

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
AND THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**Seventy-Eighth Session
May 12, 2015**

The meeting of the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means was called to order by Chair Ben Kieckhefer at 8:08 a.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, in Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4412E 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.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Ben Kieckhefer, Chair
Senator Michael Roberson, Vice Chair
Senator Pete Goicoechea
Senator Mark A. Lipparelli
Senator David R. Parks
Senator Joyce Woodhouse

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman D. Paul Anderson, Chair
Assemblyman John Hambrick, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Derek W. Armstrong
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson
Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams
Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton
Assemblywoman Jill Dickman
Assemblyman Chris Edwards
Assemblyman Pat Hickey
Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick
Assemblyman Randy Kirner
Assemblyman James Oscarson
Assemblyman Michael C. Sprinkle
Assemblywoman Heidi Swank
Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus, M.D.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Debbie Smith (Excused)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Krmpotic, Senate Fiscal Analyst
Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Stephanie Day, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Jeff A. Ferguson, Senior Program Analyst
Leandra Copeland, Program Analyst
Mandi Davis, Program Analyst
Adam Drost, Program Analyst
Jennifer Gamroth, Program Analyst
Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst
Lona Domenici, Committee Manager
Emily Cervi, Committee Assistant
Jason Gortari, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michael J. Willden, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Felicia Denney, Administrative Services Officer, Financial Management Division,
Nevada Department of Transportation
Marlene Lockard, Retired Public Employees of Nevada
Connie McMullen, Personal Care Association of Nevada

Chair Kieckhefer:

I will open today's hearing with a budget account from the Office of the Governor. A closing list document for this budget account has been provided and is entitled "Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means CLOSING LIST #1, May 12, 2015" ([Exhibit C](#)).

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Cindy Jones (Assembly Fiscal Analyst):

I will be discussing the budget closing for the Office of the Governor, budget account (B/A) 101-1003, on page 2 of [Exhibit C](#). This account has three major closing issues.

ELECTED

Office of Science, Innovation and Technology — Budget Page ELECTED-32
(Volume I)
Budget Account 101-1003

The Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) is established in the Office of the Governor pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statute* (NRS) 223.600. However, it has been inactive since 2003 when funding was removed from the budget. The reestablished OSIT would promote the development of a skilled workforce in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and improve broadband availability, adoption and use.

The first major closing issue recommends General Fund appropriations of \$5 million over the 2015-2017 biennium to reestablish the OSIT. The recommended funding supports four nonclassified positions and operating costs, provides resources to improve Nevada's broadband infrastructure and access, and would make available \$3 million over the 2015-2017 biennium to support a new STEM Workforce Challenge Grant Program.

In response to questions from the Committees and the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Fiscal Analysis Division staff regarding the need to reestablish this Office, the Governor's Office indicated increasing attention has been paid to the State's need to develop and monitor STEM programs and activities to support economic growth and diversification. A 2014 report created by the Brookings Institute titled *Cracking the Code on STEM: A People Strategy for Nevada's Economy*, indicates the State's current STEM activities lack strong vision, have a shaky alignment of programs with State economic goals and the State also continues to have a deficit in STEM proficiency.

The Brookings Institute report recommended that Governor Brian Sandoval take the lead role in coordinating and developing STEM activities. The Governor's Office also referred the Committees to a report issued by the Nevada Broadband

Task Force issued in November 2014, which outlined the pivotal role technology plays in how businesses operate, the types of services consumers expect and how services are provided. The Governor's Office, in support of the report's findings, indicated that deploying broadband infrastructure and supporting universal adoption and meaningful use, are essential to a 21st century STEM economy.

In response to questions regarding why the proposed activities of OSIT could not be performed by existing agencies such as Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) or the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), the Governor's Office again referred to the Brookings Institute report. The report indicated that a number of significant challenges threaten to undercut the State's ability to cultivate the STEM-skilled workforce needed to advance Nevada's economic diversification.

The Governor's Office indicated a need exists to improve coordination between the various entities that engage in STEM-related activities and that the coordination is best performed in the Office of the Governor.

During the hearing before the Committees, it was discussed that STEM disciplines have been the focus of other economic and workforce development, higher education initiatives and education initiatives over several biennia. Information was requested regarding the history and current programs in place. The Governor's Office indicated when Governor Sandoval was elected in 2010, he prioritized diversifying Nevada's economy beyond its traditional industries. The Governor also indicated that the State needs to attract new industries while also growing Nevada's existing businesses.

The GOED has focused particularly on STEM-focused industries. All but two of the GOED's target industries are STEM intensive. Many of the industries moving to or expanding in Nevada, such as Tesla Motors, Switch and SolarCity, require a workforce with STEM skills.

The Governor's Office also indicates the DETR is working with STEM employers to provide job training and industry-recognized credentials for high-skilled, in-demand occupations such as welders and machinists. The DETR has a new program called Right Skills Now, which provides STEM skills training and has

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placed over 100 workers in employment who were previously among the long-term unemployed.

The universities have responded to the need for more STEM education by adapting the curriculum and degrees offered. One example is the recent addition of a drone technology minor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to prepare students who otherwise might not major in a STEM-related field for a STEM-related career. The Department of Education (NDE) is preparing students for STEM careers by adopting the Next Generation Science Standards. Additionally, the Governor has recommended an increase of \$10 million for career and technical education for the 2015-2017 biennium.

Do the Committees support the reestablishment of the OSIT? If so, do the Committees wish to issue a letter of intent (LOI) to require biannual reporting to the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) concerning the efforts and achievements of the OSIT to include the award and outcomes of the recommended STEM Workforce Challenge grants and the broadband mapping contract, if approved, as recommended by the Governor?

Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick:

I do not support this because we have several other STEM initiatives. I will have an issue with it if we do not consolidate those efforts.

Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams:

Is the \$5 million divided equally for each of the fiscal years?

Chair Kieckhefer:

There is \$2 million for the first fiscal year and \$3 million for the second fiscal year.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO APPROVE THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE OSIT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN B/A 101-1003 AND INCLUDE AN LOI FOR BIENNIAL REPORTING TO THE IFC.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED (ASSEMBLYWOMEN BUSTAMANTE ADAMS, CARLTON AND KIRKPATRICK VOTED NO.)

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

Ms. Jones:

The second major closing item, decision unit E-149, recommends General Fund appropriations of \$420,463 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$398,666 in FY 2017 to support four new nonclassified positions and associated equipment and operating costs to staff the OSIT. As with positions in the Governor's Office, the Governor's Mansion and the GOED, in accordance with NRS 223.085, the Governor may determine the number of staff and salary level of persons employed in the OSIT. The four nonclassified positions, annual salaries and purpose are reflected in the table on page 4 of [Exhibit C](#). The four nonclassified positions consist of a program manager, broadband manager, grants and projects analyst and administrative assistant. The salaries selected for these positions are reflective of similar positions in the classified service.

E-149 Sustainable and Growing Economy — Page ELECTED-32

Do the Committees wish to approve General Fund appropriations of \$420,463 in FY 2016 and \$398,666 in FY 2017 for four nonclassified positions and the operating costs of the OSIT as recommended by the Governor?

Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams:

Did we receive the job descriptions for the requested positions?

Ms. Jones:

The information provided in the follow-up response was the same as what was included in the original information provided during the budget hearing. No additional information was provided.

Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams:

The salaries are inflated. Without job descriptions, I cannot support the initiative.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE GENERAL FUND
APPROPRIATIONS TO SUPPORT FOUR NONCLASSIFIED POSITIONS

AND THE OPERATING COSTS OF THE OSIT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN E-149 OF B/A 101-1003.

SENATOR ROBERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED (ASSEMBLYWOMEN BUSTAMANTE ADAMS AND CARLTON VOTED NO.)

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. Jones:

The next item within decision unit E-149 is a recommendation for broadband planning and implementation. The Governor recommends General Fund appropriations of \$579,537 in FY 2016 and \$601,334 in FY 2017 in a separate broadband planning and implementation category.

The intended use of the appropriations is to continue contract services with Connect Nevada, which has been engaged to assist in the development of a State Broadband Action Plan. According to the Connect Nevada Web site, it works in collaboration with the Nevada Broadband Task Force to bring the benefits of universal broadband to the State. Connect Nevada is a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operates as a nonprofit in Nevada. The public-private initiative has been established to work with each of the State's broadband providers to create detailed maps of broadband coverage, to conduct surveys and expand access to broadband, encourage broadband adoption and to help communities plan for technology expansion.

Connect Nevada would work with the Nevada Broadband Task Force and OSIT staff to accomplish the goals listed in the bullet points on page 5 of [Exhibit C](#).

In response to questions from Fiscal staff, the Governor's Office provided information outlining the services that would be provided by Connect Nevada as indicated in the table on page 5 of [Exhibit C](#). Some of the funds listed in the table are provided for program leadership and support. Funding support is also included for a program director, administrative support, mapping, data analysis, geographic information system analyst, field engineering and travel expenses.

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The total amount of the contract is equal to the amount requested in this decision unit.

Do the Committees wish to approve General Fund appropriations of \$579,537 in FY 2016 and \$601,334 in FY 2017 to support contract costs associated with expanding broadband planning and implementation in Nevada?

Assemblyman Oscarson:

I support this initiative because I have had significant interactions with Connect Nevada staff throughout the interim and have seen many of the broadband issues faced by the rural counties and State.

Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams:

Is the broadband manager that was just approved the same position as the broadband director?

Ms. Jones:

Those are separate positions. The broadband manager is included in the OSIT and this funding supports a program manager in Connect Nevada. Funds are provided through the contract services by this contract to support that position.

Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams:

The positions duties are duplicative and I am not sure why we are spending money for two different positions.

Chair Anderson:

Connect Nevada operates like a nonprofit organization to assure that we have access to the input of private industries' input when it comes to these particular programs. The OSIT coordinates efforts to find nonprofits, STEM programs and everything else that supports broadband planning and implementation. While it may appear duplicative, the two positions function differently and in tandem to accomplish the goals of these programs.

Assemblywomen Benitez-Thompson:

In regard to the contract services, how long will that contract be in place? Are we extending funds for a contract we are committed to or do these funds permit a new contract?

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If these funds allow for a new contract, what will be the contracting period?

Ms. Jones:

I do not have that information. Please address those questions to members from the Governor's Office.

Michael J. Willden (Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor):

Connect Nevada has been paid for with federal funds. Those federal funds have expired. These dollars allow for us to contract with Connect Nevada moving forward. This is the nonprofit organization that was discussed. These funds will purchase services from that nonprofit organization.

Assemblywomen Benitez-Thompson:

What is the length of time we will be contracting for those services?

Mr. Willden:

This will fund them for the next 2 years. We only have funds in place for a 2-year cycle and I do not know the time frame after that.

Assemblywomen Benitez-Thompson:

Is this a 2-year contract?

Mr. Willden:

Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$579,537 IN FY 2016 AND \$601,334 IN FY 2017 TO SUPPORT THE CONTRACT COSTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN E-149 OF B/A 101-1003.

SENATOR ROBERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON VOTED NO.)

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. Jones:

The third major closing issue, decision unit E-150, is a recommendation for General Fund appropriations of \$1 million in FY 2016 and \$2 million in FY 2017 to provide grants to strengthen workforce programs in STEM-related fields in coordination with the GOED, NSHE and DETR.

E-150 Sustainable and Growing Economy — Page ELECTED-32

The Governor recommended STEM Workforce Challenge Grant Program would provide one-time grants of up to \$150,000 each to be matched dollar-for-dollar by grant recipients at a regional level. Additional information obtained by the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Fiscal Analysis Division included a 2014 report prepared by Brookings Mountain West regarding the challenges Nevada faces in developing a workforce to support a STEM-driven economy. One of the recommendations in the report was to establish a STEM Workforce Challenge Grant Program. The Committees requested additional information about the program including the types of programs envisioned to be funded, the types of entities that would be eligible to apply for the grants, how the grant recipients would be selected and what outcomes would be expected of the entities receiving funds through the STEM Workforce Challenge Grant Program. The Governor's Office indicated in follow-up communication that the Brookings report provides insight into the type of programs to be supported and highlights examples of successful programs in other states.

Specific examples of possible programs for Nevada were mentioned in the report. In the Las Vegas area, State funded college and university leaders could work with the local information technology (IT) industry to create a "Cloud College" that offers certificates in fast-moving cloud-computing disciplines. In the Reno area, stakeholders could apply for a grant to establish programs and certificates for occupations that will be demanded by the Tesla lithium-ion battery production facility.

The Governor's Office indicated grant applicant criteria would be developed by OSIT staff in coordination with GOED, NSHE and DETR. Specific criteria are not listed in Assembly Bill (A.B.) 485, which realigns the responsibilities and focus of OSIT. However, the Governor's Office indicated that the Legislature could consider grant application criteria that is included in Senate Bill (S.B.) 493. The Governor's Office further indicates that grant recipients will be selected by an

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independent panel established during the request for proposal (RFP) process similar to other grants issued by other State agencies. In regard to outcomes to be achieved through the STEM Workforce Challenge Grant Program, the Governor's Office indicated that the overall outcome expected is industry-led, sector-specific skills training, aligned with the workforce needs of local STEM firms and that specific outcomes will be developed with each grant application funded. The Governor's Office further indicated that GOED, NSHE and DETR might also be involved in collaborations applying for funds.

ASSEMBLY BILL 485: Revises provisions governing the duties and structure of the Office of Science, Innovation and Technology. (BDR 18-1155)

SENATE BILL 493: Establishes a program for awarding STEM workforce challenge grants. (BDR 34-594)

Do the Committees wish to approve General Fund appropriations of \$1 million in FY 2016 and \$2 million in FY 2017 to provide grants to strengthen workforce programs in STEM-related fields?

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNIT E-150 IN B/A 101-1003 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

ASSEMBLYMAN HAMBRICK SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON VOTED NO.)

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. Jones:

There are a few bills related to the efforts of OSIT on which no Committee action is required. I would note on A.B. 485 the Department of Administration has offered an amendment to the bill that would allow for the members of the Advisory Council on STEM to receive reimbursement for travel expenses and would also require the establishment of two events: one event to recognize pupils who are engaged in STEM education and another event to recognize

schools that are providing STEM programs. However, no funding is included in the bill. In conversations and communications with the Governor's Office, it was indicated that if those amendments were approved, they would come back during the interim with a work program and fund those activities through the budget as approved without adding additional funding.

Jennifer Gamroth (Program Analyst):

I will present the closing report document entitled "Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on General Government Closing Report Department of Taxation" ([Exhibit D](#)).

The Subcommittees on General Government completed their review of the Department of Taxation. The closing recommendations of the Subcommittees result in General Fund reductions of \$2.3 million in FY 2016 and \$1.2 million in FY 2017. The Subcommittees recommended approval of the following closing actions.

In B/A 101-2361, the Subcommittees recommended not approving the Governor's recommendation of General Fund appropriations totaling \$3.8 million over the 2015-2017 biennium to implement the recommendation to restructure the business license fee under the Department of Taxation, but instead recommended removing the \$3.8 million from the Department's budget and adding a \$3.8 million General Fund appropriation to the Department in the back language of the 2015 Appropriation Act to fund additional staffing, programming and operating costs the Department may need to implement any tax packages that may be approved by the 2015 Legislature.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

TAXATION

Department of Taxation — Budget Page TAXATION-9 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2361

The Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to fund one new IT professional position, which would serve as the Department's information security officer, and one new IT technician position to provide on-site support to southern Nevada offices and associated operating

expenses funded with General Fund appropriations totaling \$252,277 over the 2015-2017 biennium and \$214,200 in FY 2017 for new Oracle data masking software, data partitioning software and advanced database security encryption software.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of one new economist position instead of one new management analyst (MA) position, as recommended by the Governor, since the economist classification appears to align more closely with the duties proposed by the Department. The Subcommittees' recommendation required additional General Fund appropriations totaling \$1,931 in FY 2016 and \$2,673 in FY 2017.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of one new auditor as recommended by the Governor and three additional full-time auditor positions for a total of four new auditor positions to enable the Department to improve the net proceeds of minerals' audit penetration rate by reducing the current audit cycle of each mine from 10 years to 5 years. The three additional auditor positions and associated operating costs required additional General Fund appropriations of \$221,635 in FY 2016 and \$203,710 in FY 2017.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to reclassify nine auditor positions to supervising auditors funded with General Fund appropriations of \$60,940 over the 2015-2017 biennium.

Lastly, the Subcommittees recommended approval of Budget Amendment A150862361, which eliminated a contract with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) upon its expiration on June 30, 2015, and utilized the funding to fund a new unclassified State demographer position and associated operating costs in the Department of Taxation totaling \$176,796 in FY 2016 and \$168,664 in FY 2017, resulting in General Fund savings of \$9,390 in FY 2016 and \$17,522 in FY 2017, as reflected in the closing document.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of all other closing items, with the technical adjustments noted by Fiscal staff and with authority for staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

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Chair Kieckhefer:

Is the \$3.8 million backed out of B/A 101-2361 to implement the business license fee scalable based on estimated need following an agreement over a potential tax package?

Ms. Gamroth:

The \$3.8 million was based on the original bill, S.B. 252, with the budget amendment moving the date up to July 1. The request is for an additional four positions and, starting in FY 2015, would require programming cost if it were to become effective July 1. The positions would need to be accelerated to start earlier in FY 2016 and FY 2017.

SENATE BILL 252 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions governing the state business license fee. (BDR 32-1185)

Chair Kieckhefer:

If we approve a tax plan that is not the business license fee as originally proposed, could the costs be different in terms of implementation?

Ms. Gamroth:

Yes.

Chair Kieckhefer:

Could we reduce that amount in the back language of the Appropriations Act if warranted?

Ms. Gamroth:

Yes. We could reduce it or increase it depending on what the final package is.

Mark Krmpotic (Senate Fiscal Analyst):

Fiscal staff would need to work with the Department of Taxation to develop revised amounts to include in the back language depending on the particular tax legislations approved by the Legislature.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA MOVED TO APPROVE B/A 101-2361 AS
RECOMMENDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEES ON GENERAL
GOVERNMENT.

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ASSEMBLYWOMAN DICKMAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGET CLOSED.

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Andrea McCalla (Program Analyst):

I will present the closing report document entitled "Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Higher Education CIPs Closing Report Department of Education" ([Exhibit E](#)).

The Subcommittees on K-12/Higher Education/CIPs have completed their review of the NDE budget recommendations in the Executive Budget for the 2015-2017 biennium. The closing recommendations of the Subcommittees, inclusive of approved budget amendments, result in a decrease in General Fund appropriations of \$602,726 in FY 2016 and a decrease in General Fund appropriations of \$1,076,555 in FY 2017. The Subcommittees recommended approval of the following closing actions.

In B/A 101-2614, the Subcommittees recommended approval of a reduction to reserves totaling \$204,920 over the 2015-2017 biennium for the new Graduate Student or Educator in Residence Program. The Subcommittees also recommended approving a reduction to reserves totaling \$4,660 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium for additional Teacher of the Year Program expenses. The Subcommittees recommended approval of \$10,000 in FY 2016 for a Family Engagement Summit.

EDUCATION

K-12 EDUCATION

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NDE - Educational Trust Account — Budget Page K-12 EDUCATION-41
(Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2614

In B/A 101-2673, the Subcommittees reviewed and recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to reorganize the Department's budget structure, including the establishment of three divisions within the Department, a total of 22 new positions, and the transfer of 66 positions among 15 budgets.

NDE - Office of the Superintendent — Budget Page K-12 EDUCATION-45
(Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2673

The Subcommittees recommended approval of General Fund appropriations totaling \$112,570 in FY 2016 and \$141,615 in FY 2017 to fund a new unclassified deputy superintendent position and associated operating costs, and allow Fiscal staff to make any needed technical adjustments based on the salary established for the position.

Additionally, the Subcommittees recommended approval of a General Fund appropriation totaling \$54,812 in FY 2016 and \$69,623 in FY 2017, to fund a new MA position and associated costs, as recommended by the Governor.

The Subcommittees also recommended approval of General Fund appropriations totaling \$28,323 in FY 2016 and \$17,898 in FY 2017, to fund an increase in the operating budget of the Department's public information office, net of \$3,600 in each year for promotional items for which the Subcommittees recommended approval, but funded through the Department's nonexecutive Gift Fund budget.

The Subcommittees also recommended approval of General Fund appropriations of \$3,924 in FY 2016 and \$3,925 in FY 2017 to provide salary and related benefit increases for the deputy superintendent of business and support services position and the position of state superintendent of public instruction, as recommended by the Governor, and provided staff authority to make technical adjustments should the salaries in the Pay Bill differ. The Subcommittees recommended approval of all other closing items in the Office of the

Superintendent budget as recommended by the Governor with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-2719, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the recommended funding source change for three grants and projects analyst positions and one administrative services officer (ASO) position, including a recommended reduction to cost allocation reimbursements totaling \$388,451 in FY 2016 and \$396,439 in FY 2017 and a recommended increase of indirect cost expenditures totaling \$115,069 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium.

NDE - District Support Services — Budget Page K-12 EDUCATION-60 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2719

The Subcommittees also recommended approval of General Fund appropriations totaling \$503,520 in FY 2016 and \$511,508 in FY 2017 to restore base funding for the support of existing General Fund positions in this budget, which was inadvertently eliminated during the adjusted base review process. Additionally, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the change to the funding source for one grants and projects analyst position and one ASO position, with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments to modify the funding percentages, and with authority for Fiscal staff to make any necessary technical adjustments.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of General Fund appropriations of \$60,666 in FY 2016, and \$76,342 in FY 2017 to fund one new grants and projects analyst position, as recommended by the Governor. The Subcommittees recommended approval of other closing items as recommended by the Governor, with technical adjustments noted by Fiscal staff, and with authority for staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-2675, the Subcommittees recommended approval of General Fund appropriations totaling \$195,000 in FY 2016 and \$180,000 in FY 2017, to fund an increase in operational expenses for the Nevada Commission on Educational Technology to administer the Nevada Ready 21 technology plan, as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments, as necessary, contingent upon the approval of decision units E-294 and E-295 in the NDE's Other State Education Programs budget, B/A 101-2699. The Subcommittees recommended approving all other closing

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items in the Standards and Instructional Support budget as recommended by the Governor with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

NDE - Standards and Instructional Support — Budget Page K-12 EDUCATION-74
(Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2675

NDE - Other State Education Programs — Budget Page K-12 EDUCATION-24
(Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2699

E-294 Educated and Healthy Citizenry — Page K-12 EDUCATION-27
E-295 Educated and Healthy Citizenry — Page K-12 EDUCATION-28

In B/A 101-2720, the Subcommittees did not recommend approval of a reduction to reserves totaling \$39,991 in FY 2016 and \$49,013 in FY 2017 to fund a new accounting assistant position, as recommended by the Governor.

NDE - Department Support Services — Budget Page K-12 EDUCATION-78
(Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2720

The Subcommittees recommended approval of a reduction to reserves totaling \$51,456 in FY 2016 and \$64,752 in FY 2017 to fund a new MA position, as recommended by the Governor. The Subcommittees recommended approval of other closing items in B/A 101-2720 as recommended by the Governor with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-2697, the Subcommittees recommended approval of General Fund appropriations totaling \$1.4 million in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium to complete a student achievement assessment, based on the information provided by the Department.

NDE - Assessments and Accountability — Budget Page K-12 EDUCATION-87
(Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2697

The Subcommittees did not recommend approval of General Fund appropriations totaling \$50,661 in FY 2016 and \$64,707 in FY 2017 for one new MA position to manage workflow of data inquiries from internal and external stakeholders. The Subcommittees recommended approval of other closing items in B/A 101-2697, as recommended by the Governor, inclusive of Budget Amendment No. A150542697, which eliminated decision unit E-299 and reduced General Fund appropriations by \$500,000 in FY 2017, and authorized Fiscal staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

E-299 Educated and Healthy Citizenry — Page K-12 EDUCATION-90

In B/A 101-2705, the Subcommittees recommended approval of a reserve reduction of \$60,000 in FY 2016 to fund a study of the current licensing requirements for educators in Nevada, as recommended by the Governor.

NDE - Educator Licensure — Budget Page K-12 EDUCATION-98 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2705

The Subcommittees did not recommend approval of reserve reductions totaling \$41,105 in FY 2016 and \$217,527 in FY 2017 for the Department to purchase and customize an automated educator licensure system until the study of licensing requirements was completed. The Subcommittees recommended the issuance of a LOI directing the Department to approach the IFC to seek approval of the educator licensure system technology investment request (TIR) project at such time as the Department had developed firm cost estimates and could demonstrate the ability to fund the TIR project while maintaining a sufficient reserve level. The Subcommittees recommended approval of other closing items in B/A 101-2705 as recommended by the Governor with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-2612, the Subcommittees recommended approval of General Fund appropriations totaling \$104,240 in FY 2016 and \$120,822 in FY 2017 to fund one new education programs professional (EPP) position and associated costs, including \$30,000 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium for an external evaluation of the Great Teaching and Leading Program, as recommended by the Governor. The Subcommittees also recommended approval of General Fund appropriations totaling \$37,031 in FY 2016 and \$45,925 in FY 2017 to fund one new administrative assistant position and associated costs, as

recommended by the Governor. The Subcommittees recommended approval of other closing items in B/A 101-2612 as recommended by the Governor with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

NDE - Educator Effectiveness — Budget Page K-12 EDUCATION-105 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2612

In B/A 101-2678, the Subcommittees recommended approval of federal GEAR UP program funding totaling \$101,017 in FY 2016 and \$98,991 in FY 2017 to fund a new EPP position and associated costs, as recommended by the Governor. The Subcommittees recommended approval of the other closing item in the GEAR UP budget as recommended by the Governor with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

NDE - Gear Up — Budget Page K-12 EDUCATION-113 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2678

In B/A 101-2706, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the elimination of federal grant authority in the amount of \$111,903 in FY 2016 and \$115,321 in FY 2017 for revenues and costs associated with the grant-funded anti-bullying program, inclusive of the EPP position. The Subcommittees also recommended approval of new General Fund appropriations of \$102,060 in FY 2016 and \$105,480 in FY 2017 for the continued support of the anti-bullying program, including an EPP position, as recommended by the Governor. Additionally, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the transfer of the anti-bullying program, including an EPP position and associated costs for the program in the amount of \$112,060 in FY 2016 and \$115,480 in FY 2017, from this budget to the Student and School Support budget, B/A 101-2712, as recommended by the Governor, and with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary. The Subcommittees recommended approval of other closing items in the Parental Involvement and Family Engagement budget as recommended by the Governor with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

NDE - Parental Involvement and Family Engagement — Budget Page K-12
EDUCATION-118 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2706

NDE - Student and School Support — Budget Page K-12 EDUCATION-135
(Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2712

In B/A 101-2709, the Subcommittees recommended approval of federal grant funds of \$8.7 million in FY 2016 and \$11.9 million in FY 2017 and General Fund appropriations of \$4.5 million in FY 2016 and \$5.8 million in FY 2017 as matching funds for the new federal Nevada Ready! High Quality Preschool Development grant, including the funding for six new positions as recommended by the Governor. The Subcommittees also recommended approval of a General Fund appropriation, which was reduced through Budget Amendment No. A150532709, from \$125,000 to \$25,000 in FY 2016, for State matching funds to conduct a feasibility study for the Preschool Social Impact Bond Program. The Subcommittees recommended approval of other closing items in B/A 101-2709 as recommended by the Governor with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

NDE - Office of Early Learning and Development — Budget Page K-12
EDUCATION-126 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2709

In B/A 101-2712, the Subcommittees recommended approval of a General Fund appropriation of \$200,000 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium to fund professional development for teachers for advanced placement (AP) courses and examinations in high schools, as recommended by the Governor. The Subcommittees also recommended approval of a General Fund appropriation of \$325,875 in FY 2016, and \$462,750 in FY 2017 to fund an expansion of student participation in the AP courses and examinations in high schools, as recommended by the Governor, as well as the transfer of this activity to B/A 101-2699.

Additionally, the Subcommittees recommended approval of General Fund appropriations of \$270,000 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium to create a new Safe and Respectful Learning Office within the Department. The funding includes one new education programs director position, one administrative assistant position and related costs, inclusive of a technical adjustment to remove funding for an external evaluation in the amount of \$30,000 in each year of the biennium included in error. The Subcommittees also recommended

approval for Fiscal staff to make any needed technical adjustments, as necessary.

However, while the Subcommittees recommended approval of the funding, inclusive of an education programs director position, the Senate did not recommend approval of the new education programs director as an unclassified position. However, the Assembly did recommend approval of the new education programs director as an unclassified position.

The Subcommittees also recommended approval of General Fund appropriations of \$176,850 in FY 2016 and \$216,936 in FY 2017 to fund one new EPP position and associated operating costs to support the new Victory Schools Program, contingent upon the passage and approval of S.B. 432, and one new EPP position and associated operating costs to support the Turnaround Schools Program, contingent upon the passage and approval of S.B. 77, or other enabling legislation, as recommended by the Governor.

SENATE BILL 432 (1st Reprint): Makes an appropriation to be distributed to certain public schools designated as Victory schools. (BDR S-1187)

SENATE BILL 77: Revises provisions relating to education. (BDR 34-314)

Additionally, the Subcommittees recommended approval of General Fund appropriations of \$50,812 in FY 2016 and \$64,707 in FY 2017 to fund one MA position and associated operating costs to support the improvement of underperforming schools, as recommended by the Governor.

The Subcommittees also recommended approval of General Fund appropriations of \$168,792 in FY 2016 for a one-time mental health-screening device as recommended by the Governor, as well as a General Fund appropriation of \$30,000 in FY 2017 only for an evaluation of the social worker/mental health professional program, contingent upon the closing action of the Subcommittees in regard to decision unit E-281 in B/A 101-2699. The Subcommittees recommended approving other closing items 1, and 3 through 9 as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments, as necessary. Additionally, the Subcommittees recommended approval of closing other closing item 2 as recommended by the Governor,

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contingent upon the passage and approval of S.B. 432 with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments, as necessary.

E-281 Educated and Healthy Citizenry — Page K-12 EDUCATION-25

In B/A 101-2713, the Subcommittees recommended approval of General Fund appropriations totaling \$3.1 million in FY 2016 and \$3 million in FY 2017 to complete a basic student achievement assessment.

NDE - Literacy Programs — Budget Page K-12 EDUCATION-148 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2713

The Subcommittees also recommended approval of a reduction in federal grant funding authority of \$9.6 million in FY 2017 for the Striving Readers federal grant, which is due to expire September 30, 2016.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of General Fund appropriations of \$120,511 in FY 2016 and \$252,067 in FY 2017 to fund one new EPP position in FY 2016 and one new EPP position in FY 2017 to administer Nevada's Read by Grade Three program, with a technical adjustment to remove funding for equipment, inclusive of \$30,000 in each year to fund an annual external evaluation, contingent upon the passage and approval of S.B. 391. The Subcommittees recommended approval of other closing items in B/A 101-2713 as recommended by the Governor with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

SENATE BILL 391 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions governing educational instruction in the subject of reading. (BDR 34-644)

In B/A 101-2716, the Subcommittees recommended approval of General Fund appropriations of \$1.6 million in FY 2016 and \$1.9 million in FY 2017 for a contract with Infinite Campus software to support student information data collection and reporting, as recommended by the Governor.

NDE - Data Systems Management — Budget Page K-12 EDUCATION-175
(Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2716

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The Subcommittees also recommended to not approve General Fund appropriations of \$356,200 in FY 2016 and \$446,082 in FY 2017 for a contract to complete a school climate survey, as recommended by the Governor.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of General Fund appropriations of \$250,000 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium to contract services for data privacy and testing security, as recommended by the Governor.

Additionally, the Subcommittees recommended approval of General Fund appropriations of \$385,000 in FY 2016 and \$285,000 in FY 2017 for an enhancement to the Nevada School Performance Framework contract, as recommended by the Governor.

The Subcommittees also recommended approval of General Fund appropriations of \$83,083 in FY 2016 and \$107,744 in FY 2017 for a new IT professional position to provide additional staffing resources for the Student Accountability Information System, as recommended by the Governor. The Subcommittees recommended approval of other closing items in B/A 101-2716 as recommended by the Governor with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

The Subcommittees recommended closing the following NDE budget as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary to Career and Technical Education, B/A 101-2676.

NDE - Career and Technical Education — Budget Page K-12 EDUCATION-157
(Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2676

Chair Kieckhefer:

Is there only one closing difference between the two Subcommittees in the closing report?

Ms. McCalla:

Yes.

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Chair Kieckhefer:

On page 9 of [Exhibit E](#), there was difference between the classification of the education program director in B/A 101-2712. I entertain a motion from the Senate to concur with the Assembly Subcommittee classification of that position as unclassified.

SENATOR ROBERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR IN B/A 101-2712 AS UNCLASSIFIED.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

Assemblywoman Dickman:

Please explain what a mental health-screening device is for \$168,792.

Ms. McCalla:

Please refer to page 10 of [Exhibit E](#). The mental health-screening device is a one-time screening tool that would consist of a Healthy Kids School Climate Survey. The cost of the survey was provided by WestEd. The survey provides data on student risk and protective factors, mental health, school safety, connectedness and climate. The survey also includes data regarding bullying, other forms of victimization, academic achievement and learning supports.

Chair Kieckhefer:

The mental health-screening device is a component of the Office of the Governor's safe and respectful learning environments and is a sampling survey of the various potential mental health needs.

Assemblywoman Dickman:

The mental health-screening device sounded like a piece of equipment that could evaluate people.

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Chair Kieckhefer:

It is not that cut and dried.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON MOVED TO APPROVE BUDGET ACCOUNTS 101-2614, 101-2673, 101-2719, 101-2675, 101-2720, 101-2697, 101-2705, 101-2612, 101-2678, 101-2706, 101-2709, 101-2712, 101-2713, 101-2716 AND 101-2676 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEES ON K-12/HIGHER EDUCATION/CIPS.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGETS CLOSED.

* * * * *

Ms. McCalla:

I will present the closing report document entitled "Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Joint Subcommittees on K-12 Higher Education CIPs Closing Report State Public Charter School Authority" ([Exhibit F](#)).

The Subcommittees on K-12/Higher Education/CIPs have completed its review of the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) budget recommendations in the Executive Budget for the 2015-2017 biennium. The closing recommendations of the Subcommittees result in no impact to the General Fund. The Subcommittees recommended approval of the following closing actions.

In B/A 101-2711, the Subcommittees recommended approval of reserve reductions of \$96,512 in FY 2016 and \$120,497 in FY 2017 to fund a new unclassified deputy director position and associated operating costs, as recommended by the Governor, with a technical adjustment to reduce travel

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costs due to the new deputy director position being located in Las Vegas, with authority for Fiscal staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

State Public Charter School Authority — Budget Page CHARTER SCHOOL-6
(Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2711

The Subcommittees also recommended approval of reserve reductions of \$55,275 in FY 2016 and \$68,985 in FY 2017 to fund a new accountant position and associated operating costs, as recommended by the Governor.

However, the Subcommittees did not recommend approval of charter school fee revenues of \$57,133 in FY 2016 and \$71,485 in FY 2017 to support a new MA position and associated operating costs, as recommended by the Governor.

The Subcommittees also recommended approval of reserve reductions totaling \$40,658 in FY 2016 and \$49,993 in FY 2017 to support a new accounting assistant position, as recommended by the Governor. The Subcommittees recommended approval of other closing items in the SPCSA budget as recommended by the Governor with technical adjustments, and the authority for Fiscal staff to make additional technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-2708, the Subcommittees recommended closing the Public Charter School Loan Program budget as recommended by the Governor, with the technical adjustment to add the Office of the State Treasurer's interest incurred in each fiscal year and with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

Public Charter School Loan Program — Budget Page CHARTER SCHOOL-13
(Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2708

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DICKMAN MOVED TO APPROVE B/A 101-2711
AND B/A 101-2708 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEES ON
K-12/HIGHER EDUCATION/CIPS.

SENATOR ROBERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

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ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGETS CLOSED.

* * * * *

Mandi Davis (Program Analyst):

I will present the closing report document entitled "Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on Human Services Closing Report Department of Health and Human Services Aging and Disability Services Division" ([Exhibit G](#)).

The Subcommittees on Human Services have completed their review of the budgets for the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) of the Department of Health and Human Services. The closing actions taken by the members of the Subcommittees resulted in a decrease in General Fund appropriations of \$288,488 in FY 2016 and \$494,842 in FY 2017 when compared to the Governor's recommended budget. The Subcommittees also recommended redirecting \$2.2 million in General Fund appropriations in FY 2017 to the IFC Contingency Account to fund additional treatment services by the Autism Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP) if sufficient community providers are available and additional children can be served.

In B/A 262-3156, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to eliminate the dental benefit pilot program and to allocate all Fund for a Healthy Nevada funds received in this budget to the prescription program. The Subcommittees recommended approving the remainder of the budget as recommended by the Governor with technical adjustments.

HUMAN SERVICES

AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES

HHS-ADSD - Senior Rx and Disability Rx — Budget Page DHHS-ADSD-16
(Volume II)
Budget Account 262-3156

In B/A 101-3151, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation of the establishment of a legislatively approved caseload for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program over the 2015-2017 biennium, and to provide funding for four additional administrative assistant positions and two additional social services program specialist positions. In addition, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation for five new positions, including one administrative assistant, one IT technician, and three IT professionals to support the Division's IT unit and to reduce the Division's reliance on contracted programmers. The Subcommittees also recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to fund additional travel expenditures for the Nevada Commission on Aging. However, the Subcommittees recommended reducing funding for the total number of in-person meetings from 12 to 6, which resulted in a General Fund reduction of \$15,029 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium. The Subcommittees recommended approving the remainder of the budget as recommended by the Governor with technical adjustments.

HHS-ADSD - Federal Programs and Administration — Budget Page
DHHS-ADSD-23 (Volume II)
Budget Account 101-3151

In B/A 101-3266, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to increase the caseload for the ATAP, including the addition of one developmental specialist position, one health program manager position, and 13 contracted case managers. However, as previously noted, rather than approve the Governor's recommendation to place an additional \$2.2 million in General Fund appropriations in the Agency's reserves in FY 2017 in the event a sufficient number of providers become available to treat additional children, the Subcommittees recommended budgeting the \$2.2 million in the IFC Contingency Account. The Agency would be required to seek approval from the IFC to access these funds in the event a sufficient number of providers are available in FY 2017 to treat additional children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

HHS-ADSD - Home and Community Based Services — Budget Page
DHHS-ADSD-39 (Volume II)
Budget Account 101-3266

The Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to fund caseload increases for the Home and Community Based Waiver (HCBW) for the Frail Elderly Program, the Community Options Program for the Elderly, the Homemaker Program and the Personal Assistance Services Program. This recommendation included the addition of eight social workers, one social work supervisor, one social services program specialist, one administrative assistant and associated service costs. In addition, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to add one Elko-based elder rights specialist in the Division's Elder Protective Services Program.

The Subcommittees also recommended approval of one new social services program specialist to oversee the Interpreter Registry Program. Finally, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to transfer the Waiver for Independent Nevadans (WIN) Program, including 25 existing and 2 new positions and total funding of \$4.1 million over the 2015-2017 biennium, from the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) to the ADSD. On May 11, 2015, the Subcommittees did not recommend approval of the addition of two new positions to the WIN Program within the DHCFP. Accordingly, those positions will not be transferred to the ADSD. The Subcommittees recommended approval of the remainder of the budget as recommended by the Governor with technical adjustments.

In B/A 101-3208, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to increase the caseload for Early Intervention Services (EIS). However, the Subcommittees did not recommend approval of the addition of one full-time equivalent (FTE) administrative assistant and one part-time, 0.51 FTE, administrative assistant for the intake functions associated with the increased caseload as recommended by the Governor. Instead, the Subcommittees recommended reclassifying two vacant, full-time developmental specialist positions to one FTE administrative assistant and one part-time, 0.51 FTE, administrative assistant with associated operating expenditures. The Subcommittees also recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to retain and fully fund four existing EIS staff with General Fund appropriations that were partially supported with Maternal and Child Health block grant funds, including two unclassified senior physicians at 1.51 FTEs, one registered dietitian and one clinical program planner. The Subcommittees recommended approval of the remainder of the budget as recommended by the Governor with technical adjustments.

HHS-ADSD - Early Intervention Services — Budget Page DHHS-ADSD-54
(Volume II)
Budget Account 101-3208

In B/A 101-3166, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to increase the caseload for the Family Preservation Program by 3.2 percent in FY 2016 and 3.3 percent in FY 2017, and to maintain the current payment per family at \$374 per month.

HHS-ADSD - Family Preservation Program — Budget Page DHHS-ADSD-66
(Volume II)
Budget Account 101-3166

In the regional centers closing issues, B/A 101-3167, B/A 101-3280 and B/A 101-3279, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to fund an increase in the caseloads for the residential support, family support/respite and jobs and day training services provided through Sierra Regional Center (SRC), Desert Regional Center (DRC) and Rural Regional Center (RRC).

HHS-ADSD - Rural Regional Center — Budget Page DHHS-ADSD-86 (Volume II)
Budget Account 101-3167

HHS-ADSD - Sierra Regional Center — Budget Page DHHS-ADSD-68 (Volume II)
Budget Account 101-3280

HHS-ADSD - Desert Regional Center — Budget Page DHHS-ADSD-77
(Volume II)
Budget Account 101-3279

In addition, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the redirection of \$676,305 in cost savings in FY 2016 associated with the delayed implementation of a new case management system at DRC to that center's residential support program to partially alleviate a funding shortfall caused by a miscalculation in the caseload. The Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to increase the rate paid to providers of residential support and jobs and day training services by 5.7 percent beginning

in FY 2017. The Subcommittees found savings of \$462,727 by correcting a calculation error used in determining the 5.7 percent amount.

In B/A 101-3167, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the reinstatement of an externship program at RRC to allow one psychology student from UNR to participate in clinical services provided in a rural setting. In addition to the caseload increase and provider rate increase recommended by the Subcommittees, as indicated in the division-wide regional centers closing issues, the Subcommittees also recommended approval of the remainder of the budget as recommended by the Governor with technical adjustments.

Finally, after discussing caseloads and provider rates issues separately, the Subcommittees recommended closing the balance of B/A 101-3280 and B/A 101-3279 as recommended by the Governor with minor or technical adjustments.

Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick:

During the past budget hearing, did the HCBW for the Frail Elderly Program have a long waiting list?

Chair Kieckhefer:

When we were discussing waiting lists, it was primarily related to the regional centers' jobs and day training and residential support services.

Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick:

If we increased residential support services would they still have a long waiting list?

Chair Kieckhefer:

Funding was increased in the regional centers to address those areas, but even with that increase waiting lists are still growing.

Ms. Davis:

In the regional centers, even with the increased funding included in the budget, the wait list would still continue to grow for that program. The HCBW for the Frail Elderly Program does have a significant wait list and it is expected to continue to grow even with the recommended funding levels.

Chair Kieckhefer:

In the regional center budgets, there is a rate increase of 5.7 percent for residential support and jobs and day training in the second year of the biennium. After listening to providers in this area, there is a desire by the Subcommittees to balance out the rate increase over both years of the biennium to the regional centers to give them a small bump in FY 2016 and then carry that forward in to FY 2017 with a cost neutral shift. Even with the changes made to Medicaid in the past week, we still feel comfortable that we could manage that program from a cash flow perspective in FY 2016.

On page 48 of [Exhibit G](#), the intent of decision unit E-250 in B/A 101 3280, B/A 101-3279 and B/A 101-3167 is to make a 2.5 percent increase in FY 2016 and make the balance of available revenue in the Governor's recommended budget available in FY 2017. I cannot give a specific percent for FY 2017 because compounding will take place from one year to the next. We will be balanced out based on available revenue that was budgeted.

E-250 Efficient and Responsive State Government — Page DHHS-ADSD-72

E-250 Efficient and Responsive State Government — Page DHHS-ADSD-81

E-250 Efficient and Responsive State Government — Page DHHS-ADSD-89

Ms. Davis:

Using the total available funding, without adding any additional funds, the net increase at the end of FY 2017 would be lower than 5.7 percent due to compounding. Additional funds would be required to have the end result equal to 5.7 percent at the end of FY 2017.

Chair Kieckhefer:

Would a slight amount of additional funding be needed?

Ms. Davis:

I have not done the calculations, but it would require additional funding.

Chair Kieckhefer:

The intent was to maintain it with existing funds, increase funds by 2.5 percent in FY 2016 and then fund the remainder of the initiative as a compounded rate increase in FY 2017.

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Ms. Davis:

The ending increase at the end of FY 2017 might be closer to 5.5 percent to 5.3 percent.

Chair Kieckhefer:

It provides the funding relief in FY 2016 that people are looking for.

Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick:

Even if it costs us in the cash flow crossover, it will serve some people sooner who might not have otherwise received that service for a while.

Assemblyman Oscarson:

I echo my colleague's sentiments. It is important that the regional centers move forward. A small bump in funding in FY 2016 will help them significantly.

Chair Kieckhefer:

I entertain a motion to make the amendment just discussed, which is different from the Subcommittees report.

Ms. Davis:

Do you want to use the total amount of funding currently in the budget and not add any additional funds?

Chair Kieckhefer:

Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON MOVED TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE SUBCOMMITTEES REPORT FOR THE ADSD TO GIVE THE REGIONAL CENTERS A 2.5 PERCENT INCREASE IN FY 2016 AND THEN PROVIDE THE REMAINDER OF FUNDING AS A COMPOUNDED RATE INCREASE IN FY 2017.

SENATOR ROBERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

Chair Kieckhefer:

I continue to feel uncomfortable approving budgets in this account when they have significant wait lists in them. This is something I will remedy as we move forward.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DICKMAN MOVED TO APPROVE BUDGET ACCOUNTS 262-3156, 101-3151, 101-3266, 101-3208, 101-3166, 101-3167, 101-3280 AND 101-3279 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES WITH THE AMENDMENT FOR THE REGIONAL CENTERS INCREASE.

SENATOR ROBERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGETS CLOSED.

* * * * *

Ms. Gamroth:

I will present the closing report document entitled "Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety Natural Resources and Transportation Closing Report Department of Conservation and Natural Resources" ([Exhibit H](#)).

The Subcommittees on Public Safety, Natural Resources and Transportation completed its review of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The closing recommendations of the Subcommittees result in General Fund reductions of \$1.7 million in FY 2016 and \$234,011 in FY 2017. The Subcommittees recommended the following closing actions.

In B/A 101-4150, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the transfer of the program manager for the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT) from the Division of State Lands budget to the director's office Administration budget and to change the funding source from 75 percent non-General Fund to 100 percent General Fund appropriations totaling \$156,520 over the 2015-2017 biennium. The Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to implement a Conservation Credit System (CCS), including contract services for an adaptive management contract for the CCS, to hire a consultant with expertise in National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 permit compliance, for an independent audit of the proposed CCS and increases to travel and equipment for the SETT and the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council, funded with General Fund appropriations totaling \$1.5 million in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium.

INFRASTRUCTURE

CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DCNR - Administration — Budget Page DCNR-22 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4150

DCNR - State Lands — Budget Page DCNR-125 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4173

The Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to change the funding source for the Base Budget expenditures of the SETT and the Council from other funding sources to General Fund appropriations totaling \$85,573 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium.

Additionally, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to fund one new unclassified executive assistant and associated operating costs funded with General Fund appropriations totaling \$40,930 and director's office cost allocation reimbursements totaling \$113,587 over the 2015-2017 biennium.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation, to transfer a special advisor position from B/A 101-4173 to the director's office Administration budget and to reclassify the special advisor position to an

unclassified deputy director position, funded with General Fund appropriations totaling \$70,192 and director's office cost allocation reimbursements totaling \$198,786 over the 2015-2017 biennium.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of all other closing items with technical adjustments with authority for Fiscal staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-4151, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to fund additional in-state travel for the Conservation District program manager and the State Conservation Commission funded with General Fund appropriations totaling \$16,662 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium.

DCNR - Conservation Districts Program — Budget Page DCNR-34 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4151

The Subcommittees also recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to increase the total funding of the competitive grant program from \$40,000 to \$75,000 in the second year of the 2015-2017 biennium. Finally, the Subcommittees recommended approval of all other closing items as recommended by the Governor with the technical adjustments noted by Fiscal staff with authority to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-4162, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to fund the reclassification of 12 maintenance repair specialist positions and 2 facility supervisor positions for the Division of State Parks with General Fund appropriations totaling \$153,506 over the 2015-2017 biennium.

DCNR - State Parks — Budget Page DCNR-44 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4162

The Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation of General Fund appropriations totaling \$85,000 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium to provide matching funds for grants awarded to fund the seasonal shuttle service for Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to fund 13 deferred maintenance projects with General Fund appropriations totaling \$352,030 over the 2015-2017 biennium.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of all other closing items with the technical adjustments noted by Fiscal staff, with authority for staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-4195, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to change the funding source for the Sagebrush Ecosystem forester position from 75 percent non-General Fund sources, transfer from the Division of Minerals, to 100 percent General Fund appropriations totaling \$137,626 for the 2015-2017 biennium.

DCNR - Forestry — Budget Page DCNR-79 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4195

The Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation for three new positions: one operations chief/deputy administrator position, one business process manager position and one equipment mechanic position and associated operating costs funded with General Fund appropriations totaling \$485,323 over the 2015-2017 biennium.

Additionally, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to replace federal funding received by the Division of Forestry from the U.S. Forest Service with General Fund appropriations totaling \$706,374 for the 2015-2017 biennium for the salaries and associated operating costs of seasonal firefighters and three forester positions.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to fund seasonal salaries for six seasonal positions, each position funded for 5 months each fiscal year, with General Fund appropriations totaling \$113,274 for FY 2016 and \$116,976 for FY 2017.

Lastly, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to fund vehicle operating and maintenance costs to maintain and operate heavy equipment and vehicles retained by the State with the

phase-out of the All-Risk Fire Management Program, funded with General Fund appropriations totaling \$61,060 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of all other closing items with the technical adjustments noted by Fiscal staff, with authority for staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-4196, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation inclusive of the technical adjustments noted by Fiscal staff, to fund prior year fire billings from federal agencies with General Fund appropriations totaling \$4 million and with funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency Fire Assistance Grant totaling \$2.3 million in FY 2016.

DCNR - Forest Fire Suppression — Budget Page DCNR-95 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4196

The Subcommittees recommended approval of all other closing items with the technical adjustments noted by Fiscal staff, with authority for Staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-4198, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation of General Fund appropriations totaling \$413,421 in FY 2017 to reclassify 74 conservation crew supervisor positions in the Forestry Conservation Camps budget, effective the second year of the 2015-2017 biennium.

DCNR - Forestry Conservation Camps — Budget Page DCNR-98 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4198

The Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to transfer two conservation crew supervisor positions from B/A 101-4198 to B/A 101-4195 with no change in the funding source.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of all other closing items with the technical adjustments noted by Fiscal staff, with authority for Fiscal staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-4194, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to fund a new pilot position and associated costs totaling \$167,616 in FY 2016 and \$193,790 in FY 2017, funded with General Fund appropriations, including authority for Fiscal staff to transfer the pilot position and associated costs to the Forestry budget, to consolidate the total cost of air operations for the Division.

DCNR - Forestry - Wildland Fire Protection Prgm — Budget Page DCNR-108
(Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4194

Additionally, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation of General Fund appropriations totaling \$70,000 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium to fund a contract for two seasonal truck drivers with hazmat certifications to drive the Division's two aviation fuel trucks during the fire season for the Division's helitack program, including Fiscal staff's recommendation to transfer the costs of the contract for the helitack program to B/A 101-4195.

The Subcommittees also recommended approval of staff's recommendation to consolidate all Air Operations Program costs in the Base Budget funded with General Fund appropriations from B/A 101-4194 to B/A 101-4195.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of all other closing items with the technical adjustments noted by Fiscal staff, with authority for staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-4173 the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to change the funding source for the Agency's Nevada Tahoe Resource Team program manager from bond interest revenues from the fund to Protect Lake Tahoe/Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program to General Fund appropriations totaling \$95,201 in FY 2017.

DCNR - State Lands — Budget Page DCNR-125 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4173

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The Subcommittees recommended approval of all other closing items with the technical adjustments noted by Fiscal staff, with authority for staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-4101 the Subcommittees recommended approval of the other closing items as recommended by the Governor, including Budget Amendment No. A150354101 submitted by the Department of Administration's Budget Division to address the funding issues identified in the Executive Budget for the Nevada Natural Heritage budget, which results in an increase of Highway Funds transferred from the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) totaling \$17,085 in FY 2016 and \$156,521 in FY 2017 for the adjusted Base Budget and an increase of \$700 for decision unit M-100.

DCNR - Nevada Natural Heritage — Budget Page DCNR-140 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4101

M-100 Statewide Inflation — Page DCNR-141

In B/A 101-3173, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to use funding from reserves totaling \$23,512 in FY 2016 and \$23,795 in FY 2017 to contract for Oracle database administrator services from the Division of Enterprise Information Technology Services.

DCNR - DEP Administration — Budget Page DCNR-164 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-3173

The Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to use funding from reserves totaling \$30,400 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium to utilize a contractor through the State's Master Services Agreement to assist with converting a portion of the Division's existing databases to a Microsoft Structured Query Language platform.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of all other closing items with the technical adjustments noted by Fiscal staff, with authority for staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-3185, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to purchase new equipment and to provide additional

out-of-state travel and training for the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) to meet the new requirements of the federal Clean Air Act of 1963, funded from reserves generated from fees totaling \$132,151 in FY 2016 and \$20,371 in FY 2017.

DCNR - DEP Air Quality — Budget Page DCNR-171 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-3185

The Subcommittees recommended approval of all other closing items with authority for Fiscal staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-3186, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to transfer one administrative assistant position from B/A 101-3173 to B/A 101-3186 funded with fees from reserves totaling \$56,454 in FY 2016 and \$57,860 in FY 2017. The Subcommittees recommended approval of all other closing items with the technical adjustments noted by Fiscal staff, with authority for staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

DCNR - DEP Water Pollution Control — Budget Page DCNR-176 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-3186

In B/A 101-3187 the Subcommittees recommended approval of Budget Amendment No. A150413187 to transfer six positions from the DEP's Waste Management and Corrective Action budget to the new Industrial Site Cleanup, B/A 101-3175, including associated operating expenses and contract services.

DCNR - DEP Waste Mgmt and Corrective Action — Budget Page DCNR-181
(Volume III)
Budget Account 101-3187

DCNR - DEP Industrial Site Cleanup — Budget Page DCNR-0
Budget Account 101-3175

The Subcommittees recommended approval of all other closing items with the technical adjustments noted by Fiscal staff, with authority for staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-3175, the Subcommittees recommended approval of Budget Amendment No. A150393175 as recommended by the Governor to create a new budget titled "DEP Industrial Site Cleanup," which includes funding from settlement income totaling \$8.6 million and funding from the transfer from the nonexecutive Hazardous Waste Management budget totaling \$3.6 million over the 2015-2017 biennium, including the technical adjustments to Budget Amendment No. A150393175, as outlined by Fiscal staff and authority for staff to make other technical adjustments, as necessary.

In addition, the Subcommittees recommended issuance of a LOI to the DEP to report to the IFC semiannually regarding the status of the implementation of the new Bureau of Industrial Site Cleanup budget and the oversight of the Nevada Environmental Response Trust, including a status report of the cleanup activities to be funded with the \$1.1 billion settlement for the cleanup of perchlorate and other hazardous substances released from the former Kerr-McGee Tronox site in southern Nevada.

The Subcommittees recommended closing B/A 101-4171 as recommended by the Governor with minor or technical adjustments.

DCNR - Water Resources — Budget Page DCNR-65 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4171

Assemblywoman Carlton:

For the record, I support the budgets in total I just wanted to make sure I registered my concern on B/A 101-4198 where we take 74 conservation crew supervisor positions and they actually got a two-step bump in that. I registered my concerns in the Subcommittee. If they get another step this year, that will be two steps in one biennium for 74 select employees. I want to make it very clear that it is just not a reclassification, it is two steps. I have a problem with that when we pick winners and losers in the budget.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA MOVED TO APPROVE BUDGET ACCOUNTS 101-4150, 101-4151, 101-4162, 101-4171, 101-4195, 101-4196, 101-4198, 101-4194, 101-4173, 101-4101, 101-3173, 101-3185, 101-3186, 101-3187 AND 101-3175 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE

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SUBCOMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND
TRANSPORTATION.

ASSEMBLYMAN EDWARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGETS CLOSED.

* * * * *

Jeff A. Ferguson (Senior Program Analyst):

I will present the closing report document entitled "Senate Committee on Finance Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety Natural Resources and Transportation Closing Report Department of Wildlife" ([Exhibit I](#)).

The Subcommittees on Public Safety, Natural Resources and Transportation have completed their review of the Department of Wildlife (NDOW) budget recommendations for the 2015-2017 biennium. The closing recommendations of the Subcommittees resulted in \$4,500 in General Fund savings over the 2015-2017 biennium.

In B/A 101-4460, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation for two MA positions for the fiscal services section to address budget account monitoring, contract management, accounts payable, accounts receivable, cost accounting and subgrants, funded with cost allocation transfers from the Department's other budgets. In approving the Governor's recommendation to provide sportsmen revenue of \$25,000 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium to provide enhanced training opportunities for staff, the Subcommittees recommend the issuance of a LOI directing the Department to focus on training provided by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Management Assistant Team and the UNR Continuing and Professional Studies, as well as various types of safety-related training related to the Department's operations.

Wildlife - Director's Office — Budget Page WILDLIFE-10 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4460

The Subcommittees recommended approval of the other closing items as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-4461 the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation and Budget Amendment No. A150734461 to provide sportsmen revenue totaling \$522,664 in FY 2016 and \$438,489 in FY 2017 for rent and one-time costs to move headquarters staff from their current locations in the Valley Road facility and in leased space in Reno, to a common location at the Sierra Corporate Center in south Reno. In addition to funding dedicated office space for headquarters staff, this recommendation provides space at the Valley Road facility for the Department's Western Regional Office to expand to better meet demands. The Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to provide sportsmen revenue totaling \$70,841 for advanced planning for construction of a new operations, maintenance, and equipment storage facility at Mason Valley Wildlife Management Refuge. However, the Subcommittees did not recommend approval of \$142,000 to fund advanced planning for the construction of a new state-owned facility for headquarters staff in northern Nevada. The Subcommittees also approved application fee revenue of \$105,040 in FY 2016 to develop mobile-friendly versions of the Application Hunt and Nevada Wildlife Data System websites as recommended by the Governor. Lastly, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to transfer the Air Operations Unit from the Operations budget to the Game Management budget.

Wildlife - Operations — Budget Page WILDLIFE-15 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4461

Wildlife - Game Management — Budget Page WILDLIFE-36 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4464

The Subcommittees recommended approval of the other closing items as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-4462, the Subcommittees recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation to provide General Fund appropriations for the entire Department totaling \$450,000 over the 2015-2017 biennium to address urban wildlife management issues focused on three areas: education and outreach, staff time spent on urban wildlife issues, and equipment and supplies. General Funds were recommended for urban wildlife activities since the use of federal funds are not allowed for these purposes, and the use of sportsmen revenue, which is currently used to fund these activities, limits the amount of federal funds the Department can receive for other purposes due to a 3:1 matching ratio between federal funds and sportsmen revenue.

Wildlife - Conservation Education — Budget Page WILDLIFE-23 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4462

In B/A 101-4462, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation for General Fund appropriations of \$192,178 over the biennium for two seasonal conservation aid positions and two new proactive advertising and public relations campaigns, one for bears and one for coyotes. The Senate members of the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to provide sportsmen revenue of \$43,000 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium to implement a Videography Program for public education and outreach, which includes short and medium length videos and public service announcements. However, the Assembly members did not recommend approval of this recommendation. The Subcommittees did not recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation to provide sportsmen revenue of \$107,115 over the 2015-2017 biennium for contract services to provide Spanish language translation and outreach.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of the other closing items as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-4463, the Subcommittees recommended approval of General Fund appropriations of \$111,391 over the 2015-2017 biennium for urban wildlife management activities in the Law Enforcement budget. The amount recommended by the Subcommittees is \$4,500 less in FY 2016 than recommended by the Governor due to the removal of a Karelian bear dog puppy, which the Department stated could be purchased with gift funds. This

recommendation funds existing personnel costs related to wildlife animal control activities, as well as minor equipment purchases related to bear issues.

Wildlife - Law Enforcement — Budget Page WILDLIFE-30 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4463

The Subcommittees recommended approval of the other closing items as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

In B/A 101-4464, the Subcommittees recommended approval of federal Wildlife Restoration funds of \$36,750 and sportsmen revenue of \$12,250 in FY 2016 for contract services to develop a unified scientific database to consolidate and house the Department's various types of scientific-based data. The Subcommittees recommended approval of General Funds of \$140,011 over the 2015-2017 biennium to implement the Governor's recommendation to improve urban wildlife management in the Game Management budget, including funding for a new seasonal position to assist in bear-related wildlife management activities, costs associated with the existing Karelian bear dog, and minor equipment purchases. The Subcommittees also recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to transfer the Department's Air Operations unit from the Operations budget to this budget, including funding the unit with \$795,362 in federal funds instead of sportsmen revenue.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of the other closing items as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

The Subcommittees recommended closing B/A 101-4465 and B/A 101-4467 as recommended by the Governor with technical adjustments noted by Fiscal staff and with authority for fiscal staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

Wildlife - Fisheries Management — Budget Page WILDLIFE-45 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4465

Wildlife - Habitat — Budget Page WILDLIFE-58 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4467

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Chair Kieckhefer:

There was one closing item on page 3 of [Exhibit I](#), B/A 101-4462. The Senate recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to provide sportsmen revenue of \$43,000 in each year of the biennium to implement the Videography Program for public education and outreach, but the Assembly did not.

Assemblyman Edwards:

The Assembly Subcommittee was not impressed by the Videography Program that was being offered. Because we did not approve that we also did not approve the revenue for the language translations since there would be no videos to translate. We would hope that the Senate would concur on this item.

Senator Goicoechea:

I would ask that the Assembly does concur with the Senate on this item. We are dealing with a bear and coyote issue. The \$43,000 request is not a lot to spend on these problems. If the videos are done right, they could point out to the public who to contact and where they could seek relief on the coyote issue, especially in southern Nevada.

Assemblywoman Titus:

My objection was not to the actual information program. I am not convinced it should be funded with sportsmen revenue. That information program has nothing to do with sportsmen issues. It is public information and I would support the initiative if the Nevada Department of Agriculture, or another service entity in the areas with predator issues, funded the program.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

I want to see resources in southern Nevada for my constituents to deal with the serious coyote problems that I have heard about over the last year. It is my goal to make sure that my constituents have the same resources that the rest of the State has when it comes to the problems like this. I have no problem with the sportsmen dollars in this. This is a wildlife problem and the type of issues NDOW staff handles.

Chair Kieckhefer:

Is this a statewide program?

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Mr. Ferguson:

Yes, the Videography Program would be statewide.

Assemblyman Sprinkle:

During our budget hearing, I did not hear enough information to justify the expense for this. It was not made clear to me what we were hoping to accomplish with this program.

Assemblyman Oscarson:

There is a disconnect regarding where our constituents go for these kinds of services when they have predator issues. Multiple instances of coyotes going into dog doors and putting people in situations where they cannot go out into their own yards have occurred in Pahrump. This is a huge step forward to make those services accessible and let the public know that services are available and their dollars are at work.

ASSEMBLYMAN EDWARDS MOVED TO CONCUR WITH THE SENATE'S CLOSING ACTION IN B/A 101-4462 WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT NDOW WILL REPORT BACK WITH COPIES OF MATERIALS THAT ARE PRODUCED AND REPORT ON THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYWOMAN DICKMAN VOTED NO.)

* * * * *

Chair Kieckhefer:

Fiscal staff noted the positions dedicated to this program. One of the positions is located in southern Nevada.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

For the record, "I want to thank all the folks working with me. At first no one was taking my concerns seriously, but after I yelled and screamed for about 2 months they did. I do appreciate them working with me and trying to address these issues of safety with coyotes."

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ASSEMBLYMAN EDWARDS MOVED TO APPROVE BUDGET ACCOUNTS 101-4460, 101-4461, 101-4462, 101-4463, 101-4464, 101-4465 AND 101-4467, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND TRANSPORTATION.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGETS CLOSED.

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Adam Drost (Program Analyst):

I will present the closing report document entitled "Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety Natural Resources and Transportation Closing Report Nevada Department of Transportation" ([Exhibit J](#)).

The Subcommittees on Public Safety, Natural Resources, and Transportation have completed their review of the NDOT budgets. The closing actions taken by the members of the Subcommittees have resulted in a decrease in Highway Fund authorizations of \$470,578 in FY 2016 and \$3.4 million in FY 2017 when compared to the Governor's recommended budget.

In B/A 201-4663, the Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation for the sale of highway revenue bonds of \$100 million in FY 2016 and \$150 million in FY 2017 for the construction of Project NEON in Las Vegas to improve traffic flow in the spaghetti bowl area.

NDOT - Bond Construction — Budget Page NDOT-15 (Volume III)
Budget Account 201-4663

In B/A 201-4660, the Department targets an unrestricted Highway Fund balance of \$115.6 million to provide sufficient cash to cover operating and capital expenses. Based upon the Governor's recommended expenditures and revenue

projected by the Department of Motor Vehicles as of April 17, 2015, the Department estimated an unrestricted Highway Fund balance of \$124.4 million at the end of the 2015-2017 biennium. Based on the recommendations of the Subcommittees, Fiscal staff estimates an unrestricted Highway Fund balance of \$144 million at the end of the 2015-2017 biennium.

NDOT - Transportation Administration — Budget Page NDOT-17 (Volume III)
Budget Account 201-4660

The Subcommittees recommended approval of Budget Amendment No. A150744660 and Budget Amendment No. A150814660 to establish a new Environmental Division for NDOT, pursuant to negotiations with the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Subcommittees recommended approving all equipment proposed for the new Division. However, the Subcommittees only recommended approval of 42 of the 59 positions proposed for this Division. In doing so, the Subcommittees recommended reclassifying 17 existing, but vacant, positions and reassigning them to the new Division. The Subcommittees also recommended the issuance of a LOI requiring NDOT to submit biannual reports to the IFC regarding the new Division's activities in support of complying with federal EPA requirements.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation for Highway Fund authorizations of \$6.5 million over the 2015-2017 biennium to begin upgrading the Department's fueling system, as well as Highway Fund authorizations of \$10.9 million for building maintenance and \$3 million for the stormwater management program over the 2015-2017 biennium. However, the Subcommittees did not recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation for Highway Fund authorizations of \$9 million over the 2015-2017 biennium to replace two rest stops near Beowawe on U.S. Interstate 80 (I-80) and construction of a new full-service welcome station at Trinity on I-80 and U.S. Highway 95.

Finally, the Subcommittees recommended approval of all other closing items as recommended by the Governor, and revised by Budget Amendment No. A150654660, with technical adjustments, and authority for Fiscal staff to make additional technical adjustments as necessary.

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Senator Goicoechea:

The Beowawe rest areas and the welcome station at Trinity are still functional enough to operate without restoration. The equipment for stormwater management was a major piece of that request. The NDOT can backfill repair duties with existing maintenance staff to upkeep those facilities. The Senate did not have a problem with those reductions.

Assemblywoman Swank:

Last Session, there was a bill that allowed NDOT to advertise at rest stops to help pay for rest stop upkeep. Is this request part of that project or is that a separate initiative?

Mr. Drost:

There was a bill last Session that allowed the sponsorship of rest stops.

Felicia Denney (Administrative Services Officer, Financial Management Division, Nevada Department of Transportation):

The Department is still working with a company to help find sponsorships for identified potential rest areas. We have not received any sponsorships yet. That initiative is separate from this budget unit.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

I want to make sure there are appropriate rest areas on the north to south route for my constituents who want to travel to northern Nevada. This was not a very serious issue for people, but I plan to follow up on it to make sure that this issue is addressed in the future.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA MOVED TO APPROVE BUDGET ACCOUNTS 201-4663 AND 201-4660 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND TRANSPORTATION.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGETS CLOSED.

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Alex Haartz (Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst):

I will present the closing report document entitled "Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on General Government Closing Report Public Employees Benefits Program" ([Exhibit K](#)).

The Subcommittees on General Government completed their review of the Public Employees' Benefits Program (PEBP) for the 2015-2017 biennium. The following comments describe the more significant recommendations of the Subcommittees.

In B/A 625-1338, the Subcommittees reviewed the program's actuarially determined reserve levels for the Health Reimbursement Arrangement reserves, Incurred But Not Reported reserves and Catastrophic reserves, and recommended approval of the reserve levels as recommended by the Governor and revised by Budget Amendment No. A150821338.

SPECIAL PURPOSE AGENCIES

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' BENEFIT PROGRAM

PEBP - Public Employees' Benefits Program — Budget Page PEBP-10 (Volume III)
Budget Account 625-1338

The Subcommittees also reviewed and recommended approval of the excess reserve level as recommended by the Governor and adjusted by Budget Amendment No. A150821338. The Subcommittees recommended approval of excess reserve expenditures of \$23.1 million in FY 2016 and \$31.8 million in FY 2017 and \$12.6 million in premium income and State subsidy revenues in FY 2017 to fund inflationary and trend changes as recommended by the Governor and revised by Budget Amendment No. A150821338. Additionally, the Subcommittees recommended approval of \$672,637 in premium income and \$1.7 million in State subsidy revenue in FY 2017 to fund the cost of Medicare inflation for retirees as recommended by the Governor.

The Subcommittees also recommended approval of the use of excess reserves totaling \$25.1 million in FY 2016 and \$25.5 million in FY 2017 as recommended by the Governor to continue all of the plan design elements adopted by the PEBP Board for FY 2015. Additionally, the Subcommittees recommended the issuance of a LOI to the PEBP Board directing that, no later than September 1, 2016, the PEBP Board should report to the Legislature's Interim Retirement and Benefits Committee on the benefits plan design and associated funding plan anticipated for FY 2018 and FY 2019. With regard to the plan design for the 2015-2017 biennium, the Subcommittees recommended approval of expending all or part of the \$8.1 million in savings from the PEBP Board's elimination of the Wellness program to reduce the monthly State contribution and participant's monthly out-of-pocket premium costs as recommended by the Governor and included in Budget Amendment No. A150821338.

The Subcommittees recommended approval of revised participant enrollment projections for State active employees and retirees as well as non-State active employees and retirees, and recommended adjustments to State subsidy and participant premium revenue levels for both State and non-State participants as recommended by the Governor and revised by Budget Amendment No. A150821338.

Finally, the Subcommittees recommended approval of all other closing items as recommended by the Governor and adjusted by Budget Amendment No. A150821338 and, on two items, contingent upon passage and approval of legislation.

In B/A 680-1368, the Subcommittees recommended closing the Retired Employee Group Insurance (REGI) budget in accordance with the Subcommittees' previous action to recommend approval of the amended/revised REGI monthly State per member per month base subsidy contribution of \$425.57 in FY 2016 and \$451.15 in FY 2017.

PEBP - Retired Employee Group Insurance — Budget Page PEBP-20 (Volume III)
Budget Account 680-1368

In B/A 666-1390, the Subcommittees recommended closing the Active Employees Group Insurance (AEGIS) budget in accordance with the

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Subcommittees' previous action to recommend approval of the amended/revised AEGIS monthly State per member per month contribution of \$701.73 in FY 2016 and \$699.25 in FY 2017.

PEBP - Active Employees Group Insurance — Budget Page PEBP-25 (Volume III)
Budget Account 666-1390

Finally, the Subcommittees recommended authorizing Fiscal staff to adjust revenues and expenditures for these budgets and to make technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYMAN KIRNER MOVED TO APPROVE BUDGET ACCOUNTS 625-1338, 680-1368 AND 666-1390 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEES ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGETS CLOSED.

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Leannandra Copeland (Program Analyst):

I will present the closing report document entitled "Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety Natural Resources and Transportation Closing Report Department of Veterans Services" ([Exhibit L](#)).

The Subcommittees on Public Safety, Natural Resources, and Transportation have completed their review of the Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) budgets and has made the following recommendations for the 2015-2017 biennium. The closing recommendations of the Subcommittees resulted in General Fund appropriation increases of \$207,468 in FY 2016 and \$16,210 in FY 2017 over the amounts included in the Executive Budget in accordance with Budget Amendment No. A150672560. The following

comments describe the more significant recommendations of the Subcommittees.

In B/A 101-2560, the Subcommittees recommended approval of Budget Amendment No. A150672560, which decreases cemetery/interment fee revenue by \$1.5 million and increases General Fund appropriations by \$223,678 over the 2015-2017 biennium to account for cemetery/interment fee reprojections. The amendment also eliminates the Northern Nevada Veterans' Cemetery Surface Water Project, and eliminates new equipment purchases for the cemeteries. The Subcommittees also recommended approval of the Governor's amended recommendation of \$350,131, \$182,068 of which is General Fund appropriations, in FY 2016 and \$477,869, \$248,492 of which is General Fund appropriations, in FY 2017 for eight new positions, consisting of one deputy director, one public information officer, two administrative assistants, one maintenance repair worker, two ground maintenance workers, and one IT manager. The Subcommittees recommend the approval of the other closing items as amended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

VETERANS SERVICES

NDVS - Office of Veterans Services — Budget Page VETERANS-7 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-2560

In B/A 101-2561, the Subcommittees recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation for reserve levels of \$7 million in FY 2016 and \$7.7 million in FY 2017 as represented in the Executive Budget, and recommended the issuance of a LOI to have the agency report to the June 2016 IFC meeting concerning the current and projected reserve level in this budget and its plans to address the reserve level if necessary. The Subcommittees also recommended approval of the Governor's recommendation to complete multiple buildings and grounds maintenance projects totaling \$196,801 over the 2015-2017 biennium. Finally, the Subcommittees recommended approval of fees and reserve reductions totaling \$134,882 in FY 2016 to fund the purchase of a four-door sedan, a small Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA)-compliant wheelchair-capable van and an ADA-compliant shuttle bus from the Veterans Home Account budget. The Subcommittees recommend the approval of the

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other closing items as amended by the Governor with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

NDVS - Veterans Home Account — Budget Page VETERANS-16 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-2561

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO APPROVE BUDGET ACCOUNTS 101-2560 AND 101-2561 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND TRANSPORTATION.

ASSEMBLYMAN EDWARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGETS CLOSED.

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Chair Kieckhefer:

I will now hear public comment.

Marlene Lockard (Retired Public Employees of Nevada):

I am representing Retired Public Employees of Nevada. We have an ongoing issue with a contractor called OneExchange.

The PEBP renegotiated their contract and put it out to bid and selected OneExchange to implement and administer the Medicare Market Exchange. When the contract went out for bid, we asked the PEBP Board to include a Nevada employee presence. OneExchange employees are all located out-of-state. This results in our seniors having to navigate through this complicated process by phone with someone in a different state.

Recently, we have requested the new contract require OneExchange to have a Nevada presence. That was not put in the RFP as a requirement. We then asked PEBP to negotiate with OneExchange to voluntarily have a Nevada presence,

and that has not happened. The final contract that will go to the State Board of Examiners in July requires OneExchange to have three meetings in Nevada to answer seniors' questions. OneExchange will charge \$1,500 a day for any time over the three-meeting period. OneExchange makes millions of dollars from this contract, yet not one Nevadan is employed by it. The premiums go to banks out-of-state and not one insurance agent in Nevada makes a commission from this contract. That is inadequate and inappropriate.

We want to make the Legislature aware of our ongoing efforts and problems. The audits of the customer service that have conducted are atrocious, consistently low and seniors wait hours on the phone. This continues to be a major ongoing problem.

Connie McMullen (Personal Care Association of Nevada):

I am representing the Personal Care Association of Nevada. When the budget hearings started, there were almost 500 on the wait list for the HCBW for the Frail Elderly Program. Currently, the waiting list is projected to have 638 people on it and, for FY 2016, 404 people are projected to be on the list. These are long periods of time for people to wait for service. In the ATAP, if providers cannot be found, the Committee recommended redirecting funds to the IFC Contingency Account.

It has been projected that \$2.2 million will be needed for the HCBW for the Frail Elderly to eliminate the wait list. Last Session, \$5 million was appropriated to eliminate the wait list for the kids with autism looking for service.

People are waiting 110 days for service from the HCBW for the Frail Elderly Program. In 2016, the wait will still be 108 days. For any Medicaid waiver program, the federal rule for Medicaid is a wait of 90 days or less.

The issue is not the number on the waiting list but the number of days you have to wait for service. People in Medicaid type programs oftentimes do not have balance or cognitive health and their muscle tone is weak. These people are at risk for imminent institutionalization. The State ends up paying at least three times the amount to institutionalize patients rather than when they provide medical services through a personal care agency or caregiver that will allow patients to live in their own home.

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Chair Kieckhefer:

Seeing no further business before these Committees, this meeting is adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Jason Gortari,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Ben Kieckhefer, Chair

DATE: _____

Assemblyman Anderson, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit / # of pages		Witness / Entity	Description
	A	2		Agenda
	B	6		Attendance Roster
	C	7	Cindy Jones/Legislative Counsel Bureau, Fiscal Analysis Division	Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Closing List 1 May 12, 2015
	D	17	Jennifer Gamroth/Legislative Counsel Bureau, Fiscal Analysis Division	Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on General Government Closing Report Department of Taxation
	E	98	Andrea McCalla/Legislative Counsel Bureau, Fiscal Analysis Division	Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on K12 Higher Education CIPs Closing Report Department of Education
	F	11	Andrea McCalla /Legislative Counsel Bureau, Fiscal Analysis Division	Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on K12 Higher Education CIPs Closing Report State Public Charter School Authority

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit / # of pages		Witness / Entity	Description
	G	61	Mandi Davis/Legislative Counsel Bureau, Fiscal Analysis Division	Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on Human Services Closing Report Department of Health and Human Services Aging and Disability Services Division
	H	117	Jennifer Gamroth/Legislative Counsel Bureau, Fiscal Analysis Division	Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety Natural Resources and Transportation Closing Report Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
	I	36	Jeff A. Ferguson/Legislative Counsel Bureau, Fiscal Analysis Division	Senate Committee on Finance Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety Natural Resources and Transportation Closing Report Department of Wildlife
	J	18	Adam Drost/Legislative Counsel Bureau, Fiscal Analysis Division	Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety Natural Resources and Transportation Closing Report Nevada Department of Transportation

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit / # of pages		Witness / Entity	Description
	K	27	Alex Haartz/Legislative Counsel Bureau, Fiscal Analysis Division	Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on General Government Closing Report Public Employees Benefits Program
	L	24	Leannandra Copeland/Legislative Counsel Bureau, Fiscal Analysis Division	Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety Natural Resources and Transportation Closing Report Department of Veterans Services