

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Seventy-Sixth Session
May 11, 2011**

The Committee on Education was called to order by Chair David P. Bobzien at 3:52 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, in Room 3142 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4406 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/76th2011/committees/. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (email: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775-684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman David P. Bobzien, Chair
Assemblywoman Marilyn Dondero Loop, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Paul Aizley
Assemblyman Elliot T. Anderson
Assemblywoman Olivia Diaz
Assemblywoman Lucy Flores
Assemblyman Ira Hansen
Assemblyman Randy Kirner
Assemblywoman April Mastroluca
Assemblyman Richard McArthur
Assemblyman Harvey J. Munford
Assemblywoman Dina Neal
Assemblyman Lynn D. Stewart
Assemblywoman Melissa Woodbury

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mindy Martini, Committee Policy Analyst
Kristin Roberts, Committee Counsel
Taylor Anderson, Committee Manager
Janel Davis, Committee Secretary
Gianna Shirk, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bart Mangino, Legislative Representative, Community and Government
Relations, Clark County School District

Chairman Bobzien:

[Roll was called. Rules and protocol were stated.] Welcome. Today we will have a work session on five measures. I will open the work session on Senate Bill 14.

Senate Bill 14: Requires the State Board of Education to develop a model curriculum for English language arts and mathematics. (BDR 34-609)

Mindy Martini, Committee Policy Analyst:

This measure was heard on March 16, 2011 during a joint meeting with the Senate Committee on Education concerning the Nevada Youth Legislature. [Continued to read from ([Exhibit C](#)).]

Chairman Bobzien:

I would like to entertain a motion at this time.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON MOVED TO DO PASS
SENATE BILL 14.

ASSEMBLYMAN STEWART SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMAN MCARTHUR VOTED NO.)

Our next bill on the work session is Senate Bill 35. Ms. Martini, please continue.

Senate Bill 35: Revises provisions governing the automated system of accountability information for Nevada and the reporting of test scores by charter schools. (BDR 34-440)

Mindy Martini, Committee Policy Analyst:

This measure was heard on April 18, 2011. This measure revises provisions related to Nevada's public school accountability system. It removes the requirement that paraprofessionals in public schools be linked to individual pupils. As members will recall testimony from Dr. Keith Rheault, this change is proposed because paraprofessionals are not included in the teacher database at first. In most cases, paraprofessionals are hired to assist in a group setting, so often, it is very difficult to link a paraprofessional to an individual student. [Continued to read from ([Exhibit D](#)).]

Dr. Rheault testified that there were a few instances where the sponsor of a charter school did not know the performance of its students. This bill would stop that from happening in the future. No amendments have been submitted for this measure.

Chairman Bobzien:

I would like to entertain a motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DIAZ MOVED TO DO PASS SENATE BILL 35.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MASTROLUCA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

We will move on to the next work session bill, Senate Bill 229.

Senate Bill 229: Revises provisions governing the policy adopted by the State Board of Education to encourage parental and family involvement in supporting the education of their children. (BDR 34-475)

Mindy Martini, Committee Policy Analyst:

This measure was heard on April 18, 2011. This is the measure that revises requirements for parental and family involvement policy that the State Board of Education/State Board for Career and Technical Education must adopt. You will see the listing of policy changes in the work session document ([Exhibit E](#)).

Dr. Keith Rheault stated that by updating the policy elements to reflect the national standards, it may bring new life into the parent involvement policy by having each school district update its corresponding policy. No amendments have been submitted for this measure.

Chairman Bobzien:

Is there any discussion on this measure?

Assemblyman Kirner:

Did we also look at a similar Assembly bill for this topic?

Chairman Bobzien:

There was an Assembly bill that dealt with parental involvement, but it was different.

Assemblyman Anderson:

I wanted to say that anything we can do to move forward parental involvement in the State of Nevada is important. It is especially important for those of us who live in Las Vegas. We have a culture, in some respects, in which people growing up in Las Vegas have not needed education. For example, you could park cars and make \$60,000 a year. Anything that gets the ball rolling to get parents to care about what is going on is a good thing, especially if it is not going to cost anything, then we should do it.

Assemblyman Hansen:

I am going to vote no on this bill, mainly out of principle. This bill will not do any harm, but we already have the Advisory Council on Parental Involvement; a series of laws have been passed in the last two sessions dealing with this exact issue. This bill is redundant; these provisions are already in law. Changing the wording around and taking verbiage out essentially does the same thing that we are putting back in. While I admire the intent, we need to focus on existing laws and see what we can do to try and get the reports called for in the past.

Assemblywoman Mastroluca:

I appreciate that you recognize the value of parental involvement, and I understand your concerns about being duplicative, Mr. Hansen. A big piece of this bill is to update the standards for parental and family involvement in our statutes that were adopted years ago. Standards have been updated in the majority of states across the country, so by passing this bill, it would bring us in line with those other states. While I agree and understand your frustration in some other areas, the crux of this bill is to update current standards.

Chairman Bobzien:

I would like to entertain a motion at this point.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO DO PASS
SENATE BILL 229.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMEN HANSEN, MCARTHUR, AND STEWART VOTED NO.)

Ms. Martini, please continue with Senate Bill 237 (1st Reprint) on the work session.

Senate Bill 237 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions governing the Nevada Youth Legislature. (BDR 34-9)

Mindy Martini, Committee Policy Analyst:

This measure was heard March 16, 2011 during the joint hearing with the Senate Committee on Education. [Continued to read from ([Exhibit F](#)).]

The measure creates the Nevada Youth Legislature Fund as a special revenue fund within the State Treasury to be managed by the Board of Directors in support of these activities. If you recall testimony from Senator Wiener, she indicated this portion of the measure provided for a more efficient mechanism for fundraising for the Nevada Youth Legislature. [Continued to read from ([Exhibit F](#)).]

Chairman Bobzien:

Is there any discussion?

Assemblyman Kirner:

I am looking on page 2, section 5 of the bill. I was confused because this section says, "There is hereby created as a special revenue fund in the State Treasury the Nevada Youth Legislature Fund." Subsection 2 of that section says, "Money for the Fund must be provided: (a) By direct legislative appropriation" The way I read the bill is that it is going to be privately run. I do not know why there is an appropriation involved.

Chairman Bobzien:

Where was the reference you are speaking of?

Assemblyman Kirner:

Section 5 of the bill, which is on page 2. I am looking at subsection 2(a). I am curious as to why there would be an appropriation.

Chairman Bobzien:

We are going to check on the background to get clarification.

Assemblyman Kirner:

Can I ask another question to help us figure it out?

Chairman Bobzien:

Yes.

Assemblyman Kirner:

This bill would create a nonprofit corporation. This corporation, which would be the Nevada Youth Legislature, is paid for by taxpayer dollars? Is that the essence of this bill?

Chairman Bobzien:

The distinction is that we are not actually creating a nonprofit corporation, but we are creating the Nevada Youth Legislature Fund.

Assemblyman Kirner:

I was reading the first paragraph ([Exhibit F](#)) that Ms. Martini read which said, ". . . provides for the creation of a nonprofit corporation"

Chairman Bobzien:

We are going to hold off on voting for this bill because the question that we have is the intention. Is this an "organic act," where we are creating the Fund? The hope would be to make it clear that we can accept an appropriation or the acceptance of gifts. I understand the concern about the language because the language says money for the Fund must be provided by section 5, subsection 2, paragraphs (a) and (b). There is some potential language out of step with what the intent was. With that, we will hold this bill for a possible amendment.

Mr. Kirner, thank you for bringing that to our attention. This will be a quick fix to bring it into more of an "enabling" situation than the Legislature "must" situation. Do you want to create a fix with an amendment, or do you have other issues?

Assemblyman Kirner:

If you are open to the idea, I would rather talk to the bill sponsor and get her perspective.

Chairman Bobzien:

Will you speak with Senator Wiener to come up with an amendment?

Assemblyman Kirner:

Yes.

Chairman Bobzien:

Our final bill on the work session is Senate Bill 318 (1st Reprint). Ms. Martini, please continue.

Senate Bill 318 (1st Reprint): Establishes provisions governing permissible flammability of certain components in school buses. (BDR 34-781)

Mindy Martini, Committee Policy Analyst:

This measure was heard on May 2, 2011. [Continued to read from ([Exhibit G](#)).]

Chairman Bobzien:

We have a request for clarification. Mr. Mangino, will you come to the table to answer a question?

[Bart Mangino made his way to the table.]

Assemblywoman Mastroluca:

Could you explain to me again what it is called when something happens to a vehicle when it is on fire?

Bart Mangino, Legislative Representative, Community and Government Relations, Clark County School District:

I believe the term is referred to as a thermal incident. [Laughter.]

Assemblywoman Mastroluca:

With that clarification I believe I can support the bill. [Laughter.]

Chairman Bobzien:

Is there any more discussion on this bill?

Assemblyman Hansen:

I am going to vote no on this bill. The testimony we heard said that Clark and Washoe County schools already do this; they already have these permissible standards in place. There is something funny about this bill. This is micromicromanaging. Are we going to start telling companies what kind of fuel pumps to use on the engines or what kind of tires to use? These are decisions that should be left to the local communities and school districts. There is nothing wrong with keeping fire safety standards high, but the Legislature does not need to get involved.

Assemblyman Anderson:

When I look at this bill I see that it is doing a good thing. I respect and know Senator Parks well and support his word.

Chairman Bobzien:

I would like to entertain a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON MOVED TO DO PASS
SENATE BILL 318 (1st REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DIAZ SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMAN HANSEN VOTED NO.)

Is there any other business to come before the Committee? [There was none.]

The meeting is adjourned [at 4:16 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Janel Davis
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman David P. Bobzien, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

Committee Name: Committee on Education

Date: May 11, 2011

Time of Meeting: 3:52 p.m.

Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster
S.B. 14	C	Mindy Martini	Work Session Document
S.B. 35	D	Mindy Martini	Work Session Document
S.B. 229	E	Mindy Martini	Work Session Document
S.B. 237 (R1)	F	Mindy Martini	Work Session Document
S.B. 318 (R1)	G	Mindy Martini	Work Session Document