

SENATE BILL NO. 161—SENATOR WIENER

FEBRUARY 26, 2009

JOINT SPONSOR: ASSEMBLYWOMAN PARNELL

Referred to Committee on Health and Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing the Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum. (BDR 34-91)

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; changing the name of the Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum to the Nevada Youth Legislature; revising the appointment process and eligibility requirements for the members; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law establishes the Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, consisting of 21 members who are enrolled in grades 9-12 in public schools or otherwise eligible for enrollment in public schools but enrolled in a homeschool or private school. (NRS 385.515, 385.525)

Section 2 of this bill: (1) changes the name of the Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum to the Nevada Youth Legislature; (2) changes the date for appointment of the members from June 30 to March 30; (3) changes the commencement date of members' terms from July 1 to June 1; and (4) provides an alternative method for appointing a pupil to the Nevada Youth Legislature if a Senator does not make an appointment by March 30. (NRS 385.515)

Section 3 of this bill: (1) expands the eligibility requirements to authorize a pupil to apply not only to the Senator of the senatorial district in which the pupil resides, but also to the Senator of the senatorial district in which the pupil is enrolled in a public school or a private school or, if he is homeschooled, otherwise eligible to be enrolled in a public school; (2) authorizes only pupils who are enrolled in grades 10-12 in public schools or private schools or, if they are homeschooled, otherwise eligible for such enrollment in public schools to apply for appointment to the Nevada Youth Legislature; (3) prohibits a member from being appointed by a relative; and (4) clarifies that pupils who wish to be appointed or



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reappointed to the Nevada Youth Legislature may submit only one application to an appropriate appointing authority in a calendar year. (NRS 385.525)

Section 5 of this bill revises the eligibility requirements for the Chair of the Nevada Youth Legislature. (NRS 385.545) **Section 6** of this bill: (1) authorizes, rather than requires, the Nevada Youth Legislature to teleconference or videoconference its public hearings; and (2) requires each member of the Nevada Youth Legislature to conduct at least one meeting during his term to afford the youth of this State an opportunity to discuss issues of importance to the youth in this State. (NRS 385.555) **Section 7** of this bill revises the date by which the Nevada Youth Legislature must submit to the Legislative Counsel its request for the drafting of one legislative measure. (NRS 385.565) **Section 10** of this bill extends by 2 years the date by which the money appropriated to the Nevada Youth Legislature during the 2007 Legislative Session will revert to the State General Fund.

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

Section 1. NRS 385.505 is hereby amended to read as follows:

385.505 As used in NRS 385.505 to 385.575, inclusive, ~~["Forum"]~~ *"Youth Legislature"* means the Nevada Youth ~~[Legislative Issues Forum]~~ *Legislature* created by NRS 385.515.

Sec. 2. NRS 385.515 is hereby amended to read as follows:

385.515 1. The Nevada Youth ~~[Legislative Issues Forum]~~ *Legislature* is hereby created, consisting of 21 members.

2. Each member of the Senate shall, taking into consideration any recommendations made by a member of the Assembly, appoint a person who submits an application and meets the qualifications for appointment set forth in NRS 385.525. A member of the Assembly may submit recommendations to a member of the Senate concerning the appointment.

3. After the initial terms:

(a) ~~[Appointments]~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, appointments* to the ~~[Forum]~~ *Youth Legislature* must be made by each member of the Senate before ~~[June]~~ *March* 30 of each year.

(b) The term of each member of the ~~[Forum]~~ *Youth Legislature* begins ~~[July]~~ *June* 1 of the year of appointment.

4. *If a member of the Senate does not make an appointment to the Youth Legislature by March 30 of a year, the members of the Assembly whose assembly districts are at least partially located within the senatorial district of that member of the Senate must collaborate to appoint a person who submits an application and meets the qualifications for appointment set forth in NRS 385.525.*

5. Each member of the ~~[Forum]~~ *Youth Legislature* serves a term of 1 year and may be reappointed if the member continues to meet the qualifications for appointment set forth in NRS 385.525.



1 **Sec. 3.** NRS 385.525 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 385.525 1. To be eligible for appointment to the ~~[Forum,]~~
3 *Youth Legislature*, a person : ~~[must be a resident of the senatorial~~
4 ~~district of the Senator who appoints him and must be:]~~

5 (a) ~~[Enrolled]~~ *Must be:*

6 *(1) A resident of the senatorial district of the Senator who*
7 *appoints him;*

8 *(2) Enrolled in a public school or private school located in*
9 *the senatorial district of the Senator who appoints him; or*

10 *(3) A homeschooled child who is otherwise eligible to be*
11 *enrolled in a public school in the senatorial district of the Senator*
12 *who appoints him;*

13 (b) *Must be enrolled* in a public school *or private school* in this
14 State in grade ~~[9,]~~ 10, 11 or 12 for the school year in which he
15 serves ~~[-or~~

16 ~~—(b) Exempt] or be [from compulsory attendance pursuant to~~
17 ~~NRS 392.070, but]~~ *a homeschooled child who is* otherwise eligible
18 to enroll in a public school in this State in grade ~~[9,]~~ 10, 11 or 12 for
19 the school year in which he serves ~~[-]~~ ; *and*

20 (c) *Must not be related by blood, adoption or marriage within*
21 *the third degree of consanguinity or affinity to the Senator who*
22 *appoints him or to any member of the Assembly who collaborated*
23 *to appoint him.*

24 2. A person who ~~[is eligible for appointment]~~ *wishes to be*
25 *appointed or reappointed* to the ~~[Forum may]~~ *Youth Legislature*
26 *must* submit an application on the form prescribed pursuant to
27 subsection 3 to the Senator of the senatorial district in which the
28 person resides ~~[for appointment or reappointment to the Forum.]~~ , *is*
29 *enrolled in a public school or private school or, if he is a*
30 *homeschooled child, the senatorial district in which he is*
31 *otherwise eligible to be enrolled in a public school. A person may*
32 *not submit an application to more than one Senator in a calendar*
33 *year.*

34 3. The Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau shall
35 prescribe a form for applications submitted pursuant to this section,
36 which must require the signature of the principal of the school in
37 which the applicant is enrolled or, if the applicant is ~~[exempt from~~
38 ~~compulsory attendance pursuant to NRS 392.070,]~~ *a homeschooled*
39 *child*, the signature of a member of the community in which the
40 applicant resides other than a relative of the applicant.

41 **Sec. 4.** NRS 385.535 is hereby amended to read as follows:

42 385.535 1. A position on the ~~[Forum]~~ *Youth Legislature*
43 becomes vacant upon:

44 (a) The death or resignation of a member.



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(b) The absence of a member for any reason from two ~~consecutive~~ meetings of the ~~Forum~~ *Youth Legislature*, unless excused by the Chairman of the ~~Forum~~ *Youth Legislature*.

(c) A change of residency *or a change of the school of enrollment* of a member which renders that member ineligible under his original appointment.

2. A vacancy on the ~~Forum~~ *Youth Legislature* must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

Sec. 5. NRS 385.545 is hereby amended to read as follows:

385.545 1. The ~~Forum~~ *Youth Legislature* shall elect from among its members, to serve a term of 1 year beginning on ~~July~~ *June* 1 of each year:

(a) A Chairman, who shall conduct the meetings and oversee the formation of committees as necessary to accomplish the business of the ~~Forum. The Chairman must be:~~

~~—— (1) Enrolled in a public school in this State in grade 9, 10 or 11 for the school year in which he serves; or~~

~~—— (2) Exempt from compulsory attendance pursuant to NRS 392.070, but otherwise eligible to enroll in a public school in this State in grade 9, 10 or 11 for the school year in which he serves.]~~

Youth Legislature; and

(b) A Vice Chairman, who shall assist the Chairman and conduct the meetings of the ~~Forum~~ *Youth Legislature* if the Chairman is absent or otherwise unable to perform his duties.

2. The Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau:

(a) Shall provide meeting rooms and teleconference and videoconference facilities for the ~~Forum~~ *Youth Legislature*.

(b) Shall, in the event of a vacancy on the ~~Forum~~ *Youth Legislature*, notify the appropriate appointing authority of such vacancy.

(c) May accept gifts, grants and donations from any source for the support of the ~~Forum~~ *Youth Legislature* in carrying out the provisions of NRS 385.505 to 385.575, inclusive.

Sec. 6. NRS 385.555 is hereby amended to read as follows:

385.555 1. The ~~Forum~~ *Youth Legislature* shall:

(a) Hold at least two public hearings in this State each school year.

~~(b) Simultaneously~~ *The Youth Legislature may simultaneously* teleconference or videoconference each public hearing to two or more prominent locations throughout this State.

~~(c)~~ (b) Evaluate, review and comment upon issues of importance to the youth in this State, including, without limitation:

(1) Education;

(2) Employment opportunities;



- (3) Participation of youth in state and local government;
- (4) A safe learning environment;
- (5) The prevention of substance abuse;
- (6) Emotional and physical well-being;
- (7) Foster care; and
- (8) Access to state and local services.

~~[(4)]~~ (c) Conduct a public awareness campaign to raise awareness about the ~~[Forum]~~ *Youth Legislature* and to enhance outreach to the youth in this State.

2. *During his term, each member of the Youth Legislature shall conduct at least one meeting to afford the youth of this State an opportunity to discuss issues of importance to the youth in this State.*

3. The ~~[Forum]~~ *Youth Legislature* may, within the limits of available money:

(a) During the period in which the Legislature is in a regular session, meet as often as necessary to conduct the business of the ~~[Forum]~~ *Youth Legislature* and to advise the Legislature on proposed legislation relating to the youth in this State.

(b) Form committees, which may meet as often as necessary to assist with the business of the ~~[Forum]~~ *Youth Legislature*.

(c) Conduct periodic seminars for its members regarding leadership, government and the legislative process.

(d) Employ a person to provide administrative support for the ~~[Forum]~~ *Youth Legislature* or pay the costs incurred by one or more volunteers to provide any required administrative support.

~~[3.—The Forum]~~

4. *Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Youth Legislature* and its committees shall comply with the provisions of chapter 241 of NRS.

~~[4.]~~ *Any activities of the Youth Legislature which are conducted solely for purposes of training, including, without limitation, any orientation programs conducted for the Youth Legislature, are not subject to the provisions of chapter 241 of NRS.*

5. On or before ~~[June]~~ *May* 30 of each year, the ~~[Forum]~~ *Youth Legislature* shall submit a written report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and to the Governor describing the activities of the ~~[Forum]~~ *Youth Legislature* during the immediately preceding school year and any recommendations for legislation. The Director shall transmit the written report to the Legislative Committee on Education and to the next regular session of the Legislature.

Sec. 7. NRS 385.565 is hereby amended to read as follows:

385.565 The ~~[Forum]~~ *Youth Legislature* may:



1 1. Request the drafting of not more than one legislative
2 measure which relates to matters within the scope of the ~~{Forum}~~
3 *Youth Legislature*. A request must be submitted to the Legislative
4 Counsel on or before ~~{July}~~ *December* 1 preceding the
5 commencement of a regular session of the Legislature unless the
6 Legislative Commission authorizes submitting a request after that
7 date.

8 2. Adopt procedures to conduct meetings of the ~~{Forum}~~ *Youth*
9 *Legislature* and any committees thereof. Those procedures may be
10 changed upon approval of a majority vote of all members of the
11 ~~{Forum}~~ *Youth Legislature* who are present and voting.

12 3. Advise the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau
13 regarding the administration of any appropriations, gifts, grants or
14 donations received for the support of the ~~{Forum}~~ *Youth*
15 *Legislature*.

16 **Sec. 8.** NRS 385.575 is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 385.575 The members of the ~~{Forum}~~ *Youth Legislature* serve
18 without compensation. To the extent that money is available,
19 including, without limitation, money from gifts, grants and
20 donations, the members of the ~~{Forum}~~ *Youth Legislature* may
21 receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for
22 state officers and employees generally for attending a meeting of the
23 ~~{Forum}~~ *Youth Legislature* or a seminar conducted by the ~~{Forum}~~
24 *Youth Legislature*.

25 **Sec. 9.** NRS 400.035 is hereby amended to read as follows:

26 400.035 1. The Council shall meet at least once each calendar
27 quarter and as frequently as necessary to afford the general public,
28 representatives of governmental agencies and representatives of
29 organizations an opportunity to present information and
30 recommendations relating to the coordination between elementary,
31 secondary and postsecondary education, including, without
32 limitation, the Nevada Youth ~~{Legislative Issues Forum}~~
33 *Legislature* created by NRS 385.515 and the Advisory Council on
34 Parental Involvement established by NRS 385.610.

35 2. The Council shall comply with the provisions of chapter 241
36 of NRS.

37 3. For each day or portion of a day during which the members
38 of the Council attend a meeting of the Council or are otherwise
39 engaged in the business of the Council:

40 (a) The members who are Legislators are entitled to receive the
41 compensation provided for a majority of the members of the
42 Legislature during the first 60 days of the preceding regular session
43 plus the per diem allowance provided for state officers and
44 employees generally and the travel expenses provided pursuant to
45 NRS 218.2207, payable from the Legislative Fund.



(b) The members who are appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the Assembly who are not Legislators are entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally, payable from the Legislative Fund.

(c) The members who are appointed by the Governor are entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally, payable as other claims against the State are paid.

4. The Office of the Governor shall provide:

(a) Administrative support;

(b) Equipment; and

(c) Office space,

→ as is necessary for the Council to carry out its duties.

5. The Board of Regents of the University of Nevada and the Department shall provide technical assistance to the Council upon the request of the Chairman.

Sec. 10. Section 8 of chapter 345, Statutes of Nevada 2007, at page 1602, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the disbursement account created by section 1 of this act the sum of \$35,000 to fund the Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum created by Senate Bill 247 of ~~this session.~~ *the 2007 Legislative Session.*

2. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, ~~[2009.] 2011,~~ by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September ~~[18, 2009.] 16, 2011,~~ by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September ~~[18, 2009.] 16, 2011.~~

Sec. 11. 1. This section and section 10 of this act become effective upon passage and approval.

2. Sections 1 to 9, inclusive, of this act become effective on July 1, 2009.

