

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 56—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT)

PREFILED DECEMBER 9, 2008

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing pupils with disabilities.  
(BDR 34-635)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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

AN ACT relating to education; revising provisions governing the use of physical restraint and mechanical restraint on pupils with disabilities; revising provisions relating to reports of the use of restraints and reports of violations; providing for the reporting of the use of corporal punishment on a pupil in public school; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Existing law prescribes the requirements for the use of physical restraint or mechanical restraint on a pupil with a disability who is enrolled in a public school or a private school. (NRS 388.521-388.5315, 394.353-394.378) **Sections 1 and 7** of this bill require each school district and each private school which provides services to pupils with disabilities to submit annual reports to the Department of Education on the use of physical restraint and mechanical restraint on pupils with disabilities during the previous school year.

**Sections 3, 4, 9 and 10** of this bill provide that if physical restraint or mechanical restraint is used on a pupil with a disability three times during 1 school year, the circumstances of the restraint must be reviewed and reported. If such restraint is used five times during 1 school year, the pupil's individualized education program or the pupil's services plan, as applicable, developed pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 et seq., must be reviewed. If the restraint continues after such a review, the school district or private school, as applicable, and the pupil's parent or legal guardian must explore additional positive behavioral approaches so that the restraint does not continue. (NRS 388.5275, 388.528, 394.368, 394.369)

Existing law prescribes the requirements for the use of mechanical restraint on a pupil with a disability enrolled in a public school or private school, including a



requirement that the pupil's physician issue a medical order authorizing the use of mechanical restraint before the application of the restraint or not later than 15 minutes after the application of the restraint. (NRS 388.528, 394.369) **Sections 4 and 10** of this bill eliminate the requirement of a medical order for each application of the mechanical restraint and instead require that a medical order authorizing the use of mechanical restraint be included in the pupil's individualized education program or the pupil's services plan, as applicable.

Existing law provides that corporal punishment may not be used on a pupil in any public school. (NRS 392.4633) **Section 6** of this bill provides that a person may report the use of corporal punishment on a pupil to the agency which provides child welfare services in the county in which the school district is located. If the agency finds that the report is substantiated, the agency shall forward the report to the Department, local law enforcement agency and the county district attorney for further investigation.

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

**Section 1.** Chapter 388 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

*1. The board of trustees of each school district shall, on or before August 1 of each year, prepare a report in the form prescribed by the Department that includes, without limitation, for each school within the school district:*

*(a) The number of instances in which physical restraint was used at the school during the immediately preceding school year, which must indicate the number of instances per teacher employed at the school and per pupil enrolled at the school without disclosing personally identifiable information about the teacher or the pupil;*

*(b) The number of instances in which mechanical restraint was used at the school during the immediately preceding school year, which must indicate the number of instances per teacher employed at the school and per pupil enrolled at the school without disclosing personally identifiable information about the teacher or the pupil; and*

*(c) The number of violations of NRS 388.521 to 388.5315, inclusive, by type of violation, which must indicate the number of violations per teacher employed at the school and per pupil enrolled at the school without disclosing personally identifiable information about the teacher or the pupil.*

*2. The board of trustees of each school district shall prescribe a form for each school within the school district to report the information set forth in subsection 1 to the school district and the time by which those reports must be submitted to the school district.*



1       3. *On or before August 15 of each year, the board of trustees*  
2 *of each school district shall submit to the Department the written*  
3 *report prepared by the board of trustees pursuant to subsection 1.*

4       4. *The Department shall compile the data received by each*  
5 *school district pursuant to subsection 3 and prepare a written*  
6 *report of the compilation, disaggregated by school district. On or*  
7 *before October 1 of each year, the Department shall submit the*  
8 *written compilation:*

9       (a) *In even-numbered years, to the Director of the Legislative*  
10 *Counsel Bureau for transmission to the next regular session of the*  
11 *Legislature.*

12       (b) *In odd-numbered years, to the Legislative Committee on*  
13 *Education.*

14       5. *If a particular item in a report required pursuant to this*  
15 *section would reveal personally identifiable information about an*  
16 *individual pupil or teacher, that item must not be included in the*  
17 *report.*

18       **Sec. 2.** NRS 388.521 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19       388.521 As used in NRS 388.521 to 388.5315, inclusive, *and*  
20 *section 1 of this act*, unless the context otherwise requires, the  
21 words and terms defined in NRS 388.5215 to 388.526, inclusive,  
22 have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

23       **Sec. 3.** NRS 388.5275 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24       388.5275 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2,  
25 physical restraint may be used on a pupil with a disability only if:

26       (a) An emergency exists that necessitates the use of physical  
27 restraint;

28       (b) The physical restraint is used only for the period that is  
29 necessary to contain the behavior of the pupil so that the pupil is no  
30 longer an immediate threat of causing physical injury to himself or  
31 others or causing severe property damage; and

32       (c) The use of force in the application of physical restraint does  
33 not exceed the force that is reasonable and necessary under the  
34 circumstances precipitating the use of physical restraint.

35       2. Physical restraint may be used on a pupil with a disability  
36 and the provisions of subsection 1 do not apply if the physical  
37 restraint is used to:

38       (a) Assist the pupil in completing a task or response if the pupil  
39 does not resist the application of physical restraint or if his  
40 resistance is minimal in intensity and duration;

41       (b) Escort or carry ~~the~~ *the* pupil to safety if the pupil is in danger  
42 in his present location; or

43       (c) Conduct medical examinations or treatments on the pupil  
44 that are necessary.



3. If physical restraint is used on a pupil with a disability in an emergency, the use of the procedure must be reported in the pupil's cumulative record and a confidential file maintained for the pupil not later than 1 working day after the procedure is used. A copy of the report must be provided to the board of trustees of the school district ~~[ ]~~ *or its designee*, the pupil's individualized education program team and the parent or guardian of the pupil. If the board of trustees *or its designee* determines that a denial of the pupil's rights has occurred, the board of trustees ~~[may]~~ *or its designee shall* submit a report to the Department in accordance with NRS 388.5315.

*4. If a pupil with a disability has three reports of the use of physical restraint in his record pursuant subsection 3 in 1 school year, the school district shall notify the school in which the pupil is enrolled to review the circumstances of the use of the restraint on the pupil and provide a report to the school district on its findings.*

*5. If a pupil with a disability has five reports of the use of physical restraint in his record pursuant to subsection 3 in 1 school year, the pupil's individualized education program must be reviewed in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1414 et seq., and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto. If physical restraint continues after the pupil's individualized education program has been reviewed, the school district and the parent or legal guardian of the pupil shall consider additional methods that are appropriate for the pupil to ensure that the restraint does not continue, including, without limitation, mentoring, training, behavioral assessment, a positive behavior plan and positive behavioral supports.*

**Sec. 4.** NRS 388.528 is hereby amended to read as follows:

388.528 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, mechanical restraint may be used on a pupil with a disability only if:

(a) An emergency exists that necessitates the use of mechanical restraint;

(b) A medical order authorizing the use of mechanical restraint ~~[is obtained]~~ from the pupil's treating physician *is included in the pupil's individualized education program* before the application of the mechanical restraint ; ~~[or not later than 15 minutes after the application of the mechanical restraint;]~~

(c) The physician who signed the order required pursuant to paragraph (b) or the attending physician examines the pupil as soon as practicable ~~[ ]~~ *after the application of the mechanical restraint;*

(d) The mechanical restraint is applied by a member of the staff of the school who is trained and qualified to apply mechanical restraint;



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(e) The pupil is given the opportunity to move and exercise the parts of his body that are restrained at least 10 minutes per every 60 minutes of restraint, unless otherwise prescribed by the physician who signed the order;

(f) A member of the staff of the school lessens or discontinues the restraint every 15 minutes to determine whether the pupil will stop or control his inappropriate behavior without the use of the restraint;

(g) The record of the pupil contains a notation that includes the time of day that the restraint was lessened or discontinued pursuant to paragraph (f), the response of the pupil and the response of the member of the staff of the school who applied the mechanical restraint;

(h) A member of the staff of the school continuously monitors the pupil during the time that mechanical restraint is used on the pupil; and

(i) The mechanical restraint is used only for the period that is necessary to contain the behavior of the pupil so that the pupil is no longer an immediate threat of causing physical injury to himself or others or causing severe property damage.

2. Mechanical restraint may be used on a pupil with a disability and the provisions of subsection 1 do not apply if the mechanical restraint is used to:

(a) Treat the medical needs of the pupil;

(b) Protect a pupil who is known to be at risk of injury to himself because he lacks coordination or suffers from frequent loss of consciousness;

(c) Provide proper body alignment to a pupil; or

(d) Position a pupil who has physical disabilities in a manner prescribed in the pupil's individualized education program.

3. If mechanical restraint is used on a pupil with a disability in an emergency, the use of the procedure must be reported in the pupil's cumulative record and a confidential file maintained for the pupil not later than 1 working day after the procedure is used. A copy of the report must be provided to the board of trustees of the school district ~~H~~ *or its designee*, the pupil's individualized education program team and the parent or guardian of the pupil. If the board of trustees *or its designee* determines that a denial of the pupil's rights has occurred, the board of trustees ~~may~~ *or its designee shall* submit a report to the Department in accordance with NRS 388.5315.

*4. If a pupil with a disability has three reports of the use of mechanical restraint in his record pursuant to subsection 3 in 1 school year, the school district shall notify the school in which the pupil is enrolled to review the circumstances of the use of the*



1 *restraint on the pupil and provide a report of its findings to the*  
2 *school district.*

3 *5. If a pupil with a disability has five reports of the use of*  
4 *mechanical restraint in his record pursuant to subsection 3 in 1*  
5 *school year, the pupil's individualized education program must be*  
6 *reviewed in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities*  
7 *Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1414 et seq., and the regulations*  
8 *adopted pursuant thereto. If mechanical restraint continues after*  
9 *the pupil's individualized education program has been reviewed,*  
10 *the school district and the parent or legal guardian of the pupil*  
11 *shall consider additional methods that are appropriate for the*  
12 *pupil to ensure that restraint does not continue, including, without*  
13 *limitation, mentoring, training, behavioral assessment, a positive*  
14 *behavior plan and positive behavioral supports.*

15 **Sec. 5.** NRS 388.5315 is hereby amended to read as follows:

16 388.5315 1. A denial of rights of a pupil with a disability  
17 pursuant to NRS 388.521 to 388.5315, inclusive, *and section 1 of*  
18 *this act* must be entered in the pupil's cumulative record and a  
19 confidential file maintained for that pupil. Notice of the denial must  
20 be provided to the board of trustees of the school district ~~[ ]~~ *or its*  
21 *designee.*

22 2. If the board of trustees of a school district *or its designee*  
23 receives notice of a denial of rights pursuant to subsection 1, ~~[it]~~ *the*  
24 *board of trustees or its designee* shall cause a full report to be  
25 prepared which must set forth in detail the factual circumstances  
26 surrounding the denial. A copy of the report must be provided to the  
27 Department.

28 3. The Department:

29 (a) Shall receive reports made pursuant to subsection 2;

30 (b) May investigate apparent violations of the rights of pupils  
31 with disabilities; and

32 (c) May act to resolve disputes relating to apparent violations.

33 **Sec. 6.** NRS 392.4633 is hereby amended to read as follows:

34 392.4633 1. Corporal punishment ~~[may]~~ *must* not be  
35 administered upon a pupil in any public school.

36 2. Subsection 1 does not prohibit any teacher, principal or other  
37 licensed person from defending himself if attacked by a pupil.

38 3. *A person may report the use of corporal punishment on a*  
39 *pupil to the agency which provides child welfare services in the*  
40 *county in which the school district is located. If the agency*  
41 *determines that the complaint is substantiated, the agency shall*  
42 *forward the complaint to the Department, the appropriate local*  
43 *law enforcement agency within the county and the district*  
44 *attorney's office within the county for further investigation.*

45 4. As used in this section ~~[, "corporal punishment"]~~ :



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1 (a) "Agency which provides child welfare services" has the  
2 meaning ascribed to it in NRS 432B.030.

3 (b) "Corporal punishment" means the intentional infliction of  
4 physical pain upon or the physical restraint of a pupil for  
5 disciplinary purposes. The term does not include the use of  
6 reasonable and necessary force:

7 ~~[(a)]~~ (1) To quell a disturbance that threatens physical injury to  
8 any person or the destruction of property;

9 ~~[(b)]~~ (2) To obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous  
10 object within a pupil's control;

11 ~~[(c)]~~ (3) For the purpose of self-defense or the defense of  
12 another person; or

13 ~~[(d)]~~ (4) To escort a disruptive pupil who refuses to go  
14 voluntarily with the proper authorities.

15 **Sec. 7.** Chapter 394 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
16 thereto a new section to read as follows:

17 1. *The administrative head of each private school that*  
18 *provides instruction to pupils with disabilities shall, on or before*  
19 *August 15 of each year, prepare a report that includes, without*  
20 *limitation:*

21 (a) *The number of instances in which physical restraint was*  
22 *used at the private school during the immediately preceding school*  
23 *year, which must indicate the number of instances per teacher*  
24 *employed at the private school and per pupil enrolled at the private*  
25 *school without disclosing personally identifiable information*  
26 *about the teacher or the pupil;*

27 (b) *The number of instances in which mechanical restraint*  
28 *was used at the private school during the immediately preceding*  
29 *school year, which must indicate the number of instances per*  
30 *teacher employed at the private school and per pupil enrolled at*  
31 *the private school without disclosing personally identifiable*  
32 *information about the teacher or the pupil; and*

33 (c) *The number of violations of NRS 394.353 to 394.378,*  
34 *inclusive, by type of violation, which must indicate the number of*  
35 *violations per teacher employed at the private school and per pupil*  
36 *enrolled at the private school.*

37 2. *On or before August 15 of each year, the administrative*  
38 *head of each private school that provides instruction to pupils with*  
39 *disabilities shall submit to the Department the report prepared*  
40 *pursuant to subsection 1. The report must be in the form*  
41 *prescribed by the Department.*

42 3. *The Department shall compile the data submitted by each*  
43 *private school pursuant to subsection 2 and prepare a written*  
44 *report of the compilation, disaggregated by each private school.*





1 *On or before October 1 of each year, the Department shall submit*  
2 *the written compilation:*

3 *(a) In even-numbered years, to the Director of the Legislative*  
4 *Counsel Bureau for transmission to the next regular session of the*  
5 *Legislature.*

6 *(b) In odd-numbered years, to the Legislative Committee on*  
7 *Education.*

8 *4. If a particular item in a report required pursuant to this*  
9 *section would reveal personally identifiable information about an*  
10 *individual pupil or teacher, that item must not be included in the*  
11 *report.*

12 **Sec. 8.** NRS 394.353 is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 394.353 As used in NRS 394.353 to 394.378, inclusive, *and*  
14 *section 7 of this act*, unless the context otherwise requires, the  
15 words and terms defined in NRS 394.354 to 394.365, inclusive,  
16 have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

17 **Sec. 9.** NRS 394.368 is hereby amended to read as follows:

18 394.368 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2,  
19 physical restraint may be used on a pupil with a disability only if:

20 (a) An emergency exists that necessitates the use of physical  
21 restraint;

22 (b) The physical restraint is used only for the period that is  
23 necessary to contain the behavior of the pupil so that the pupil is no  
24 longer an immediate threat of causing physical injury to himself or  
25 others or causing severe property damage; and

26 (c) The use of force in the application of physical restraint does  
27 not exceed the force that is reasonable and necessary under the  
28 circumstances precipitating the use of physical restraint.

29 2. Physical restraint may be used on a pupil with a disability  
30 and the provisions of subsection 1 do not apply if the physical  
31 restraint is used to:

32 (a) Assist the pupil in completing a task or response if the pupil  
33 does not resist the application of physical restraint or if his  
34 resistance is minimal in intensity and duration;

35 (b) Escort or carry ~~the~~ *the* pupil to safety if the pupil is in danger  
36 in his present location; or

37 (c) Conduct medical examinations or treatments on the pupil  
38 that are necessary.

39 3. If physical restraint is used on a pupil with a disability in an  
40 emergency, the use of the procedure must be reported in the pupil's  
41 cumulative record not later than 1 working day after the procedure is  
42 used. A copy of the report must be provided to the Superintendent,  
43 the administrator of the private school, the pupil's individualized  
44 education program team, if applicable, and the parent or guardian of  
45 the pupil. If the administrator of the private school determines that a





denial of the pupil's rights has occurred, the administrator shall submit a report to the Superintendent in accordance with NRS 394.378.

*4. If a pupil with a disability has three reports of the use of physical restraint in his record pursuant to subsection 3 in 1 school year, the private school in which the pupil is enrolled shall review the circumstances of the restraint on the pupil and report its findings to the Superintendent.*

*5. If a pupil with a disability has five reports of the use of physical restraint in his record pursuant to subsection 3 in 1 school year, the pupil's individualized education program or the pupil's services plan, as applicable, must be reviewed in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1414 et seq., and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto. If physical restraint continues after the pupil's individualized education program or services plan has been reviewed, the private school and the parent or legal guardian of the pupil shall consider additional methods that are appropriate for the pupil to ensure that restraint does not continue, including, without limitation, mentoring, training, behavioral assessment, a positive behavior plan and positive behavioral supports.*

**Sec. 10.** NRS 394.369 is hereby amended to read as follows:

394.369 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, mechanical restraint may be used on a pupil with a disability only if:

(a) An emergency exists that necessitates the use of mechanical restraint;

(b) A medical order authorizing the use of mechanical restraint ~~[is obtained]~~ from the pupil's treating physician *is included in the pupil's services plan developed pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 300.138 or the pupil's individualized education program, whichever is appropriate*, before the application of the mechanical restraint ; ~~for not later than 15 minutes after the application of the mechanical restraint;]~~

(c) The physician who signed the order required pursuant to paragraph (b) or the attending physician examines the pupil as soon as practicable after the application of the mechanical restraint;

(d) The mechanical restraint is applied by a member of the staff of the private school who is trained and qualified to apply mechanical restraint;

(e) The pupil is given the opportunity to move and exercise the parts of his body that are restrained at least 10 minutes per every 60 minutes of restraint, unless otherwise prescribed by the physician who signed the order;

(f) A member of the staff of the private school lessens or discontinues the restraint every 15 minutes to determine whether the



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pupil will stop or control his inappropriate behavior without the use of the restraint;

(g) The record of the pupil contains a notation that includes the time of day that the restraint was lessened or discontinued pursuant to paragraph (f), the response of the pupil and the response of the member of the staff of the private school who applied the mechanical restraint;

(h) A member of the staff of the private school continuously monitors the pupil during the time that mechanical restraint is used on the pupil; and

(i) The mechanical restraint is used only for the period that is necessary to contain the behavior of the pupil so that the pupil is no longer an immediate threat of causing physical injury to himself or others or causing severe property damage.

2. Mechanical restraint may be used on a pupil with a disability and the provisions of subsection 1 do not apply if the mechanical restraint is used to:

(a) Treat the medical needs of the pupil;

(b) Protect a pupil who is known to be at risk of injury to himself because he lacks coordination or suffers from frequent loss of consciousness;

(c) Provide proper body alignment to a pupil; or

(d) Position a pupil who has physical disabilities in a manner prescribed in the pupil's service plan developed pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § ~~300.455~~ 300.138 or the pupil's individualized education program, whichever is appropriate.

3. If mechanical restraint is used on a pupil with a disability in an emergency, the use of the procedure must be reported in the pupil's cumulative record not later than 1 working day after the procedure is used. A copy of the report must be provided to the Superintendent, the administrator of the private school, the pupil's individualized education program team, if applicable, and the parent or guardian of the pupil. If the administrator of the private school determines that a denial of the pupil's rights has occurred, the administrator shall submit a report to the Superintendent in accordance with NRS 394.378.

4. *If a pupil with a disability has three reports of the use of mechanical restraint in his record pursuant to subsection 3 in 1 school year, the private school in which the pupil is enrolled shall review the circumstances of the use of the restraint on the pupil and provide a report to the Superintendent on its findings.*

5. *If a pupil with a disability has five reports of the use of mechanical restraint in his record pursuant to subsection 3 in 1 school year, the pupil's individualized education program or the pupil's services plan, as applicable, must be reviewed in*



1 *accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act,*  
2 *20 U.S.C. §§ 1414 et seq., and the regulations adopted pursuant*  
3 *thereto. If mechanical restraint continues after the pupil's*  
4 *individualized education program or services plan has been*  
5 *reviewed, the private school and the parent or legal guardian of*  
6 *the pupil shall consider additional methods that are appropriate*  
7 *for the pupil to ensure that the restraint does not continue,*  
8 *including, without limitation, mentoring, training, behavioral*  
9 *assessment, a positive behavior plan and positive behavioral*  
10 *supports.*

11 **6.** As used in this section, “individualized education program”  
12 has the meaning ascribed to it in 20 U.S.C. § 1414(d)(1)(A).

13 **Sec. 11.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2009.

