

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Seventy-sixth Session  
March 16, 2011**

The Senate Committee on Education was called to order by Chair Mo Denis at 5:59 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2011, in Room 1214 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 Moises (Mo) Denis, Chair  
Senator Ruben J. Kihuen, Vice Chair  
Senator Valerie Wiener  
Senator Sheila Leslie  
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske  
Senator Don Gustavson  
Senator Greg Brower

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Assemblywoman Debbie Smith, Assembly District No. 30

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Pepper Sturm, Policy Analyst  
Kristin Roberts, Counsel  
Billie McMenemy, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Martin Johnson, JNA Consulting Group  
Craig Hulse, Washoe County School District  
Mark G. Stanton, P.E., Chief Capital Projects & Facilities Management Officer,  
Capital Projects and Facilities Management, Washoe County School  
District

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Caroline McIntosh, Superintendent, Lyon County School District; Secretary  
Treasurer, Nevada Association of School Superintendents  
Dotty Merrill, Nevada Association of School Boards  
Joyce Haldeman, Clark County School District  
Mike Cate, Co-chair, Say Yes For Kids Committee  
Tami Burg, Vice President of Membership and Marketing, Nevada Parent  
Teachers Association  
Paul McKenzie, Building & Construction Trades Northern Nevada, AFL-CIO  
Anthony Rogers, Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers of Local 13  
Randy Soltero, Nevada State AFL-CIO; Sheet Metal Workers Union, Local 88;  
Southern Nevada Building and Construction Trades Council  
John Madole, Nevada Chapter, AGC  
Steve Holloway, Associated General Contractors, Las Vegas Chapter  
Mike Dillion, Executive Director, Builders Association of Northern Nevada  
Max Hershenow, H+ K Architects  
Sheila Ward

CHAIR DENIS:

We will open with a work session on Senate Bill (S.B.) 14.

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

PEPPER STURM, Policy Analyst:

Senate Bill 14 requires the State Board of Education to develop a model curriculum for English language arts and mathematics for kindergarten through twelfth grade based on the Common Core Standards, previously adopted by the Board. The Department of Education is required to distribute the model curriculum to school districts, charter schools and to the regional training programs. There was one amendment proposed by the Washoe County School District (WCSD) and Clark County School District (CCSD). The amendment changes "shall" in subsection 4 of section 1 to "may." Those are the only proposed amendments.

SENATOR WIENER MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 14.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE SECONDED THE MOTION.

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THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DENIS:  
We will now open a work session on S.B. 237.

SENATE BILL 237: Revises provisions governing the Nevada Youth Legislature.  
(BDR 34-9)

MR. STURM:  
Senate Bill 237 revises certain provisions governing the Nevada Youth Legislature. This bill sets up a mechanism for the creation of a nonprofit corporation with a board of directors. It also changes the term of the Nevada Youth Legislature to two years with reappointment possibilities. There was one proposed amendment.

SENATOR WIENER:  
I proposed a modest amendment for the number of people who will serve on the board. The bill states five. My amendment is to increase the number from five to seven.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS  
AMENDED S.B. 237.

SENATOR KIHUEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DENIS:  
We will hear testimony on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 183.

ASSEMBLY BILL 183: Revises provisions regarding the establishment and maintenance of a reserve account for payment of the outstanding bonds of a school district. (BDR 30-114)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DEBBIE SMITH (Assembly District No. 30):

I am here today to discuss A.B. 183 with the Committee. The language of the bill is simple. The details of this measure are technical. Currently, school districts are required to keep a reserve for payment on their bond debt. That is in statute. This bill lowers that requirement to 25 percent for counties with a population of 100,000 or more and 50 percent for counties of less than 100,000.

I met with a community group in Washoe County a year ago. They were interested in finding ways to fund older school improvements in the WCSD. Like the other counties, with the exception of Clark County, WCSD has no means of funding capital construction cost except with bonds. Clark County has a dedicated stream of funds from real property transfer tax, room tax and sales tax to fund their construction needs in addition to bond money. Washoe and other districts have been unable to raise money to take care of their older schools. Forty-five percent of schools in the WCSD are 40 to 100 years old. Research was done and on June 18, 2010, I placed a bill draft request (BDR) for the concept of lowering the bond reserve so districts could access additional funds. The original statute was approved requiring the bond reserve; the amount was arbitrary and was not based on any particular methodology. We have a financial advisor for 13 of the districts who is in Las Vegas and can discuss the technical merits of the bond reserve. This bill has nothing to do with the budget. I wanted to ensure our students go to school in safe and modern buildings like their peers. Last fall, I toured a school in my district with then-candidate Brian Sandoval. I was sad to see the conditions of this school. The school is on a small piece of property in an urban part of the district. The school is designed with no indoor hallways, so the doors cannot be locked from the inside. In classrooms for young elementary grades, the doors are a short distance from the street and there is no fence. The children can be out on the street in a flash, or someone from the street can be inside the door in a flash. I know of one school with an active parent organization that raised enough money to correct and eliminate this safety issue. In this environment we are creating more inequity because we have fund-raising in some places that just cannot take place in others. Research shows student achievement and attendance correlate to the condition of the building in which a student attends school. I hope you will consider this bill on its merits. In Washoe County, \$135 million could be raised for school construction. There are many questions regarding CCSD's bond debt. The important thing about the bill is that it enables, not requires. In my discussions with CCSD, they were clear that while they appreciate the

intent, they will not use it right away. They need their bond reserve to pay their debt. The funds we are talking about are funds approved by voters for school construction.

I moved to Washoe County in 1981. I have served on virtually every school bond committee, giving speeches, knocking on doors and asking people to vote for this bond issue.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

We are obligated to the taxpayers to explain the different pockets of money; the different taxes that flow in and how they flow in. It is a maze and difficult to explain or have a discussion with anyone who is not aware of how it is laid out. Do you have a mechanism for paying back money to the reserve?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SMITH:

The money is only being used as the district and the district's financial advisor deem prudent. The reserve amount they are required to keep has been considered to be an arbitrary amount. If you lower that to a reasonable amount, there would be no need to pay it back.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

There was a reference to what the Governor is doing with the budget and the bond reserve fund. Clark County or the others, in his estimation, would be able to use that money for whatever they deem necessary. If they felt the money was needed for ongoing expenses or construction, it could be used. His bill is not out so there can be no comparison. Last Session, we did not go into the reserve; we went into the construction fund and borrowed money to help offset the budget. Evidently, no one knew of the reserve fund and that issue.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SMITH:

It was not using any of the reserve. It was using interest. Clark County can clarify what part of the money was used. The reserve has always been the reserve that no one has been able to use for any other purpose.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

These are times we are being stretched. I commend you for bringing this bill forward; most of us were unaware of the issues.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SMITH:

I am opposed to taking one-time construction dollars to balance the budget. I want to be very clear, the side effect of this bill is creating jobs; the intention of this bill is doing something about these old schools. We need to be held accountable for the use of those dollars. I am adamant about honoring the will of the voters and using the money as it is intended.

SENATOR BROWER:

This bill is creative and seems simple, but it is not. Without passing this bill, how much money is available for these projects?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SMITH:

The district is able to answer that question. Washoe County School District and Lyon County School District (LCSD) can tell you the difference. Because of legislative action, WCSD does not have access to the streams of money as does CCSD. This has been a major disadvantage for years.

SENATOR BROWER:

If there are health and safety issues with respect to the condition of the schools, I am troubled. There has to be a way for the district to address clear health and safety issues without a bill like this.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SMITH:

They have tried. I served on the committee that tried for voter approval for additional money. We toured schools; we have been cutting budgets for three years. We have cut hundreds of millions of dollars from their operating costs. Their bond funds are dwindling because of lower property taxes.

SENATOR BROWER:

I have had many conversations in the last six weeks with representatives of the school district. No one mentioned to me that we have a crisis with respect to making the schools safe for children. That has to be a priority.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SMITH:

I toured the school and realized the situation and asked them how much money is required to build a fence. I will raise the money. We will put a fence across there. Someone can be from the street into a classroom in 30 seconds.

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SENATOR BROWER:

There is much confusion and difference of opinion. This is a technical bill and I would like to hear more testimony.

CHAIR DENIS:

We will hear more testimony.

SENATOR BROWER:

The sponsors of this bill will benefit and should make sure we mitigate or eliminate the confusion before we move on the bill.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

I agree with Senator Brower. It sounds like there are two school districts that have a problem and need funding. I would like the dollar amounts. What are the reserves of the districts?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SMITH:

In the money committees we have had preliminary discussion about how much money is available. All the districts need additional construction dollars.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

We have seen how much money they need from each district for the budget. What I am asking is how much is in reserve?

SENATOR LESLIE:

We spent two hours on this issue in the Senate Committee on Revenue. I do not think it is as technical and complicated as do my colleagues. It is not between teachers and construction workers; that is a false debate. I represent urban Reno and Sparks. We overlap in Sparks. There is a tremendous need in low-income neighborhoods that do not have the ability to raise funds. We have heard this bill in the money committees.

CHAIR DENIS:

There was a comment made regarding deferred maintenance. Deferred maintenance is a part of operating budgets and not a part of capital.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SMITH:

We have cut the operating budget over the last three years. We talk in our committees about letting the school districts decide what is right for them.

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SENATOR GUSTAVSON:

Assemblywoman Smith, a few years ago did we pass an initiative for rollover bond money?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SMITH:

I will ask WCSD to give you details of their last bond.

SENATOR GUSTAVSON:

Thank you. I know we have not passed a bond initiative in Washoe County for some time. I understand we have many schools in Washoe County and throughout the State that are very old. Remodeling and painting has occurred in newer schools when we have major safety issues in older schools. Why was this not a priority before remodeling newer schools?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SMITH:

I can tell you many projects have been paid for by outside organizing. Parent organizers raise money to put in SMART Boards, bleachers, lights and other major improvements. I will ask the district to respond.

SENATOR GUSTAVSON:

I would like to see more donations. We need to take care of schools with safety issues.

MARTIN JOHNSON (JNA Consulting Group):

We are the financial advisor for a number of school districts. This bill is permissive. There are 10 districts with rollover authorization from the voters. They include Lyon, Washoe, Storey and Nye districts. Newer rollovers, with a pay-as-you-go component, are Carson, Churchill, Douglas, Humboldt, Pershing and White Pine districts. Each of these districts will be able to use this bill in different ways. The first group's ability to utilize this, if deemed prudent, will be to take the money out of the reserve account and use it to prepay bonds. This will generate room for new bonds.

CRAIG HULSE (Washoe County School District):

The bill idea started over a year ago in talks with Assemblywoman Smith. What started as a simple idea has become a complex issue. We are required to have 100 percent of our annual payments for outstanding bond obligations in a debt reserve. That requirement is \$50 million. This bill is enabling legislation that allows us to go as low as 25 percent and still buy new bonds. If this proposal



does not move forward, we have \$70 million in the next two years in bonding capacity. This proposal will free up an additional \$75 million for a total of \$145 million over the next two years. Voters will need to approve a bond rollover process. I have heard the argument framed as teachers versus construction workers. Our board of trustees decided to support this bill. There is a need in Washoe County. We have many old schools.

MARK G. STANTON (Chief Capital Projects & Facilities Management Officer, Capital Projects and Facilities Management, Washoe County School District):

My responsibility is managing the construction program funded by the bond as well as the maintenance of our facilities. The WCSD is in support of this bill. The bill will more than double our bonding capacity for the next two years. Our 2002 rollover bond commitment the voters approved will expire in 2012. I have provided you with our testimony ([Exhibit C](#)) that goes through our rollover bond program in place since 2002. We use these funds for technology improvements and for replacement of worn-out, obsolete or deteriorated building systems. These are the same systems that were paid for with bond money when the schools were built. When we remodel a new school, we prioritize based upon the age of a school, the transiency of a school, the poverty of a school and the diversity of a school. We have only revitalized schools that are 50 years or older in the last 3 years.

I would like to also address deferred maintenance. Our definition of deferred maintenance is a building system replacement that you do not have the money to replace when it is needed. They are major projects, not annual routine maintenance projects. Safety issues are addressed immediately. Security is the issue that we want to address with these funds such as the older door hardware that requires a teacher to go outside of the classroom to lock in the event of a lockdown. We need a single point of entry requiring anyone coming onto the campus to use the main entry, where fencing does not come up to the building. That is \$15 million of expense for this security.

We have a needs assessment of \$300 million for capital renewal projects. That is the building system replacement. This is over the next 10 years to 20 years, depending on how quickly systems wear out. We have identified \$100 million in needs over the next three years. I indicated we have \$70 million in bonding capacity available to us for the next two years, not enough to meet the \$100 million. We have another \$350 million in revitalization needs. We go in

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and bring schools up to the standards of the schools we are currently building. If A.B. 183 passes, we could have \$145 million available.

SENATOR LESLIE:

Are the pictures, [Exhibit C](#), examples of what you would fix?

MR. STANTON:

They are examples of what we have repaired or replaced. We estimate total revitalization to be \$3 million per school.

SENATOR LESLIE:

You addressed the safety issue well. How do teachers handle lockdowns if they have the old doors? Do they go outside with their keys in hand to lock the door when a suspicious person is nearby?

MR. STANTON:

Yes. The teacher steps outside the classroom, locks the door and reenters the classroom.

SENATOR LESLIE:

This is a safety issue that needs to be addressed.

SENATOR BROWER:

Did I understand correctly the need is \$650 million to complete the entire revitalization project?

MR. STANTON:

No, Senator. It is \$300 million for capital renewal needs. Revitalizations are another \$350 million. Revitalizations brings schools up to a like-new condition with new technologies, improving their heating, venting and air-conditioning systems, improving thermal comfort and window replacement. The total is \$650 million.

SENATOR BROWER:

Is the potential \$140 million with this bill? Do you currently have \$70 million available for projects?

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MR. HULSE:

Currently, without the Governor's proposal or this bill, we are able to buy down debt and bond \$70 million for capital construction.

SENATOR BROWER:

The complexity of this bill is how it fits into the Governor's budget. If this bill passes but is not made effective until July 1 or October 1, could this ameliorate that tension? Do you think that is a potential solution?

MR. JOHNSON:

If the effective date of the bill is July 1 or October 1, the district would need to wait until after that date to prepay their debt and then start the process for issuing those new bonds.

CAROLINE MCINTOSH (Superintendent, Lyon County School District; Secretary Treasurer, Nevada Association of School Superintendents):

We are a rollover county. We are in discussions with Mr. Johnson regarding a five-year capital plan. We too have unmet needs. The rollover bond is from 2006, so we go until 2016. Mr. Johnson's last recommendation is that we would be able to bond a maximum of \$4.5 million out of our current \$6 million simply because we have declining property values. Speaking for the LCSD, we have \$11 million in needs identified at this time. Support for this bill is the flexibility for the future. Our operating funds have been affected. We travel 4,500 miles per day in our bus route for a district of 8,500 students. Our buses are wearing out quickly.

On behalf of the Nevada Association of School Superintendents, I support A.B. 183.

SENATOR LESLIE:

I understand your testimony to say the complication is whether you would use it and for how much. Complication is not in the bill. The bill gives you the flexibility to make that decision, school district by school district. Is that right?

MS. MCINTOSH:

It gives us another possible opportunity. We are prudent with our taxpayers' money and rely on consultation with our financial advisor.

DOTTY MERRILL (Nevada Association of School Boards):

On February 26, 2011, at a board of directors and executive committee meeting, we voted in support of legislation enabling school districts to use bond funds for school construction and older school revitalization, as intended by the voters in each school district. Individual boards have taken positions in support of A.B. 183. Our board of directors and executive committee voted unanimously in support of legislation. Clearly A.B. 183 is legislation enabling school districts to use the bond funds as they have been approved by the voters. This legislation is permissive, flexible and provides local boards with options. Those options would be to use the newly available resources to either prepay debt, directly fund capital projects through a transfer to the capital projects fund or leave the funds in the debt service fund to pay debt service.

JOYCE HALDEMAN (Clark County School District):

The CCSD is supportive of A.B. 183. We support this bill because of the permissive language. It keeps the bond money in school construction, which is important to the integrity of the ballot question. When Assemblywoman Smith, the chief financial officer from the school district, our financial advisors and I spoke to discuss whether or not we would benefit, we came to the conclusion we would not. It is for the same reasons you have heard us argue against the use of our debt reserve to balance the ongoing budget issue. We need our debt reserves to help pay down the debt we have accrued. Taxes would need to be raised. People are aware of the new schools built in Clark County; over the last 10 years we have built over 100 new schools. One-third of our schools are over 40 years old, and many are approaching 50 years and older. Those schools have systems that are beginning to break down. The school districts' bond oversight committee has identified \$4.9 billion of needs in modernization and school reconstruction. We have identified over a dozen schools where repairs are no longer cost-effective. We need to tear down these schools and rebuild.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

Is this a one-time option or is it continuous? I have been told there is a system or formula to pay down debt. If we are receiving too much money, we need to address the issue in one of the bills. I am told that in the Governor's bill there is a mechanism to lower the funds so growth is not so rapid. He also indicated that with his bill he has a mechanism for putting money back in. Can you provide a response?

MS. HALDEMAN:

In 1997, two new revenue streams were created for the CCSD to use for school construction; that is the real estate transfer tax and a portion of the hotel room tax. The concern was there might be a lack of prudence on the part of the school district about how those new revenues would be spent. High standards were put in place. A legislatively mandated oversight panel for school construction was created. This panel prepares an annual report about how the bond monies are spent. The second safeguard created was an unusually high requirement for a debt reserve. That is why the debt reserve was set at the high amount it was and it is that number this bill is seeking to lower.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

What affect did using the bond money last Session have on the district and the bond money?

MS. HALDEMAN:

In 2007 and again in 2009, the Legislature took monies from our school construction revenues. In addition to property tax, we have the real estate transfer tax and the hotel room tax. It was from those two pledged revenues that in 2007 the Legislature took \$20 million and in 2009 \$25 million, for a total of \$45 million. We have a school, the Southeast Career Technical Academy, that had major problems. We had to condemn one of the buildings and move students into a portable building. Senator Cegavske, I would like to show you this campus for you to see its disarray and the upset to the program. We would have replaced the condemned part of that campus with the \$45 million.

SENATOR WIENER:

Can you give us the names of the schools mentioned to be torn down and rebuilt?

MS. HALDEMAN:

We are unable to release the list because of political reasons. We use the Facility Condition Index formula to determine the school age, the condition of the school, the systems and the last time the school was modernized.

SENATOR LESLIE:

The controversy has not been about this bill from the CCSD's point of view, it has been about the Governor's proposal. We have learned there is a

\$109 million hole in his budget. Your money would be placed into the operating fund instead of giving you the General Fund money. Two years from now, what happens? The bond reserve is not going to have that same amount of money. Is that the controversy?

MS. HALDEMAN:

Two options are available. Both would have an impact on the taxpayer in terms of paying back the debt. One is to raise the property tax; the second is to extend the debt out over another 10 years to 20 years. That means the \$4.9 billion of identified needs cannot be met.

MIKE CATE (Co-chair, Say Yes For Kids Committee):

The Say Yes for Kids Committee was established one and one-half years ago. The purpose for this committee was to campaign for the rollover bond for Washoe County. This is a county-by-county situation. It was not a State initiative. Those funds should not have been used for the budget. My 19-year-old daughter experienced her first election. She asked me what good was the vote if the Governor, the State and the Legislature take that money. I did not have an answer, do you?

TAMI BURG (Vice President of Membership and Marketing, Nevada Parent Teachers Association):

My children are lucky enough to attend a 15-year-old school that is in good condition. As part of the bond technical team for Washoe County, we determine where the small amount of money we have can be used. I urge you please support this bill.

PAUL MCKENZIE (Building & Construction Trades Northern Nevada, AFL-CIO):

We support this legislation. Several of the more affluent schools approached us looking for donations. They are having fund-raisers for computers, repairs in the school and for athletic equipment, to name a few. Last year we donated time and labor to build a fence around the Sparks High School football field. It sets me back to hear us quibbling about money that was intended for construction that could be utilized to update and upgrade schools. We would rather put it into the gaping hole of the budget, than to have it disappear evermore. Those schools of affluence will continue to have fund-raisers to upgrade their schools. The Sparks and Sun Valley schools cannot. Those schools will continue to deteriorate; the safety factor and the quality of the teachers will continue to go down.

ANTHONY ROGERS (Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, Local 13):

I am here to represent 1,100 families. They sent me here for three reasons: jobs, jobs and jobs. This bill does two things; it creates jobs and helps improve schools.

RANDY SOLTERO (Nevada State AFL-CIO; Sheet Metal Workers Union, Local 88; Southern Nevada Building and Construction Trades Council):

We represent people in every county in the State. Many of these counties have schools in need of repair. This bill will help make those repairs and create jobs. For the families we represent in every county in this State, please support this bill. Without the foundation of education, there is no economic recovery in this State.

JOHN MADOLE (Nevada Chapter AGC):

My concerns are particular to Washoe County. I raised four sons who attended Washoe County schools. They attended two of the schools with the external doors mentioned. I walked door-to-door in 2002 to raise money for this bond issue in Washoe County. People said they are tired of the money not being used as intended. If the voters voted to spend this money on the schools, it is nothing less than a breach of trust if we do not fulfill that promise. I hope you will pass this bill to keep your promise to your constituents.

SENATOR BROWER:

You mentioned going door-to-door and hearing people talk about being tired of passing bonds. To what were these people referring?

MR. MADOLE:

Not anything in particular. There is fear.

SENATOR BROWER:

Is there precedence for the State or the county taking bond proceeds in Washoe County and not spending them as the voters thought?

MR. MADOLE:

Not that I am aware of.

STEVE HOLLOWAY (Associated General Contractors, Las Vegas Chapter):

We support A.B. 183. It is a good bill. I have provided you information on projects to be funded by the Capital Projects Fund ([Exhibit D](#)).

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MIKE DILLION (Executive Director, Builders Association of Northern Nevada):  
Our organization has been involved with making sure these school bonds get passed. We have explained to Washoe County that these funds will be used for school construction, revitalization and capital renewal.

MAX HERSHENOW (H + K Architects):  
We support the bill. I attended Jessie Beck Elementary School in the 1960s. My daughter attended the same school in the 1990s. The school was built 1958. There have been many technological changes. Test scores increase with a good learning environment.

SHEILA WARD:  
My five children attended Carson City schools. We would like to see the bond money used as it was intended and voted on.

CHAIR DENIS:  
If there are no further comments, I will close the hearing on A.B. 183.

MR. STURM:  
The Committee has taken action on the first bill listed in the work session, S.B. 14. We have just heard the second bill listed, A.B. 183. Assembly Bill 183 is enabling legislation that permits school districts to determine the reserve account for payment of the outstanding debts of the school district. For Clark County and Washoe County, the bill changes the amount of the required reserves to the lesser of 10 percent of the outstanding principal, or 25 percent of the amount of principal and interest on all outstanding bonds. For the other 15 counties, the amount is the lesser of 10 percent of the outstanding principal or 50 percent of the amount of principal and interest on all outstanding bonds. This legislation is enabling and does not require the school districts to take any specific action. No amendments were proposed during the hearing on this bill.

SENATOR WIENER MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 183.

SENATOR KIHUEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR BROWER:  
This is my third session. I do not think I have ever sat in a Committee where we did a work session the same day we heard a bill. I have heard compelling arguments tonight, very compelling arguments in support of this bill. There are



moving parts we need to sort out before taking action. There are too many bills moving too quickly in this body. This is an important issue; it may be a priority issue, but it is not an emergency. We need to think about what emergencies have confronted this body over the years; this is not one of them. This needs some work, some thought, some consideration and then we need to get together and move this bill or not. As a matter of principle, I am not going to vote for any bill this Session that I heard the same day the motion is taken. It is not a good way to do business. We have time, and I am not suggesting we delay a long time, but this bill needs more deliberation. I respect those who think it is simple and those who think they have heard enough. For those who think this needs more thought, their view should also be respected. I cannot support the bill until I sort out some of the issues.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

I echo my colleague's comments on this bill. This bill is critical. I have concerns that this bill is open-ended. I cannot support this measure.

CHAIR DENIS:

Would the maker of this bill like to comment?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SMITH:

It has been insinuated that information has been misrepresented. I would like to clarify two things. The bill does not have a sunset. The determination has been made that the financial sensibility of this legislation is prudent to lower the amount for the bond reserve. It is not a one-time bill or one-time issue. It is enabling under those guidelines. It is generated from money the voters approved.

CHAIR DENIS:

Representing an older district that has had great needs, I know the frustration as my own children attend school. We fight for these bond issues trusting the funds will be used for their intended purpose. I appreciate this bill coming forward to allow these schools the ability to make repairs and address safety issues.

SENATOR GUSTAVSON:

I do agree with my colleagues from Clark County and Washoe County that this is a complicated bill. I am not ready to vote until we have more information. I will be voting no.

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SENATOR LESLIE:

I will be voting to support the bill. The children in my district have waited long enough. This is a win-win situation. It creates jobs, helps teachers and most importantly, it helps the children.

CHAIR DENIS:

Committee, we have a motion, a second and a discussion. I call for the vote.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS BROWER, CEGAVSKE AND GUSTAVSON VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR DENIS:

With no further business to come before this Committee, this meeting is adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Billie McMenamy,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Mo Denis, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>EXHIBITS</u>			
Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster
A.B. 183	C	Mark Stanton	Washoe County School District
A.B. 183	D	Steve Holloway	Projects to be funded by Capital Projects Fund