

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Seventy-Eighth Session
March 24, 2015**

The Senate Committee on Education was called to order by Chair Becky Harris at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4412 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 Don Gustavson
Senator Mark Lipparelli
Senator Joyce Woodhouse
Senator Moises (Mo) Denis

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Scott Hammond, Vice-Chair (Excused)
Senator Tick Segerblom (Excused)

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator James A. Settelmeyer, Senatorial District No. 17

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Todd Butterworth, Policy Analyst
Risa Lang, Counsel
Shelley Kyle, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ray Bacon, Nevada Manufacturers Association
Justin Harrison, Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce
Luis F. Valera, J.D., University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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Judy Kraus
Richard Knoeppel
Sharon Pearson
Mary Pierczynski, Ed.D, Nevada Association of School Superintendents
Nicole Rourke, Clark County School District
Scott Baez, Washoe County School District
Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement,
Department of Education
Stacy Noyes
Kindred I. Murillo, Ed.D., Superintendent/President, Lake Tahoe
Community College
Constance Brooks, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education
Samuel P. McMullen, Touro University Nevada
Kelly Wuest, Administrator, Commission on Postsecondary Education
Renee E. Coffman, Ph.D., President, Roseman University of Health Sciences
Kelly Krolicki
Katherine Krolicki

Chair Harris:

We will begin the hearing with Senate Bill (S.B.) 236.

SENATE BILL 236: Revises provisions relating to the Advisory Council on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. (BDR 34-655)

Senator Joyce Woodhouse (Senatorial District No. 5):

I will read from my written testimony in support of S.B. 236 ([Exhibit C](#)).

Based upon my past activities and career with the Clark County School District (CCSD) in the Partnership Office, I would like to share suggestions that I am sharing with the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Advisory Council about the two student recognition events at the universities and the single, statewide school recognition event.

My first suggestion is the two events that would be held in northern Nevada and in southern Nevada could be held in smaller locations rather than statewide because of travel and costs.

Another suggestion is to bring the recognized students and teachers to the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), or we could look at other educational institutions within the State.

These campus visits would bring students and teachers in contact with professors and professionals who are working in the STEM field and generate excitement. Mark Muro's Brookings report, "Cracking the Code on STEM: A People Strategy for Nevada's Economy," states the importance of students having connections with professionals so they can see themselves in those kinds of professions in the future. We want to create those pathways.

In addition to these two north and south events, I have in my mind an end-of-the year event patterned after an arts celebration held in Carson City I was involved in working with then Governor Bob Miller and First Lady Sandy Miller.

Elementary, middle school and high school students from every county were invited to the Governor's Mansion for the weekend. Parents and art teachers were also invited. There was a reception and the students' artwork was displayed. The art was two-dimensional, sculpture, musical and other mediums. No prizes were given.

The vast majority of the students who attended, even high school students, had never been to Carson City. It was awesome to see the students sharing with each other. The Governor, First Lady, parents, citizens and each of the students could see what had been done by the other students.

My idea is students, teachers and parents of those recognized programs or schools would come to Carson City for a reception and visit some of our attractions in our Capital City. That is the reason I am requesting a nominal \$5,000 annual appropriation from the State General Fund to support the statewide school recognition event for the next 2 years.

Chair Harris:

Will we want to leave UNR and UNLV in the bill or do we want to amend the bill to allow for any institution of higher learning in Nevada?

Senator Woodhouse:

I am willing to open it up for other institutions of higher learning in Nevada, if that is the pleasure of the Senate Committee on Education. I am willing to work on a proposed amendment with the Committee.

Chair Harris:

The various certificate programs offered or being developed by other postsecondary institutions in Nevada would be an opportunity for those schools to show the innovations they are making with the STEM communities. In addition, our traditional universities are doing wonderful things now.

Senator Woodhouse:

The baseline of this kind of an event is that students will visit Nevada's campuses of higher learning and build a desire to go on to higher education.

Ray Bacon (Nevada Manufacturers Association):

The Nevada Manufacturers Association is in support of S.B. 236 and we care about STEM. The private sector is changing as far as the STEM use. Several years ago, we did not know that Switch Data Centers would expand and Tesla was a dream.

We need to recognize, too, that gaming is in the technology business and the energy sector is getting more and more into technology. Robotics are everywhere and will not go away any time soon. Drones are another STEM application.

The Committee on Education is going to grow and change. It is a necessary Committee and will be more important as time goes on.

Justin Harrison (Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce):

The Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce is in support of S.B. 236. We endorse STEM education and realize the importance of STEM from kindergarten through Grade 12 to higher education. It is essential to the future of Nevada's economic development and diversification. Through the vision of the STEM Advisory Council, Nevada will be better prepared to serve the needs of employers and STEM industries.

Luis F. Valera, J.D. (University of Nevada, Las Vegas):

The UNLV is in support of S.B. 236 and is happy to host any aspect Senator Woodhouse feels appropriate at UNLV. We host a couple of STEM-specific events over the summer and during winter break and would be happy to incorporate Senator Woodhouse's vision into either one of those.

Judy Kraus:

I am an educator and am in support of S.B. 236.

What is STEM? STEM is science night for a second grader to discover the insulation that blubber provides to an Arctic animal. It is the Trout in the Classroom Program sponsored by the Department of Wildlife, in which Grade 4-6 students make observations and adjustments as they watch eggs develop and hatch into fry, which are eventually released.

Recognizing exemplary STEM schools will provide models throughout the State.

Richard Knoepfel:

I am a secondary and postsecondary STEM teacher and support S.B. 236. I have seen the positive impact a rigorous STEM education makes on students' successes in the classroom. The STEM education helps to create a relationship with the real world.

Mentoring, which is included in S.B. 236, would allow students to work with professionals and test their knowledge. The feedback students receive from the professionals during the mentoring process reinforces the importance of the information they are exposed to through STEM education.

For the past year, I have been on the STEM Advisory Council. During that time, I have gained a greater perspective of what postsecondary institutions and Nevada's workforce are looking for in their prospective students. Through interaction with my colleagues, I have learned we need to set our sights high if we, as a state, are going to be able to compete in a global economy.

This starts with the recognition of both students and schools that excel in the area of STEM education. As an educator and as a parent, I have witnessed the impact such recognition makes. If Nevada is going to be competitive with other states and prepare our students for the future, we need to identify our

successful programs and use them as models to show what STEM education looks like in our State.

Sharon Pearson:

I am in support of S.B. 236. As an educator in the CCSD, I see the importance of STEM for our students and their families. As students explore the STEM areas, they become more cognizant of the world around them, the decisions that have to be made and alternate perspectives.

Senate Bill 236 allows Nevada to show others that our State honors the importance of STEM in our students' lives. It tells the Nation, that our State does look toward the future and that education is important to all of us.

Mary Pierczynski, Ed.D. (Nevada Association of School Superintendents):

The Nevada Association of School Superintendents supports S.B. 236. Senator Woodhouse has been a champion for STEM over the years and we thank her. There are STEM labs in our schools now and a lot of those are due to Senator Woodhouse's efforts. This bill helps to keep the emphasis going in the State.

Nicole Rourke (Clark County School District):

The CCSD is in support of S.B. 236. However, in section 2, subsection 2, paragraph (a), subparagraphs (1) and (2) we concur there be a change in the names of the designated universities to allow the STEM Advisory Council flexibility.

Scott Baez (Washoe County School District):

Supporting STEM education and expanding opportunities for STEM education is an important part of our strategic plan. The Washoe County School District supports S.B. 236.

Steve Canavero, Ph.D. (Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement, Department of Education):

The Nevada Department of Education is neutral on the funding component on S.B. 236. We read that the \$5,000 appropriated in each year of the biennium is to specifically support the annual gathering here in Carson City. It is a good idea.

Requiring six meetings, two of those being face-to-face meetings, is a good idea. We are working to see what kind of fiscal note will be needed to ensure the STEM Advisory Council receives the support it needs financially, in order to make that work.

Chair Harris:

I will close the hearing on S.B. 236 and open the hearing on S.B. 414.

SENATE BILL 414: Encourages the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to enter into a reciprocal agreement with the State of California to provide full waivers of nonresident tuition to certain residents of the Lake Tahoe Basin. (BDR S-993)

Senator James A. Settelmeyer (Senatorial District No. 17):

In Nevada, we used to have a Good-Neighbor Policy with the state of California for the universities and schools that were close to the States' borders. During recent budgetary cuts, both States decided to rescind the Good-Neighbor Policy in an effort to save resources.

My counterpart in California, state Senator Ted Gaines, Senatorial District No. 1, and I would like to reestablish the Good-Neighbor Policy within the states of Nevada and California on a limited basis. In this limited plan, there would be 200 students per academic year.

We selected two schools and individual ZIP codes that would be eligible close to the border in the Lake Tahoe Basin area. We have students within the Basin who live a mile away from the State's border, yet there is a school across the state line in the other state that would be more convenient to attend. At this time, those students are eligible under Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) if their grade point average (GPA) is 3.5 or whatever is the limit at this particular time, for WICHE. We are trying to find an opportunity for students who are not as scholastically inclined, GPA wise.

Senate Bill 414 is meant to be a companion bill with California Senate Bill 605. If we could indicate, we are merely urging our Board of Regents to keep track of California's Senate Bill 605 and if the bill passes in California, urging our Board of Regents to work with the state of California within the framework of California Senate Bill 605.

I want to stress the word “urging.” Under Nevada law, we have discovered the Legislature does not have the ability to tell the Board of Regents what to do. I am urging our Legislators to reach across the border to the state of California and do what is best for the students who will benefit from S.B. 414.

I have sent you all a copy of California Senate Bill 605 which has the details within it. The bill drafting group just produced it because we discovered we have no ability to affect the Board of Regents. Therefore, the word “urge” needed to be used and the drafting group speedily provided the language. We can easily amend S.B. 414 to urge Nevada Legislators to look at California Senate Bill 605, if passed. That bill is contingent upon Nevada passing S.B. 414. If Nevada does nothing; California will do nothing.

Senator Lipparelli:

Will there be full reciprocity? Are both sides contributing something? Will both sides have to perform?

Senator Settlemeyer:

This is a reciprocal bill. California’s language states quite clearly that if Nevada does not participate in this reciprocal agreement, there is no agreement. We are just urging the regions to look at S.B. 414 and make a determination whether to again have a Good-Neighbor Policy. The bill is limited; it will be for 200 students per academic year.

Chair Harris:

Reviewing section 1, it appears there are people who live in Nevada who are closer to the educational facility in California. Could you give the Committee a sense of the geography of S.B. 414? What is the proximity of the residents to the various educational facilities?

Senator Settlemeyer:

There are two institutions in the proposed S.B. 414: Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC) in South Lake Tahoe, California, and Feather River College in Quincy, California.

Students in close proximity to LTCC would come from the Nevada communities of Incline Village, Kingsbury, Round Hill, Skyline, Stateline and Zephyr Cove. If a student lives within the Tahoe bowl area, the student would be allowed to go to LTCC.

For Feather River College, it would be a student from any district that has fewer than 1,500 full-time students and whose boundaries are within 10 miles from another state. The intent is to restart the Good-Neighbor Policy to help those within the Lake Tahoe Basin and the Feather River area. We are trying to be friendly to our California neighbor.

Chair Harris:

Does LTCC offer more diverse and different types of degrees or programs that Nevada students could benefit from? Do the institutions in Nevada that students are in close proximity to not offer those same types of educational programs?

Senator Settlemeyer:

That is an important aspect. I do realize that some of the institutions, such as Feather River College, tend to have more environmental course work. Western Nevada College (WNC) has an excellent nursing preprogram. In limited smaller colleges, such diversity does not exist.

Chair Harris:

Is the tuition charged in California equivalent to the tuition charged in Nevada?

Senator Settlemeyer:

Nevada tuition is less than the tuition in California. Our State has done a better job of subsidizing the education level of its colleges.

The population base from the affected Nevada communities is far more advantageous than the California population base.

Again, the concept is limited in order to monitor the success of this program. The proposed California Senate Bill 605 states a 2-year trial. It would then be discussed between the institutions and renegotiated at the end of the trial period.

Chair Harris:

If the Good-Neighbor Policy was a success, would an eligible Nevada student from the Tahoe Basin pay a higher tuition even with the Good-Neighbor Policy because the California in-state tuition is more than Nevada's in-state tuition?

Senator Settlemeyer:

Yes. That is correct.

Stacy Noyes:

Contrary to what many people think, Lake Tahoe does not have a predominately affluent population. A large number of the population are cooks, housekeepers, front-desk staff and line-level employees in local businesses.

Many are parents with children who seek a higher education. We need to ensure the students from these hard-working, low-income families are able to attend an institution of higher education.

I have been in management for the past 19 years in the Lake Tahoe area. When talking to my staff, I ask them why they or their children are not pursuing education. They state three issues of accessibility. The first, is the travel time to and from WNC. The second is the cost of the transportation. Many individuals do not have a car or cannot afford a bus pass. The third, is the cost of the tuition.

I am in support of S.B. 414 because it would provide the solution to these issues at a price that is more affordable. Many of these individuals have the motivation and avail themselves to the free English as a Second Language classes at LTCC. Many of these working parents dream of a family member being the first in their generation to attend college.

Kindred I. Murillo, Ed.D. (Superintendent/President, Lake Tahoe Community College):

Lake Tahoe Community College is in support of S.B. 414 and there are others in the South Lake Tahoe area as stated in their letters ([Exhibit D](#)) and ([Exhibit E](#)) who think this is the right thing to do.

Community colleges serve the underserved. People who can afford it, send their children to other institutions. The people who work in the Lake Tahoe Basin do not have an option. When they are old enough to work, they must go to work. It is not uncommon for them to work three jobs. They do not have an opportunity to "get off the hill."

We have identified about 800 people on the Nevada side who would be able to come to LTCC. We are 3 miles from the border and 8 miles from George Whittell High School and offer a number of programs that would give these students an opportunity to get a good paying job. We have a fire program, emergency medical technician program and phlebotomy program. We train

students to send to WNC's Associate Degree Nursing Program which is a program we admire.

Chester O. Burton, President of WNC and I work together to make certain that we are not duplicating anything in our general education patterns. We do not compete with one another.

Senator Lipparelli:

What is your expectation of the legislation in California?

Dr. Murillo:

The California Senate Committee on Higher Education told me 2 years ago that if LTCC did a couple of things, the Committee would consider the Good-Neighbor Policy. The first would be to get a reciprocity agreement with Nevada; the second was a sunset clause for this pilot program.

If we obtain an agreement of reciprocity with Nevada, it is probable the bill would move forward. We have done all the Committee has asked and I take them at their word.

Senator Lipparelli:

What is the feeling of the California Legislature at this time?

Dr. Murillo:

Today, I spoke with the Community College League of California, which is cosponsoring this bill with us. They usually do not sponsor something for one college, but they feel that this is important to the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, overall. At this time, they have been neutral on the bill because it is so limited to our area. The bill goes to hearing on April 8 and I will be speaking at the hearing.

Chair Harris:

What is the cost of your in-state tuition?

Dr. Murillo:

For a full-time student it is about \$1,300 per year. It is the least expensive in the Nation. Lake Tahoe Community College is on a quarterly system.

Chair Harris:

Everyone talks about “going down the hill” to go to the nearest Nevada college. I would like a sense of what the residents go through in their attempt to pursue an education. What is the cost for a bus pass? How far would students have to travel to WNC as opposed to attending school across the border in California?

Dr. Murillo:

I do not know the cost of the bus pass. I can get that answer for you. From George Whittell High School, it is 30 miles to WNC and to LTCC, it is 8 miles. Those figures I obtained from Google Maps.

Constance Brooks, Ph.D. (Vice Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education):

The Nevada System of Higher Education is opposed to S.B. 414. Our reasons are described in ([Exhibit F](#)). Nevada students would pay \$31 per quarterly credit hour, which roughly equates to \$46 per semester credit hour at LTCC. At this time, the credit hour charge at WNC is \$93 for out-of-state students. We view proposed S.B. 414 as a proponent to help Californians and not Nevadans.

Senator Gustavson:

Has a fiscal note been submitted?

Dr. Brooks:

No. We do not know the impact of S.B. 414. Since 2011, when the Good-Neighbor Policy was suspended, we have seen a dramatic decrease in the number of out-of-state students who attend WNC. Prior to 2011, it was on an average of 25-30 students per year; at this time, it is down to 8 students per year.

Senator Gustavson:

Please provide that information.

Dr. Brooks:

I will get that information for you.

Chair Harris:

Are you farther away from or closer to students from California who would be attending your institution?

Dr. Brooks:

I am not as familiar with northern Nevada as I reside in southern Nevada. Based on the previous testimony provided, as I understand, there are some residents who are close to the state line and George Whittell High School on the Nevada side. Those students probably would enjoy the opportunity to attend a California school that would be closer to them than WNC. As I understand the proponents of S.B. 414, it would help those students in particular from a proximity perspective.

Chair Harris:

Are any California students closer to WNC?

Dr. Brooks:

As I understand your question, the answer is yes.

Chair Harris:

When the Good-Neighbor Policy was in effect, were there states, other than California, with which we had reciprocal agreements?

Dr. Brooks:

Yes, there were other states. Arizona was included and I do not have the other states available at this time. I will get that information for you.

Chair Harris:

There being no further testimony in opposition and no neutral testimony, I will ask Senator Settlemeyer for his closing remarks.

Senator Settlemeyer:

The Committee has received an email from Lisa Noonan, Superintendent of the Douglas County School District and an email from Bryan Nichols, Tahoe Chamber of Commerce. Brian Krolicki, former Lieutenant Governor of Nevada, was on his way to this meeting. Unfortunately, he is stuck in traffic on Highway 50, due to an accident. His situation speaks to what S.B. 414 is about.

Sometimes, it is hard to get down the hill. Sometimes, it is easier to attend a close school.

The community is trying to work together in the Tahoe Region, as we have been for a long time, especially on environmental issues. We are trying to have our leaders do the same.

Chair Harris:

I will close the hearing on S.B. 414 and open the hearing on S.B. 418.

SENATE BILL 418: Revises provisions relating to refunds paid by private postsecondary educational institutions. (BDR 34-727)

Samuel P. McMullen (Touro University Nevada):

Touro University Nevada (TUN) is a multifaceted professional education university in southern Nevada. It focuses on health professionals. The University has a business model that looks at the needs for qualified health professionals in the community and educates and places them in the community.

In the proposed amendment for S.B. 418 ([Exhibit G](#)), we are proposing to change the language for the deposit students pay to reserve a seat in their specific program. Current law requires that all of the deposit paid by a potential student of a postsecondary institution be returned if he or she does not start their program. The maximum the institution can retain is set by statute. That amount is \$100.

We have found that some students who have applied to TUN and paid the seat deposit, also have applications in other universities. There have been times, as little as a day or two before their program is to start at TUN, a student will decide to attend another university. Losing the \$100 is not significant to them. This causes other Nevada students who were interested in attending TUN to go elsewhere for their education.

In the colleges and universities similar to TUN, there is an industry standard that these deposits are nonrefundable. I have submitted a handout ([Exhibit H](#)) showing examples of the Websites of colleges and universities stating the seat deposit is nonrefundable. The statements are highlighted in [Exhibit H](#).

Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California, is one of the competing schools with TUN on the West Coast educating health professional students. On page 2 of [Exhibit H](#), is the page from their Website stating the seat deposit is nonrefundable.

When TUN makes the decision to allow a student a seat, the university would like to be certain the student is seriously considering attending the University and will not ask for a refund a day or two before their program would begin. Touro University Nevada would like their seat deposits to be nonrefundable, which would be fair to students sincerely interested in attending the University.

The proposed amendment would add language in section 1, subsection 1, paragraph (b), subparagraphs (1) and (2) for the nonrefundable deposit.

Senator Lipparelli:

I need more explanation. In section 1, subsection 1, paragraph (b), subparagraph (2), the changed language has some qualifiers in it, if I understand it correctly. If they designate certain deposits required to obtain transcripts or evaluate applications, does that put a condition on the institution? Is it necessary or is it surplus language? Are you trying to prevent the circumstance where a student is holding an institution at bay while the student is considering other schools and then, in the end, after the school has incurred those expenses, the student requests a refund?

Mr. McMullen:

The second part is accurate. Yes. The issue is the timeliness of students withdrawing from the program, which jeopardizes places in the classroom. Other students do not have the opportunity for a seat in a program of interest.

Senator Lipparelli:

Why would it not be appropriate to say any amount paid is a nonrefundable deposit?

Mr. McMullen:

We removed the language that related to the application process because that may only be indirectly involved. This is about holding the seat; not paying for the application process.

Senator Lipparelli:

It should be up to the institution to designate clearly in the documents to prospective students that after certain dates, there are certain funds that are nonrefundable. If a date is passed, a student would lose that deposit.

Mr. McMullen:

Your question concerns me. If the amendment does not say that to you, then we have created an issue. The amendment is supposed to say that the designation in these disclosure materials of what is refundable and what is nonrefundable should be governed and the institution should have the discretion to do that.

Chair Harris:

In the amendment, the language is tightened to define a qualified institution as one that is accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. How is that helpful?

Mr. McMullen:

We were looking for an appropriate place to limit it to limited-degree programs. Many things are regulated by the Commission on Postsecondary Education.

Kelly Wuest (Administrator, Commission on Postsecondary Education):

Section 1, subsection 1, paragraph (b), subparagraph (1) of S.B. 418 applies to many vocational schools. At this time, we have 165 schools that have licenses with the Commission on Postsecondary Education. At this time, there are 12 institutions that would be impacted by section 1, subsection 1, paragraph (b), subparagraph (2).

This is the highest level of accreditation that can be gained. There are only 12 accrediting agencies in the United States that are recognized by the Department of Education. There are other accrediting agencies; they are nationally accredited and not of the same caliber.

Nevada has a blanket statement where all the institutions have to return all but \$100 to a student. Whether the institution is an individual tax service, a basic automotive school or a school that offers doctoral level programs, nursing programs or pharmacology programs, they all have the same standard.

Prospective students across the Nation, who are not accepted elsewhere, are using Nevada as a place to attend these specific schools. Students have cancelled their enrollment the day before school starts. That has been detrimental to our institutions in Nevada.

We are seeking this change to address a problem that is occurring in an elite set of schools in Nevada. It almost exclusively applies to health occupations.

Chair Harris:

What are the 12 institutions that will be affected by the proposed amendment?

Ms. Wuest:

The University of St. Francis, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Lesley University, Nova Southeastern University, Sierra Nevada College, University of Phoenix, University of Oklahoma, Touro University Nevada, Roseman University of Health Sciences, DeVry University, National University and Chamberlain College of Nursing.

Chair Harris:

Have any of the other institutions weighed in on this? Presumably they will be impacted by this bill.

Ms. Wuest:

Touro University Nevada and Roseman University of Health Sciences are the two institutions that have felt the effect. That is because of the types of programs they offer at the masters and doctoral levels. Most of the institutions that I listed have a limited scope of programs and will probably never institute this rule.

Renee E. Coffman, Ph.D. (President, Roseman University of Health Sciences):

There are two major impacts when Nevada does not have the same industry standard as other private schools in our surrounding regions, for instance California, Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, etc.

The first impact is Roseman University of Health Sciences and TUN programs are highly competitive. They are good programs. There are many students who want to get into health profession programs.

Early on, we try to offer admissions to the most qualified, most competent, the most capable—the best and the brightest students. Upon students' acceptance, they often provide a tuition seat deposit. The students recognize, however, the tuition deposit is a flexible deposit for them.

If only \$100 is not returned to them, it is not a big commitment on their part. Subsequently, if he or she receives an offer from another school there may be no incentive for them to stay in Nevada and attend our schools.

The second impact is when we have committed to a student. Once we have received an enrollment agreement with the tuition deposit, a seat is permanently reserved. We then have students on our long waiting lists that we cannot make a commitment to. An accepted student is taking advantage of this \$100 rule and may or may not commit to either of our universities.

It is a tremendous disadvantage to the two schools. It prevents us from keeping the best and the brightest for our Nevada schools. It takes a seat away from someone who is truly earnest in attending either Roseman University of Health Sciences or TUN.

Chair Harris:

In section 1, subsection 1, paragraph (b), subparagraph (2), a designation is made between the types of materials. How do those materials differ? What do they look like?

Mr. McMullen:

I am the one who added the language regarding the reference to the admission materials. The applications and catalogs are now on the Web. Much of the application process is done on the Web.

A prospective student could receive an acceptance offer through the United States Postal Service or from the Website. In both circumstances, in the material the prospective student received, it would be noted the seat deposit would be nonrefundable as a condition of the school.

Chair Harris:

If I understand you correctly, the materials provided to potential applicants are those written materials because they are provided, as opposed to admissions materials which may be located in an electronic format or in advertising that is a different medium than writing.

Mr. McMullen:

Yes. I wanted to make it clear; it is the admission's materials and catalog which can be in writing or on the Website.

Chair Harris:

The hearing on S.B. 418 is closed and I will hear more testimony on S.B. 414.

Kelly Krolicki:

I am a parent and have three children at George Whittell High School in Zephyr Cove near the South Shore of Lake Tahoe. I am in support of S.B. 414. In the rural area where we live, it is important to take classes at LTCC, which is in California. Our family has a particular example which my daughter, Katherine Krolicki, will address in her testimony.

Katherine Krolicki:

I am a Nevada Youth Legislator for Senate District 17 and I support S.B. 414. Recently, I have become aware that I do not have the necessary fine arts requirement to attend the colleges that interest me. Due to my small school, it is difficult to fit into my next year's class schedule any of the classes necessary for my college entrance.

I am a junior and I have 1 year to obtain this fine arts credit. When I visited LTCC to check out the classes they offer I learned it is expensive for out-of-state tuition. At this time, the school is offering the Good-Neighbor Policy to the students who have already committed to attend LTCC.

The colleges that interest me are in the University of California system and that system does not accept a fine arts class taken online. It must be taken at a college site. It would be beneficial for students in a situation like me to be able to take a class locally.

Chair Harris:

I will close the hearing on S.B. 414 and entertain a motion on S.B. 236 that we heard earlier today.

SENATOR LIPPARELLI MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
AS AMENDED S.B. 236.

SENATOR GUSTAVSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

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THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR DENIS WAS ABSENT FOR THE
VOTE.)

* * * * *

Chair Harris:

There being no further comment or business before the Committee, the meeting
is adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Shelley Kyle,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Becky Harris, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit		Witness or Agency	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	4		Attendance Roster
S.B. 236	C	3	Senator Joyce Woodhouse	Testimony
S.B. 414	D	1	Kindred Murillo	Letter
S.B. 414	E	1	Kindred Murillo	Letter
S.B. 414	F	2	Constance Brooks	Testimony
S.B. 418	G	1	Samuel P. McMullen	Proposed Amendment
S.B. 418	H	18	Samuel P. McMullen	Handout