

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
AGRICULTURE, AND MINING**

**Seventy-Ninth Session
March 28, 2017**

The Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining was called to order by Vice Chair Lesley E. Cohen at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28, 2017, in Room 3138 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4404B of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Lesley E. Cohen, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Chris Brooks
Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton
Assemblyman John Ellison
Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui
Assemblywoman Lisa Krasner
Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus
Assemblyman Justin Watkins
Assemblyman Jim Wheeler
Assemblyman Steve Yeager

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Assemblywoman Heidi Swank, Chair (excused)

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susan E. Scholley, Committee Policy Analyst
Randy Stephenson, Committee Counsel
Nancy Davis, Committee Secretary
Cheryl Williams, Committee Assistant



OTHERS PRESENT:

Jeffrey M. Kintop, Administrator, Division of State Library, Archives and Public Records, Department of Administration
Eric M. Johnson, Administrator, Division of State Parks, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Jenna Morton, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada
Jake Leifheit, Senior Program Manager, After-School All-Stars Las Vegas
Steven J. Horner, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada
Tyson Falk, representing YMCA of Southern Nevada
Brad Keating, Legislative Representative, Community & Government Relations, Clark County School District
Kyle Davis, representing the Nevada Conservation League
Claudia Najarro, representing Chispa Nevada
Barbara Hartzell, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada
Mauricia Baca, representing Outside Las Vegas Foundation
Mary Pierczynski, representing Nevada Association of School Superintendents; and Nevada Association of School Administrators
Natha C. Anderson, President, Washoe Education Association; and representing Nevada State Education Association
Jocelyn Torres, Nevada Program Director, Conservation Lands Foundation

Vice Chair Cohen:

[Roll was called and standard rules of the Committee were reviewed.] I will open the hearing on Senate Bill 43.

Senate Bill 43: Revises the membership of the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names. (BDR 26-127)

Jeffrey M. Kintop, Administrator, Division of State Library, Archives and Public Records, Department of Administration:

I am here to present Senate Bill 43 for the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names within the Nevada System of Higher Education. Our agency has been part of the State Board on Geographic Names since it was created in the mid-1980s. We are recognized by the United States Board on Geographic Names, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior, as Nevada's naming authority. Any requests for new names for geographic features or name changes are referred to our Board, which is made up of a number of state and federal agencies as well as the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, so that we can review our records and maps and things in our collections to find out if a geographic feature already has a name, if the name is in common usage, if the name is acceptable to Native-American groups or to the local governments, and whether it is in popular use.

We are requesting this bill to include the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Department of the Interior, as a voting representative on the Nevada State Board of Geographic Names because they have jurisdiction in this state, including Great Basin National Park, Lake Mead

National Recreation Area, and a number of national monuments. When we went before the Sunset Subcommittee of the Legislative Commission and described what we did and what we wanted to do, they recommended that we have a bill introduced which would add the NPS to our Board.

Assemblywoman Titus:

How does the NPS feel about this? You are doing this for them, but are they willing to be on the Board?

Jeffrey Kintop:

We have had to name some things in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and we needed their input. In the negotiations about five or six years ago, we decided that since they have Great Basin National Park and national monuments, we asked why they are not on the Board. The NPS ran it up their chain of command, got approval, and requested to be on the Board.

Assemblywoman Jauregui:

How do the other ten seats feel about adding an eleventh seat?

Jeffrey Kintop:

We are very happy to have them. They have been sitting in on our meetings for a long time because our Board actually accomplishes things. We have two hearings on bills, we search all our records, and then we make a recommendation to name something or not. We get along very well with NPS, and we welcome them to our Board.

Assemblywoman Titus:

Did I hear you say that your Board actually accomplishes things? Does that mean that other boards do not?

Jeffrey Kintop:

We are on a pretty strict timeline. When we get a name nomination, we have two hearings on it. The first hearing is where we first get the nomination with all of the documentation, and then we go off to our respective collections and try to find information on the name, whether it has been used before. Then we come back a second time and we have to take an action on the bill, so we either accept it or do not accept it. I do not necessarily know what other boards do. There seems to be a lot talk sometimes.

Vice Chair Cohen:

Under the list of members in section 1, subsection 1, paragraph (k), lists the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc. and adds the language "or its successor organization." Is the Inter-Tribal Council going somewhere? Are there any changes expected in the future?

Jeffrey Kintop:

That language was put in there by the bill drafter. I suspect that it is because it is the only agency on there that is not a government agency; it is an organization. I do not think it is in anticipation of anything, but just in case something happened to that group.

Vice Chair Cohen:

I think I would have a problem limiting the list; there are just so many possible groups to add to the list. The state colleges as opposed to just the universities, members of the public, et cetera. That is not really a question; this is just a great opportunity to get the different organizations involved in such a unique Nevada experience.

Jeffrey Kintop:

In the course of our determinations, we contact political subdivisions that are somehow affected, whether they are counties, cities, or special districts. In one case we had the students from Southern Nevada College request the mountain feature behind their campus be named Mount Scorpion after their college mascot. We originally took that as being frivolous until they provided documentation that they have a tradition where every year faculty and students march up that hill just to show their sheer determination and as a way to bring the whole school together. They have a picnic on top of the mountain. Part of the reason for naming things is for public safety. If someone goes up there and has an accident, and if Mount Scorpion is mentioned, the responders will know exactly where it is, rather than describing the mountain behind the campus of Southern Nevada College. The students made it work; it was accepted, and was named Mount Scorpion. I think it was when they finally sent a picture of it and it showed predominantly behind the campus that we decided that it deserved a name.

Vice Chair Cohen:

It is always fun when you take people from out of state around and they ask, why do all the mountains have initials on them? I think it is a very Nevada thing. Is there anyone here in support of S.B. 43? [There was no one.] Is there anyone in opposition? [There was no one.] Is there anyone neutral on this bill? Seeing no one, is there anything you would like to wrap up, Mr. Kintop?

Jeff Kintop:

After we received the Sunset Subcommittee's request, we were disorganized in getting requests in for bill drafts. It seemed that no one knew how to do that until this past year when I said that we are going to do this. We went through the process and actually got this bill in. It is great to actually see this in print. [Also provided written testimony, ([Exhibit C](#)).]

Vice Chair Cohen:

I will close the hearing on S.B. 43 and open the hearing on Assembly Bill 385.

Assembly Bill 385: Requires the issuance, without charge, of an annual pass for state parks and recreational areas to certain persons under certain circumstances. (BDR 35-656)

Assemblyman Steve Yeager, Assembly District No. 9:

It is my pleasure to present Assembly Bill 385. As the description notes, A.B. 385 provides for the issuance, without charge, of an annual pass for state parks and recreational areas to fifth graders in our state. The goal behind this bill is to introduce our young people and their families, or anyone else with the fifth grader in the vehicle, free of charge, to the natural beauty of our 26 wonderful state parks in Nevada. The hope is that by introducing students to state parks, they will be encouraged to lead more active lifestyles, perhaps leave some of the video games behind, and become lifelong visitors to our state parks.

The impetus for this program is a federal program called Every Kid in a Park. That program allows for fourth graders to obtain a free pass to visit national parks. For that program, students apply for the pass online and print it out to take to the parks. That program has not been all that successful. I think part of the reason is because it requires the student to do something proactive. He has to go online, print a pass, and then take it to a park. We will talk about how this program hopefully rectifies that problem for our state. More information on how the federal program works can be found at www.everykidinapark.gov. My desire is that as students transition from fourth grade and lose free access to federal parks, this bill allows them to then access our state parks for free. I think we are going to do it better here.

I have submitted an amendment that does not really change the program, but it gives more flexibility to our Administrator of the Division of State Parks, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources ([Exhibit D](#)). The idea there, in conversations that I had with Eric Johnson, who is the Administrator, and is here and will present to the Committee, was to give him the flexibility to run the program in any way that he sees fit, in a way that will hopefully encourage students to participate. We have had some discussions about whether the passes might be proactively given to the school districts to distribute to the students, eliminating the barrier where the student has to act.

Essentially, the goal of the bill is to ensure that fifth-grade students and folks who are in the vehicle with them would be allowed in those parks for free. I wanted to give enough flexibility to the Administrator that the program could change over time based on research and participation to make sure it works well.

Before I close my testimony, I want to let the Committee know that there is an exhibit on the Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System (NELIS) that was not solicited by me. There was some interest in this bill from a fifth-grade class at Lummi Elementary School in Las Vegas. I was contacted by the teacher, Mrs. KellyLynn Charles; she had her students do some research in anticipation of this bill. They did want to come and testify, but it is during a school day and it is hard to get the students to the office. Mrs. Charles had her students research and send me some unedited letters ([Exhibit E](#)). I would like to go over a few of them. I found the students' enthusiasm with this program very interesting.

Brooke talks about what a learning and family bonding experience it would be to go to state parks. Ian says that there are many things you could learn about, such as how the basin got there, what wildlife lives there, and what climate it is and why. Also, sometimes students need time to relax and they can enjoy nature. Kelly talked about how the parks have amazing mountains that are beautifully layered and are surrounded by fields that are good for camping. The mountains create beautiful formations. The sun reflecting off the mountains at sunset makes the clouds look like fluffy puffs of fire. Sunrises there cannot be compared to anything. Lilly says that she thinks fifth graders and teachers should be able to have a free pass because you can learn more about state parks and recreational areas or spend time with your family and environment. Anabella says that as a fifth grader, she feels that her fellow classmates and she should be able to have free passes so that they can study the environment and how animals live nearby. Zaylen thinks that every student should get a free pass to go to any state park in Nevada because they can learn new things about every park they go to. Madisyn notes that there are nice views to take pictures and also there are horses to ride and look at. Horses are friendly creatures and do not harm anyone. They only harm when you are messing with them or being mean. Evan noted, as a fifth grader, he thinks that every fifth grader should get an annual pass for national state parks; there are picnics, beautiful mountains, lakes for fishing, fresh air, hikes, sunsets, and family time.

I should note that not all the students were in support of the bill. There is one student named George who wrote a letter. He essentially said that the parks do not really have anything other than rocks and road signs, and he does not know how getting a free pass would be helpful. If it his choice, he would rather go to Buffalo Wild Wings because he has more fun there. I cannot say that I disagree with him; sometimes I would rather go to Buffalo Wild Wings as well. I did want the Committee to know, in the interest of full disclosure, that the comments were not unanimous; however, most of the students in the fifth-grade class submitted letters, and I thank Mrs. Charles for reaching out to me. [Also provided but not mentioned were ([Exhibit F](#)) and ([Exhibit G](#)).]

I would like to invite Mr. Johnson up to help me answer any questions about the Division of State Parks. He is formally neutral on this bill.

Vice Chair Cohen:

Thank you. I hope that Mrs. Charles and her class have the ability to listen to this hearing.

Assemblyman Wheeler:

As I am looking at the proposed amendment; it says the passes would allow for admission to any state park to the fifth grader and any occupants in the vehicle with the fifth grader. I am wondering, does that include my 63-passenger bus? Can the fifth grader bring his whole neighborhood with him? Also, is this admission only, or would this also include boat ramp fees, et cetera?

Assemblyman Yeager:

I can take the second question. In our discussions we have talked about limiting this to admission only for the parks. Any additional boating or camping fees would still have to be paid. I would defer to Mr. Johnson about your first question.

Eric M. Johnson, Administrator, Division of State Parks, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:

State Parks is neutral on this bill, but we certainly support the concept behind it. To answer Assemblyman Wheeler's question, busses are treated differently than a passenger vehicle, so that would not apply in this case.

Assemblyman Wheeler:

I would assume that. The amendment should be written as passenger vehicle, because that is not what it says now. That would give the parks a clear delineation between a passenger vehicle and a bus.

Assemblyman Yeager:

I think that is a great point, and I will ensure that it specifically states "passenger vehicle."

Assemblywoman Jauregui:

When a fifth grader is issued a permit, it is obviously for the entire family in a passenger vehicle. Do we anticipate any impact to the state due to the loss of the permit fees?

Eric Johnson:

There will be some impact, but I think it will be minimal. I think because it is so in keeping with our purpose and mission, it is appropriate. We need to work on some details as to exactly how the permit will be distributed and what those costs are going to be, but given the latitude to do that, I think we can make it quite minimal.

Assemblywoman Jauregui:

Thank you for bringing this bill forward. I am a big fan of our state parks, and I hope every family with a fifth grader takes advantage of this and falls in love with our state parks as much as I have.

Assemblywoman Titus:

In regard to the access for the fifth graders, I understand why you chose the fifth grade program; it is to go along with the fourth grade federal program. This is a segue to that, but again, that program was not very successful. I think it is a good thing to encourage kids to go to state parks, but I am wondering about how you will advertise it and how will they know it is free. I like the concept of perhaps, when you get to fifth grade, as part of your fifth-grade packet, include the pass or the information on how to get the pass. My other thought is to make it free to any fifth-grade class to go to these parks. Have you thought about doing it that way as opposed to individual students who may never access it for lack of availability? My question is, have you thought about giving it to the fifth graders through the school program? Also, how will you advertise it to the fifth graders?

Assemblyman Yeager:

We had thought about that. Initially, I thought the program would work much like the federal program, where students would apply. In talking with Mr. Johnson, he shared some statistics that showed the federal program was not successful. When we got together, we thought much the same way you are thinking. If you remove the barrier from applying and proactively get the passes out, either through the school district or a charter school association, students would be much more likely to use the pass. I think if we can do this as part of enrollment in school and have the education component, it is probably going to make the most sense. It is interesting; if you look at the letters from the fifth graders, a lot of them say they would like to go to the parks and take their teacher with them. We had not thought about that, but there is probably some kind of program for classes to visit parks. I guess if every student in the class had a pass, the teacher would just have to pay the admission. That is something we would like to encourage—field trips to be taken to the parks.

Eric Johnson:

We typically do not charge school groups; hopefully, they make prior arrangements. We want them coming into the park. It is getting a little more rare for school groups to have an opportunity to come to a park. Our interpretative staff has been going to the schools; we touched around 14,000 kids in 2016, which goes to some of your advertising and marketing questions. We would use that as an avenue to market this program. We would not need an amendment to engage the school buses.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

Thank you for bringing this bill. We are going to be doing the outreach to the fifth-grade classes, and I know at one time we were doing a state parks passport. I believe we still do those. I am not sure what the cost associated with that is, but I see that as the way to reach out to the students. Give them the list of parks, the pass, and the passport. I would be a little concerned they are going to show up at a national park and not realize it. I hope our national park friends would recognize the family who pulls up and give them a little consideration. That way they would know what they actually have. I am a little concerned about the cost, but this is worth it. I think there is a way for us to absorb this.

The question I have is, how are we going to handle the group reservation areas? Is that going to be outside of this bill? Let us say I have a Girl Scout troop, with six girls in the fifth grade. We take five or six carloads out to the park. Would we be able to utilize the group-use areas at the different parks? I know this is going to come up, because as a Girl Scout leader, if I see my girls have something free, I am going to take advantage of it and take the other girls along. Do you have any ideas on how you will approach the group-use area reservation fees?

Eric Johnson:

Group reservations are a separate system. There is actually a reservation calendar and a reservation fee that varies between \$15 and \$25 in most parks. This permit would specifically address entrance for the vehicle occupants with the fifth grader. I do not see a direct conflict or impact on that.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

So they would not be able to utilize it towards group areas at all. It is strictly admission and that is it.

Eric Johnson:

As currently proposed, yes.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

I know we have used the group areas many times. I just wanted to make sure we are all on the same page.

Vice Chair Cohen:

I have a question about the timing for when you are considered a fifth grader. Presuming that the passes are distributed through the school district, and the fifth grader gets the pass, does it continue through the summer after the fifth-grade year?

Assemblyman Yeager:

That is a very good question since some of the schools are year-round at this point. I think the way the federal program works, it is basically a September to August time frame. We have been talking about how best to approach that. It is still a work in progress, but I think the idea is probably to do some kind of 12-month rolling period. It is just a question of when that 12 months start. Does it start with the school year? What do we do for students who go year-round? My inclination right now is to do something from September to August. We would try to make that best match up with most of our schools.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

The bill has a July 1, 2017, implementation date. I am not sure if that is that best date because that is in the middle of summer for some kids. I was wondering if there was any consideration of giving this pass out as they are leaving the fourth grade. The student would have it for the summer after the fourth grade, then do things during the fifth grade, and possibly allow it to go into the summer after the fifth grade. There is a block of time during school that they cannot use it. The free time is in summer, and I can see some ingenious teacher building this into part of the lesson plans and doing things at the fifth-grade level. Would there be a start and expiration date on the pass? We could say that as of Labor Day of whatever year, that pass is no longer good. I am not sure what the expiration date would be, or if it will even be noted on the pass.

Assemblyman Yeager:

It would probably have an expiration date, but again, the program does give flexibility to the Administrator. I think your suggestion about giving it to the students at the end of the fourth grade is a very good one in terms of planning summer vacations. I think that is workable as well. The only reason I was dovetailing off of the fourth-grade federal program was to try to avoid confusion where there might be overlap with the two passes. I guess it does not matter; if they have overlapping passes, they can go wherever they want. That is certainly something we are still working on and it is a good suggestion to do it at the end of fourth grade.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

How many fourth graders going into the fifth grade are there in this state?

Eric Johnson:

I researched the number of fifth graders, which may be a close approximation. There are 36,000 fifth graders in Nevada. I would also add that the Division of State Parks does honor the Every Kid in a Park pass. We send all of the federal outlets in the state stickers that say the "Nevada State Parks support EKIP." That sticker is applied to the card that is issued to the student.

Vice Chair Cohen:

To make this clear, we are saying that State Parks is going to be responsible for printing the pass. We do not expect the school districts to do the printing, correct?

Assemblyman Yeager:

That is correct. The State Parks would print the passes in whatever way they deem most appropriate. They do that now. There are different passes for different categories of people, as you can see in the bill. Mr. Johnson and I were discussing how to produce those passes at the cheapest cost possible and how to get them out to the students. The school districts would not have any financial obligation.

Vice Chair Cohen:

You would be relying on the school district to make the determination about who is eligible, correct?

Assemblyman Yeager:

Potentially. It depends on how the program is actually administered. The current idea is to provide the passes to the school districts and hopefully get them to the fifth graders, or the fourth graders upon leaving fourth grade, depending on how the program is structured.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

I will try to keep the money hat off as long as I can, but I am curious. What is the cost for the passports?

Eric Johnson:

We have been paying 99 cents each. We recently found a new vendor for 50 cents each. The conversation I have had with Assemblyman Yeager is to use the free passes we use at the Nevada Day Parade to get people in the park. It is on cardstock and costs about 10 cents each.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

That is for the pass. How much for the passports?

Eric Johnson:

The booklet is free.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

How much do you pay for the booklet?

Eric Johnson:

We were paying 99 cents each; we are paying 50 cents each now to have them printed.

Vice Chair Cohen:

I will open the hearing for those in support, starting in Las Vegas.

Jenna Morton, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am here on behalf of my three children—one of whom is a fifth grader now, and also the children of After-School All-Stars Las Vegas. Like Assemblyman Yeager, I would like to use the words of the children rather than my words to illustrate to you how important we think this bill is. I have a journal entry from one of the children from the After-School All-Stars Lifetime Adventures Program that was written after she took a field trip to Gold Butte National Monument. She said that being outdoors is one of the most exhilarating feelings in the world:

Being in the city, all you see is light, and for the first time, I saw the outdoors. It almost looked fake. I could never imagine a more beautiful view. The mountains go on for miles and miles. I can never get enough of it. I would not trade it for the world. To be honest, school had me stressed out this week. I had a huge project, but being out here in the outdoors has made this stressful week worth it.

The rest of her journal is very moving. I also want to share with you Malik's words where he says:

I think we should be outdoors for multiple reasons. The main and most important reason is to interact with the outdoors. You never know what you will see or do. Even if you see an animal, that could be the first time you may have seen that animal. You will never want to forget that.

These students have been so moving in their journal entries and for many of them who have been on our After-School All-Star field trips, they are getting out of their neighborhoods for the very first time. I want to also share with you the words of an After-School All-Stars teacher who I spoke with on Sunday, not related to this. We were discussing a field trip that was in the city, and she said that many of the students in her school do not get to get out of the neighborhood at all.

I want to let you know that I believe this bill is so wonderful because any barrier that we can remove to offer the families of our children the opportunity to get into the outdoors—our beautiful outdoors in Nevada—will result in stories like these from our children. I think A.B. 385 is really good for Nevada.

I also want to share, at the end of Adelai's journal entry, she says:

I know I am very lucky because not every kid gets to say they have been camping and hiking, and being in the outdoors. I will never be able to get those beautiful memories out of my head, because of all of these awesome trips. I know that in the future, I am going to take my kids to the outdoors because I want them to experience everything I went through at their age. Outdoors is a feeling that is unexplainable. I would not trade it for the world.

Jake Leifheit, Senior Program Manager, After-School All-Stars Las Vegas:

I have been managing a program called Lifetime Adventures, which educates the kids about the outdoors, in particular, southern Nevada. I think that we have seen direct benefits of connecting the youth with the outdoors and nature. We have seen improved self-confidence, leadership, and more importantly, a deeper understanding of each other's background and culture. I am in support of A.B. 385. Connecting youth with the outdoors is extremely important in southern Nevada. I also have some quotes from students who recently visited Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. One student said,

People need wilderness in their lives. The city is a great place, but sometimes people just need to get out and enjoy nature.

We have been lucky enough to partner with Spring Mountain Ranch and Valley of Fire State Park to get these kids outdoors. We are definitely a strong supporter of A.B. 385.

Steven J. Horner, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am speaking as a retired school teacher, a father, and a grandfather; I speak in favor of A.B. 385. The students that were previously quoted from their journals, I cannot reiterate that enough. It is so important to watch a child see a bighorn sheep or a mule deer or a burro or a snake in its natural habitat. It is something awesome to see, and it is so important to that child. It was always important to my students, my children, and my grandchildren. It is so important to learn about the fauna and flora of Nevada. I ask you to please support A.B. 385.

Tyson Falk, representing YMCA of Southern Nevada:

The YMCA is about youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. We would like to applaud Assemblyman Yeager for bringing this forward. This is consistent with some of the national efforts that YMCA has done over the last few years, in partnership with Sally Jewell, former Secretary of the Interior. The U.S. Department of the Interior has what is called the Let's Move! Outside campaign, with play, learn, serve, and work methods. That is a partnership with YMCA and federal parks to get these kids outdoors. A lot of our children in urban areas do not get a chance to experience all the amazing outdoor areas that Nevada has. We certainly support this bill.

Brad Keating, Legislative Representative, Community & Government Relations, Clark County School District:

We are in huge support of A.B. 385. I know there has been conversation today, and the school district keeps being brought up. We are happy to work with the sponsor of the bill and Mr. Johnson to ensure that this bill increases the number of students attending parks. There is nothing better than the beauty of Nevada, and we are excited to support this in any way we can to ensure our students are out in the community and seeing the beauty that we have to offer.

Kyle Davis, representing the Nevada Conservation League:

We are in support of this bill. We think this is a great bill to bring forward, and speaking as someone who measures the success of my year based on how many days I slept outside, this is a great first step in terms of getting more of our youth involved in the outdoors and understanding it. The thing about getting involved and the interaction with the outdoors is that it builds an appreciation for our natural areas and for the importance of having these types of places available for people to go. We think this is a great idea. We appreciate Assemblyman Yeager's bringing the bill forward, and are happy to help in any way.

Claudia Najarro, representing Chispa Nevada:

I am a community organizer with Chispa Nevada, a program of the League of Conservation Voters. I am here today in support of A.B. 385. As a mother, I believe that children should have access to these parks. It will give them an opportunity to experience the beauty of our natural parks. This will be extremely beneficial for our communities of color who do not have the access to these parks on a regular basis and will encourage families to enjoy the outdoors.

Barbara Hartzell, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am here to represent the indigenous community in Nevada. I grew up on the Las Vegas Paiute Reservation on Main Street. As a child I got to travel to many pow wows, representing my tribe. I went to many of the state parks, and I think this is an amazing opportunity for many of our indigenous children to be able to have the opportunity to do that as well. They travel all over for family gatherings, pow wows, outdoor trips, and many other things. I am here in support of A.B. 385.

Mauricia Baca, representing Outside Las Vegas Foundation:

I am pleased to be here to speak in favor of A.B. 385. Everyone else has said so much, so eloquently, about the importance of connecting our young people to the outdoors. It is something the Outside Las Vegas Foundation is focused on, and we have helped to support groups such as the After-School All-Stars by providing transportation. I think part of A.B. 385 that has not been emphasized enough is how much it empowers a young person, a fifth grader, to be able to take themselves and their families out to these places. We provide field trips and transportation that allows these kids and their schools to go together. Then if they want to take the next step, they have this extra layer of access so that they can take themselves and their families. This gives them a feeling of incredible empowerment to be able to be the ones who take their families to the outdoors. It really builds on that pattern

that we are hoping to build so that those one-time field trips actually become a lifetime of experience and a great life-long passion for the outdoors. I speak in favor of A.B. 385. I think it is a tremendous idea that will really help to further those connections for our young people and their families to the outdoors.

Mary Pierczynski, representing Nevada Association of School Superintendents; and Nevada Association of School Administrators:

We want to thank Assemblyman Yeager for this bill. I think we can figure out a way to get these passes to the students and get the information to them. This is a great way to spark some enthusiasm for the outdoors. We have a beautiful state, and I think this will get some of the kids and their families interested in going. We are in support.

Natha C. Anderson, President, Washoe Education Association; and representing Nevada State Education Association:

I am a second-generation Nevadan who was blessed, or cursed, with a father who loved history. I had the opportunity to drive to Fort Churchill more times than I wish to mention. I also had the opportunity to drive out to Elko more times than I like to talk about. In every single one of those trips, whether it was to Mormon Station, Sand Harbor, or to some of the other places, every single time I went, I learned something new. I was able to celebrate my state a little bit more. As a child, I thought everyone did that.

When I was in high school, I had one of those teachers that Assemblywoman Carlton brought up, who thought, let us have some fun with this. Fred Horlacher was an amazing educator who started something called "Ghost Towners Club," and believe it or not, there would be a bus full of sophomores, juniors, and seniors who would sign up for a weekend trip to go to ghost towns. I was shocked when I found out from my fellow students how few of them had actually had a chance to celebrate our state. This sort of program would allow for us to celebrate the diversity, history, and natural resources that we are fortunate enough to have in Nevada. I ask for your support of this bill. I would like to also mention that I am representing the Nevada State Education Association and its 40,000 members.

Jocelyn Torres, Nevada Program Director, Conservation Lands Foundation:

As it has been mentioned before, I will not repeat why this is an awesome program. We participated in trying to get folks to sign up for the Every Kid in a Park federal program. A big struggle that we had was getting folks to sign up online, especially in low-income communities. Sometimes Internet access is difficult, along with the struggle to fill out the online forms. I think the suggestion of having schools distribute this program, or even making it easier for a pastor or someone else to help these kids enroll in this program, could go a long way in getting more participation. Sometimes the schools, youth groups, and church groups are the ones who take the kids out if their families cannot. I appreciate the suggestions made, and we are here in support and hope you will support it as well.

Vice Chair Cohen:

Is there anyone here to testify in opposition? Seeing no one, is there anyone neutral? Seeing no one, we have a few questions from the Committee.

Assemblywoman Titus:

I am curious; I have looked at all the information I could garner on this particular bill, and there is no fiscal note attached. Why?

Eric Johnson:

We asked for an extension on filing a fiscal note until we can get some details worked out. I will reiterate, I see the fiscal note being quite minimal, depending on how we distribute the passes. I think in any scenario, it will be something we can probably fund with our gift shop interpretative grant program that is run internally.

Vice Chair Cohen:

I also believe any issues that come up regarding finances will be taken care of in the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

When is the fiscal note due?

Eric Johnson:

It is due next Tuesday, close of business.

Assemblyman Yeager:

I want to thank all of those who testified in support today. It was very humbling to hear how important the bill is to so many people. I know being outdoors in the environment has meant the world to me. Probably the hardest thing about being involved in the legislative process is staring out the window, wishing I were hiking or climbing or walking, anything other than just sitting. That is the reality of where we are and what we do, at least for these next 90-plus days. My hope is that this bill would encourage students to get to know the beautiful state of Nevada and to have a lifelong relationship to our lands, and hopefully get some physical exercise while doing it. Again, I thank the Committee for consideration of the bill, and I am willing to work on this in any way going forward.

Vice Chair Cohen:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 385 and open up to public comment. Seeing none, we are adjourned [at 2:28 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Nancy Davis
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Heidi Swank, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

[Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster.

[Exhibit C](#) is written testimony regarding Senate Bill 43, submitted by Jeffrey M. Kintop, Administrator, Division of State Library, Archives and Public Records, Department of Administration.

[Exhibit D](#) is a proposed amendment to Assembly Bill 385, submitted by Assemblyman Steve Yeager, Assembly District No. 9.

[Exhibit E](#) is letters of support for Assembly Bill 385 from Mrs. KellyLynn Charles' fifth-grade class from the Lummis Elementary School, Las Vegas, Nevada, referenced by Assemblyman Steve Yeager, Assembly District No. 9.

[Exhibit F](#) is a Nevada Division of State Parks fee schedule, dated January 15, 2014, submitted by Assemblyman Steve Yeager, Assembly District No. 9.

[Exhibit G](#) is a letter in dated March 28, 2017, support of Assembly Bill 385, to Chair Swank and the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining, authored by Senator Yvanna D. Cancela, Senate District No. 10, and Assemblyman Nelson Araujo, Assembly District No. 3, on behalf of the Nevada Future Democratic Caucus.