Ms. Johnson stated that she had attained a very good quality public education and she believed it was an injustice that not all students had the same opportunities in public education. According to Ms. Johnson, there were many benefits from joining the Teach for America corps, but her primary goal was to help at-risk students.

Chairman Arberry asked whether there were further questions from the Committee.

Assemblyman Hardy noted that the instruction of teachers by Teach for America obviously omitted the criteria that the person had to have an educational degree. He questioned the criteria used by Teach for America in training its corps members.

Dr. Rice explained that the Clark County School District had an alternative route to licensure. The Teach for America teachers would arrive at the same licensure requirements, but it was through an alternative route. Dr. Rice noted that the alternative route to licensure had been in place for many years in Nevada. The teachers from Teach for America arrived at the district after receiving their initial training, which took the place of the professional development required under the Nevada Administrative Code through the alternative route to licensure. Dr. Rice commented that the corps teachers were then enrolled in a special program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), and as they were teaching, they were also attending the required education courses for full

and complete licensure. At the end of two years, those teachers would have the same license as any teacher who had attended a four-year program.

Dr. Hardy asked about the retention of the teachers provided by Teach for America, and whether they remained in the Clark County School District. Dr. Rice said that during the teachers first two years, there was a 97 percent retention rate, and the school district would be quite happy to realize a 97 percent retention rate in the remainder of its teaching staff.

Dr. Hardy stated that his question concerned retention once the two-year obligation was completed by the Teach for America teachers. Dr. Rice stated that 70 percent of the teachers from Teach for America who started in 2004 remained in the classroom beyond their two-year commitment. She noted that five of the teachers who finished the two-year commitment and were commencing with the third year had already been accepted into the master's program to become school administrators. Dr. Rice said the school district was very excited about that prospect.

Assemblywoman Leslie asked whether Ms. Johnson planned to remain in Las Vegas as a teacher. Ms. Johnson replied that she was planning to remain in the education sector, but when her two-year commitment was completed, she would pursue a master's degree in public policy with an emphasis on education. Ms. Johnson said she would like to move back to Nevada and either return to the classroom or contribute to education in some manner. She found that most of the corps teachers either remained in the classroom or dedicated their working lives to education. Ms. Leslie thanked Ms. Johnson for her service to Nevada.

Assemblywoman Smith asked about the mentoring program at the Clark County School District for the Teach for America teachers. Dr. Rice explained that Clark County offered three types of mentors, and retention of teachers required mentoring support. In the northeast region of Clark County, there were full-time mentors at each school. Dr. Rice stated that the Clark County School District used the funding from A.B. No. 580 of the 73rd Legislature for mentoring programs at the eighty-five schools that had the largest number of teachers transferring or leaving the profession. Consequently, Dr. Rice said, the district realized a better retention rate.

According to Dr. Rice, the creator of the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System, Dr. William Sanders, stated that teachers reached their stride in their sixth or seventh year of teaching. Dr. Rice believed that school districts had to work to support teachers and provide the tools necessary to retain teachers until they reach their sixth or seventh year.

Mrs. Smith said that she fully agreed with the teacher mentoring program. She wondered whether the mentoring program provided by Teach for America would alleviate the use of school district funds for additional mentoring of Teach for America teachers. Dr. Rice explained that Clark County paid a mentor in each of the schools simply to meet with the Teach for America teachers before the full-time mentor from the program was available. The district did not provide a full-time or expanded mentoring program for Teach for America teachers. Dr. Rice stated that because Teach for America had full-time mentors assigned to its teacher corps, the school district could use the money designated for mentors for other schools in which mentors were needed.

Mrs. Gansert noted that Mr. Salter had testified that it cost Teach for America \$14,000 per teacher, per year, and the school district paid an additional \$2,500 for each teacher, which added up to approximately \$700,000 overall, and the request contained in A.B. 262 was for \$1.25 million. She asked whether there could be some economies of scale and why that much funding was needed to double the program.

Kevin Huffman, Senior Vice President, Growth and Development, Teach for America, explained that in some areas Teach for America achieved economies of scale as the programs grew. Many of the costs accrued by Teach for America, Las Vegas, were associated with recruiting, selecting, and training the teachers, which occurred across the country. Mr. Huffman said that Teach for America had discovered that the teacher recruitment process did not have economies of scale, but rather had diseconomies of scale. He explained that it became slightly more difficult to recruit each additional person recruited from college campuses.

Mr. Huffman stated that there were economies of scale at the local level because there was one executive director, and that remained status quo, even when the program grew in size. The \$14,000 per corps member cost included the \$2,500 district contribution, and the remainder was the money Teach for America attempted to raise within the community. Mr. Huffman indicated that, as mentioned by Mr. Salter, Teach for America had a great deal of private support from the community, and as the program attempted to grow, it was hoped that state funding, in combination with a growth in private funding, would allow Teach for America to fully fund its Las Vegas site.

Mr. Hogan asked how many additional teachers Teach for America would place in Clark County schools over the upcoming biennium. Mr. Salter replied that between now and 2010, Teach for America, Las Vegas, would grow from 50 current teachers to 100 teachers by the year 2010.

Mr. Denis thanked the Committee for hearing A.B. 262. He explained that he had toured the schools in his district in which several Teach for America corps members were teaching, and he had observed the great strides being made by the Teach for America corps members in helping the students in at-risk schools.

Chairman Arberry asked whether there was further testimony to come before the Committee, either in favor of, or in opposition to, A.B. 262. With no further testimony forthcoming, Chairman Arberry closed the hearing.

The Chairman opened the hearing on A.B. 275.

**Assembly Bill 275: Makes appropriations to restore the balances in the Stale Claims Account, Emergency Account and Reserve for Statutory Contingency Account. (BDR S-1267)**

Andrew Clinger, Director, Department of Administration, Budget Division, stated that A.B. 275 restored the balances in the Stale Claims Account, the Emergency Account, and the Reserve for Statutory Contingency Account. Mr. Clinger referenced Exhibit F, "Governor Recommends Budget Amendments, 2007-2009 Biennium," and Exhibit G, "Stale Claims Account, 2007-2009 Biennium," which had been provided to Committee members. He explained that Exhibit G delineated the expenditures over the last three years in each account.

Mr. Clinger acknowledged that there were questions regarding the appropriations needed through the end of the current fiscal year. He stated that he had not prepared that information, but would provide that information to LCB staff by the end of the day.

Mark Stevens, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, explained that A.B. 275 would appropriate the entire amount that was necessary to bring the Fund balances up to the level that was normally maintained prior to the end of session. Mr. Stevens did not believe that could be done because the bill did not contain a reversion date and funding could be used past the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2007, which would potentially violate the Education First Initiative. If the Budget Division needed funding between now and the time the K-12 funding bill was passed, an amendment would be required to provide only the amount of money the Budget Division believed was needed to reach the end of the fiscal year. The Committee would then be required to pass an additional bill to provide the balance of the funding after the K-12 funding bill was passed.

Mr. Clinger advised the Committee that the Budget Division would need additional funding between now and the end of the current fiscal year for both the State Claims Account and the Reserve for Statutory Contingency Account. The Budget Division did not need additional funding for the Emergency Account prior to the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Clinger indicated that he would have the appropriate information to LCB staff by the end of the day.

Mr. Stevens asked how quickly the Board of Examiners needed the additional funds. Mr. Clinger replied that the State Claims Account currently had a balance of \$841,000, and the current balance in the Statutory Contingency Account was \$513,000, so it was not necessary to take action within the next week. Mr. Clinger believed that the allocation could be held for at least two months.

Mr. Stevens recommended that after LCB received the information from the Budget Division, that the Committee consider amending A.B. 275 and requesting an additional bill later in the session for the balance of the funding needed beyond June 30, 2007.

Chairman Arberry referenced [Exhibit F](#) and asked Mr. Clinger to begin with Amendment No. 43 and provide explanation of the recommended budget amendments.

Mr. Clinger offered the following information to the Committee:

- **Amendment No. 43; Amendment No. 44; and Amendment No. 45:** Welfare Division, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Adjustments were based on the denial by the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) of funding for high performance bonuses. The Division was instructed by IFC to place those items in its budget and submit the items to the 2007 Legislature.
- **Amendment No. 46:** State Public Works Board (PWB). Request for outside legal counsel. The revision affected the budgets for the Attorney General's (AG's) Office and the PWB budget. The AG's Office reviewed the amendment and determined that it would be best if the PWB hired state staff. The amendment would add an additional attorney position to the AG's Office budget with funding transferred from the PWB to the AG's Office to handle special litigation issues concerning construction defects.

- **Amendment No. 47:** Department of Military. Reduction in the request for supplemental funding in the amount of \$80,500.
- **Amendment No. 48:** Department of Public Safety. Technical adjustments reducing the appropriation for the Department's honor guard uniforms.
- **Amendment No. 49:** Attorney General's (AG's) Office. The Office of the Attorney General was requesting revisions to its budget after reevaluation of the budget by the newly elected Attorney General.
- **Amendment No. 50:** Budget and Planning Division, Department of Administration. Cost allocation to allocate a portion of the cost of Budget Division staff to the various Divisions within the Department of Administration. An error was made in the spreadsheet that computed the calculation, which would require an addition of \$73,000 in General Fund allocations for FY 2008 and \$77,000 in General Fund allocations for FY 2009.
- **Amendment No. 51:** Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). Reduction in Highway Fund appropriation to the NDOT to eliminate the funding request for an insurance policy for the Hoover Dam project. The NDOT indicated that because of delays in the project, an insurance policy would not be required until 2010.
- **Amendment No. 52:** Reconciled funding between the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy and the Division of Aging Services. Decreased General Fund allocation in the first year of the biennium with an adjustment in federal funding, and decreased General Fund allocation in the second year of the biennium.
- **Amendment No. 53:** Transferred a deputy director position between budget accounts within the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC). There was no cost attached to the amendment, and it simply moved the position from one budget account to another account within the NDOC.
- **Amendment No. 54:** Minor adjustment requested 800 square feet of space occupied by Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) omitted from the budget, at a cost of \$1,600 per year.
- **Amendment No. 55:** Reduced the request related to Real ID. The reduction was associated with the potential delay of the start date from May 11, 2008, to October 1, 2008.
- **Amendment No. 56:** Reconciled federal funds transferred between the Grants Management Unit and the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services within DHHS.
- **Amendment No. 57:** Reduced General Fund allocation in the first year of the biennium and added General Fund in the second year of the biennium by moving overtime within the Secretary of State's Office to the second year of the biennium based on an error. The funding, associated with the 2008 Presidential election, should have been budgeted for the second year of the biennium.
- **Amendment No. 58:** Retired Employees' Group Insurance. Aligned the budget with the bill draft request (BDR) for the Public Employees' Benefit Program (PEBP). The amendment was for the addition of an investment officer within PEBP to manage the investments of the trust fund that was created to fund the future liability of health insurance for retirees.
- **Amendment No. 59:** Health Division, DHHS. Reduced fee revenue within the various areas of the Division, and replaced those fee increases with General Fund appropriation.
- **Amendment No. 60:** Consumer Advocate. Corrected an error that occurred when the budget was balanced for the Bureau of Consumer Protection. Certain positions in that account were funded by a mill assessment and certain positions were funded from General Fund

appropriation. That split was not correctly allocated during the budget process.

- **Amendment No. 61:** Nevada Department of Education (NDE). Requested \$1.496 million in supplemental appropriations for teacher signing bonuses. The item was not originally included in The Executive Budget.
- **Amendment No. 62:** Parole Board. Adjustment related to additional caseload numbers provided by JFA and Associates that added contract help to assist the Parole Board in dealing with the additional caseload.
- **Amendment No. 63:** Homeland Security. Requested three new positions to be funded with General Fund allocations.
- **Amendment No. 64:** Parole and Probation. Requested five new positions funded through the General Fund, two of which would deal specifically with sex offenders on probation.
- **Amendment No. 65:** Dignitary Protection. Various adjustments requested for items related to dignitary protection, including replacement of a vehicle used to transport the Governor.
- **Amendment No. 66:** NDOC, Prison Medical Care, Director's Office, and various institutions and conservation camps. Increased the supplemental appropriation requested by NDOC by \$1.175 million.
- **Amendment No. 67:** Requested adjustment to the Department of Business and Industry's cost allocation for Attorney General costs. There were errors made when that cost allocation was originally compiled by the Department of Business and Industry. The amendment corrected those errors at a cost of \$2.2 million in General Fund allocation in the first year of the biennium and \$1.7 million in General Fund allocation in the second year of the biennium.
- **Amendment No. 68:** Department of Business and Industry. Requested adjustment of statewide cost allocation for the Department related to central services that were provided to agencies that were not direct-billed, such as the Controller's Office, Treasurer's Office, and the Budget Division for staff time. Errors were made when that allocation was compiled.
- **Amendment No. 69:** Requested adjustment related to Amendment No. 68 as a result of reworking the statewide cost allocation for the Department of Business and Industry, which resulted in a loss of General Fund revenue.
- **Amendment No. 70:** Eliminated the request for a supplemental appropriation for the Governor's mansion budget.
- **Amendment No. 71:** Requested adjustment of Fire Marshal fees. The Fire Marshal had reviewed the projections and believed that more plan revenue fees would be collected than originally anticipated, which would result in a savings of General Fund money over the biennium.

Chairman Arberry stated that the Committee's concern was budget reductions. He asked Mr. Clinger when the Committee could anticipate receipt of information about reductions in the budgets.

Mr. Clinger reported that information regarding the amendments would be prepared for the Committee by the end of the week. Chairman Arberry asked whether that information would include information about revenue reductions. Mr. Clinger replied that the information would not include revenue reductions. Chairman Arberry stated that the Committee also needed information about revenue reductions.

Chairman Arberry informed Mr. Clinger that the Committee needed to know which budgets would be reduced to accommodate the recommended amendments that added funding ([Exhibit F](#)).

Mr. Clinger said that the Budget Division would make recommendations to reduce other areas of the budget to help pay for the additional items described in the exhibit.

Chairman Arberry said that revenues were projected to be lower than anticipated and the Committee needed information regarding budget reductions to close budgets. Mr. Clinger reported that until the Economic Forum met and finalized revenue projections, the Budget Division would be unable to present reductions to the budget. Mr. Clinger said that the Budget Division would be working on budget reductions, but it could not make a recommendation until the Economic Forum made its final projections.

Mr. Stevens stated that the issue for the Committee was that when the Economic Forum met on May 1, 2007, there would only be approximately 33 days remaining in the 2007 Session. Should the Committee wait for the Governor's recommendations concerning budget reductions, and if, in fact, revenue projections were reduced, there would not be sufficient time remaining to consider the reductions and close the budgets.

Mr. Stevens believed that the fork in the road which the Committee had to consider was whether it wanted LCB staff and the Budget Division to work together and arrive at preliminary revenue projections, which would provide additional time for the Committee to determine where budget reductions could be made. That would allow the Committee to be prepared to act very quickly after the May 1, 2007, meeting of the Economic Forum.

Mr. Stevens thought that the Committee should determine whether it wanted the Budget Division and LCB staff to provide a revenue projection, and whether it wanted the Budget Division, based on that revenue projection, to make suggestions about the reductions that would be needed in The Executive Budget.

Chairman Arberry concurred that the Committee's major concern was the possibility of budget reductions because it would commence with budget closings in approximately two weeks. Chairman Arberry stated that the Committee needed the Budget Division's assistance in projecting revenues within the next two weeks.

Mr. Clinger said that the Budget Division would work with LCB Fiscal Analysis Division staff to arrive at a viable revenue projection, after which the Budget Division would compile a list of budget reductions based on that cooperative revenue projection.

Chairman Arberry stated that would be very helpful. He asked that LCB staff work with the Budget Division to complete the revenue projections.

Assemblywoman Buckley believed that if the Budget Division and LCB staff determined the revenue projections and the Budget Division provided a list to the Committee that depicted recommended budget reductions, that the Committee would have the necessary knowledge as it began to close the budgets. Ms. Buckley asked that a deadline be determined for the projection.

Mr. Clinger stated that the Budget Division and LCB staff should have the revenue projection for the Committee in approximately two weeks. Chairman Arberry agreed with that timeframe.

Chairman Arberry asked Mr. Clinger to discuss the Governor's position regarding the fee increase related to postsecondary education as proposed in S.B. 63.

Mr. Clinger advised the Committee that the Administration did not support the fee increases proposed in S.B. 63 for postsecondary education. Those increases were a General Fund revenue source, and Mr. Clinger said that based on the budget hearing before the Senate Committee on Finance, there was some indication that postsecondary education needed additional resources. The Commission on Postsecondary Education did not request additional resources in its budget presentation, and Mr. Clinger believed that if additional resources were needed by the Commission, other budget reductions would have to be made to provide those resources.

Assemblywoman Buckley said that postsecondary education was a pet issue of hers. She explained that some years ago, before becoming a legislator, she represented a group of students who were "ripped off" by a postsecondary education institution. Ms. Buckley indicated that she observed the hardship that those students suffered in attempting to qualify for federal Pell Grant funding and guaranteed student loans, after being promised an education for a career that did not exist. The students were promised that they would be certified psychiatric assistants with the ability to counsel people, but no such position existed. Ms. Buckley stated that the students incurred debts and invested a portion of their lives only to have their credit ruined because they could not find a job.

Ms. Buckley stated that such situations occurred when there was lax enforcement, whether the postsecondary education was for students or veterans. Ms. Buckley said her concern was that the performance indicators were decreasing, and the Legislature had always operated under the philosophy of user-pay for postsecondary education. She stated that if General Fund allocations were used to pay for a service, that did not mean that no one paid for those services, it actually meant that taxpayers paid, rather than utilizing the user-pay system.

Ms. Buckley also voiced concern about students being harmed and noted that the burden was being shifted away from those who should be paying to ensure that the quality of postsecondary education remained high. Ms. Buckley stated that she did not know whether that policy shift made sense in the area of postsecondary education, and she understood that Senator Raggio had voiced similar concerns.

Ms. Buckley asked Mr. Clinger to review postsecondary education and report back to the Committee. Mr. Clinger stated that he would be happy to review postsecondary education, and agreed, based on performance indicators presented by the Commission on Postsecondary Education during budget hearings, that the Commission was not living up to those indicators. Mr. Clinger said it was unfortunate that the Commission had not asked for additional resources when the budget was being completed. It was certainly an issue that the Budget Division could review because it was apparent that the Commission needed some help within its organization.

With respect to the fees, the Commission on Postsecondary Education was currently funded with General Fund appropriations. Mr. Clinger pointed out that fees were deposited for the Commission directly into the General Fund, and if there was a recommendation to add additional fee resources, it would be consistent with the way the Commission's budget was currently funded.

Ms. Buckley stated that the fees were assessed to offset the General Fund revenues, and the issue was who should pay the bill. Traditionally in private organizations, the bill was assessed against the school, and the school might or might not pass that cost on to its students, who typically sought a student loan to pay for their education. Ms. Buckley said it would be a much better investment to spend the money to ensure that students were receiving a good education than it was to not inspect the organizations and allow the students to be "ripped off" to the tune of many thousands of dollars. Ms. Buckley commented that postsecondary education institutions were not cheap, and she believed that the Legislature was missing the importance if it allowed the situation to continue without a user-pay system. Undoubtedly, someone would pay the price.

Assemblywoman Leslie agreed with Ms. Buckley about the user-pay system for postsecondary education.

Ms. Leslie asked Mr. Clinger about the Attorney General's (AG's) cost allocation error, which was a multi-million dollar error. Ms. Leslie asked Mr. Clinger whether he was confident that the figures in the budget amendment ([Exhibit F](#)) were correct.

Mr. Clinger stated that he was confident that the numbers included in the exhibit were correct. He further noted that the original cost allocation for the AG's Office should not have been released by the Budget Division because of the errors it contained.

Ms. Leslie concurred, and asked Mr. Clinger to explain the quality review process within the Budget Division because an error of that magnitude should have been recognized before the information was provided to the Legislature. She asked whether Mr. Clinger had changed the manner in which the Budget Division reviewed documents.

Mr. Clinger stated that he had changed the method of quality review used by the Budget Division, and he was quite surprised when the error was not caught and corrected prior to release of the budget. Mr. Clinger stated that he was disappointed that the information released by his office was incorrect, and the Budget Division would attempt to do a better job of quality control in the future. He certainly did not enjoy appearing before the Committee and advising that there was a \$3.9 million adjustment because of an error on the part of the Budget Division.

Ms. Leslie noted that as the Committee moved through the budget process, it had to have correct figures, and whatever action was needed to prevent such errors from occurring would be appreciated by the Committee.

Chairman Arberry asked whether there were further questions or testimony to come before the Committee regarding [A.B. 275](#) and, there being none, closed the hearing.

The Chairman opened the hearing on [A.B. 274](#).

**[Assembly Bill 274](#):** Makes an appropriation to the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for stream habitat restoration.  
(BDR S-1235)

Allen Biaggi, Director, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, explained that A.B. 274 was being proposed with the support of Governor Gibbons to make an appropriation to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to provide for the protection of biological resources, increase species diversity, and provide for the orderly use of land for the benefit of all Nevadans.

Mr. Biaggi stated that the funds would pass through the Department, without the assessment of administrative fees, to Washoe County and Clark County for habitat restoration projects within those jurisdictions.

Mr. Biaggi said that in Washoe County the funding would specifically be used to support a \$140 million effort to restore 50 miles of the Truckee River's 120-mile ecosystem from Sparks to Pyramid Lake. The effort was an ongoing partnership between various federal agencies; local governments along the Truckee River; the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR); and The Nature Conservancy.

Mr. Biaggi stated that Jessica Sferrazza, Reno City Council member and Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Control Project, were present to testify on behalf of the legislation and to answer specific questions from the Committee.

According to Mr. Biaggi, in southern Nevada the funding would be used to support the Clark County Desert Conservation Program and the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, among others. The work was being undertaken by Clark County; the cities of Las Vegas, Henderson, North Las Vegas, Boulder City, and Mesquite; and the Nevada Department of Transportation, with the goal being the conservation of biological resources and their habitats within Clark County. Those protections would reduce the likelihood of future listing of species under the Endangered Species Act.

Mr. Biaggi stated that Marci Henson, Program Manager, Clark County Desert Conservation Program, was present to present testimony and answer specific questions from the Committee.

Mr. Biaggi further explained that the funds requested in A.B. 274 would also be utilized to match requirements for other funding sources, which would maximize the leverage of the funds. Mr. Biaggi stated that the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources would urge the Legislature to pass A.B. 274.

Assemblyman Denis asked whether A.B. 274 would make an appropriation for specific stream habitat in northern Nevada. Mr. Biaggi explained that the appropriation was for both northern and southern Nevada in Washoe and Clark counties. Mr. Biaggi indicated that there were representatives present from each of the counties to provide additional specificity about how the funding would be used by those jurisdictions.

Mr. Denis asked how the projects were selected for funding. Mr. Biaggi stated that the projects were selected based on the need for ecosystem restoration in both Washoe and Clark counties. The counties would suggest amendments to the bill, which would better define how the dollars would be spent.

Chairman Arberry indicated that the Committee would require detailed written information about how the dollars would be spent. Mr. Biaggi said that he would provide that information to the Committee within the next few days.

Jessica Sferrazza introduced herself to the Committee. She stated that she was a Reno Councilwoman and also the Chair of the Truckee River Flood Project Coordinating Committee (flood committee).

Ms. Sferrazza explained that the flood committee was an umbrella organization of 23 elected and appointed officials who had come together to spearhead implementation of the Truckee River Flood Project. Officials from Washoe and Storey counties, Reno and Sparks, UNR, and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, along with citizens and staff, had focused on fulfilling the vision of a restored Truckee River and designing a flood project that worked with the environment and not against it.

Ms. Sferrazza indicated that while it was called the "flood project" for short, the project actually had three goals: (1) reduce flood damages; (2) increase recreational opportunities in the Truckee Meadows; and, very importantly, (3) restore 50 miles of the Truckee River's ecosystem. The Truckee River was known throughout the country for its fly fishing and as the primary source of drinking water for Washoe County. Ms. Sferrazza stated that water was the lifeblood of the West, and for over 100 years, efforts to bring economic prosperity to northern Nevada had involved damming, diking, dredging, and straightening the Truckee River. While those efforts had resulted in several beautiful, vibrant cities at the foot of the Sierras, the push for development had unintended consequences. Ms. Sferrazza indicated that the efforts to tame the Truckee River resulted in the loss of hundreds of species and damaged the river's capacity to function.

According to Ms. Sferrazza, the floods, which continued to impact the Truckee Meadows every ten years, had resulted in more than a billion dollars in damage in 1997 and continued to make the situation worse for the river system. The floods destabilized the river's bed and banks, making it difficult for plants to thrive. Ms. Sferrazza stated that no plants meant no place for fish to spawn.

Working with the Corps of Engineers, Ms. Sferrazza explained that the flood committee developed an exceptional "Living River Plan" to put the curves back in the Truckee River, revegetate its banks, remove most of the dams, and provide a minimum flow, so that even during a drought, there would be water in the river. Eleven restoration projects were planned, all following in the footsteps of the McCarran Ranch Restoration project, which was the flood committee's pilot program.

Ms. Sferrazza remarked that within the past two years, Washoe County, on behalf of the flood committee, purchased more than 120 acres of key riverine lands at a cost of more than \$50 million. The funding for the initiative came from the one-eighth-cent sales tax enacted to support the project. However, the sales tax would not have come about without the foresight and support of the 1997 Legislature, which authorized Washoe County to enact the tax.

Ms. Sferrazza urged the Committee to take another important step and join in the vital restoration plan by dedicating state dollars to the effort. The state's funding commitment was essential to show Congress that restoration of the Truckee River was a priority and that a flood project that worked with nature rather than against it was not only possible, but was of statewide importance. Ms. Sferrazza indicated that the state's participation would clearly demonstrate that Washoe County was serious in its endeavors and committed to success. More than that, the state's participation would enable Washoe County

to leverage significant financial contributions to obtain more than \$400 million from the federal government for the project as a whole.

Ms. Sferrazza conveyed the flood committee's appreciation to the Committee for consideration of A.B. 274. The vote of support from the State would help make it possible to achieve the goal of a restored Truckee River.

Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Management Project, introduced herself to the Committee and indicated that she also worked with the flood committee. After much hard work, a common vision for the Truckee River corridor had been wrought—a restored river and functioning ecosystem. Ms. Duerr said her job was to help shape the vision and bring it to life.

Ms. Duerr reported that there were key representatives of the flood committee's flood project partners present at the hearing that she would like to introduce to the Committee:

- Jim Litchfield, Downtown Improvement Association of Reno
- Tom Clark with the non-profit Bristlecone Resources organization
- John Slaughter, Senior Strategic Planner, Washoe County
- Lisa Gianoli, lobbyist for Washoe County
- Nicholas Anthony, Legislative Relations Manager, City of Reno
- Rob Joiner, Advance Planning Manager, City of Sparks
- Norman Dianda, President and owner, Q&D Construction
- David Humke, Washoe County Board of Commissioners

Ms. Duerr indicated that to justify the requested federal funding of \$400 million, the flood committee needed to show that the Truckee River was of national significance. The Truckee River Project was competing with all other projects in the country for federal dollars, and representatives from other states also believe that their states and rivers were special.

The state's positive support of A.B. 274 would do far more than help the flood committee meet its funding goal. Ms. Duerr explained that state funding would also send a strong message to Washington, D.C. that people from all walks of life in Nevada see the need for the project and were willing to pitch in. It would also show that Nevada deeply cared about its natural resources and was willing to make the financial commitment to protect the natural resources for future generations.

Ms. Duerr asked that the Committee consider one modification to the bill. As written, the bill stated that the funds must be used by 2009, and Ms. Duerr requested that the date be changed to 2011. She explained that in a federal project, the federal partners must sign a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA), which delineated the roles of all parties. According to federal rules, some project work, including land acquisition for restoration, could take place ahead of the signed agreement and still count toward credit for expenditures. However, Ms. Duerr said, physical construction of the restoration could not commence prior to signing the PCA. The agreement was not scheduled to be signed until late 2008. Extending the effective date of A.B. 274 to 2011 would give Washoe County the flexibility to either buy lands for the restoration ahead of signing the PCA or conduct restoration after the agreement was signed, or both. Limiting the date to 2009 would narrow the county's opportunities to use the money and receive credit for expenditure from the federal government.

Ms. Duerr voiced appreciation to the Committee for consideration of A.B. 274 and stated that she would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee.

Chairman Arberry asked whether there were questions from the Committee or further testimony to come before the Committee regarding A.B. 274.

Marci Henson, Program Administrator, Clark County Desert Conservation Program, introduced herself to the Committee. She explained that Clark County had several habitat restoration and conservation projects that would benefit from the appropriation being proposed in A.B. 274. One such example was the Clark County Desert Conservation Program and Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, which was responsible for coordinating regional compliance with the Endangered Species Act and funding habitat restoration and conservation projects to protect sensitive species and the habitats upon which they depend.

Ms. Henson indicated that Clark County would leverage any funds received from A.B. 274 with mitigation fees paid by private developers and grants from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act to fund conservation actions that would help implement the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

Another project that would benefit from the funds was the restoration of the Las Vegas Wash and its associated Wetlands Park. Ms. Henson explained that the project aimed to enhance wetlands habitat, restore the larger wetlands environment, and provide recreation and education opportunities for the southern Nevada area. Clark County also had an open space planning initiative that hoped to establish a wildlife corridor and set aside natural areas that would help conserve wild lands in southern Nevada.

Ms. Henson referenced [Exhibit H](#), "Clark County Proposed Amendment," which included minor modifications to the bill. The proposed amendment read:

Amend section 1, page 1, by deleting line 4 and inserting the following: "implementation of habitat restoration and conservation projects throughout."

Amend page 1, by deleting line 3 of the title and inserting the following: "and implementation of habitat restoration and conservation projects."

According to Ms. Henson, Clark County recommended the modifications because the anticipated funds would be used for habitat restoration and conservation in a much broader context than simply for streams.

Ms. Henson conveyed Clark County's strong support for passage of A.B. 274.

Chairman Arberry asked whether there were questions from the Committee.

Assemblyman Hardy believed the bill would allow the riparian systems to be reviewed as a whole throughout Clark and Washoe counties, and any stream or waterway that flowed into Lake Mead would qualify for the grant process and for improving and conserving not only the habitat but the waterway itself.

Ms. Henson stated that was correct. One of the major goals of the Las Vegas Wash and Wetlands restoration was to improve water quality that went directly into Clark County's drinking source, which was Lake Mead.

Chairman Arberry asked whether there was further testimony to come before the Committee regarding A.B. 274 and, there being none, declared the hearing closed.

Chairman Arberry advised the Committee that there were two bill draft requests (BDRs) that required committee introductions.

- **BDR S-1236—Makes an appropriation to the Nevada Discovery Museum for a hands-on children’s museum. (A.B. 454)**

ASSEMBLYMAN HARDY MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR S-1236.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GANSERT SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

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- **BDR S-1231—Makes appropriations to High Sierra Industries, Opportunity Village and Washoe Arc for training centers and other services for persons with disabilities. (A.B. 455)**

ASSEMBLYMAN HOGAN MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR S1231.

ASSEMBLYMAN GRADY SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

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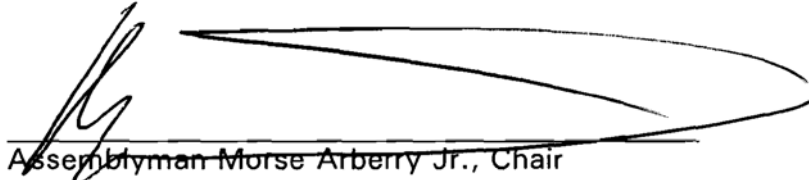
With no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Arberry declared the hearing adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Carol Thomsen  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:



Assemblyman Morse Arberry Jr., Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>EXHIBITS</u>			
<b>Committee Name:</b> <u>Committee on Ways and Means</u>			
<b>Date:</b> <u>March 19, 2007</u>		<b>Time of Meeting:</b> <u>8:00 a.m.</u>	
Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
* * *	A		Agenda
* * *	B		Attendance Roster
A.B. 131	C	Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell	LCB Bulletin No. 07-4
A.B. 131	D	Gloria Dopf, NDE	Career & Technical Education
A.B. 262	E	Mr. Salter, Teach for America	Brochure, Teach for America, and letters of support
* * *	F	Andrew Clinger, Budget Division	Governor Recommends Budget Amendments
* * *	G	Andrew Clinger, Budget Division	Stale Claims Account
A.B. 274	H	Marci Henson, Clark County	Proposed Amendment to A.B. 274