

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Seventy-Eighth Session
April 10, 2015**

The Senate Committee on Education was called to order by Chair Becky Harris at 2:38 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2015, in Room 2149 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 Scott Hammond, Vice Chair
Senator Don Gustavson
Senator Mark Lipparelli
Senator Joyce Woodhouse
Senator Moises (Mo) Denis
Senator Tick Segerblom

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Chair Harris:

I will now open the work session with Senate Bill (S.B.) 463.

SENATE BILL 463: Revises provisions relating to education. (BDR 34-411)

Todd Butterworth (Policy Analyst):

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

Chair Harris:

I want to call the Committee members' attention to section 5, subsection 2, and subsection 3, paragraphs (a) and (b). The recent version of the bill is not provided in the work session document because of the deadline date.

Our Counsel will explain the amended language that did not make it into the work session documents.

Risa Lang (Counsel):

For the record:

In section 5, subsection 3, there just was some added language where we took out... [sic] The proposal was to take out "that a teacher, a pupil or the parent" could request the deletion of information. Instead, it would go through the board of trustees or the governing body, who then would have to have a policy to allow the parent or guardian of the pupil to request that the information be deleted, and then if there's not such a policy in place, then the parent or guardian could request that information directly ... to the school service provider to have it deleted.

Chair Harris:

Because of the deadline, we worked with Senator Gustavson and stakeholders on S.B. 228 and we were unable to come to a consensus. I have agreed, if the Committee also agrees, to allow Senator Gustavson to amend his two most important concepts from his bill, S.B. 228 into S.B. 463.

SENATE BILL 228: Revises provisions relating to the disclosure of personally identifiable information of a pupil by a school district or public school. (BDR 34-848)

Senator Denis:

We spoke with some of those who testified, and because the issues they thought were important were also being handled in this bill, we determined it would be appropriate to amend them in to S.B. 463 to combine those concepts.

Chair Harris:

Senator Gustavson and Senator Denis worked valiantly on S.B. 228, and after discussion with both of them, we agreed this was an appropriate way to take care of their concerns.

SENATOR HAMMOND MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
S.B. 463.

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SENATOR GUSTAVSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Chair Harris:

We will now go to S.B. 399.

SENATE BILL 399: Creates the Nevada Boost Grant Program. (BDR 34-890)

Mr. Butterworth:

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

Chair Harris:

Senator Denis, are the amendments reflective of what you would like?

Senator Denis:

Yes.

Senator Lipparelli:

Are we adopting the Nevada System of Higher Education's standard for residency to be eligible? Would the case be the same for a Nevada high school graduate who left the State and returned to the State 2 or 3 years later?

Senator Denis:

The answers to both of your questions are yes.

SENATOR SEGERBLOM MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
AS AMENDED S.B. 399.

SENATOR GUSTAVSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Chair Harris:

We will now go to S.B. 330.

SENATE BILL 330: Revises provisions relating to education. (BDR 34-724)

Mr. Butterworth:

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

Chair Harris:

Senator Lipparelli, did the amendments appropriately reflect your intent with the bill?

Senator Lipparelli:

Yes.

Senator Denis:

Would you clarify striking the language on the free first transfer and adding the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) rules and regulations? How will that work now?

Senator Lipparelli:

The NIAA is concerned; the idea of a free transfer is problematic for them. In my mind, it still sets a different standard for students who are moving to and from private schools to public schools. Today, a student moving from a public school to a public school retains his or her eligibility as long as it is a legitimate move. The new language says that as long as the private school-to-public school transfer meets the same conditions, the impact is the same.

Senator Denis:

Does it work the same for public school to private school?

Senator Lipparelli:

Yes. In rule making, it can be worked out with respect to zone of attendance. The zone of attendance is the trigger with regard to public school-to-public school transfers, unless a student is granted a waiver.

SENATOR HAMMOND MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
AS AMENDED S.B. 330.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Chair Harris:

We will now go to S.B. 509.

SENATE BILL 509: Makes various changes to provisions governing charter schools. (BDR 34-1090)

Mr. Butterworth:

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

Chair Harris:

My proposed amendment has been vetted with the Charter School Authority and I have their approval to proceed and add the language to maintain high standards for our charter schools in the event they need to be reconstituted.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
AS AMENDED S.B. 509.

SENATOR HAMMOND SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Chair Harris:

The next bill is S.B. 302.

SENATE BILL 302: Establishes a program by which a child who receives instruction from a certain entity rather than from a public school may receive a grant of money in an amount equal to a certain percentage of the per-pupil amount apportioned to the resident school district of the child. (BDR 34-567)

Mr. Butterworth:

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

Chair Harris:

Senator Hammond has additional revisions and will describe what he proposes.

Senator Hammond:

I will read from my Proposed Amendment 6121 ([Exhibit H](#)).

Senator Lipparelli:

Do remaining funds revert to the State?

Senator Hammond:

Yes. If the money is not used by the time allotted, the money reverts to the Distributive School Account (DSA).

Senator Denis:

For this year, what is the amount of the larger grant for pupils with special needs and for pupils whose families have a household income that is less than 185 percent of the federally designated level signifying poverty?

Senator Hammond:

I do not know what the DSA is for this year. It would change from year to year.

Mr. Butterworth:

My understanding is that it is 90 percent of the basic per pupil support. That number is funded with both State and local money. The total amount is approximately \$5,500. Ninety percent of the \$5,500 would be in the neighborhood of \$5,000.

Senator Denis:

Do we know the average cost of a private school? My concern is that it will still be unfair to students of low-income families because they will not have as much of a choice in private schools. They would have fewer schools to select from because they are unable to pay the difference between the amount of the grant and the private school tuition. Only families who have the funds to pay the difference would have a choice among any of the private schools.

Senator Hammond:

At this time, I do not know the amount of tuition for each private school. There are several schools in the Las Vegas area that are private schools and in my

mind are affordable. I do not know the prices for private schools in northern Nevada.

SENATOR GUSTAVSON MOVED TO AMEND WITH
AMENDMENT NO. 6121 AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 302.

SENATOR LIPPARELLI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Senator Denis:

While I understand what is trying to be accomplished with this bill, there will still be kids who will not have true choice because they will not have the money to attend the private schools. More importantly, we have not funded public education adequately enough before we begin removing money. There will be an impact in the public school system. I will not be able to support S.B. 302 at this time.

Senator Woodhouse:

I agree with Senator Denis' remarks. I am concerned we have not funded public education over the years in the way we should. I would prefer we fund public education rather than provide these opportunities, now. Perhaps, these opportunities could be down the road, someday. Until Nevada addresses the needs of our public schools, I cannot support this motion.

Senator Hammond:

We are making great strides this Session to fund public education at a greater level. I do not know if it will reach the ultimate pinnacle of funding. Fully funding public education is a moving target.

For every student who uses the Education Savings Account, if he or she does not qualify for being in a household with income less than 185 percent of the federally designated level signifying poverty or having special needs, the student is extracted from the system and leaves 10 percent behind. You then have other students being funded at 110 percent. The others are attempting to receive a good education at the 90 percent level.

I am satisfied this amendment helps the public schools and gives parents a choice where to send their children to school.

Senator Gustavson:

I know there are students who would like to attend a private school and cannot afford it. This will be a big boost for them to possibly attend a private school when previously it was not possible for them.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS DENIS, SEGERBLOM AND WOODHOUSE VOTED NO.)

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Chair Harris:

Senator Debbie Smith has requested that the Senate Committee on Education rerefer S.B. 338 to the Senate Committee on Finance.

SENATE BILL 338: Requires the Attorney General to establish the Safe-to-Tell Program to enable the anonymous reporting of dangerous, violent or unlawful activity in or at a public school. (BDR 34-870)

SENATOR HAMMOND MOVED WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION TO REREFER S.B. 338 TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Chair Harris:

The next bill is S.B. 220.

SENATE BILL 220: Requires instruction on financial literacy in public middle schools and junior high schools. (BDR 34-654)

Mr. Butterworth:

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

Chair Harris:

Senator Woodhouse, do the amendments provided accurately retain the intent?

Senator Woodhouse:

Yes.

Senator Lipparelli:

Did the amendments change the bill for this to be an option for the school district and something that could be done during extra time? Is it a mandate to core instruction?

Senator Woodhouse:

Technically, you could say it would be mandated; however, the Council adopting regulations will put it in the areas in the curriculum from middle school through high school where it is appropriate.

Senator Lipparelli:

I do not quarrel with the merit of what we are trying to do, but to the extent it would be a mandate, I will vote no with a right to change my vote when I have studied S.B. 220 closer.

Senator Denis:

Does this mandate financial literacy in the study of mathematics? Is it mandating a complete course? Is it changing mathematics to include a section on financial literacy?

Senator Woodhouse:

Not quite, one of the young men who brought this to me wanted financial literacy in the Mathematics Academic Standards. However, some of those do not fit there; they belong in other areas. This is the reason we are looking to the Council to Establish Academic Standards to identify in the curriculum the areas where these items will fit. In processing this bill, an important fact was that we increase from the high school level to include the middle school. There will be other areas of the curriculum, not only mathematics, where we want students to have instruction in financial literacy.

Senator Denis:

Will this create a new course that will be required, or is it only adding new content to the curriculum?

Senator Woodhouse:

It is only adding new content to the curriculum.

Senator Hammond:

I am taking the approach the proposed amendment is not a mandate and will vote in favor of S.B. 220, today. I may change my vote as I get more familiar with what this will do to the bill itself.

Senator Gustavson:

I echo Senator Lipparelli's and Senator Hammond's remarks. I will support this bill and reserve the right to change my vote on the floor.

Chair Harris:

There are still unresolved issues for the Committee. I will give the Committee the opportunity to vote yes to move it out of Committee with the provision that should the information come back and it is contrary for you to support, you will be able to vote no on the floor.

It is my intent that this appropriately reflects all the concerns of the Committee. This excludes the Clark County School District's amendment.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO AMEND WITH THE AMENDMENT FROM
THE NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE AND DO PASS
AS AMENDED S.B. 220.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR LIPPARELLI VOTED NO.)

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Chair Harris:

There being no further business or comment before the Senate Committee on Education, we will now adjourn at 3:23 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 | 3 | | Attendance Roster |
| S.B. 463 | C | 15 | Todd Butterworth | Work Session Document |
| S.B. 399 | D | 4 | Todd Butterworth | Work Session Document |
| S.B. 330 | E | 11 | Todd Butterworth | Work Session Document |
| S.B. 509 | F | 2 | Todd Butterworth | Work Session Document |
| S.B. 302 | G | 23 | Todd Butterworth | Work Session Document |
| S.B. 302 | H | 2 | Senator Scott Hammond | Proposed Amendment |
| S.B. 220 | I | 13 | Todd Butterworth | Work Session Document |