

SENATE BILL NO. 500—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

MARCH 25, 2013

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Creates the Task Force on K-12 Public Education Funding. (BDR S-1100)

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

~

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

AN ACT relating to education; creating the Task Force on K-12 Public Education Funding to recommend a plan for funding public schools based upon a weighted formula that takes into account the individual educational needs and demographic characteristics of pupils; prescribing the membership and duties of the Task Force; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Under existing law, the Nevada Plan for School Finance provides for the
2 financial support of the school districts, charter schools and university schools for
3 profoundly gifted pupils. The formula in the Nevada Plan is expressed as: State
4 financial aid to school districts equals the difference between school district basic
5 support guarantee and local available funds produced by mandatory taxes minus all
6 the local funds attributable to pupils who reside in the county but attend a charter
7 school or a university school for profoundly gifted pupils. (NRS 387.121) The basic
8 support guarantee for each school district is computed by multiplying the basic
9 support guarantee per pupil that is established by law for the school district for each
10 school year by pupil enrollment and adding funding for special education program
11 units. (NRS 387.1221-387.1233; *see, e.g.*, chapter 370, Statutes of Nevada 2011, p.
12 2139) This bill creates the Task Force on K-12 Public Education Funding to
13 recommend a plan for implementing a funding formula that takes into account the
14 needs of, and the costs to educate, pupils based upon the individual educational
15 needs and demographic characteristics of pupils, including, without limitation,
16 pupils from low-income families, pupils with disabilities and pupils who have
17 limited proficiency in the English language.



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

Section 1. The Nevada Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

1. It is the intended goal of the Legislature to equitably fund public education in this State and ensure that the public education funding formula properly accounts for the needs of, and the costs to educate, pupils based upon the individual educational needs and demographic characteristics of pupils, including, without limitation, pupils from low-income families, pupils with disabilities and pupils who have limited proficiency in the English language.

2. The Legislature seeks to revise the formula used to fund public education in Nevada to account for pupils with varying educational needs and demographic characteristics in each school district in this State.

Sec. 2. 1. The Task Force on K-12 Public Education Funding is hereby created. The Task Force consists of:

(a) The Superintendent of Public Instruction or his or her designee;

(b) The Director of the State Public Charter School Authority or his or her designee;

(c) One member appointed by the Nevada Association of School Superintendents, in consultation with the Nevada Association of School Administrators;

(d) One member appointed by the Nevada Association of School Boards;

(e) One member appointed by the Nevada Parent Teacher Association;

(f) One member appointed by the Nevada State Education Association;

(g) Two members appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a financial officer of a county school district and one of whom is a parent or legal guardian of a pupil enrolled in a public school in this State;

(h) One member appointed by the Advisory Council on Parental Involvement and Family Engagement;

(i) Two members appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate as follows:

(1) One Senator; and

(2) One person who is a current or former licensed educator;

(j) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly as follows:

(1) One Assemblyman or Assemblywoman; and

(2) One person who is a current or former licensed educator;



* S B 5 0 0 R 1 *

(k) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and

(l) One member of the Assembly appointed by the Minority Leader of the Assembly.

2. In appointing members of the Task Force pursuant to subsection 1, the appointing authorities shall coordinate the appointments, to the extent practicable, so that the members of the Task Force represent the geographic and ethnic diversity of this State.

3. Any vacancy occurring in the appointed membership of the Task Force must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment not later than 30 days after the vacancy occurs.

4. The Task Force shall hold its first meeting as soon as practicable on or after July 1, 2013, upon the call of the Governor. At the first meeting of the Task Force, the members of the Task Force shall elect a Chair, who must be either a Senator or an Assemblyman or Assemblywoman.

5. Including the first meeting held pursuant to subsection 4, the Task Force shall meet not more than six times each year at the call of the Chair.

6. A majority of the members of the Task Force constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority of those members present at any meeting is sufficient for any official action taken by the Task Force.

7. The Chair of the Task Force may appoint such subcommittees from within or outside the membership of the Task Force as the Chair determines necessary to carry out the duties of the Task Force.

8. The Chair of the Task Force shall appoint a technical advisory committee consisting of persons who have knowledge, experience or expertise in K-12 public school finance as follows:

(a) One representative of the Clark County School District;

(b) One representative of the Washoe County School District;

(c) One representative of a county school district other than the Clark County School District or the Washoe County School District; and

(d) Any other persons who have knowledge, experience or expertise in the area of K-12 public school finance.

9. The members of the Task Force, a subcommittee of the Task Force and the technical advisory committee serve without compensation.

10. The Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau shall provide administrative support to the Task Force.

Sec. 3. 1. The Task Force on K-12 Public Education Funding created by section 2 of this act shall:



(a) Conduct a review of the report entitled "Study of a New Method of Funding for Public Schools in Nevada" published by the American Institutes for Research on September 25, 2012;

(b) Survey the weighted pupil public education funding formulas which are used in other states;

(c) Develop a plan for revising and implementing Nevada's public education funding formula in a manner which equitably accounts for the needs of, and the costs to educate, pupils based upon the individual educational needs and demographic characteristics of pupils, including, without limitation, pupils from low-income families, pupils with disabilities and pupils who have limited proficiency in the English language through a weighted funding formula; and

(d) Not later than June 30, 2014, prepare a written report to the Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature which includes recommendations for implementing the plan developed pursuant to paragraph (c) for Nevada's public education funding formula in the executive budget prepared for the 2015-2017 biennium.

2. The Task Force, a subcommittee of the Task Force or the technical advisory committee of the Task Force may seek the input, advice and assistance of persons and organizations with the knowledge, interest or expertise relevant to the duties of the Task Force.

Sec. 4. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this act but not later than July 1, 2013, the members of the Task Force on K-12 Public Education Funding must be appointed as prescribed by section 2 of this act.

Sec. 5. This act:

1. Becomes effective upon passage and approval for the purpose of appointing members to the Task Force on K-12 Public Education Funding created by section 2 of this act and on July 1, 2013, for all other purposes.

2. Expires by limitation on June 30, 2015.

