

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

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

The Senate Committee on Finance was called to order by Chair William J. Raggio at 8:07 a.m. on Monday, March 19, 2007, in Room 2134 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4412, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator William J. Raggio, Chair
Senator Bob Beers, Vice Chair
Senator Dean A. Rhoads
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske
Senator Bob Coffin
Senator Dina Titus
Senator Bernice Mathews

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary L. Ghiggeri, Senate Fiscal Analyst
Larry L. Peri, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Michael Archer, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

P.K. O'Neill, Chief, Records and Technology Division, Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History, Department of Public Safety
David K. Schumann, Vice Chairman, The Nevada Committee for Full Statehood
Jan Gilbert, Northern Nevada Coordinator, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Elizabeth Barber, Deputy Director, Budget Division, Department of Administration
Al Bellister, Nevada State Education Association
Rose E. McKinney-James, Legislative Representative, Clark County School District
Keith Rheault, Ph.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education
Anne Loring, Washoe County School District
Lonnie Shields, Assistant Executive Director, Nevada Association of School Administrators
Clara Andriola, President, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.
Greg Smith, Administrator, Joint Apprenticeship Committee for Northern Nevada, Operating Engineers, Local No. 3
John H. Seymour, Assistant Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 401
Bob Lopes, Business Manager, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local No. 350
Tina Leiss, Operations Officer, Public Employees Retirement System
Fred Boyd, Interim Executive Officer, Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce
Lauren Belaustegui Ohlin, Grant Analyst, Washoe County School District

Judi K. Steele, President and Chief Principal Officer, The Public Education Foundation

Curtis Jones, Project Manager, Clark County READS

Howard Skolnik, Director, Department of Corrections

Darrel Rexwinkel, Deputy Director, Support Services, Department of Corrections

Alexander Haartz, Administrator, Health Division, Department of Health and Human Services

CHAIR RAGGIO:

We will now take motions on the bill introductions listed in your Fiscal Analysis Division handout entitled "Senate Finance Bill Introductions, March 19, 2007" ([Exhibit C](#)). All these bill draft requests (BDR) are in the budget.

BILL DRAFT REQUEST S-1201: Makes an appropriation to fund a working group to study the methamphetamine problem in Nevada. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 346](#).)

SENATOR MATHEWS MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR S-1201.

SENATOR COFFIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS BEERS, CEGAVSKE AND TITUS WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR RAGGIO:

Was the amount in BDR S-1204 collected from various agencies as a result of a binding arbitration award in the case of *Addision v. State Public Works Board*?

BILL DRAFT REQUEST S-1204: Makes an appropriation to replenish the tort claim fund following the binding arbitration award in favor of the plaintiffs in *Addison v. State Public Works Board*. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 345](#).)

GARY L. GHIGGERI (Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau):

Yes, it was.

SENATOR COFFIN MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR S-1204.

SENATOR MATHEWS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS BEERS, CEGAVSKE AND TITUS WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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BILL DRAFT REQUEST S-1233: Makes appropriation to the Lou Ruvo Brain Institute for research, clinical studies, community outreach and education, and expansion of laboratory and clinical space. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 344](#).)

SENATOR MATHEWS MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR S-1233.

SENATOR BEERS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS CEGAVSKE AND TITUS WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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MR. GHIGGERI:

The Committee received a budget amendment to withdraw BDR S-1241. However, we would recommend an introduction of this bill in case it is needed later.

BILL DRAFT REQUEST S-1241: Makes appropriation to cover Governor's Mansion maintenance. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 343](#).)

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Senator Mathews, is your subcommittee looking into the maintenance requirements for the Governor's Mansion?

SENATOR MATHEWS:

Yes, it is.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR S-1241.

SENATOR MATHEWS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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BILL DRAFT REQUEST S-1242: Makes appropriation for assisting the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste litigation. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 342](#).)

SENATOR COFFIN MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR S-1242.

SENATOR MATHEWS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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MR. GHIGGERI:

In BDR S-1243, \$685,979 is for a cost-allocation posting error, \$600,000 is for the Yucca Mountain Project and \$227,386 is for extradition costs. Budget amendment No. 30 withdrew the request for the Victims of Domestic Violence portion of the BDR.

BILL DRAFT REQUEST S-1243: Makes an appropriation to the Attorney General's Office for extradition costs, Yucca Mountain litigation, and a reduction in revenue from boards and commissions, and funding the domestic violence ombudsman and an administrative assistant position. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 341](#).)

SENATOR COFFIN MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR S-1243.

SENATOR RHOADS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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BILL DRAFT REQUEST S-1247: Makes an appropriation to cover outstanding Information Technology costs and projected budgetary shortfalls. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 340](#).)

SENATOR RHOADS MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR S-1247.

SENATOR COFFIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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BILL DRAFT REQUEST S-1248: Makes an appropriation for anticipated shortfalls in utilities at the Nevada Historical Society and the State Museum, corrects for excessive federal authority and offsets unrealized vacancy savings at the Nevada State Library. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 339](#).)

SENATOR RHOADS MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR S-1248.

SENATOR MATHEWS SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR COFFIN:

I will be providing the Committee with a list of other funding shortfalls within the Nevada Historical Society, State Museum and other cultural resource budgets.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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BILL DRAFT REQUEST S-1252: Makes appropriation to the Aging Older Americans Act to cover relocation expenses as the current lease has expired. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 338](#).)

SENATOR BEERS MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR S-1252.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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BILL DRAFT REQUEST S-1256: Makes appropriation to fund greater than anticipated caseload in the Family Preservation Program. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 337](#).)

SENATOR BEERS MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR S-1256.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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BILL DRAFT REQUEST S-1260: Makes an appropriation for the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for ongoing utility bills for FY 2007, costs of smaller fires from July through October 2006, projected shortfalls of utilities and incorrectly budgeted aircraft insurance. (Later introduced as **Senate Bill 336**.)

SENATOR COFFIN MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR S-1260.

SENATOR BEERS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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MR. GHIGGERI:

Please refer to the handout provided by the Fiscal staff entitled "Senate Committee on Finance, Progress Report as of March 19, 2007, Day 43 of the 2007 Legislative Session" (**Exhibit D**). By the end of this week, the Committee will have reviewed approximately 99 percent of the budgets. I have provided a handout entitled "Governor Recommends Budget Amendments, 2007-2009 Biennium" (**Exhibit E**). A total of 71 budget amendments have been submitted as of March 16, 2007. In addition, I have distributed to the Committee a Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) Fiscal Division Memorandum, the subject of which is "Utility Inflation Information" (**Exhibit F**). Our projections indicate an increase in the cost of electricity in fiscal year (FY) 2008 to be 8 percent for Nevada Power Company. In FY 2009, Sierra Pacific Power Company's cost increase for electricity will be approximately 8 percent. There is no inflation projection for utilities included in the *Executive Budget*.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

The Budget Division advised us they will provide a budget amendment this week covering the inflation-cost projection for utilities.

We will open the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 38.

SENATE BILL 38: Creates the Records and Technology Division of the Department of Public Safety to maintain the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History. (BDR 43-559)

P.K. O'NEILL (Chief, Records and Technology Division, Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History, Department of Public Safety):

I will read from my prepared remarks (**Exhibit G**). The Criminal History Repository was officially removed as a section of the Nevada Highway Patrol by the 2005 Nevada Legislature. Effective July 1, 2006, the director of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) made an administrative decision to combine

the Records Bureau, which houses the Criminal History Repository, with the Department's Technology Bureau to create a Records and Technology Division. What we are seeking to achieve with S.B. 38 is the statutory recognition of the Records and Technology Division within the DPS.

Since its creation, the Records and Technology Division has been instrumental in reducing the time it takes to conduct a civil-applicant-background investigation from four months to four weeks. In addition, the Division has upgraded the State's Automated Fingerprint Identification System and changed the Nevada Sex Offender Registry to interface with the Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Gaming Control Board.

We revised the fiscal note for this bill to include a new records bureau manager position. The position is included in the *Executive Budget* at a cost of approximately \$99,000 in FY 2007-2008 and \$98,000 in FY 2008-2009.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

If this Division now exists and is operating so effectively, why is the new position required?

CHIEF O'NEILL:

When the DPS director created the new Records and Technology Division, he reclassified the head of the Division to be a sworn, rather than civilian, position. I am now the Chief of records and technology, with duties once held by two people.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 38 and open the hearing on S.B. 108.

SENATE BILL 108: Provides for the use of zero-based budgeting in the state budget process. (BDR 31-476)

SENATOR BEERS:

Please refer to my handout on Zero-Based Budgeting (ZBB) ([Exhibit H](#)). This bill would provide a technique for planning and decision making which is different than the traditional incremental budgeting now done by department managers. There are currently many errors in the Base Budgets. Using this new method of budgeting, each budget account would have a ZBB examination over the course of every ten-year cycle.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

We tried to introduce the ZBB about ten-years ago. Is it still in effect?

MR. GHIGGERI:

There is still permissive statutory language that would enable the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) to establish subcommittees to perform the ZBB reviews.

DAVID K. SCHUMANN (Vice Chairman, Nevada Committee for Full Statehood):

The Nevada Committee for Full Statehood supports S.B. 108. We would like to see language in the bill changed to allow 50 percent rather than the proposed 20 percent of departments to be subject to a ZBB review every two years.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

What is the Nevada Committee for Full Statehood?

MR. SCHUMANN:

We do not believe the United States government has the right to own 95 percent of the property in Nevada.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

A 50-percent review may be impractical, given the amount of time required to conduct them.

MR. SCHUMANN:

I understand the amount of work involved. Yet, if private citizens of Nevada must justify their personal budgets every year, State agencies should be required to do that as well.

JAN GILBERT (Northern Nevada Coordinator, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada):

The Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada is a statewide coalition of 38 women's groups, environmental groups, communities of color, civil rights groups, unions, teachers, etc.

We oppose S.B. 108. Requiring agency budgets to start at zero dollars would negatively impact services in our State and the quality of our lives.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

The fiscal note with this bill indicates the cost includes two budget analyst positions. Why are these positions necessary if each agency will be doing its own reviews?

ELIZABETH BARBER (Deputy Director, Budget Division, Department of Administration):

The ZBB reviews are more intensive and time consuming than current budget reviews. With 20 percent of the agencies requiring such reviews every two years, we will need more analysts.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Is the ZBB being used for any agencies at this time?

MS. BARBER:

No; however, we do scrutinize the Base Budgets much like a ZBB review.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

What method do you use to identify items in the Base Budget which are no longer operative or necessary?

MS. BARBER:

This is largely accomplished by the "Two Times Rule." To stay below the spending cap, agencies are required to examine their budgets carefully and to make cuts. In addition, we are now beginning to approach our statutory cap. Projected inflation-cost projections for utilities will require us to make deeper cuts in the budget.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

The statutory cap now affecting the State's budgeting process, and the expectation this cap will remain in place, will make a serious impact in the next biennium. This might be the time to look at the ZBB.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

Could the Fiscal staff earmark a few budgets in each Legislative Session to identify those items which are no longer necessary? Will S.B. 108 help you accomplish that?

MR. GHIGGERI:

The budget office currently reviews the Base Budget to eliminate onetime expenditures. In the past, we have questioned items in the Base Budget the budget office left in the *Executive Budget*. When that happens, I bring it to the attention of the Committee.

As currently written, S.B. 108 would not help us. Perhaps it would if amended.

SENATOR BEERS:

The intent of S.B. 108 is not just to eliminate recurring errors we see in the Base Budget. It is more to provide agency managers with a new way of budgeting. The hope is they will see there is a better way of doing things, or perhaps, to identify obsolete methods they are using. This will free up resources for other purposes.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 108 and open the hearing on S.B. 166.

SENATE BILL 166: Requires payment of increased salaries to certain school employees holding national certification. (BDR 34-1149)

SENATOR MATHEWS:

The purpose of this bill is to require school districts to provide a 5-percent salary increase to certain employees who have earned a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certificate. These would include special education teachers, school nurses, school psychologists, school counselors, school social workers and audiologists. The measure would require the school districts to pay these increases, regardless of the amount of their State appropriation.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Currently, school districts are required by statute to pay this increased salary to teachers and speech pathologists that satisfy the NBPTS certification requirements.

Although not required by statute, a 5-percent salary increase was also provided to school counselors and psychologists. This bill will increase the number of those who qualify for those increases if they hold a NBPTS certificate. The fiscal note indicates the need for an additional \$302,000 in FY 2006-2007.

The Governor has not recommended the additional \$540,000 required to continue the increased pay for speech pathologists. We must deal with this issue first before discussing these other categories.

AL BELLISTER (Nevada State Education Association):

The Nevada State Education Association supports S.B. 166. The NBPTS certificate is extremely valuable because of the rigorous requirements for certification. By the end of FY 2005-2006, we had approximately 300 NBPTS certificate holders teaching in Nevada. Research shows student achievement increases when teachers have such a certificate. However, there is no consistency in the statutes or the budget process. We hope S.B. 166 provides a consistent process as we look at future implementation of national certificates.

Section 1 of the bill changes the word "teachers" to "employees." Section 2 adds counselors, a category not currently in *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 391. There should be a reporting of their certificate and the money spent on those certificates. We have added school nurses, sociologists workers and audiologists. Please refer to my memorandum handout ([Exhibit I](#)) containing a proposed amendment to S.B. 166 that will add school counselors. School counselors are already earning the 5-percent increase; we are just adding them to the language in section 2, subsection 4. We endorse Senator Mathews' plan to add special education teachers to the bill. Section 2, subsection 7 of the bill adds a requirement that the Commission on Professional Standards in Education (CPSE) assess the rigor of these other national certificates. The Commission may find other certificates are not as rigorous as those of the NBPTS.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Does this not open the door for an automatic 5-percent increase? If we pass this, will other employees outside the area of teaching feel justified in asking for an increase in pay because they too have some kind of national certification?

MR. BELLISTER:

Section 2, subsection 10 obligates school districts to pay the 5 percent whether it is funded or not. We added this language to clarify an obligation we feel already exists for school districts due to provisions they have agreed to in collective-bargaining agreements or through individual teacher contracts. Section 2, subsection 4 was an error of omission on our part. We want to add school librarian to that. In section 3, we were concerned about the fiscal note and we were trying to postpone the changes until the next biennium in an effort to give the CPSE an opportunity to adopt the regulations necessary for the assessment of the stringency of these other certificates.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

What portion were you planning to defer?

MR. BELLISTER:

We are planning to defer the payment of the 5-percent increase. We would be saying, in our amendment, the CPSE would have until October 2008 to adopt the regulations. Section 4 of the bill, as currently shown, would be superfluous. We could delete it and use the effective dates in section 6.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Under your proposed amendment, who would receive, or continue to receive, the increase until the next biennium?

MR. BELLISTER:

Under our proposed amendment, teachers who have earned the NBPTS certificate would continue to receive the 5-percent increase, as would school counselors, psychologists and speech pathologists. School social workers, audiologists, librarians and special education teachers would have the CPSE assess the rigor of their certificates. If the CPSE determined them to be as rigorous as the NBPTS certificate, these employees would go on a list of approved certificates and be eligible to receive the 5-percent increase. They would not actually earn the 5-percent increase until after July 1, 2009.

ROSE E. MCKINNEY-JAMES (Legislative Representative, Clark County School District):

The Clark County School District supports S.B. 166. We recognize the value that has been added over time with respect to the national certification. Section 2, subsection 10 states the school district is required to pay for these increases whether funding is available or not. Our support is subject to the availability of funding. It must be subject to the negotiations identified by Mr. Bellister.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Theoretically, if this were in the bill, it would be a matter for an arbitrator to decide during negotiations.

MS. MCKINNEY-JAMES:

That is correct.

SENATOR BEERS:

This bill language should not say "contains unfunded mandate," it should instead say "contains an appropriation not in the *Executive Budget*."

CHAIR RAGGIO:

There is no appropriation in the bill. If passed, this bill will have a fiscal note which will add to expenditures in the budget if the budget is ultimately approved.

KEITH RHEAULT, Ph.D. (Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education):

When I look at FY 2006-2007, the reason there was a \$302,000 fiscal note is because of the current amount we are expending on school counselors and psychologists. This is not "new money" and does not include any retroactive pay.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Senator Mathews, what retroactive pay were you referencing earlier?

SENATOR MATHEWS:

The 5-percent increase.

DR. RHEAULT:

The retroactive pay is similar to the way it is worded in the NBPTS. They have until November 1 of the first year of the biennium to submit national board certification, and retroactive pay means we pay them back to September when school started.

This year, we added 40 new school counselors or psychologists with NBPTS certification so the cost has increased. In the fiscal note, \$512,000 for FY 2007-2008 builds on the assumption 20 percent of the total available specialty areas would receive NBPTS certification, and I have deducted \$285,000 for school counselors and psychologists in the *Executive Budget*.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Assuming the bill with the suggested amendments and the addition of special education teachers and school librarians would be effective during this biennium, we would ask you to revisit the fiscal note to determine the projected fiscal impact of including these categories.

DR. RHEULT:

I will need clarification on the special education teachers. They currently qualify and receive NBPTS certification. The Department of Education pays their cost to take the test, which is about \$2,300, but the school districts are required to pay the 5-percent increase. This will be the first group in that category to receive money through State appropriations.

SENATOR MATHEWS:

Would that hinder them from getting the 5-percent increase?

DR. RHEULT:

The State does not currently pay the school districts the 5-percent increase for that or any NBPTS-certified positions.

SENATOR MATHEWS:

Would this bill make that available?

CHAIR RAGGIO:

That is not in the current bill. We will need an amendment covering these concerns and a clarification of whether the special-education NBPTS-certified teachers qualify more than once.

DR. RHEULT:

I will provide the Committee staff with the number of special-education NBPTS-certified teachers who qualify through the other process.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

The fiscal note from Clark County indicates their cost is \$800,000 for each year of the biennium. The DOE shows \$1.8 million for that period. Why would the rest of the State receive more than Clark County?

DR. RHEULT:

We paid 136 of the 1,326 currently employed nurses, psychologists, counselors and social workers. The cost averaged over \$3,000 per individual. I do not know how rigorous the certification criteria adopted by the CPSE will be. We have been adding 40 or more school psychologists a year.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

There appears to be a mathematical error in calculating those dollar amounts. Please correct that.

DR. RHEAULT:

During our budget discussion, it was determined we are underfunded for our school psychologists and counselors. We made a supplemental appropriation request of \$125,000 for these positions. That additional funding to cover those positions for the future biennium is included in this bill. The *Executive Budget* provided \$284,000 but I am projecting the need for the coming biennium to be about \$520,000 a year just for school counselors and psychologists.

MR. GHIGGERI:

I have not yet seen the information on the supplemental appropriation. Please provide it to us.

ANNE LORING (Washoe County School District):

The Washoe County School District supports S.B. 166, section 2, subsection 7. The NBPTS certification is an extraordinarily rigorous process. Other certifications are not as rigorous. We feel this will be of great value to school districts in evaluating these certifications. We are concerned section 2, subsection 10 would create an unfunded mandate.

LONNIE SHIELDS (Assistant Executive Director, Nevada Association of School Administrators):

I am here today representing the Clark County Association of School Administrators. We support S.B. 166. There are many other employees of the school district who have national board certifications not covered by this bill in the professional and technical areas; as an example, nationally-certified electricians, architects, etc. They will certainly want the same consideration. We suggest you amend section 2, lines 37 and 38 of the bill to replace "school nurse, school psychologist, school counselor, school social worker and audiologist" with the word "person." I will propose this as an amendment.

SENATOR MATHEWS:

The Commission on Professional Standards in Education would be reviewing those certificates. That would prevent us from adding others like electricians and architects.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 166 and open the hearing on S.B. 167.

SENATE BILL 167: Makes an appropriation to the Department of Education to support apprenticeship programs certified by the State Apprenticeship Council. (BDR S-1005)

CLARA ANDRIOLA (President, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.):

The Associated Builders and Contractors support S.B. 167. Between the years 2001 and 2006, there was an 85.77-percent increase in the number of hours of apprenticeship training. In this same period, the amount of funding for an hour of instruction has decreased 87.49 percent. This is significant because the construction industry is facing a severe shortage of trained workers. It is estimated that 85 percent of the construction industry employees will be retiring in the next five years. All of the apprenticeship programs in Nevada are nonprofit organizations which present us with certain funding challenges. I encourage the Committee to support the funding in this bill and consider it an ongoing funding request to ensure the construction industry remains viable.

SENATOR COFFIN:

I see many young construction workers on the job. What exactly do you mean by 85 percent of the workforce is retiring in the next five years?

MS. ANDRIOLA:

Though it may appear many younger people are working in the construction industry, the statistics bear out our projection that the so-called "baby boom" segment of this industry will soon be leaving. They are not being replaced in the same numbers they are leaving.

SENATOR MATHEWS:

How many people are enrolled in the Academy for Career Education Charter High School (ACE)? Are there charter schools like this in southern Nevada?

MS. ANDRIOLA:

There are approximately 200 students at ACE. There are no schools like ACE in southern Nevada.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

I hope the passage of this bill provides training like this in southern Nevada.

DR. RHEAULT:

The DOE supports S.B. 167. The *Executive Budget* requests \$600,000 in each year of the next biennium. In 2001, we reimbursed this program at \$18 a credit hour. We are now reimbursing at \$9 a credit hour. Passage of this bill would allow us to return to the 2001 rate of reimbursement.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

I will ask our Fiscal staff to determine if, when this bill was introduced, they understood there was funding set aside for it in the *Executive Budget*.

GREG SMITH (Administrator, Joint Apprenticeship Committee for Northern Nevada, Operating Engineers, Local No. 3):

We support S.B. 167. It will be particularly helpful in recruiting young people for a career in the construction trades.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

How do you foresee these funds will be spent? How many facilities are available for such training?

MR. SMITH:

It would offset classroom costs for instructors, study materials and the replacement of tools and equipment that wears out. Statewide, there are 30 to 40 such programs available.

JOHN H. SEYMOUR (Assistant Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 401):

We are in full support of this bill. We are in dire need of apprentices to replace our experienced workers who will soon be retiring.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

How many apprentices do you have in your program in Washoe County?

MR. SEYMOUR:

We have 140 apprentices in our program.

BOB LOPES (Business Manager, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local No. 350):
We are in full support of S.B. 167.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

We will now close the hearing on S.B. 167. We will now hear S.B. 183.

SENATE BILL 183: Revises provisions governing administrative positions in the Public Employees' Retirement System. (BDR 23-281)

TINA LEISS (Operations Officer, Public Employees Retirement System):

This bill does not require fiscal legislation. It amends NRS 286.160, subsections 1 and 2, to change the name of the nonclassified administrative assistant position to administrative services coordinator. This position had different duties than the classified administrative assistant series. This legislation will help avoid further confusion between these two positions having the same name.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 183 and open the hearing on S.B. 254.

SENATE BILL 254: Makes appropriations to the Clark County Public Education Foundation and the Washoe County School District Educational Foundation for new programs and outreach expansion. (BDR S-1229)

FRED BOYD (Interim Executive Officer, Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce):

I am vice president of the Washoe County Private Education Foundation which contributes exclusively to the public schools. We have committed and spent \$450,000 from corporations, foundations and individuals, in addition to the \$150,000 we received from the last Legislative Session. Our focus had been, and continues to be, strictly on literacy. The \$600,000 has been spent on after-school tutoring for ten at-risk elementary schools not covered by Title I, new computer laboratories for the schools that did not have them and professional development for teachers. If we receive the \$150,000 requested in this bill, those dollars will be used in conjunction with private sector dollars to provide ongoing afternoon tutoring at the same elementary schools and 11 additional elementary schools. In three years we have reached 1,500 children and expect to reach an additional 2,000 by June 2008.

LAUREN BELAUSTEGUI OHLIN (Grant Analyst, Washoe County School District):

Please refer to my four handouts entitled "A Foundation For The Future, Our Washoe County Education Foundation, After School Literacy Tutoring Program Report 2005-06" (**Exhibit J**), "Washoe County Education Foundation, After School Reading Tutoring Program Projections 2006-07" (**Exhibit K**), "A Foundation For The Future, Our Washoe County Education Foundation, letter to Joi Davis, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, dated December 1, 2006," (**Exhibit L**) and "A Foundation For The Future, Our Washoe County Education Foundation, After School Literacy Tutoring Program Report 2004-05" (**Exhibit M**).

In Washoe County, we helped 535 children. Seventy percent of those children were able to read at grade level after tutoring. Forty-seven percent of those

children improved at least one reading grade. Twenty-seven percent of third graders who began this program were able to pass the State-administered criterion referenced tests after completing the after-school program.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Senator Mathews, Ms. Mendy Elliott, Director of the Nevada Department of Business and Industry, and I serve as members of the Board of the Washoe County School District Education Foundation. This is an invaluable program.

JUDI K. STEELE (President and Chief Principal Officer, Public Education Foundation):

Please refer to my three handouts entitled "Testimony by Judi Steele, Henderson, Nevada, President, Clark County Public Education Foundation, March 19, 2007" ([Exhibit N](#)); "The Public Education Foundation letter to Joi Davis, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, dated December 11, 2006," ([Exhibit O](#)) and "The Public Education Foundation, Mission Statement" ([Exhibit P](#), original is on file in the Research Library).

I ask for your support of S.B. 254 which will enable the Clark County Public Education Foundation and the Washoe County School District Educational Foundation to further expand our programs and continue our outreach efforts.

The Clark County Public Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization working collaboratively with the Clark County School District to improve the quality of teaching and learning and to champion school improvement. We are dedicated to building accountability measures through benchmarking, reporting and auditing procedures. The Foundation works to promote partnerships and strategic alliances to maximize efforts, leverage resources and promote best practices.

The Board of Directors of the Clark County Public Education Foundation consists of more than 50 business and community leaders who believe public education can succeed.

With the 2005 Legislature's appropriation of \$250,000, we expanded our literacy initiative and implemented a best-practices program. We dedicated \$125,000 of these funds to implement Reach Out and Read, a pediatric early-literacy program focusing on children in poverty. A child's success in school and later in life is dependent upon his or her ability to read and write. Reach Out and Read helps families encourage early literacy skills so children enter school prepared for success in reading.

The remaining \$125,000 was directed to implementing our Educating for Excellence initiative. This initiative seeks to identify teaching and learning strategies that deliver measurable results, and ensure these best practices are shared and replicated. In partnership with the Clark County School District's Research and School Improvement Department, we are supporting 81 teachers who are conducting action research and testing "promising practices." An online forum is being developed to document and share "promising practices" and best practices throughout the District.

The development of the Schools of Distinction program has included a comprehensive review of business and educational best practices. The next step will be to identify schools within the Clark County School District that meet

these standards and select several schools to become Schools of Distinction. Once identified, those schools will become demonstration and training sites.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

All nonprofit agencies which receive appropriations are required to submit a full budget, including revenues from other sources. Please provide that to our staff.

CURTIS JONES (Project Manager, Clark County READS):

Please refer to my handout "Testimony by Curtis Jones, Las Vegas, Nevada, Program Manager, Clark County READS, the literacy initiative of the Clark County Public Education Foundation, March 19, 2007" ([Exhibit Q](#)).

I ask for your support of Senate Bill 254 which will enable the Clark County Public Education Foundation to continue to expand our Reach Out and Read program. This program trains doctors and nurses to advise parents about the importance of reading aloud and distributes books to children at pediatric checkups from six months to five years of age, with special focus on children growing up in poverty. By building upon this unique relationship between parents and medical providers, Reach Out and Read helps parents encourage early literacy skills. We have trained 20 doctors and nurses at 7 clinics in Clark County who are serving at-risk children and families. Reach Out and Read has distributed books to 11,000 children and hopes to reach 25,000 children within the next two years.

Additionally, this bill will allow us to maintain a part-time coordinator who actively seeks additional sites and sources of funding. In addition, the coordinator supports and oversees current sites, trains doctors and nurses, monitors the program and purchases books for all sites.

SENATOR RHOADS:

Why are the 15 rural counties in Nevada not included in this program?

MR. JONES:

I do not know why other counties are not participating. I was recently informed that two Indian reservations in northern Nevada now have begun a Reach Out and Read program.

MS. STEELE:

If other counties are interested, we are available to share information about this program.

SENATOR RHOADS:

Can these funds be used in the 15 rural counties?

MS. STEELE:

Yes, we can use the money for training in those counties.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 254 and open the hearing on S.B. 282.

SENATE BILL 282: Makes supplemental appropriations to the Department of Corrections for increased costs at various facilities. (BDR S-1258)

HOWARD SKOLNIK (Director, Department of Corrections):

Please refer to our handout which is a photocopy of Section 1 of the fiscal note for S.B. 282 (**Exhibit R**). We advised your Fiscal staff about the recently revised amounts in our supplemental appropriations request.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Are the items listed in **Exhibit R** for unanticipated operating expenses and utilities? Are these amounts correct, or are they amended numbers?

MR. SKOLNIK:

Yes, they are amended numbers.

MR. GHIGGERI:

We received the amendment on the evening of Friday, March 16, 2007, but have not had an opportunity to review it.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

The original bill requires an appropriation of \$5,697,616. What is the new total?

DARREL REXWINKEL (Deputy Director, Support Services, Department of Corrections):

The revised total amount is \$6,873,534.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Please explain the significant changes requiring this increase.

MR. REXWINKEL:

One of the significant changes is the increase in our inmate population. The initial supplemental request was built prior to the completion of the *Executive Budget*.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

We will reschedule discussion after our staff has had an opportunity to analyze the amendment. How soon do you need this additional funding?

MR. REXWINKEL:

We need the money immediately.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 282 and open the hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 199.

ASSEMBLY BILL 199: Makes a supplemental appropriation to the Office of Health Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services to fund Poison Control Call Centers. (BDR S-1253)

ALEXANDER HAARTZ (Administrator, Health Division, Department of Health and Human Services):

Please refer to my handout entitled "Testimony, Bill (AB) 199" (**Exhibit S**). I support A.B. 199. This bill provides \$151,668 to fund services at Poison Control Call Centers effective March 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. It is a continuation of State funding initiated by the IFC in September 2006. The *Executive Budget* contains funding for FY 2008-2009.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Which other entities contribute funding for the call centers?

MR. HAARTZ:

Effective September 1, 2006, General Fund money has been used to support the Renown Medical Center's contract with the Oregon Health Science Center which provides poison control information services for all counties in Nevada, except Clark County. This funding also supports The Southern Nevada Health District's contract with the Rocky Mountain Poison Control and Drug Information Center to provide those services to Clark County residents.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 199.

The Chair will entertain motions on S.B. 183 and A.B. 199.

SENATOR BEERS MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 183.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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SENATOR COFFIN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 199.

SENATOR RHOADS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR RAGGIO:
There being no further business before this Committee, the meeting is adjourned
at 10:09 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Michael Archer,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator William J. Raggio, Chair

DATE:_____