

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Seventy-Eighth Session
May 31, 2015**

The Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair Patricia Farley at 6:08 p.m. on Sunday, May 31, 2015, in Room 2144 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Patricia Farley, Chair
Senator James A. Settelmeyer, Vice Chair
Senator Greg Brower
Senator Kelvin Atkinson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Tick Segerblom (Excused)

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Scott Hammond, Senatorial District No. 18

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Stewart, Policy Analyst
Linda Hiller, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Craig Stevens, Clark County School District
Vikki Courtney, Clark County Education Association; Nevada State Education Association

Chair Farley:

I will open this meeting with Senate Concurrent Resolution (S.C.R.) 6.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 6: Directs the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study relating to the consolidation, deconsolidation and realignment of the boundaries of school districts in this State. (BDR R-679)

Senator Scott Hammond (Senatorial District No. 18):

This bill directs the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study on the feasibility, costs and benefits of consolidating, deconsolidating and realigning the boundaries of State school districts.

I proposed this measure because as I was looking at what other states do, I noticed that many states have a trigger. A trigger is an optimal size for a school district. Many studies examine the question of what is the perfect size for a school district—should you have eight elementary schools feeding into four middle schools that feed into two high schools, or should it be a different configuration?

We are looking at what should go in a trigger and who can pull the trigger. We need experts who can look at the laws, resources, transportation, etc., to determine the trigger for an optimal school district size. This would be good for counties that want to deconsolidate as well as those that want to consolidate. I have submitted my written testimony ([Exhibit C](#)).

Senator Atkinson:

Does the last paragraph of the resolution direct the Legislative Commission to perform the study and then decide by October 1, 2016, if any action is to be taken?

Senator Hammond:

Yes.

Senator Atkinson:

If the Commission acts, would it come back to the Legislature the following year?

Senator Hammond:

Yes, for the next Session. If the Commission does not act on the study recommendations, Legislators could resurrect the study. At the very least, it

would gather information that could be applied to the question of what is the best size for a school district.

Senator Atkinson:

I am on the Legislative Commission and so is Senator Settlemeyer. I just want to make sure the study would come back to the legislative body.

Senator Hammond:

Yes, it would.

Craig Stevens (Clark County School District):

We fully support S.C.R. 6. This is the proper way to study this issue. The only thing we would like you to consider is that A.B. 421, which passed earlier, is a bill aimed at studying the efficiency of school districts. Having to do both of these studies at the same time would be difficult for our staff, so we hope you will consider that.

ASSEMBLY BILL 421 (2nd Reprint): Creates the Spending and Government Efficiency Commission for public education in this State. (BDR S-1083)

Vikki Courtney (Clark County Education Association; Nevada State Education Association):

We support this resolution because this is a serious issue that deserves a study. We are working with the sponsor of A.B. 394 with some concerns. We reserve our right to change our position on this bill.

ASSEMBLY BILL 394 (1st Reprint): Creates an advisory committee and a technical committee to develop a plan to reorganize the Clark County School District. (BDR S-900)

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Chair Farley:

I will close the hearing on S.C.R. 6. We will continue with this measure behind the bar on the Senate Floor. Seeing no one wanting to make public comment, I adjourn this meeting at 6:17 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Linda Hiller,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Patricia Farley, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit / # of pages		Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	1		Attendance Roster
S.C.R. 6	C	3	Senator Scott Hammond	Written Testimony