

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Seventy-Eighth Session
May 15, 2015**

The Senate Committee on Education was called to order by Chair Becky Harris at 4:05 p.m. on Friday, May 15, 2015, in Room 2149 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4404B of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 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 Becky Harris, Chair
Senator Scott Hammond, Vice Chair
Senator Don Gustavson
Senator Mark A. Lipparelli
Senator Joyce Woodhouse
Senator Moises (Mo) Denis
Senator Tick Segerblom

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson, Assembly District No. 17

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Todd Butterworth, Policy Analyst
Risa Lang, Counsel
Jan Brase, Committee Secretary

Chair Harris:

I will open the work session on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 166.

ASSEMBLY BILL 166 (1st Reprint): Provides for the establishment of the State Seal of Biliteracy Program. (BDR 34-526)

Todd Butterworth (Policy Analyst):

The Committee has received the work session document ([Exhibit C](#)). During the hearing, the sponsors proposed an amendment to clarify that the biliteracy seal would be noted on a student's transcript, rather than affixed to the transcript.

SENATOR LIPPARELLI MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
A.B. 166.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Chair Harris:

We will move to A.B. 178.

ASSEMBLY BILL 178 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions governing the discipline of pupils. (BDR 34-248)

Mr. Butterworth:

I will read from the work session document ([Exhibit D](#)).

Chair Harris:

We have worked with interested parties and have submitted an amendment, which builds on those attached to the work session document, [Exhibit D](#).

Risa Lang (Counsel):

Section 1, subsection 1, paragraph (a) adds "two or more times." The attempted threats, extortion etc. would have to occur two or more times to be deemed a habitual disciplinary problem. We strike section 1, subsection 1, paragraph (b), and add paragraph (d) stating, "has not successfully completed a plan of behavior developed pursuant to subsection 4." We remove language from subsection 4; therefore, allowing students suspended for fighting to participate in behavior plans.

Chair Harris:

Section 1, subsection 1 retains the word "shall" as opposed to "may."

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Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson (Assembly District No. 17):

I agree with the changes to section 1, subsection 4, paragraph (a).

Chair Harris:

The intent of the changes is to allow and incentivize students to participate in a behavior plan and to stay in school.

SENATOR SEGERBLOM MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 178.

SENATOR HAMMOND SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Chair Harris:

We will move to A.B. 328.

[ASSEMBLY BILL 328 \(1st Reprint\)](#): Revises provisions relating to certain hearings concerning pupils with disabilities. (BDR 34-620)

Mr. Butterworth:

I will read from the work session document ([Exhibit E](#)). Chair Harris has proposed an amendment enabling the aggrieved party to select a hearing officer from a list of approved hearing officers maintained by the Department of Education (NDE). Senator Lipparelli has proposed an amendment requiring the redacted decisions of due process hearings and appeals to be posted for public access on the NDE Website. Both proposed amendments were incorporated into Proposed Amendment 7270.

Chair Harris:

These amendments have the full support of the sponsor.

SENATOR HAMMOND MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 328 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT 7270.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

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THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Chair Harris:

We will move to A.B. 421.

ASSEMBLY BILL 421 (1st Reprint): Creates the Spending and Government Efficiency Commission for public education in this State. (BDR S-1083)

Mr. Butterworth:

I will read from the work session document ([Exhibit F](#)).

Chair Harris:

The sponsor of A.B. 421 has agreed to the amendments. The scope of the Commission will not include higher education, and one member will be a retired educator with experience in K-12 in Nevada.

Senator Lipparelli:

Would the Committee agree to designate the Governor to appoint the education member?

Chair Harris:

Yes, there is agreement among Committee members.

SENATOR LIPPARELLI MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
A.B. 421.

SENATOR GUSTAVSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Chair Harris:

We will move to A.B. 120.

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ASSEMBLY BILL 120 (1st Reprint): Clarifies rights of public school pupils regarding the free exercise of religion and freedom of expression. (BDR 34-520)

Mr. Butterworth:

I will read from the work session document ([Exhibit G](#)).

Senator Woodhouse:

I understand the intent of A.B. 120, but at this point, I will vote no. I reserve the right to change my vote on the Senate Floor.

SENATOR HAMMOND MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 120.

SENATOR GUSTAVSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR WOODHOUSE VOTED NO.)

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Chair Harris:

We will move to A.B. 117.

ASSEMBLY BILL 117 (1st Reprint): Authorizes a school district to lease school buses or vehicles belonging to the school district in certain circumstances. (BDR 34-510)

Mr. Butterworth:

I will read from the work session document ([Exhibit H](#)).

Senator Woodhouse:

Can the school district require an increase in the security deposit?

Chair Harris:

The 10 percent security deposit is a minimum. The sponsor of A.B. 117 has agreed to allow for flexibility up to 25 percent.

Senator Woodhouse:

I plan to support A.B. 117, but am concerned that the buses need to be returned to the schools in good condition. My chief concern is that the children

have clean and safe vehicles. We will need to review this program for possible action next Session.

Senator Lipparelli:

I have concerns about the school districts' legal liability and the possibility of damage to school property. Though the bill's language allows school district trustees the flexibility to decide how buses are used, I continue to have concerns and will not support A.B. 117.

Senator Gustavson:

My concerns are similar to those previously stated. I will support A.B. 117, though I agree that we will need to review the program.

Chair Harris:

I agree with Committee members and their concerns. There are advantages to the program, and I will vote in support of A.B. 117. I propose amending the bill to require a 20 percent security deposit.

SENATOR SEGERBLOM MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 117 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT 6889.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR LIPPARELLI VOTED NO.)

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Chair Harris:

There being no further comment or business before the Committee, the meeting is adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Jan Brase,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Becky Harris, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit / # of pages		Witness / Entity	Description
	A	2		Agenda
	B	2		Attendance Roster
AB 166	C	2	Todd Butterworth	Work Session Document
AB 178	D	8	Todd Butterworth	Work Session Document
AB 328	E	7	Todd Butterworth	Work Session Document
AB 421	F	7	Todd Butterworth	Work Session Document
AB 120	G	1	Todd Butterworth	Work Session Document
AB 117	H	4	Todd Butterworth	Work Session Document