

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to public school finance; directing the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the development of a new method for funding public schools in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Under existing law, the Nevada Plan for School Finance provides for the financial support of the school districts, charter schools and university schools for profoundly gifted pupils. The formula in the Nevada Plan is expressed as: State financial aid to school districts equals the difference between school district basic support guarantee and local available funds produced by mandatory taxes minus all the local funds attributable to pupils who reside in the county but attend a charter school or a university school for profoundly gifted pupils. (NRS 387.121) **Section 22** of this bill directs the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the development of a new method for funding public schools in Nevada.

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

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

Sections 1-20. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 21. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

1. In 1967, the Legislature, as a response to circumstances prevailing at the time and to allow the State to fulfill its responsibility to appropriately fund public schools, adopted a new method, known as the Nevada Plan, for funding public schools;
2. By considering and adopting the Nevada Plan, the Legislature recognized that changing circumstances in the State and changes in the student population in the State would necessitate changes to the Nevada Plan;
3. In 2011, the State and its public schools face remarkably different conditions than in 1967;
4. Nevada is home to both one of the largest school districts in the nation and one of the smallest school districts in the nation;
5. The educational needs and demographic characteristics of students in the public schools vary widely and have disparate impacts on the ability of each student to have a quality education;
6. The fundamental purpose of the State's public education system is to ensure a reasonably equal opportunity for each student to have a quality education;



7. The needs and characteristics of each student have a direct influence on the ability of that student to take advantage of an opportunity for a quality education;

8. Recent education reforms, including the adoption of common core standards, the advancement of empowerment schools and charter schools, the creation of the Teachers and Leaders Council of Nevada and other important advancements in the public education system will enhance the ability of public schools to meet the needs of individual students;

9. Such reforms are specifically designed to improve and advance the purpose of the State's public education system and to help prepare students for higher education and for careers;

10. The success of these reforms depends on a funding method that effectively meets the variety of individual student needs and characteristics inherent in an ever-growing and increasingly diverse student body;

11. Recent economic problems in the State have illustrated the necessity of using every public dollar to its maximum benefit;

12. Many other states use funding systems based on individual student needs and characteristics to advance their goals regarding student achievement; and

13. A new method for funding public schools in this State is necessary to continue to improve and advance the purpose of the State's public education system.

Sec. 22. 1. The Legislative Commission shall appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the development of a new method for funding public schools in this State.

2. The committee must be composed of six Legislators as follows:

(a) Three members appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, at least one of whom must be appointed from the membership of the Senate Standing Committee on Education during the 76th Session of the Nevada Legislature; and

(b) Three members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, at least one of whom must be appointed from the membership of the Assembly Standing Committee on Education during the 76th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

3. The committee shall consult with and solicit input from individuals and organizations with expertise in matters relevant to the purpose of developing a new method for funding public schools in this State.



4. Any such method proposed by the committee must:
 - (a) Be consistent with the constitutional responsibility of the Legislature to provide for a uniform system of common schools; and
 - (b) Account for, and be based on, differences in the needs and characteristics of individual students.

5. The committee shall submit a report on its findings, including, without limitation, any proposed methods for funding public schools in this State and any recommendations for legislation, to the 77th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

6. The committee shall carry out the duties of this section only to the extent that money is available to do so from sources including, without limitation, gifts, grants and donations.

Sec. 23. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2011.

