

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

**Seventy-Ninth Session
June 2, 2017**

The Committee on Ways and Means was called to order by Chair Maggie Carlton at 9:05 a.m. on Friday, June 2, 2017, in Room 3137 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 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 Maggie Carlton, Chair
Assemblyman Jason Frierson, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Paul Anderson
Assemblyman Nelson Araujo
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson
Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams
Assemblywoman Olivia Diaz
Assemblyman Chris Edwards
Assemblyman John Hambrick
Assemblyman James Oscarson
Assemblywoman Ellen B. Spiegel
Assemblyman Michael C. Sprinkle
Assemblywoman Heidi Swank
Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Sarah Coffman, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Carol Thomsen, Committee Secretary
Lisa McAlister, Committee Assistant

Chair Carlton adjourned the hearing of June 1, 2017. After call of the roll, the Chair advised that Assembly Bill 269, which was the vapor products tax, might be discussed later in the afternoon after the first floor session, along with Assembly Bill 520. The first bill for Committee consideration would be Senate Bill 544 (1st Reprint), which was the K-12 education bill. Normally, public comment would be opened at the end of the meeting,

Minutes ID: 1406



but because of time constraints and recesses, Chair Carlton wanted to ensure that the public was allowed to participate; therefore, public comment would be heard first. Those persons wishing to testify were asked to keep their comments brief. The Chair opened public comment in Carson City.

Joyce Newman, private citizen, stated she wanted to applaud the recent discussions on Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). She believed ESAs were bad for Nevada and were unfair because the tax system in Nevada disproportionately taxed low-income persons who could not enroll their children in private schools even if the Legislature approved ESAs. She opined that it was an unfair proposal that would drain finances from the public school system, which was already one of the lowest-funded school systems in the country.

Ms. Newman stated Nevada could not afford to take another \$60 million away from public schools to allow parents to enroll their children in religious and/or private schools. Even though that offended her, she did not have a choice about how her taxes were used. She paid her taxes, and her choice would be not to send those taxes to private schools. If she wanted to contribute to private schools, she would write a check and send it to the school. There was an abundance of evidence available that indicated vouchers did not work, and Ms. Newman did not think ESAs could be justified.

Kathleen Watty stated she was a resident of Incline Village and had been a teacher with the Washoe County School District for 30 years. Ms. Watty said she was opposed to vouchers. When money was spent to subsidize private schools, it took money away from public schools that was desperately needed. As a former employee of the Washoe County School District, she felt that vouchers would provide additional funding to Southern Nevada while Northern Nevada would be penalized because funds would not be going to private schools in Northern Nevada. Ms. Watty believed that rural areas would also suffer if vouchers were approved.

Susan Nielsen, private citizen, stated that she was a citizen/lobbyist who was opposed to Senate Bill (S.B.) 544 (1st Reprint) and Senate Bill (S.B.) 506. She stated she had been gravely concerned that the Legislature might follow the Governor's strong request to pass the voucher bill. She believed that was a terrible bill, and one that would ultimately lead to the end of Nevada's historic public school system by opening the door to a vast corporate for-profit plan that was poised to end the state's community schools entirely. She believed the bills contained elements that were egregious, and possibly unconstitutional, which had escaped proper vetting by Nevada authorities despite the unfortunate experience of other states in enacting similar legislation. For example, the bill would establish a director position with exceedingly broad authority that would be selected by and serve at the pleasure of the state's Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Ms. Nielsen said the state must dedicate the money that would be lost with the vouchers to fund new programs in public schools for the least productive of its students. She had recently attended a joint meeting of the Senate Committee on Education and the Assembly Committee on Education on Senate Bill (S.B.) 178 (1st Reprint), which presented

a plan that seemed to be headed toward incredible success. The Superintendents of both the Washoe County and Clark County School Districts presented glowing recommendations at that hearing, and all presenters from the field of K-12 education gave S.B. 178 (R1) high marks.

Ms. Nielsen said the Legislature should ensure that it made funding decisions that would enrich Nevada's public school system. She asked that the Committee support the remarkable new program in S.B. 178 (R1) when presented with the opportunity and abandon the madness that would undo over 200 years of progress and heritage of fully supporting public schools.

Chair Carlton asked persons wishing to testify from Las Vegas to come forward for public comment.

Ben Taylor, private citizen, stated he had resided in Las Vegas for over 30 years. Mr. Taylor said he wanted to go on the record in support of education savings accounts (ESAs). Much of the opposition had taken the liberty of calling the ESAs vouchers. The ESAs were not vouchers, but rather introduced choices in education. Previous testimony indicated that funding would be moved from the public school system, but Mr. Taylor stated that was not the case. The ESAs would no more move funding from the public school system in Southern Nevada than would transportation funding. If the state funded transportation, those were funds that could just as well be used for education.

Mr. Taylor said he and his wife had five children and they had experienced the full gamut of education in Southern Nevada. His children had attended public schools, charter schools, and private schools, and he and his wife had tried home schooling. The ESAs would provide choices for parents in selecting the appropriate education for their children, whether that was public, private, or home schooling. Every child was different, and every child demanded different types of educational support. Education savings accounts would give choice and power back to the parents and remove power from the state and school district bureaucrats and administrators.

Mr. Taylor said there was an old saying about the Golden Rule, "He who controlled the gold made the rules." The ESAs would put the "gold" back in the pockets of parents and give them the opportunity and the choice to select the type of education they wanted for their children.

Jamie Allen stated he had been a resident of Las Vegas for 12 years. He had been an officer in the military and had been working in Las Vegas as a chief executive officer (CEO) for an aircraft company that conducted flight tests. Over the years during his military career, he and his wife had had various opportunities for choices in education for their children in the United States and abroad. He stated he was in support of ESAs and felt ESAs should be funded. As he and his wife raised their three children, they had used public schools, private schools, home schooling, and also the U.S. Department of Defense Dependent Schools while stationed in Europe.

Mr. Allen said his children had all attended college, married, and now had children of their own. He and his wife had four grandchildren under 3 years of age. That was the next generation, and ESAs would give parents a choice and help them stay engaged in their children's education; it would also give parents the opportunity to select the proper education for their children.

Mr. Allen said one thing that he often heard from teachers in his church and community was that parents were not sufficiently engaged in their children's education. That was a particular concern of teachers in low-income school districts. The ESAs would allow parents to become directly engaged and would allow choices for their children; the ESAs would be a success story. He agreed that ESAs would not take funding away from the public school system. Nevada had many good programs in the public and the charter schools, but ESAs would give parents yet another choice that Mr. Allen believed was very important for Nevada. He urged the Committee to support and fund ESAs.

Leah Tippetts stated that until 2017 she had been a public school teacher and had worked in public and charter schools in three states. She began teaching in the Clark County School District in 2016 and was disappointed in what she had observed in the public school system. Her son was Caucasian, with blond hair and blue eyes, and because he was at the top of his class and at grade level in a four-star school, he had been ignored. The public school system did not work for her children and had not worked for her.

Ms. Tippetts said she was in favor of ESAs and against S.B. 544 (R1), and she asked that the funds earmarked for ESAs be approved, which would give parents the choice so their children could succeed. She said she came before the Committee as a public school teacher in an overcrowded classroom with a K-8 reading level, where she basically had to ignore the high-level students to help those who were not performing at grade level, which was similar to what had happened to her son.

Ms. Tippetts opined that the Clark County School District would not have a problem if it was properly managed. There were multiple levels of administration that made two and three times the salaries made by teachers. Ms. Tippetts said that every summer she had to find an extra job just to make ends meet; she was not a wealthy woman. Her family had two incomes and barely made ends meet. The ESAs were not for the wealthy, but rather for regular schoolchildren who needed a chance to succeed and did not qualify for Medicaid or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Ms. Tippetts said she would be teaching at a private school in 2017 and would no longer teach in the public school system. The tuition for that private school was \$5,900 and ESAs would be accepted. For parents with no other options, the ESAs were absolutely needed because choice was never a bad thing—force was a bad thing—and forcing persons to pay their taxes to a public school system that was failing the state's children was unethical and unacceptable. Ms. Tippetts voiced appreciation for the service of legislators and begged them to cross party lines and realize that everyone thought they were right. Most people who supported ESAs were parents because it was their God-given right to parent their children.

Testifying next in Carson City was Kristopher Dahir who stated he had resided in Nevada for 40 years. He had grown up in Las Vegas and was now living in Northern Nevada. He stated he served his community in Sparks on many different factions and was a member of the WC-1 [a Washoe County ballot question approved by the voters in 2016] oversight committee and a city councilman.

Mr. Dahir stated that he had also been a private school director for 15 years. He was currently the Director of Advancement for the Excel Christian School in Sparks. He stated he was asking for a balanced approach to ESAs; he did not devalue any learning opportunities because each had its own purpose and served a different group of students.

Mr. Dahir asked that the Committee consider the balanced approach, and he stated he would make himself available to legislators and would be happy to help. There was much information available about private schools, and he wanted the Committee to know that he would be happy to work with legislators. He believed it would be better to look at the various perspectives to balance the decision.

Mr. Dahir said his budget included between \$100,000 and \$200,000 toward scholarships to help low-income students, and the Excel School would continue that practice. However, there were parents who were very interested in ESAs. He would not belittle the public school system and supported it with his time: he did not believe that one school was better than another. He asked every legislator to stop and look at the common goal, which was the children and what would be best for them.

Wendell Newman stated he had been involved in education in Nevada since 1971 as a representative of teachers, and through the Department of Education as an assistant superintendent. Mr. Newman said he was very concerned about ESAs. He believed the problem could be solved, but it could not be solved by taking money away from the State General Fund to fund the ESAs. He had no problem with school choice, which frankly was a mask of what the ESAs would accomplish. Tax money should not be used for ESAs, and as a taxpayer, Mr. Newman did not believe tax money should be used for private schools. He had no problem with parents who wanted to send their children to private schools, but it was not his responsibility to fund that choice. The other problem was accountability. There was a lack of accountability in private schools compared with the performance of teachers in public schools in the area of testing.

Denise Lasher, representing the American Federation for Children, stated that with the ESAs the school districts would be able to keep the local tax dollars and would also keep the federal dollars; therefore, there would be a positive fiscal effect on the local school districts. The school districts currently had overcrowded classrooms, and the ESAs would help with that overcrowding. Parents who were looking for other options were faced with long waitlists at charter schools; over 3,000 families in Clark County were on a waitlist for charter schools, and an even greater number of families were on the waitlist for magnet schools.

Ms. Lasher said that at a recent hearing, Senator Pat Spearman, Senate District No. 1, had made some compelling statements about hearing-impaired and vision-impaired students, and the need to open a school in Nevada to address those special-needs students. With the ESAs, there could be more than one special-needs school so that Northern Nevada families would not have to board their children at a school in Southern Nevada for the educational services they needed.

Ms. Lasher said there could be no more compelling testimony than that from parents who had appeared multiple times to ask for ESA funding. There were thousands of working-class and middle-class families in Nevada who desperately needed other educational options for their children, particularly children with special needs. Those families often could not afford other educational options for their children, and on behalf of the families that had given very passionate and compelling testimony before the Committee, Ms. Lasher hoped that legislators could come together and negotiate the ESA funding, which would benefit every child in Nevada.

Zoie Ashcroft, age 8, and her sister both testified in support of ESAs.

Tiecha Ashcroft said she was very disappointed in the decision that was made on June 1, 2017, by the Senate Committee on Finance, which indicated that her children were not worthy of an exceptional education. She asked that the K-12 budget not be passed without setting aside the \$60 million that was earmarked for ESAs. The program was much needed, and she was frustrated that everyone believed ESAs would only benefit wealthy people with children in private schools. Ms. Ashcroft stated that ESAs were for everyone and were not only for private schools. The ESAs would allow parents to create an educational path for their children to succeed. She stated she was far from wealthy, and she and her husband were a middle-class family who could not afford to provide their children with an education outside public schools. Ms. Ashcroft said that public schools did not work for her children, and she asked that the Committee vote against the K-12 funding bill unless the \$60 million was set aside to fund the ESAs.

Chair Carlton stated that because of the court case surrounding the voucher program that was approved by the 2015 Legislature, an ESA funding provision could not be included in the Distributive School Account.

Douglas Ruiz stated he currently had four children in the Clark County School District, and one month ago, he and his family moved to another area of Las Vegas. Since that move, he stated his children were refusing to go to their new school for many reasons; his children cried and said they did not want to go to school. Two of the children were his wife's nieces and one was a nephew whom he and his wife were in the process of adopting. Mr. Ruiz said he and his wife were doing their best to help those children achieve a stable emotional and mental state, but had not realized there would be such a problem with schools when the family moved. He and his wife hoped that moving the children to a better school would help their mental stability. He asked that the Committee not pass S.B. 544 (R1) and support

ESAs. Mr. Ruiz asked that legislators cooperate with each other to provide children a better choice in education.

Chair Carlton closed public comment and opened the hearing on Senate Bill 544 (1st Reprint).

Senate Bill 544 (1st Reprint): Ensures sufficient funding for K-12 public education for the 2017-2019 biennium. (BDR 34-1189)

Julie Waller, Senior Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 544 (1st Reprint), as amended, was the K-12 education funding bill for the 2017-2019 biennium. The bill would appropriate State General Funds totaling \$2.4 billion and authorized expenditures of non-State General Fund revenues totaling \$796.2 million over the biennium to the Distributive School Account (DSA), including the continued support of students with disabilities and the class-size reduction program.

Ms. Waller stated that, additionally, S.B. 544 (R1) included State General Fund appropriations totaling \$387.5 million and authorized non-State General Fund revenues totaling \$5.1 million over the biennium for the support of programs including, but not limited to, the Zoom School program; Victory Schools; Social Workers in Schools; Read by Grade 3; Nevada Ready 21 Technology program; Career and Technical education; Adult High School Diploma program; Teach Nevada Scholarship program; teacher supply reimbursement; the Great Teach and Remedial Plan; and other various K-12 education grant programs. The bill would become effective July 1, 2017.

Chair Carlton asked Ms. Waller to address the amendment.

Ms. Waller said the amendment removed tax funding related to the marijuana taxes. The Governor's proposed 10 percent retail excise tax on recreational marijuana, as well as an increase in the medical marijuana taxes, totaling \$70.6 million over the biennium had been removed, and the State General Fund appropriation was increased by an equivalent amount to replace those tax revenues.

Chair Carlton wanted to ensure that the Committee understood the funding. It appeared those tax dollars had actually been designated for the DSA, and the amendment was needed to process the funds correctly through the State General Fund. Ms. Waller stated that was correct.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson asked about the formula used to determine the basic per-pupil support guarantee for each county as depicted in section 2 of the bill. Legislation passed in 2015 adopted a new formula for determining the per-pupil amount, and Washoe County wanted to know how the formula worked.

Ms. Waller explained that the K-12 per-pupil funding formula had not changed; the only changes in the input were the addition of the kindergarten students and the unweighting of

those students. That was done in accordance with Senate Bill 508 of the 78th Session (2015), which required that kindergarten students become unweighted in the funding formula. Prior to that, kindergarten students were funded at 0.6 percent of a full-time student in the formula. The remaining portion of the cost of the teacher to fund full-day kindergarten was provided through a categorical grant program. Ms. Waller said that was the primary change in the funding formula.

Ms. Waller said individual school district allocations also took into consideration the wealth factor, and as the economy improved and local wealth in various school districts changed, that had an effect on the level of funding that each school district received from the state. Overall, the per-pupil funding was a balance between state funds and local funds that determined the amount of the funding.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson said it appeared the change was that kindergarten students went from being weighted at 0.6, just slightly over half of a part-time student, to a full-time student.

Ms. Waller said that was correct, and in addition, the categorical funding for the full-day kindergarten program was also placed in the DSA. That totaled \$83 million in the first year of the biennium and \$85 million in the second year. The money committees also approved an additional approximately \$4 million over the biennium to keep the basic support per-pupil number whole once that transfer had been made into the DSA.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson asked about using projections for the number of kindergarten students anticipated in the 2017-2019 biennium, and she wondered how the number of students had been projected by the Department of Education.

Ms. Waller explained that the enrollment projections were based on three-fourths of fiscal year (FY) 2017 and the projected fourth quarter number. Those numbers had been reviewed and the projected growth was 1.05 percent above the FY 2017 enrollment numbers and 1.25 percent growth from FY 2018 to FY 2019. She noted that historically, actual growth had been closer to 4 percent or 5 percent. Those growth factors that had been legislatively approved by the money committees and appeared to be very conservative.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson noted that funding formulas sometimes produced a product that was different from the hypothetical calculations, even though every effort had been made to ensure that the application of the formula would produce expected results. The results of the change in the funding formula for the Washoe County School District were not as expected.

Chair Carlton asked whether there was testimony to come before the Committee in support of or in opposition to S.B. 544 (R1).

Lindsay Anderson, representing Washoe County School District, stated that the Washoe County School District (WCSD) opposed S.B. 544 (R1) because of sections 1 and

2, which contained the DSA per-pupil allocations by school district. The WCSD had no other opposition to the DSA funding bill. When the bill was introduced, the per-pupil amount for WCSD had been a complete surprise. The FY 2018 per-pupil DSA allocation for WCSD was only \$19 more than the FY 2017 allocation—a 0.3 percent increase. That came as a surprise because of the Governor's inclusion of a 2 percent roll-up for employee costs and increasing the DSA for health-care costs.

Ms. Anderson noted that for the past 15 years, WCSD had received no less than 98 percent of the statewide average for the DSA per-pupil allocation, and WCSD had built its budget for the upcoming biennium consistent with estimates received from the Department of Education in February 2017 and as late as April 28, 2017. However, WCSD understood that adjustments had been made to the formula, particularly regarding kindergarten students, and those adjustments generated figures for WCSD that were significantly less than expected. The Superintendent of WCSD and the Superintendent of Public Instruction were meeting today to determine why the per-pupil rates were less than expected and whether a solution could be reached that worked for all school districts.

Ms. Anderson said WCSD was not asking other districts to take less money, but it appeared that the legislative intent with the change in the funding formula would not actually transpire for WCSD. It was estimated that the per-pupil amount included in the DSA for the upcoming biennium would generate a \$6.6 million budget deficit in each year of the biennium for WCSD, and that was above and beyond the \$40 million budget deficit currently facing WCSD.

Ms. Anderson understood that the Legislature could not hold up the K-12 funding bill because it was a major component in closing all other budget accounts and completing the 2017 Legislature; however, she asked legislators to continue working with WCSD to determine whether there was a solution that would protect its 64,000 students.

Chair Carlton asked whether there was testimony to come before the Committee neutral on S.B. 544 (R1).

Peggy Lear Bowen, private citizen, stated that during the June 1, 2017, meeting of the Senate Committee on Finance, a bill was heard [Senate Bill 550] that included funding for costs relating to a human resource management information system for the Clark County School District. The system would be purchased through the State Purchasing Division, Department of Administration, and Ms. Bowen said that the same management system had been proposed in an Assembly bill that was rejected. She asked that the Committee be watchful of the state purchasing a system that could later be expanded to all departments and divisions for budget management; the management system could remove the Legislature from the process and put the State Purchasing Division in charge of the entire state or the entire system used by school districts.

Nicole Rourke, Associate Superintendent, Clark County School District, stated that the Clark County School District (CCSD) was aware of the complexity of the K-12 budget that

funded over 322,000 students in Clark County. The K-12 formula was incredibly complicated, and through Senate Bill 178 (1st Reprint), there would be a review of that formula over the interim. The CCSD had been in the same position as WCSD over the current biennium, and for fiscal year (FY) 2015, CCSD per-pupil funding was reduced by \$15 for the first time in over 15 years. Ms. Rourke thanked the Committee for its work on the DSA funding bill.

Ms. Rourke stated that CCSD believed the per-pupil formula needed a solid review. The Department of Education was working with CCSD because it believed it was owed true-up funding because of an error, which would continue to complicate the funding for the upcoming biennium as well.

Natha C. Anderson, President, Washoe County Education Association, thanked the Committee for its hard work on S.B. 544 (R1). Ms. Anderson said she wanted to voice her concerns as an educator and as President of the Association because teachers were concerned about the lack of roll-ups. She hoped that the conversation between the Washoe County School District and the Department of Education would find a solution to the per-pupil funding formula.

Chris Daly, representing the Nevada State Education Association, acknowledged that the Legislature and the Committee had to pass the K-12 education budget, which was required in the *Constitution of the State of Nevada*, but he wanted to discuss the per-pupil funding formula. The current per-pupil average was \$5,774, and S.B. 544 (R1) proposed to increase that average to \$5,897 in FY 2018 and \$5,967 in FY 2019, which, over the course of the 2017-2019 biennium, would be a 1.5 percent increase each year in per-pupil funding. Mr. Daly opined that the increase would barely keep up with the increasing costs of doing business, which was why the Washoe County School District was anticipating difficulties over the upcoming biennium.

Mr. Daly said with the current DSA budget, Nevada would likely continue to rank approximately 27th in the country in per-pupil funding, and the Association hoped Nevada could do better.

One disappointment for the Association was the approximately \$376 million that educators fought to keep supplemental in 2009, but the monies were still not supplemental and were being used to help balance the overall budget and contribute to the state's obligation to the DSA. Mr. Daly said that the Association found the Governor's recommendation to move \$60 million in State General Fund revenue to private school vouchers rather insulting. The Association believed that funding for public schools that served 470,000 Nevada students had to be addressed first, which was the responsibility of the leaders of the state.

Mr. Daly said the recent actions taken by legislators to move the \$60 million back into the DSA were bold, brave, and heroic in the Association's opinion and would help all Nevada students.

Lara Allen said she was neutral on S.B. 544 (R1). She asked that the Committee please fund the education savings accounts (ESAs) because all Nevada children needed a choice in education.

Ms. Allen stated that her high school son was bullied and miserable in both public and charter schools. In anticipation of ESA funding, he was enrolled in a nonprofit private school with a very positive learning environment and was a completely different child. Her son was now happy, motivated, and working hard in school. He was also being helpful and kind to his siblings and told her that he loved her when she talked with him on the phone. Ms. Allen said her son was now happy and succeeding, and ESA funding was needed so that the "square pegs" that did not fit into the round holes of the public education system could find schooling that fit them.

Chair Carlton noted that ESA funding was not being considered by the Committee and was not included in S.B. 544 (R1); therefore, the Committee would hear no further testimony regarding ESAs.

There being no further testimony, the Chair called for a motion on S.B. 544 (R1).

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO
PASS SENATE BILL 544 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON SECONDED THE
MOTION.

Assemblyman Edwards commented that he had always been told to vote for education; however, at this time, voting for education meant he would have to vote no on the bill.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblymen Edwards, Hambrick, Oscarson, and
Titus voted no. Assemblyman Anderson was not present for the vote.)

Chair Carlton said she would handle the floor statement.

Chair Carlton opened the hearing on Assembly Bill 519, which was a Committee on Ways and Means bill.

Assembly Bill 519: Makes an appropriation to the Secretary of State to provide grants of money to the counties in this State for the purchase of voting machines. (BDR S-1238)

Wayne Thorley, Deputy for Elections, Office of the Secretary of State, stated that Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske was present in Las Vegas and would like to address the Committee.

Barbara Cegavske, Secretary of State, thanked the Committee for introduction of the bill and for working with the Office of the Secretary of State. She stated that Mr. Thorley would review the sections of the bill.

Mr. Thorley stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 519 appropriated \$8 million from the State General Fund to the Office of the Secretary of State to award grants to the 17 counties for the purchase of new voting machines and related costs. Of the \$8 million appropriated to the Secretary of State's Office, not more than \$4.5 million would be available for grants to Clark County, not more than \$1.7 million would be available for grants to Washoe County, and not more than \$1.8 million would be available for grants to the remaining 15 counties.

Chair Carlton asked Mr. Thorley to discuss the program that was used to determine the amount of the grants to the counties so Committee members and the audience could understand the method used to determine those amounts.

Mr. Thorley stated the Secretary of State's Office had submitted a request for information from the two vendors who sold systems certified for use by the State of Nevada and had received an estimate of the cost for the full replacement of the existing voting systems in every county. The Secretary of State's Office then reviewed the number of registered voters in each county and determined that the \$8 million allocation would be distributed according to the number of registered voters. The allocation included in A.B. 519 would fund approximately 50 percent of the replacement costs for a new voting system in each county.

Mr. Thorley indicated that section 1, subsection 4 of the bill stipulated that not more than \$5,000 of any grant received by the counties could be used for training and not more than \$35,000 from any grant received by the counties could be used for electronic poll books.

Chair Carlton stated that Clark County had already purchased some voting machines but had not completed the total replacement. The County was working on phase 2, and the funding contained in the bill would be the state's portion of phase 2 for Clark County. To be fair to all counties, the funding would be equally based on the number of registered voters, with the understanding that replacement of the voting machines might be somewhat difficult for the small rural counties. Those counties might need additional assistance because of the lack of registered voters. Chair Carlton believed it was very important to have the machines in place prior to the next election and ensure that the machines worked properly. She noted that many voting machines throughout the state had been in place for quite some time, and to maintain the integrity of the process, the state needed to make the necessary investment to replace those machines.

Chair Carlton noted that Clark County had made its decision about the new voting machines, but there was nothing in A.B. 519 that dictated which machines the counties should purchase, although it was hoped the counties would make similar choices.

Mr. Thorley stated the bill would simply grant the funding to the counties to purchase the machines. The Secretary of State's Office would devise a grant application that would be

completed and returned by the counties to receive grant funding. There was nothing in the bill that stipulated which machines should be purchased. However, there were only two systems certified for use in Nevada, and the Secretary of State's Office was comfortable with both systems; therefore, it would be up to each county to decide which machines would work best for its registered voters.

Mr. Thorley reiterated that the funding included in A.B. 519 would not cover the full cost of replacing all statewide voting machines. Each county would need to match the state funding with 50 percent county funding to complete the purchase of the new machines.

Chair Carlton asked whether there was testimony to come before the Committee in support of A.B. 519.

Susan Merriwether, Carson City Clerk-Recorder, thanked Chair Carlton for presenting the bill and working with the Secretary of State and the various clerks and registrars throughout the state. Ms. Merriwether explained that clerks in the rural counties were facing some financial problems because of the burden of replacing software for the older voting machines since the software vendor had closed. In 2011, the previous Carson City Clerk-Recorder advised the Legislature that the voting equipment was aging, and the counties would eventually need some assistance with replacement of that equipment.

Ms. Merriwether stated that because of the software replacement costs for the older machines, the counties were very appreciative of the state funding assistance to replace the aging equipment. She noted that almost 70 percent of the positions on the ballots were state and federal officers; the counties did not conduct elections only for county officials. The counties wanted to ensure that the new voting equipment was up and running for the next election. She noted that the clerks in all counties believed it was time to replace the voting equipment.

Kathy Lewis, Douglas County Clerk-Treasurer, wanted to thank Chair Carlton and others who had participated in the discussions about replacing the voting equipment. She also thanked the Secretary of State's Office for working with the county clerks on the legislation because it was a very good step for Nevada.

Dagny Stapleton, representing the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO), thanked Chair Carlton on behalf of all Nevada's counties for her work on A.B. 519. She also wanted to thank the Secretary of State's Office for working with the county clerks for replacement of the voting machines.

Joe P. Gloria, Clark County Registrar of Voters, echoed previous statements from his colleagues, and commented that he and his colleagues had worked hard as a group and had sent a very clear message that they took the integrity of the voting process very seriously. He thanked Chair Carlton and all legislators who had listened to the concerns about replacing the voting equipment for the past 12 months. Mr. Gloria also wanted to thank the Secretary

of State's Office for taking the lead. Mr. Gloria indicated that the taxpayers in Clark County appreciated the state funding, and he was in support of the bill.

Chair Carlton asked whether there was further testimony to come before the Committee in opposition to or neutral on A.B. 519, and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO PASS ASSEMBLY BILL 519.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblymen Anderson and Frierson were not present for the vote.)

Chair Carlton said she would handle the floor statement.

Senate Bill 244 (3rd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to historic preservation. (BDR 33-515)

Senator Julia Ratti, Senate District No. 13, stated she had been working very closely with the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony on Senate Bill (S.B.) 244 (3rd Reprint) on behalf of a number of Native American tribes in Nevada. The bill would ensure that tribes had representation through appointment of a representative to both the Board of Museums and History, Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, and the Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The bill would increase consultation, particularly in areas where Native American human remains and funerary objects were disturbed and would create a permitting process to ensure that consultation took place.

Senator Ratti said the bill would work to ensure that there was a meaningful process with consultation for the repatriation of human remains and funerary objects, which extended to items of cultural significance that went through the abandonment process to the Nevada State Museum, Division of Museums and History, Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs.

From a financial standpoint, there had been a relatively significant fiscal note attached to S.B. 244 (R3) at the beginning of the process, but after a great deal of work with the Office of Historic Preservation, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Nevada State Museum, the fiscal note had been revised and reduced. Senator Ratti believed the bill was the first step forward in advancing the concepts contained in the bill.

Senator Ratti noted that the bill had been heard by the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs on June 1, 2017, and there had been written representation from many tribal chairmen who supported the bill as follows: the Chairman of the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe; the Chairman of the Lovelock Paiute Tribe; the Chairman of the Walker River Paiute Tribe; the Chairman of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; the

Chairman of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; and the Chairman of the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe. Because the hearing today was on the fiscal aspect of the bill, those Chairmen were not present. Senator Ratti hoped that the Committee would see that absence as a sign of being respectful of the Committee's time and not a lack of support for the bill.

Chair Carlton said it appeared that Section 38.7 of S.B. 244 (R3) delineated appropriations to various entities, and Senator Ratti stated that was correct.

Assemblywoman Swank opined that the language in the bill was similar to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) that applied to federal lands. She wondered whether the bill would apply those ideas to state lands.

Senator Ratti said that was true regarding the consultation and permitting process. The NAGPRA applied in federal cases and some state cases. The bill would extend aspects of that law to private lands and would create the permitting process for private lands.

Chair Carlton said the actual appropriations contained in section 38.7, subsection 1 were to the Nevada State Museum in the amount of \$25,517 in fiscal year (FY) 2018 and \$40,118 in FY 2019. Section 38.7, subsection 2 contained an expenditure of \$31,187 by the Nevada State Museum; subsection 3 contained an expenditure of \$49,033 by the Nevada State Museum; and subsection 4 indicated that any balance of sums remaining at the end of each fiscal year would revert to the State General Fund.

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that there were also appropriations contained in section 38.3 from the State General Fund to the Office of Historic Preservation of \$1,390 in FY 2019 for travel. Section 38.5 contained appropriations of \$4,301 in FY 2018 and \$288 in FY 2019 to the Division of Museums and History, Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, for travel, per diem, and regulations.

Senator Ratti said the funding was somewhat confusing because a portion of the Nevada State Museum's budget was from the Division of Museums and History. The appropriation from the Division was very small and would be used for in-state travel and per diem for a board member. In addition, the Division had not had a person in the position for the permitting function for federal and state lands for quite some time, and the Senate Committee on Finance believed it was appropriate to include the funding for that position.

Chair Carlton asked whether there was testimony to come before the Committee in support of S.B. 244 (R3).

William Adler, representing the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, stated the Tribe totally supported the bill.

Peggy Lear Bowen stated that as the former chair of the State of Nevada Indian Commission, she believed S.B. 244 (R3) would complete the circle that started with the passage of the

Indian burial bill several years ago. At that time, there were no regulations pertaining to city property, county property, and private landowners regarding Native American graves. There were regulations that protected such grave sites only on federal and state lands. Ms. Bowen said that protection was necessary and it would give the Nevada State Museum the opportunity to be more protective of objects in its collections and ensure that Native American artifacts were recognized and preserved. She asked the Committee members to please support S.B. 244 (R3).

Chair Carlton asked whether there was further testimony to come before the Committee in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on S.B. 244 (R3), and there being none, the Chair closed the hearing and opened the hearing on Senate Bill 528.

Senate Bill 528: Makes an appropriation to the Fund for Aviation for the enlargement, improvement or maintenance of rural airports, landing areas or air navigation facilities in Nevada. (BDR S-1174)

Bobbi Thompson stated she was the Airport Manager for the Minden-Tahoe Airport in Douglas County and the past president of the Nevada Airports Association. Ms. Thompson referred to Exhibit C, an undated document that contained information about the Fund for Aviation, and Exhibit D, a Department of Transportation document titled "Nevada Fund for Aviation Grant Program, Procedures Manual." Copies of both documents had been presented to members of the Committee and were available on the Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System (NELIS).

Ms. Thompson said the Fund for Aviation was established in 2001 in *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 494.048. It was funded in 2005 and again in 2015. The Fund for Aviation allowed the state to reimburse eligible rural airports for funds expended in securing federal grant funding. The Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program helped the state maintain its rural airports and its commercial service airports. The bill would help by reimbursing approximately 28 percent of the funds expended by local governments to secure federal grant funding for improvement projects at the airports.

Ms. Thompson indicated that Nevada had 95 registered airports, over 6,000 pilots, and almost 4,800 aircraft. There were 22 airports eligible for the Fund for Aviation Grant Program, and Exhibit D explained the process; it was a very detailed explanation of how airports became eligible. She stated that page 2 of Exhibit C contained a map that showed the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) airports in Nevada that were eligible.

It was very important that Nevada receive its fair share of funding from the federal government to maintain its airports. Unfortunately, said Ms. Thompson, that had not been the case historically, and she hoped that S.B. 528 would start trending the funding in a different direction. The money for airport improvement projects came from tax funding on aviation fuel, but that money had not been received, and the bill would help restore that funding.

Ms. Thompson said in 2015, 13 airports had taken advantage of the Fund for Aviation Grant Program, and in 2016, 15 airports had taken advantage of the program through the Department of Transportation, which distributed the funds as explained in [Exhibit D](#). The local airports could apply for and receive federal funding at 93.75 percent of the cost, and the airport projects also created good-paying jobs in Nevada. That funding created a ripple effect that allowed local airports to contribute to economic development, to tourism, and to the safety of the counties in which they were located.

Ms. Thompson said there was a listing of the airports that received that funding in [Exhibit C](#), and the last time the Fund for Aviation was funded at \$200,000, the amount of \$100,000 had been distributed each fiscal year. The airport in Boulder City received a federal grant for \$1 million to repave a runway, which required a \$62,500 match, and the city was reimbursed at 20 percent of the cost of that project. The Alamo Airport also received a federal grant for a fuel system, which was important, and the White Pine County Airport in Ely had received a \$2.4 million grant for repairs.

Several of the projects could not have been undertaken without available reimbursement, and the airports would then go into disrepair, which had happened at the White Pine County Airport where a runway had to be closed. The funding was critically important, and Ms. Thompson said that while \$200,000 over a two-year period was not a great sum of money, it was very important to the airports because of firefighting and evacuation of patients. Page 5 of [Exhibit C](#) contained a detailed breakdown of how the money had been allocated over the current biennium. That \$200,000 leveraged several million dollars in federal funding.

Ms. Thompson said the Fund for Aviation had been funded at \$500,000 in 2005, and that was used to leverage \$500 million in federal funding for Nevada that had helped create jobs. She hoped that the Committee would support [S.B. 528](#).

Chair Carlton thanked Ms. Thompson and asked whether there were further questions or comments from the Committee.

Assemblyman Oscarson believed that the funding was critically important for local airports, particularly for the air ambulance service that used the rural airports on a regular basis to transport patients who needed a higher level of care that was often not available in small rural communities. He opined that [S.B. 528](#) was very important, and Senator Pete Goicoechea, Senate District No. 19, had worked very diligently on the bill, which he appreciated.

Chair Carlton asked whether there was testimony to come before the Committee in support of [S.B. 528](#).

Wes Henderson, Executive Director, Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities, stated that the League was fully in support of the bill. Rural airports were vital to the economy and the health and safety of residents in smaller communities. Mr. Henderson believed that

leveraging \$94 in federal money for \$1 in matching funds was a very good investment. He asked that the Committee support S.B. 528.

Chair Carlton asked whether there was further testimony to come before the Committee in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on S.B. 528, and there being none, the Chair closed the hearing. The Chair opened the hearing on Senate Bill 529 (1st Reprint).

Senate Bill 529 (1st Reprint): Makes an appropriation to the Division of Emergency Management of the Department of Public Safety for the costs associated with emergency responses to flood events that occurred in 2017. (BDR S-1183)

Caleb S. Cage, Chief, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Adviser, Chair of the Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee, Department of Public Safety, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 529 (1st Reprint) appropriated \$2,441,115 to the Division of Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety, in support of its efforts to help local and statewide communities, including tribal governments, in responding to and recovering from the flooding events of January and February 2017.

Assemblyman Sprinkle noted that there had been many discussions about the flooding and the funding needed, and he wondered why there were so many different requests for funding and why it was not all being requested in one bill.

Mr. Cage explained that to date, there had been three requests for funding. Two of those requests were for approximately \$70,000 to finish the current fiscal year and \$350,000 was for fiscal year (FY) 2018 for labor support for the joint field office. That \$420,000 would support the joint field office in its overall recovery effort.

The current bill was a separate request that had grown over time because of the ongoing response needs from local governments that were being addressed by the Division. Eventually, that amount grew to \$2,441,115 because of the ongoing response needs and because of a third potential flooding disaster in 2017 that would create additional needs in local communities.

Mr. Cage noted that Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, staff had requested that an additional 10 percent be added to the funding to ensure that the Division had sufficient money to continue to support local governments.

Assemblyman Sprinkle asked whether the Division anticipated any other funding requests for the 2017 flooding.

Mr. Cage said the Division did not anticipate any additional expenditures in response to the 2017 flooding; however, the spring snowmelt and runoff could create a third flooding situation, and the Division and local communities were prepared should that occur.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were further questions on S.B. 529 (R1), and there being none, the Chair thanked Mr. Cage for his presentation.

Chair Carlton asked whether there was testimony to come before the Committee in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on S.B. 529 (R1), and there being none, the Chair closed the hearing. The Chair opened the hearing on Senate Bill 530 (1st Reprint).

Senate Bill 530 (1st Reprint): Makes an appropriation to the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy of the Department of Health and Human Services for the completion of the Medicaid Management Information System modernization project and authorizes the expenditure of certain money for such a purpose. (BDR S-1196)

Marta Jensen, Acting Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, Department of Health and Human Services, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 530 (1st Reprint) appropriated funding for the final phase of the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) modernization project. The MMIS was used for provider enrollment, to pay claims, and for prior authorizations, and it was critical for the Division and its fiscal agent.

Ms. Jensen stated that the MMIS was a federally funded 90/10 program with \$24,370,876 being provided that the Division needed the authority to draw on. The Division was also requesting a State General Fund appropriation of \$3,683,512. She noted that the funding had to be committed by June 30, 2019, but any State General Fund revenue not spent by September 20, 2019, would revert.

Chair Carlton commented that the Division and the state had been working on the MMIS for a very long time, and it appeared the project was now in the final stage.

Chair Carlton asked whether there was testimony to come before the Committee in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on S.B. 530 (R1), and there being none, the Chair closed the hearing and opened the hearing on Senate Bill 531 (1st Reprint).

Senate Bill 531 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services for deferred maintenance projects at the Desert Regional Center and for changing the information system platform for early intervention services. (BDR S-1195)

Edward Ableser, Ph.D., Administrator, Aging and Disability Services Division, Department of Health and Human Services, stated Senate Bill (S.B.) 531 (1st Reprint) would appropriate funds for the Division's deferred maintenance projects and information system platform for early intervention services. The bill encompassed two high-level projects at the Division's Desert Regional Center, the first of which was to transition facilities into actual offices, and support other deferred maintenance projects. The second project was the expansion and development of an information system platform for early intervention services within the Division.

Chair Carlton asked whether there was further testimony to come before the Committee in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on S.B. 531 (R1), and there being none, the Chair closed the hearing and opened the hearing on Senate Bill 532 (1st Reprint).

Senate Bill 532 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services for a laboratory information system and integrated medication management system. (BDR S-1197)

Cody L. Phinney, M.P.H., Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Services, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 532 (1st Reprint) would make an appropriation for two information systems for forensic and acute psychiatric in-patient services. The systems would allow information to be readily available to clinicians when they were making care decisions and improve the accessibility of that information, thereby improving patient safety and clinician efficiency.

Ms. Phinney said the systems would also bring the Division's technology into compliance with modern security standards. The funding for the systems included the initial purchase, ongoing maintenance of the application licenses, and annual support costs. The systems would also move the information to the secure cloud connect, which was fundamentally critical to the support of patient safety for individuals who were involuntarily detained.

Chair Carlton asked whether there was testimony to come before the Committee in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on S.B. 532 (R1), and there being none, the Chair closed the hearing and opened the hearing on Senate Bill 533 (1st Reprint).

Senate Bill 533 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services of the Department of Health and Human Services for certain information system projects and authorizes the expenditure of certain money for such purposes. (BDR S-1198)

Steve H. Fisher, Administrator, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Department of Health and Human Services, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 533 (R1) would make a State General Fund appropriation to the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) for four technology initiatives.

Section 1 allocated \$127,500 from the State General Fund and \$1,147,500 in federal funding through the 90/10 program. There were five divisions within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and all had databases, and DWSS attempted to match data with the various divisions to provide reports to DHHS. Matching the databases together had been time consuming for staff, and the automated cross index of all databases would automatically match data and create a master claim index for all DHHS divisions.

Section 2 appropriated funds to replace the DWSS Access Nevada application for Medicaid. That was a public-facing application that would accept applications for public assistance

electronically. The system was created in 2009 and had become antiquated. The Division would like to take advantage of the medical technology available today and would like to reach out to clients through texting and allow clients to upload pictures of their forms and forward them electronically to the Division.

Section 3 was a funding opportunity for a case management system to allow for the "no wrong door" approach to serving clients throughout DHHS. It was sometimes difficult for clients to manage the various divisions within DHHS and the various services that were provided. The funding would provide a portal that would guide clients to the proper division and the appropriate services.

Section 4 was funding to replace the antiquated Child Support Enforcement System that had been built using pre-1980 technology and COBOL language. The DWSS faced many challenges in locating resources that knew COBOL language, and replacing that system would be a significant improvement for DWSS.

Ms. Fisher said it was a very large multibiennia project, and DWSS would request additional funding during the 2019 Legislature to continue the project.

Chair Carlton asked whether there was testimony to come before the Committee in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on S.B. 533 (R1), and there being none, the Chair closed the hearing and opened the hearing on Senate Bill 534 (1st Reprint).

Senate Bill 534 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services for deferred maintenance projects essential for the security and operation of certain facilities. (BDR S-1199)

Kelly Wooldridge, Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services, Department of Health and Human Services, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 534 (1st Reprint) made appropriations to the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) for deferred maintenance projects for the safety and security of certain facilities as follows:

- \$152,000 for the Summit View Youth Center in Las Vegas.
- \$900,256 for the Caliente Youth Center.
- \$1,429,662 for the Nevada Youth Training Center in Elko.
- \$70,927 for Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services.
- \$286,865 for Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions from the Committee.

Assemblyman Oscarson believed it was important to thank the division heads of DHHS for the incredible job in working through and presenting the various bills that encompassed the difficult, complex, and unknown environment of healthcare today. The division heads had dedicated themselves to health-care services and the needs of Nevadans, and he believed that was admirable.

Chair Carlton asked whether there was testimony to come before the Committee in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on S.B. 534 (R1), and there being none, the Chair closed the hearing and opened the hearing on Senate Bill 536 (1st Reprint).

Senate Bill 536 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for projects at certain parks and recreation areas. (BDR S-1205)

Eric Johnson, Administrator, Division of State Parks, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, said Senate Bill (S.B.) 536 (1st Reprint) made various appropriations for improvements to existing and proposed new campgrounds within the State Park system. The bill appropriated \$1.2 million for improvements and restoration projects at Fort Churchill State Historic Park. He noted that restoration was desperately needed because the rain and wind events at the Park were rapidly destroying the ruins and the Division's intention was to use a stabilizing agent on the ruins.

The bill also contained appropriations of \$550,000 for the construction of cabins and \$750,000 for the construction of new campgrounds at the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area.

Mr. Johnson stated the bill contained authorization of \$1.2 million in federal land and water conservation grant funding. The bill also contained a State General Fund appropriation of \$168,000 for the construction of pull-through campsites at ten state park campgrounds, and \$159,000 for the construction of cabins at the Wild Horse State Recreation Area.

Chair Carlton asked whether there was testimony to come before the Committee in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on S.B. 536 (R1), and there being none, the Chair closed the hearing and opened the hearing on S.B. 537 (1st Reprint).

Senate Bill 537 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Division of Forestry of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for certain equipment, a vehicle and certain deferred maintenance projects. (BDR S-1206)

Kacey KC, Acting State Forester, Division of Forestry, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, stated that section 1, subsection 1 of Senate Bill (S.B.) 537 (1st Reprint) appropriated \$314,008 for a rescue hoist for the Air Operations Program.

Ms. KC explained that the hoist was needed to safely and efficiently perform emergency extractions of injured firefighters or the public. Hoists were the safest, most efficient, and

most tested means of extraction and immediate medical care. The Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) currently had long-line extraction capability, but that was an unapproved method used only as a last-ditch effort to save a life. In a long-line, extraction there had to be a short distance of travel to the next level of care because the patient was not lifted into the helicopter. Rescue hoists allowed for a medic to be dropped to the patient and for both to be lifted into the helicopter, providing immediate care and a longer allowable distance to the next level of care. The technology had proven to be critical to the survival and injury mitigation for firefighters during wildland fires.

Ms. KC stated that section 2, subsection 2 appropriated \$149,249 for a helitack mechanic truck. The NDF was currently using a 1993 Ford one-ton pickup truck with 150,000 miles as its helitack mechanic truck. The helicopters required maintenance and inspection every flight because of their age, and because of that, the mechanic truck had to follow the helicopters to all incidents outside the dispatch area in Minden. The NDF was in need of the mechanic truck for the safety and efficiency of the helitack operations and for staff safety.

Section 1, subsections 3 and 4 were requests for deferred maintenance for NDF, which currently had a \$10 million backlog of deferred maintenance projects. Those projects had been prioritized as most immediate need for life and health safety for staff and public. Section 1, subsection 3 appropriated \$472,650 to the General Forestry budget account. That included projects at NDF's dispatch facilities, offices, helicopter hanger, and mechanic shops.

Section 1, subsection 4 appropriated \$384,004 in the Forestry Conservation Camp budget account to address projects in multiple statewide camp facilities, including mechanic facilities.

Chair Carlton asked whether there was testimony to come before the Committee in support of S.B. 537 (R1).

Thomas D. Dunn, District Vice President, Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada, said that Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada worked with the NDF throughout the state on a daily basis providing all-risk services to all members of the communities. The Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada was in full support of S.B. 537 (R1). One thing that had been lacking nationwide was the capability of extracting firefighters or others because of medical and/or traumatic incidents that occurred during wildland fires, flood incidents, or any type of incident in an all-risk environment.

Chair Carlton asked whether there was further testimony in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on S.B. 537 (R1), and there being none, the Chair closed the hearing.

Chair Carlton noted there were no proposed amendments on the bills heard today, and she asked Ms. Jones about possible Committee action.

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, explained that the Senate bills that contained appropriations could not be approved by the second house until the K-12 funding bill had been approved.

Chair Carlton stated that the Senate bills would remain in Committee until the K-12 funding bill had been passed, at which time action would be taken.

Ms. Jones explained that there were other bills that could be handled with those heard today during a work session when the Committee considered a Senate bill. Chair Carlton agreed and noted that there were also two Assembly bills that had to be heard.

Chair Carlton declared the Committee in recess at the call of the Chair at 10:57 a.m., and reconvened the meeting at 7:32 p.m. The Chair opened the work session with Assembly Bill 434 (1st Reprint).

Assembly Bill 434 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations for incentives for employing teachers at Title I and underperforming schools. (BDR S-1033)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 434 (1st Reprint) was heard by the Committee on May 24, 2017, and it made appropriations to the Department of Education for incentives for employing teachers at Title 1 schools and schools designated as underperforming. The bill provided a State General Fund appropriation of \$2.5 million for the hiring of new teachers at Title 1 schools and \$2.5 million for teachers that transfer to Title 1 schools.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions or comments on A.B. 434 (R1), and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DIAZ MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO
PASS AS AMENDED ASSEMBLY BILL 434 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblymen Anderson and Titus were not present for the vote.)

Assemblywoman Diaz was assigned the floor statement.

Senate Bill 126 (2nd Reprint): Establishes a program to provide loans to small business enterprises, minority-owned business enterprises, women-owned business enterprises and disadvantaged business enterprises. (BDR 18-21)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 126 (2nd Reprint) was heard by the Committee on June 1, 2017. The bill contained a \$1 million appropriation to the Office of Economic

Development, Office of the Governor, to carry out a program to provide loans to small business enterprises, minority-owned business enterprises, women-owned business enterprises, and disadvantaged business enterprises.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions or comments on S.B. 126 (R2), and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO
PASS SENATE BILL 126 (2ND REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblymen Anderson and Titus were not present for the vote.)

Assemblywoman Spiegel was assigned the floor statement.

**Senate Bill 244 (3rd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to historic preservation.
(BDR 33-515)**

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 244 (3rd Reprint) was heard by the Committee earlier today. Ms. Jones noted that there were appropriations in sections 38.3, 38.7, and 38.8 of the bill. In section 38.3, the bill made an appropriation from the State General Fund to the Office of Historic Preservation, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, of \$1,390 in fiscal year (FY) 2018 for in-state travel costs for the member appointed to the Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation.

Section 38.5, subsection 1 made an appropriation from the State General Fund to the Division of Museums and History, Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, of \$4,301 for FY 2018 and \$288 in FY 2019 for expenses related to the adoption of regulations and for travel and per diem for a member appointed to the Board of Museums and History. Subsection 2 of section 38.5 authorized an expenditure of \$5,256 by the Division of Museums and History from the Fund for the Promotion of Tourism.

Section 38.7, subsection 1 appropriated State General Funds of \$25,517 in FY 2018 and \$40,118 in FY 2019 for costs associated with a full-time position for the Nevada State Museum, Division of Museums and History. Subsection 2 authorized an expenditure of \$31,187 by the Nevada State Museum from the Fund for the Promotion of Tourism. Subsection 3 authorized an expenditure of \$49,033 by the Nevada State Museum from the Fund for the Promotion of Tourism.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions or comments on S.B. 244 (R3), and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO PASS SENATE BILL 244 (3RD REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblymen Anderson and Titus were not present for the vote.)

Assemblywoman Swank was assigned the floor statement.

Senate Bill 373 (1st Reprint): Requires the appointment of a Minority Affairs Management Analyst in the Office of the Director of the Department of Business and Industry. (BDR 18-1108)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 373 (1st Reprint) provided for an appropriation from the State General Fund to support a minority affairs management analyst position within the Office of the Director, Department of Business and Industry, to support the duties and responsibilities of the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs. The State General Fund appropriation for the position was \$71,306 in fiscal year (FY) 2018 and \$87,828 in FY 2019.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions or comments on S.B. 373 (R1), and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO PASS SENATE BILL 373 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblymen Anderson and Titus were not present for the vote.)

Assemblyman Araujo was assigned the floor statement.

Senate Bill 481 (2nd Reprint): Creates the Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired. (BDR 38-604)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 481 (2nd Reprint) created the Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Speech Impaired within the Office of the Governor. The bill provided a State General Fund appropriation of \$25,000 in each year of the 2017-2019 biennium to support the Commission and provided for costs including travel and per diem.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions or comments on S.B. 481 (R2), and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO PASS SENATE BILL 481 (2ND REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblymen Anderson and Titus were not present for the vote.)

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson was assigned the floor statement.

Senate Bill 503 (1st Reprint): Makes an appropriation to the Account for the Channel Clearance, Maintenance, Restoration, Surveying and Monumenting Program. (BDR S-904)

Sarah Coffman, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 503 (1st Reprint) appropriated \$250,000 from the State General Fund to the Account for the Channel Clearance, Maintenance, Restoration, Surveying, and Monumenting Program to replenish the balance of the Account.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions or comments on S.B. 503 (R1), and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO PASS SENATE BILL 503 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblymen Anderson and Titus were not present for the vote.)

Assemblyman Oscarson was assigned the floor statement.

Senate Bill 514 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions governing the Division of Water Resources of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. (BDR 48-903)

Sarah Coffman, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 514 (1st Reprint) revised provisions governing the disposition of certain fees collected by the State Engineer, Division of Water Resources, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and carried forward money

appropriated for the maintenance and operation of the South Fork Dam. The bill made an appropriation from the State General Fund of \$447,310 for the South Fork Dam.

Assemblyman Oscarson commented that in addition to the amount for the South Fork Dam, there appeared to be a significant amount of additional fees included the bill.

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, explained that the fees would not change. The Division of Water Resources had been funded through the State General Fund prior to last biennium, when the Division transitioned to a fee-funded agency for the 2015-2017 biennium. That transition had not worked well for the Division, and the bill would change the Division back to a state-funded agency. The Division would place the fees in the State General Fund and would then receive an appropriation.

Assemblyman Oscarson asked for clarification regarding an increase in existing fees. Ms. Jones assured the Committee that the fees would not increase.

There being no further questions or comments on S.B. 514 (R1), Chair Carlton called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE
DO PASS SENATE BILL 514 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblymen Anderson and Titus were not present for the vote.)

Assemblywoman Swank was assigned the floor statement.

Senate Bill 522 (1st Reprint): Makes a supplemental appropriation to the State Distributive School Account for an unanticipated shortfall in local school support tax revenues and an increase in K-12 enrollment for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years. (BDR S-1175)

Sarah Coffman, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 522 (1st Reprint) appropriated from the State General Fund to the Distributive School Account the sum of \$62,194,642 for an unanticipated shortfall in local school support tax revenues and an increase in K-12 enrollment for the fiscal year (FY) 2016 and FY 2017 school years.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions or comments on S.B. 522 (R1), and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO PASS SENATE BILL 522 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblywoman Titus was not present for the vote.)

Assemblywoman Diaz was assigned the floor statement.

Senate Bill 527: Makes a supplemental appropriation to the Nevada Supreme Court for a projected shortfall related to judicial selection processes. (BDR S-1170)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 527 made a supplemental appropriation to the Nevada Supreme Court for a projected shortfall related to the judicial selection process in the amount of \$5,000 for the current fiscal year. The Supreme Court testified that it had replaced more judges in the current fiscal year than anticipated.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions or comments on S.B. 527, and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO PASS SENATE BILL 527.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblywoman Titus was not present for the vote.)

Assemblywoman Spiegel was assigned the floor statement.

Senate Bill 528: Makes an appropriation to the Fund for Aviation for the enlargement, improvement or maintenance of rural airports, landing areas or air navigation facilities in Nevada. (BDR S-1174)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 528 appropriated \$100,000 from the State General Fund in each fiscal year of the 2017-2019 biennium for the Fund for Aviation.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions or comments on S.B. 528, and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO PASS SENATE BILL 528.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblywoman Titus was not present for the vote.)

Assemblyman Oscarson was assigned the floor statement.

Senate Bill 529 (1st Reprint): Makes an appropriation to the Division of Emergency Management of the Department of Public Safety for the costs associated with emergency responses to flood events that occurred in 2017. (BDR S-1183)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 529 (1st Reprint) was heard earlier today, and the State General Fund appropriation was for \$2,441,115. There were three other bills for appropriations to the Division of Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety, for emergency response to flood events.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions or comments on S.B. 529 (R1), and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO PASS SENATE BILL 529 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblywoman Titus was not present for the vote.)

Assemblyman Oscarson was assigned the floor statement.

Senate Bill 530 (1st Reprint): Makes an appropriation to the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy of the Department of Health and Human Services for the completion of the Medicaid Management Information System modernization project and authorizes the expenditure of certain money for such a purpose. (BDR S-1196)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 530 (1st Reprint) was heard today. The first section of the bill made an appropriation to the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, Department of Health and Human Services, for the completion of the Medicaid Management Information System modernization project in the amount of \$3,683,512 from the State General Fund. The bill also provided authorization to expend federal funds of \$24,370,876.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions or comments on S.B. 530 (R1), and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE
DO PASS SENATE BILL 530 (1ST REPRINT).
ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblywoman Titus was not present for the vote.)

Assemblyman Sprinkle was assigned the floor statement.

Senate Bill 531 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services for deferred maintenance projects at the Desert Regional Center and for changing the information system platform for early intervention services. (BDR S-1195)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 531 (1st Reprint) was heard today. The bill appropriated \$453,533 to the Aging and Disability Services Division, Department of Health and Human Services, for deferred maintenance projects at the Desert Regional Center that were essential for the security and operation of the Center.

Section 2 of the bill appropriated \$454,915 from the State General Fund to move the early intervention services program to an information system platform that was used by other programs within the Division. The bill also authorized the expenditure of \$221,825 not appropriated from the State General Fund or the State Highway Fund.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions or comments on S.B. 531 (R1), and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE
DO PASS SENATE BILL 531 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblywoman Titus was not present for the vote.)

Assemblyman Sprinkle was assigned the floor statement.

Senate Bill 532 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services for a laboratory information system and integrated medication management system. (BDR S-1197)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 532 (1st Reprint) was heard today. The bill made a State General Fund appropriation of \$293,774 to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Resources, for a laboratory information system. Section 2 of the bill made a State General Fund appropriation of \$1,653,039 to the Division for an integrated medication management system.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions or comments on S.B. 532 (R1), and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO PASS SENATE BILL 532 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblywoman Titus was not present for the vote.)

Assemblyman Sprinkle was assigned the floor statement.

Senate Bill 533 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services of the Department of Health and Human Services for certain information system projects and authorizes the expenditure of certain money for such purposes. (BDR S-1198)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 533 (1st Reprint) was heard today. The bill contained appropriations that were included in The Executive Budget and section 1, subsection 1 included an appropriation from the State General Fund to the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Department of Health and Human Services, in the amount of \$127,500 for a master client index to develop a cross index of all databases of the Department. Section 1, subsection 2 authorized the expenditure of \$1,147,500 in funding not appropriated from the State General Fund or the State Highway Fund.

Section 2, subsection 1 appropriated \$1 million from the State General Fund to the Division for modernization of Access Nevada to provide clients of the Division with the opportunity to submit electronic applications for Medicaid, the Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Subsection 2 authorized the expenditure of \$9 million in funding not from the State General Fund or the State Highway Fund by the Division.

Section 3, subsection 1 of the bill appropriated State General Funds of \$407,673 to the Division for a case management system to allow for the "no wrong door" approach to serving clients throughout the Department. Subsection 2 authorized the expenditure of \$3,458,225 of funding not from the State General Fund or the State Highway Fund by the Division.

Section 4, subsection 1 appropriated State General Funds of \$9,304,699 for the second phase to modernize the automated processing system for the child support enforcement program. Subsection 2 authorized the expenditure of \$20,120,886 in funding not from the State General Fund or the State Highway Fund by the Division.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions or comments on S.B. 533 (R1), and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO PASS SENATE BILL 533 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblywoman Titus was not present for the vote.)

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson was assigned the floor statement.

Senate Bill 534 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services for deferred maintenance projects essential for the security and operation of certain facilities. (BDR S-1199)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 534 (1st Reprint) was heard today. The bill contained appropriations that were included in The Executive Budget. The bill made appropriations to the Division of Child and Family Services, Department of Health and Human Services, for deferred maintenance projects essential for the security and operation of certain facilities:

- \$152,000 for the Summit View Youth Center.
- \$900,256 for the Caliente Youth Center.
- \$1,429,662 for the Nevada Youth Training Center.
- \$70,927 for Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services.
- \$286,865 for Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions or comments on S.B. 534 (R1), and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO PASS SENATE BILL 534 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblywoman Titus was not present for the vote.)

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson was assigned the floor statement.

Senate Bill 536 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for projects at certain parks and recreation areas. (BDR S-1205)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 536 (1st Reprint) was heard today. The bill contained appropriations to the Division of State Parks, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, that were included in The Executive Budget. The appropriations included in the bill were as follows:

- Section 1, subsection 1 appropriated the sum of \$1.2 million from the State General Fund for the stabilization and restoration project at the Fort Churchill State Historic Park.
- Section 1, subsection 2 appropriated \$550,000 to the Division for the construction of cabins at the Walker River State Recreation Area.
- Section 1, subsection 3 appropriated \$750,000 to the Division for the construction of campgrounds with full hook-ups at the Walker River State Recreation Area.
- Section 1, subsection 4 authorized the expenditure of \$1.2 million in funding not from the State General Fund or the State Highway Fund by the Division.
- Section 1, subsection 5 appropriated State General Funds of \$168,000 for the construction of pull-through campsites at 10 state parks.
- Section 1, subsection 6 appropriated State General Funds of \$159,000 for the construction of cabins at the Wild Horse State Recreation Area.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions or comments on S.B. 536 (R1), and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO PASS SENATE BILL 536 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblywoman Titus was not present for the vote.)

Assemblywoman Swank was assigned the floor statement.

Senate Bill 537 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Division of Forestry of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for certain equipment, a vehicle and certain deferred maintenance projects. (BDR S-1206)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 537 (1st Reprint) was heard today. The bill contained appropriations that were included in The Executive Budget to the Division of Forestry, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; however, the bill was amended to reduce the amount. The amount included in the bill was \$314,008 for a rescue hoist for the Air Operations Program; \$149,249 for a helitack mechanic truck; and \$472,650 for deferred maintenance projects focused on life and safety issues and critical asset preservation. The Division indicated it had a backlog of deferred maintenance projects totaling approximately \$10 million.

The bill also contained a State General Fund appropriation to the Division for \$348,004 for the forestry conservation camps for deferred maintenance projects focused on life and safety issues and critical asset preservation.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were questions or comments on S.B. 537 (R1), and there being none, the Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO PASS SENATE BILL 537 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblywoman Titus was not present for the vote.)

Assemblyman Sprinkle was assigned the floor statement.

Vice Chair Frierson assumed the Chair and opened the hearing on Assembly Bill 520.

Assembly Bill 520: Makes an appropriation to the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas for the construction of a new playground at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve. (BDR S-1243)

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Assembly District No. 14, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 520 would make an appropriation to the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, for the construction of a new playground at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve. The sum of \$500,000 would be appropriated to the Springs Preserve Foundation to construct the new playground.

Assemblywoman Carlton indicated there was a butterfly habitat located at the preserve, which was very dear to her and which was a wonderful experience for children. Near the butterfly habitat was the new interactive teaching garden, and the proposed playground would be located between those two attractions. The playground would include educational attractions and a splash pad so that in the summer the children in Las Vegas would have somewhere to go where they could enjoy the gardens, learn and experience, and also have fun. Assemblywoman Carlton believed everyone could remember the fun summer days of their youth spent splashing in the water at a playground.

According to Assemblywoman Carlton, in 2001 the Legislature passed a law that led to an environmental ballot question in 2002, which passed by more than 59 percent of the vote. That ballot question provided the seed money for the Las Vegas Springs Preserve and the relocation of the Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas to the Preserve. That important partnership between state and local cultural resources was solidified in 2011 when the Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas opened to the public with the price of admission included in the existing entry price for the Springs Preserve. The State Museum benefited when paid general admission and tenants of the Springs Preserve increased above the guaranteed amount.

Assemblywoman Carlton stated that the past year had been especially good for the partnership between the Nevada State Museum and the Springs Preserve. The Boomtown attraction had opened in February 2017, and the waterworks exhibit would open in the fall, which was expected to make the current year one of the best years for the Springs Preserve since its opening.

Over the past year, paid general admission at the Springs Preserve had increased by more than 6 percent. Visitation to the gardens and trails increased by 66 percent, and visitation to the butterfly habitat increased by 25 percent. Those trends were expected to continue as the gardens at the Springs Preserve matured and additional areas and attractions were opened. Because of a generous grant from The Rogers Foundation, the Springs Preserve teaching garden was a model community garden that would inspire and educate schoolchildren throughout Las Vegas.

Assemblywoman Carlton explained that each year, the Springs Preserve hosted between 25,000 and 30,000 elementary school students through its free field-trip program. Many of those field trips were expected to use the teaching garden. The area between the teaching garden and the butterfly habitat was an ideal location for the proposed playground because of the proximity of those two attractions; it was anticipated and hoped that the gardens would continue to realize increased visitation.

A playground that was themed around butterflies, gardening, and sustainability would teach Nevada students about the concepts in subtle and natural ways while they were having fun. The inclusion of a water feature at the playground and potentially a small amphitheater classroom space would help make the corridor from the butterfly habitat to the teaching garden a much more robust offering and a pleasant memory for children.

Assemblywoman Carlton stated that the continued partnership between the state and the Springs Preserve would be enhanced by the appropriation contained in A.B. 520, and she hoped the Committee would consider passing the bill. It was fun to do something for children and watch the light in their eyes turn on when they started to discover nature. As a small child, Assemblywoman Carlton said she was lucky to have attended summer camp at a botanical garden, and even though she grew up in an urban city, she felt lucky to have had that experience.

Vice Chair Frierson asked whether there were questions from the Committee, and there being none, the Vice Chair opened testimony in support of A.B. 520.

Andrew M. Belanger, Director of Public Services, Las Vegas Valley Water District, stated that the Las Vegas Valley Water District owned and operated the Springs Preserve. The District supported the bill and the appropriation. He stated that the District had worked closely with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Downtown Design Center and its students to help design some of the attractions at the Springs Preserve. The Downtown Design Center had been used as a resource in remodeling some of the existing play facilities, which had given students at UNLV in the architectural program and the landscape architectural program the opportunity to participate in a real-world experience.

Mr. Belanger thanked Assemblywoman Carlton for her support in bringing A.B. 520 forward, and the District fully supported the bill.

Brad Keating, Legislative Representative, Community and Government Relations, Clark County School District (CCSD), said CCSD fully supported the bill and appreciated Assemblywoman Carlton's efforts in bringing the bill forward. The CCSD had a great partnership with the Southern Nevada Water Authority and the Springs Preserve. A number of CCSD students visited the Springs Preserve for educational field trips, and the proposed playground at the Springs Preserve would be very enjoyable for the students.

Vice Chair Frierson asked whether there was further testimony to come before the Committee opposed to or neutral on A.B. 520, and there being none, the Vice Chair closed the hearing.

Assemblywoman Carlton assumed the Chair and stated she would like the Committee to take action on A.B. 520. The Chair called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO
PASS ASSEMBLY BILL 520.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblywoman Titus was not present for the
vote.)

Chair Carlton said she would handle the floor statement.

Assembly Bill 521: Revises provisions governing veterans services. (BDR 37-1236)

Assemblyman Paul Anderson, Assembly District No. 13, said Assembly Bill (A.B.) 521 came about because of complaints from family members about veterans who had been buried in various Las Vegas cemeteries prior to the opening of the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. There were several private cemeteries in Las Vegas where veterans were buried, and some were kept up to certain standards while others were not well maintained. Mr. Anderson said he had received complaints about a particular cemetery that was not within his district, but where one of his family members was actually buried. While A.B. 521 would not help him or his family members directly, other families had reached out to him because they would like to relocate their loved ones to the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City.

The cost of disinterment and relocation was about \$10,000 to \$12,000, and oftentimes the Veterans Memorial Cemetery would accept the veteran's interment at very little cost. The bill would create a contingency fund within the Department of Veterans Services, which would adopt regulations and qualifications to help those families relocate their family members to a veterans cemetery located in Nevada.

Mr. Anderson explained that families had shown him pictures of headstones that had sunk into the ground because they were located in a floodplain and headstones that were covered in mud or where crabgrass had overtaken the headstone. It seemed that there was much more neglect of the veterans' graves than Nevada wanted to show its members of the military who had fallen on behalf of the state and the country.

Mr. Anderson said his story was about his second cousin who had been buried in a cemetery in Las Vegas in 1985, prior to the opening of the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. His cousin was killed in a head-on collision while in the U.S. Army. He was a young man who had gone through some very difficult times as a teenager and had joined the U.S. Army to change his life. The U.S. Army showed him a different pathway in life and he had a fiancée and had been in the military for two years. During a military training exercise, he was killed in a head-on collision. Mr. Anderson said his cousin was still buried in the Las Vegas cemetery and his family was working toward relocation of his remains to the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. While his cousin's family had the ability

to relocate their loved one financially, the bill would help those families who were not able to financially relocate their family members.

Mr. Anderson believed that as Americans and as a patriotic gesture, it seemed appropriate that a small amount of money in a contingency fund could help a veteran's family relocate their loved one to a veterans cemetery.

Chair Carlton asked Mr. Anderson about the amount that would be allocated to the proposed contingency fund. Mr. Anderson stated the amount was \$100,000 from the State General Fund.

Chair Carlton asked whether that funding would be appropriated in the first year of the biennium. Mr. Anderson believed that would be appropriate.

Mr. Anderson thought the Department of Veterans Services might need some time for outreach and for family members to understand what the process would entail. During the first year of the biennium, it would take some time for the outreach.

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, said the bill would make the money available in both years of the biennium and could be balanced forward.

Mr. Anderson stated that section 1, subsection 2 of the bill indicated that money deposited in the contingency account could be used only for the purpose authorized, and must not be reverted to any other fund, account, or use. It was initially a one-shot appropriation, and future legislators would determine whether the funding should continue.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson said the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services had heard a couple of cemetery bills, and the problem of cemeteries falling into disrepair seemed to be prevalent throughout the state. As she understood A.B. 521, if the family of a veteran wanted to have their loved one's remains reinterred at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery, the bill would provide financial assistance. She asked whether that would include Civil War veterans. There was one cemetery in Northern Nevada where Civil War veterans were interred, and that was a concern.

Mr. Anderson said his intentions had not included Civil War veterans. However, there were also Civil War veterans buried in Las Vegas cemeteries, and he opined that if a family wanted to relocate a Civil War veteran, and the Department of Veterans Services deemed that such a relocation qualified under the proposed program, it could be done. He trusted the Department of Veterans Services, which had been helpful in the situation at one particular cemetery in Las Vegas by getting the Nevada Funeral and Cemetery Services Board involved in the cleanup of the cemetery.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson believed that the bill might also be helpful for family members of Civil War veterans, and it would be interesting to see whether those remains could be relocated under the auspices of the bill.

Chair Carlton noted that because the bill appropriated money from the State General Fund, if the one-shot appropriation was expended more quickly than anticipated, the Department of Veterans Services could approach the Interim Finance Committee and make a request for additional funding.

Assemblywoman Swank said it appeared that the bill would provide funding only to family members who wished to relocate their loved ones.

Mr. Anderson said that was the intent of A.B. 521 and section 1, subsection 1 of the bill stipulated that the funds would be provided to assist the families of veterans.

Assemblywoman Swank said that would not include developers who wanted to take over a cemetery location, and Mr. Anderson replied that was correct.

Chair Carlton asked whether there was testimony to come before the Committee in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on A.B. 521, and there being none, the Chair closed the hearing and called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO
PASS ASSEMBLY BILL 521.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblywoman Titus was not present for the vote.)

Assemblyman Anderson was assigned the floor statement.

Chair Carlton declared the Committee in recess at 8:29 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:18 p.m. behind the bar of the Assembly.

Assembly Bill 522: Makes an appropriation to the NevadaTeach Program at the University of Nevada, Reno. (BDR S-1246)

Roll was called and Assemblywoman Titus was excused. Chair Carlton stated that the bill would make an appropriation to the NevadaTeach Program at the University of Nevada, Reno in the amount of \$300,000 over the 2017-2019 biennium to assist students in obtaining certification to teach mathematics, science, or engineering at the middle school or high school level.

Assemblyman Frierson commented that the bill was an emergency request of the Speaker of the Assembly and he hoped the Committee would support the bill.

Chair Carlton called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON MOVED THAT THE
COMMITTEE DO PASS ASSEMBLY BILL 522.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblywoman Titus was not present for the
vote.)

With no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Carlton adjourned the meeting
at 10:22 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Carol Thomsen
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

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

[Exhibit C](#) is an untitled document that contained information about the Fund for Aviation presented by Bobbi Thompson, Airport Manager, Minden-Tahoe Airport, regarding Senate Bill 528.

[Exhibit D](#) is a document titled "Nevada DOT, Nevada Fund for Aviation Grant Program, Procedures Manual," presented by Bobbi Thompson, Airport Manager, Minden-Tahoe Airport, regarding Senate Bill 528.