

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**Seventy-ninth Session  
May 8, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Finance was called to order by Chair Joyce Woodhouse at 8:09 a.m. on Monday, May 8, 2017, in Room 2134 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Chair  
Senator David R. Parks, Vice Chair  
Senator Moises Denis  
Senator Aaron D. Ford  
Senator Ben Kieckhefer  
Senator Pete Goicoechea  
Senator Becky Harris

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mark Krmpotic, Senate Fiscal Analyst  
Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst  
Jeff Ferguson, Senior Fiscal Analyst  
Brody Leiser, Senior Program Analyst  
Claire Clift, Secretary of the Senate  
Rick Combs, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau, State of Nevada  
Lona Domenici, Committee Finance Manager  
Mary Sullivan, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jason King, P.E., State Engineer, Division of Water Resources, State Engineer's Office, State of Nevada  
Amy McKinney, Deputy Director, Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles

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CHAIR WOODHOUSE:  
We will begin with budget closings.

JEFF FERGUSON (Senior Fiscal Analyst):

We will begin with the Governor's Office of Energy (GOE), budget account (B/A) 101-4868 discussion beginning on page 1 of ([Exhibit C](#)). The *Executive Budget* recommends total funding for the GOE budget of \$3.4 million over the 2017-2019 biennium, an increase of \$106,090, or 3.2 percent, when compared to authorized funding approved by the 2015 Legislature of \$3.3 million. The increase is due primarily to inflation in Statewide and personnel costs. Funding primarily consists of transfers from the Renewable Energy Account, B/A 101-4869, and Renewable Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Loan, B/A 101-4875, to cover the administrative activities of those budgets and associated programs, as well as from a federal State Energy Program (SEP) Formula Grant. The GOE serves as the State's point of contact with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) SEP. There are no major issues in this budget. There is one other closing item for replacement equipment, and it appears reasonable to Fiscal staff.

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS

Governor's Office of Energy — Budget Page ELECTED-18 (Volume I)  
Budget Account 101-4868

Renewable Energy Account — Budget Page ELECTED-22 (Volume I)  
Budget Account 101-4869

Renewable Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Loan — Budget Page  
ELECTED-24 (Volume I)  
Budget Account 101-4875

Fiscal staff recommends approval of the other closing item decision unit E-710 as recommended by the Governor, with authority to make technical adjustments to this budget as necessary.

E-710 Equipment Replacement — Budget Page ELECTED-20

SENATOR FORD MOVED TO APPROVE B/A 101-4868 INCLUDING  
DECISION UNIT E-710 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, WITH

AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS  
AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGET CLOSED.

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MR. FERGUSON:

The second budget is the Renewable Energy Account, B/A 101-4869, discussion begins on page 6 of [Exhibit C](#). This B/A has three major closing issues. The first is the continued funding for programs in the base budget. The *Executive Budget* recommends funding of \$2.5 million in each year of the 2017-2019 biennium for three programs: 1) the Direct Energy Assistance Loan (DEAL) program, 2) the Home Energy Retrofit Opportunity for Seniors (HEROS) program, 3) the Performance Contract Audit Assistance Program (PCAAP). These are all programs that are currently in operation.

The DEAL program funding of \$750,000 in each year of the biennium provides State of Nevada employees with an interest-free loan for energy-efficiency upgrades paid with monthly payroll deductions. In addition to the cost for the program, the *Executive Budget* recommends the receipt of \$96,410 in each year of the biennium as loan repayment funds received by DEAL program recipients. The GOE funds the DEAL program; however, the Nevada Housing Division administers the program through its established delivery system of contractors.

In follow-up with the Committee's questions regarding the number of applications received and loans made, near the bottom of page 6 of the Closing List No. 5 [Exhibit C](#) there is information provided by the Agency showing the total number of applicants, loans made, and pending applications. During the budget hearing, the GOE indicated that to-date, only State employees were able to take advantage of the DEAL program because the payroll deduction requirement can only be met through the State's payroll system. The GOE has explored expanding to other public employee segments. While some human resource and payroll departments have expressed interest in the program, none has been interested in participating at this time, citing a lack of capital and staff.

The Committee had questions about what energy efficiency measures would be eligible. On page 7 of [Exhibit C](#), there is a list of the options.

The HEROS program funding is \$750,000 in each year of the biennium. This program assists with reducing energy costs for Nevada seniors by improving the energy efficiency of their homes. In follow-up with the Committee's questions, the GOE indicated that since the inception of the HEROS program in fiscal year (FY) 2014-2015 more than 388 homes have been upgraded to become more energy efficient, which has resulted in an average annual savings of \$911 in electricity and natural gas costs, and an average energy reduction of 47 percent in each home. The GOE anticipates that about 215 homes would be receiving energy retrofits in each year of the 2017-2019 biennium.

The PCAAP program funding included in the *Executive Budget* is \$1 million in each year of the biennium. This program provides monetary assistance for financial-grade operation audits to Nevada governmental entities that choose to enter into a Performance Contract for Operating Cost Savings Measures in accordance with *Nevada Revised Statutes* 332.

The Committee had some questions during the budget hearing about projects that the PCAAP has funded. The GOE has indicated that they have funded six projects. They are in the process of funding one additional project with three potential projects to be considered in the 2017-2019 biennium. The table on page 8 of [Exhibit C](#) shows more detail of these projects.

Does the Committee wish to approve base budget expenditures of \$2.5 million in each year of the 2017-2019 biennium for the DEAL, HEROS and PCAAP programs as recommended by the Governor?

SENATOR HARRIS:

I am abstaining from the vote as I sit on the Mobile Home Parks Board.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE BASE BUDGET EXPENDITURES IN B/A 101-4869 OF \$2.5 MILLION IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2017-2019 BIENNIUM FOR THE DEAL, HEROS AND PCAAP PROGRAMS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

SENATOR FORD SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR HARRIS ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE.)

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The next major closing issue is the Demand Charge Program. The Governor recommends \$9,600 in each year of the 2017-2019 biennium for the Nevada Electric Highway Demand Charge Offset program. The Office indicates it is working on the Nevada Electric Highway initiative, which is a community partnership between the GOE, the Nevada Department of Transportation, Nevada electric utilities, and local businesses to expand the State's electric vehicle charging station infrastructure. The GOE indicated it has developed a five-year program called the Demand Charge Offset Program. It is intended to offset any increases in demand charges that may be incurred by an entity as a result of hosting a charging station. In follow-up to Committee questions during the budget hearing, the GOE indicates demand charge payments would last for the first five years of operation for privately-owned sites in NV Energy's service territory, and that the \$9,600 requested annually is anticipated to support four sites per year.

Does the Committee wish to approve the base budget expenditures of \$9,600 in each year of the 2017-2019 biennium for the Demand Charge Program, as recommended by the Governor?

SENATOR FORD MOVED TO APPROVE THE BASE BUDGET EXPENDITURES IN B/A 101-4869 OF \$9,600 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2017-2019 BIENNIUM FOR THE DEMAND CHARGE PROGRAM AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. FERGUSON:

The third major closing issue is a budget amendment discussed on page 9 of [Exhibit C](#). During the budget hearing, the GOE indicated that, while not recommended in the *Executive Budget*, it was in the process of considering

one-time funding to assist Nevada in securing a site near Fallon, Nevada for the proposed Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE) project. Subsequent to the budget hearing, the Governor's Finance Office (GFO) submitted Budget Amendment A171694869 to provide reserve reductions of \$1 million in FY 2017-2018 to provide funding for the FORGE project.

As discussed during the budget hearing, the FORGE is a DOE program to develop the technologies, techniques and knowledge needed to make Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) a commercially viable electricity generation option for the United States. There were five initial sites chosen by the DOE in Phase 1 of the project, with the Fallon, Nevada site and a site in western Utah being selected as the final two potential sites. The Nevada FORGE team was represented by the University of Nevada, Reno; Sandia National Laboratories; Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Navy Geothermal Program Office; Ormat Nevada; the Menlo Park, California, office of the U.S. Geological Survey; Geothermex/Schlumberger; and the Itasca Consulting Group.

According to the Office, as part of the Phase 2 work, extensive drilling is a necessary component for site characterization. Although the DOE has budgeted \$9.5 million for this work, that amount falls short of adequately characterizing the subsurface at Fallon, Nevada. The DOE funding does not cover continuous coring needed for comprehensive analyses of rock units slated for EGS experiments. During testimony, it was indicated that the Utah site is meeting a similar challenge with an infusion of state support, potentially putting that site at a competitive advantage. Accordingly, the Nevada FORGE team approached the GOE to request \$1 million in support from the State.

The GOE indicated that in addition to utilizing the funding for a test hole that would provide critical information for demonstrating suitability of the site for the FORGE project, the funds would demonstrate to the DOE that the State is a strong supporter and an integral team player in the Fallon FORGE site. In terms of benefits the FORGE project would provide, the GOE indicates the benefits which are listed on page 10 of [Exhibit C](#). The GOE provided a timeline for the Fallon FORGE project, which shows efforts to date on the project, as well as the anticipated timing of future efforts shown on page 10 of [Exhibit C](#). The Fallon FORGE site did pass its go/no-go review in February 2017. The efforts going forward are listed on page 10 of [Exhibit C](#).

Reserves in the Renewable Energy Account budget would decrease from a projected level of \$9.5 million at the end of the 2017-2019 biennium as initially represented in the *Executive Budget*, to \$8.5 million at the end of the biennium with the proposed budget amendment.

Does the Committee wish to approve the Governor's recommendation to provide reserve reductions of \$1.0 million in FY 2017-2018 to provide funding for the FORGE project as set forth in Budget Amendment A171694869?

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO APPROVE THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO PROVIDE RESERVE REDUCTIONS IN B/A 101-4869 OF \$1 MILLION IN FY 2017-2018 TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE FORGE PROJECT AS SET FORTH IN BUDGET AMENDMENT A171694869.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. FERGUSON:

There are no other items. Fiscal staff requests authority to make technical adjustments to this budget account as needed.

SENATOR FORD MOVED TO APPROVE B/A 101-4869 WITH FISCAL STAFF AUTHORITY TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGET CLOSED.

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MR. FERGUSON:

The last GOE budget is the Renewable Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Loan Program, B/A 101-4875, with discussion beginning on page 13 of [Exhibit C](#). The program provides below market rate financing, at an interest rate of 3 percent, for projects that develop or expand renewable energy systems in Nevada for a term not to exceed 15 years.

There were no major closing issues in this budget. Under other closing items, Fiscal staff notes that the loss of the loan principal from the defaulted loans has significantly impacted the GOE's ability to provide future loans for renewable energy systems. This information is on page 14 of [Exhibit C](#). The *Executive Budget* anticipates loan repayments of \$500,330 in FY 2017-2018 and \$145,668 in FY 2018-2019, and loan disbursements of \$100,000 in FY 2017-2018 and \$645,996 in FY 2018-2019. For comparison, the 2013 Legislature approved loan repayments of \$3.4 million in FY 2013-2014 and \$4 million in FY 2014-2015, and loan disbursements of \$1.3 million in FY 2013-2014 and \$3.4 million in FY 2014-2015. The 2015 Legislature approved loan repayments of \$182,586 in FY 2015-2016 and \$188,064 in FY 2016-2017, with loan disbursements of \$1.1 million in FY 2015-2016 and \$140,904 in FY 2016-2017.

There was also some discussion about the utilization of interest income for administrative costs. The Governor recommends transferring interest income paid by loan recipients totaling \$45,761 in both years of the 2017-2019 biennium to the GOE administration budget to support staffing and administrative costs associated with the loan program. *Nevada Revised Statutes* 701.590 provides that the director may use interest in the loan fund to defray, in whole or in part, the costs and expenses of administering this budget. Fiscal staff has reviewed the historic balance of interest income generated by this budget, and it appears the GOE has generated sufficient interest income to meet the fund transfers recommended by the Governor.

Does the Committee wish to approve the Renewable Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Loan program as recommended by the Governor? Fiscal staff requests authority to make technical adjustments to this budget as necessary.

SENATOR FORD MOVED TO APPROVE THE RENEWABLE ENERGY,  
EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM, B/A 101-4875,



AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGET CLOSED.

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MR. FERGUSON:

The next budget is the Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT), B/A 101-1003, with discussion beginning on page 17 of [Exhibit C](#).

Office of Science, Innovation and Technology — Budget Page ELECTED-31  
Budget Account 101-1003

The OSIT was created to support science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and workforce programs. The office also administers grants obtained for STEM initiatives and coordinates the planning, mapping, and procurement of broadband in the State.

There are three major closing issues. The first is the STEM Website, decision unit E-275. The Governor recommends General Fund appropriations of \$25,000 in each year of the 2017-2019 biennium to fund a contract for Website development and associated marketing to promote STEM careers. The OSIT indicated that the current Website was developed with federal grant funds, which was one-time funding. Accordingly, the OSIT budget does not contain ongoing funding to update the Website or add new functionality and content associated with current and future projects.

E-275 Educated and Healthy Citizenry — Budget Page ELECTED-33

The OSIT indicated to date, the marketing for STEM has been word-of-mouth or use of the Governor's Office to generate coverage in the media. The OSIT has clarified that the initial federal grant funding built Phases 1 and 2 of the STEM Website and any remaining federal grant funds will fund a small, initial

marketing campaign of the Website on social media from April through June 2017. The OSIT indicated that this has just begun.

The Governor's recommendation is intended to continue and expand marketing of STEM starting in July 2017, provide for continued security and content updates to the Website, and fund Phase 3 of the Website. Phase 3 would add additional resources for teachers, businesses and universities; allow students to create portfolios; and allow video content on the Website.

Does the Committee wish to approve the Governor's recommendation for General Fund appropriations of \$25,000 in each year of the 2017-2019 biennium to fund a contract for Website development and associated marketing to promote STEM careers to Nevada students, parents, educators and the business community?

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FOR GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$25,000 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2017-2019 BIENNIUM IN DECISION UNIT E-275 TO FUND A CONTRACT FOR WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED MARKETING TO PROMOTE STEM CAREERS TO NEVADA STUDENTS, PARENTS, EDUCATORS AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

SENATOR FORD SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. FERGUSON:

The next major closing issue, decision unit E-276, is the Governor's recommendation of \$1 million in General Fund appropriations in each year of the 2017-2019 biennium for STEM Challenge grants. The 2015 Legislature approved \$2 million in FY 2016-2017 for STEM Challenge grants, discussed on pages 18 and 19 of [Exhibit C](#). However, during the 29th Special Session, the Legislature approved the transfer of \$1 million of that \$2 million for FY 2016-2017 to the new Workforce Innovations for a New Nevada (WINN) budget.

The Governor's recommendation would bring STEM Challenge grant funding to \$1.95 million in each year of the 2017-2019 biennium. The GFO reports that it has awarded the \$2 million appropriated for the current biennium and the recommended \$2 million proposed in the *Executive Budget* would be awarded in the same manner.

The Committee requested additional information about the makeup of the Grant Review Committee, how funding decisions are made, and how the STEM funding in the current biennium was awarded geographically. In response, the OSIT indicated that the Grant Review Committee is composed of five agencies: the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation; the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED); the Nevada Department of Education's (NDOE) Office of Career and Technical Education; the Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination, and Management; and the Director of OSIT. The OSIT also indicated that the STEM grants are scored on seven criteria: assessment of need, work plan, impact analysis, sustainability plan, how outcome data will be collected and evaluated by the applicant, budget narrative and plan, and letters of commitment from partners. The initial round of funding awarded during the current biennium is on page 19 of [Exhibit C](#).

During the budget hearing there were some questions regarding how workforce-related grants provided by OSIT would differ from those provided by the WINN program within GOED. The OSIT's response is on page 19 of [Exhibit C](#).

Does the Committee wish to approve the Governor's recommendation to provide additional General Fund appropriations of \$1 million in each year of the 2017-2019 biennium for STEM Challenge Grants, bringing the total STEM Challenge Grant funding available to \$1.95 million in each year of the biennium?

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION IN B/A 101-1003, DECISION UNIT E-276, TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$1 MILLION IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2017-2019 BIENNIUM FOR STEM CHALLENGE GRANTS, BRINGING THE TOTAL STEM CHALLENGE GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE TO \$1.95 MILLION IN EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM.

SENATOR FORD SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. FERGUSON:

The final major closing issue is the transfer of Wide Area Network Incentive Program to OSIT, decision unit E-907, discussed on page 20 of [Exhibit C](#). The Governor recommends the transfer of the Wide Area Network Incentive Program from the NDOE to OSIT. The transfer includes General Fund appropriations of \$1 million in each year of the biennium. These funds would be used to develop a Statewide E-rate consortium to leverage E-rate dollars from the Federal Communications Commission.

E-907 Transfer BA 2699 to OSIT — Budget Page ELECTED-34

The General Fund appropriations recommended in this transfer would be used to match, or leverage, the available federal funding to secure telecommunications and internet access for Nevada schools and libraries. The OSIT testified that the E-rate funding is tied to each schools' free and reduced lunch population. The funding in this recommendation would be used to provide the required match for approved projects, which would range from 10 percent to 20 percent of the cost of each project. In response to the questions about why the E-rate program should be moved from the NDOE to OSIT, the OSIT indicated that the NDOE has not been utilizing the associated funding for the E-rate program because they are primarily concerned with educational uses of the Internet access once it has been established.

The OSIT provided statistics in the budget hearing comparing Nevada to Utah and Arizona demonstrating that in 2015, Nevada received \$11.4 million in federal E-rate funding which equates to 37.2 percent of the projects the State applied for. Arizona received 81.4 percent of the funding it applied for. Utah received 94.5 percent of the funding it applied for. In support of the concept of how providing technical assistance can improve the likelihood that the projects would be funded, the OSIT pointed to Arizona, which improved its acceptance of submitted projects from 35.8 percent in 2013, to 81.4 percent in FY 2014-2015, due primarily to Arizona providing technical assistance to eligible schools and libraries. The OSIT indicated it would also do this with this funding in its budget.

Does the Committee wish to approve the Governor's recommendation to transfer the Wide Area Network Incentive Program, and the associated General Fund appropriations of \$1 million in each year of the 2017-2019 biennium, from the NDOE to OSIT?

SENATOR FORD MOVED TO APPROVE THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION IN B/A 101-1003, DECISION UNIT E-907, TO TRANSFER THE WIDE AREA NETWORK INCENTIVE PROGRAM AND THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$1 MILLION IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2017-2019 BIENNIUM, FROM THE NDOE TO OSIT.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. FERGUSON:

There are no other closing items. Fiscal staff requests authority to make technical adjustments to this budget as necessary.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA MOVED TO APPROVE B/A 101-1003 AND WITH AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGET CLOSED.

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CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will move on to Nevada's Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Administration, B/A 101-2995.

BRODY LEISER (Program Analyst):

I am here to present the WICHE budget closings, B/A 101-2995, discussed on pages 23 and 24 of [Exhibit C](#). This budget provides for the costs of administering Nevada's WICHE program, including the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) and Health Care Access Program (HCAP) stipends and loans paid out of the WICHE Loan and Stipend budget.

These budgets were heard before the money committees on March 13, 2017. There are no major closing issues in the WICHE Administration budget.

On page 24 of [Exhibit C](#) there are five other closing items that appear reasonable to Fiscal staff. Fiscal staff recommends this budget be closed as recommended by the Governor, and requests authority to make technical adjustments, as needed.

E-225 Efficient and Responsive State Government — ELECTED-77

E-226 Efficient and Responsive State Government — ELECTED-78

E-227 Efficient and Responsive State Government — ELECTED-78

E-228 Efficient and Responsive State Government — ELECTED-78

E-710 Equipment Replacement — ELECTED-78

SENATOR FORD MOVED TO APPROVE B/A 101-2995, INCLUDING DECISION UNITS E-225, E-226, E-227, E-228 AND E-710 WITH AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGET CLOSED.

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MR. LEISER:

The next budget account is the WICHE Loan and Stipend, B/A 101-2681, discussed on page 25 of [Exhibit C](#). The Nevada WICHE program manages Nevada's participation in the regional PSEP and HCAP. The PSEP is a loan forgiveness program that funds high-need fields, including physical therapy, pharmacy and veterinary medicine, in return for admission preference and reduced tuition. The HCAP provides an option for students to receive financial support to earn health profession degrees at in-State public and private institutions.

W.I.C.H.E. Loan & Stipend — Budget Page ELECTED-81  
Budget Account 101-2681

The major closing issue begins on page 27 of [Exhibit C](#), decision unit E-275. This issue is related to the PSEP and the HCAP participant slot changes recommended by the Governor. The table at the bottom of page 27 of [Exhibit C](#) reflects the Legislature-approved participant slots for the current biennium and the Governor's recommendation of 67 slots for FY 2017-2018 and 85 slots for FY 2018-2019. This is an increase of 8 slots in FY 2017-2018 and another 18 slots in FY 2018-2019. The column in the far right should be titled FY 2018-2019 not FY 2017-2018.

E 275 Educated and Health Citizenry — Budget Page ELECTED-82

The increase in the number of slots is mostly the result of the recommendation to add new two-year nursing and social worker HCAP slots. On page 31 of [Exhibit C](#) is the WICHE slot matrix that includes all the professional fields and slot recommendations for the upcoming biennium. The recommended slots have been approved by the Nevada WICHE Commission as a result of a health care workforce needs assessment. The Commission considers input from workforce specialists such as the GOED, Nevada System of Higher Education, and the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). They review job market data in terms of job openings throughout the State in the various professional fields. They collaborate with the regional WICHE on the PSEP slots and also consider their projected budgetary authority in their recommendations.

The slot matrix on page 31 of [Exhibit C](#) is for the PSEP. Slots are recommended for occupational therapy, continued funding for optometry, physical therapy, pharmacy, physician assistant and veterinarian medicine. There is one notable

change in the PSEP program, the Governor recommends funding for two new occupational therapy slots in each year of the biennium. The two new slots would receive support fees over a two-year period. These slots were identified based on a need for professionals in occupational therapy in the State. There is also a reduction of one slot for veterinary medicine.

Within the HCAP program there are three notable changes. Four new Master of Science in Nursing slots are recommended in each year of the biennium. These slots would receive support fees over a two-year period and are recommended to focus on the State's need for graduate-level nurses. There are five new social worker slots recommended to support graduate-level degrees, Master of Social Work, in each year of the 2017-2019 biennium.

The third area is the recommended slots for the psychology internships. The Governor recommends the continuation of funding initially approved by the 2015 Legislature for the Nevada Psychology Internship Consortium. This is a partnership between the DHHS, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) and the WICHE. These slots provide a one-year, full-time doctoral internship providing a range of clinical experiences at the Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, Carson City Rural Clinic and Lake's Crossing Center. Fiscal staff worked with the GFO, DPBH and WICHE and determined that the funding in the *Executive Budget* is not sufficient to support six annual internships as originally envisioned. The DPBH and WICHE submitted a revised proposal intended to fund four internships in FY 2017-2018 and five internships in FY 2018-2019 with the funding recommended in both this budget and the DPBH Behavioral Health Administration budget, B/A 101-3168.

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HHS-DPBH - Behavioral Health Administration — Budget Page DHHS-DPBH-119  
(Volume II)  
Budget Account 101-3168

Members of the Health and Human Services Subcommittee may recall this discussion. The Governor's budget includes funding in both this budget and in



the DHHS-DPBH Behavioral Health Administration budget to collectively support the Nevada psychology internship consortium.

Initially, in the Governor's recommended budget the intent was to fund six psychology internship slots per year between the two budgets. However, in reviewing the recommended funding levels, it was realized the operational costs for program administration such as training, technical assistance and travel costs were omitted. Fiscal staff worked with the GFO, the DPBH and WICHE. As a result, in preparation of the DPBH budget closing, a revised proposal was submitted and was intended to collectively fund four internship slots in FY 2017-2018 and five internship slots in FY 2018-2019. However, the funding levels in the Governor's recommended budget were still inadequate to support five interns in FY 2018-2019 and the associated operational expenditures.

A table at the bottom of page 29 of [Exhibit C](#) reflects the recommendation that came out of the Joint Subcommittee on Human Services for the DPBH budget closing. This recommendation was to support four internship slots collectively between these two budgets in each fiscal year of the 2017-2019 biennium.

Fiscal staff notes that a technical adjustment in the WICHE budget has been made to reflect a transfer of \$112,500 in each fiscal year to the DPBH, Behavioral Health Administration budget where all expenditures will be recorded for the psychology internship consortium.

Does the Committee wish to approve the Nevada WICHE Commission's recommended PSEP and HCAP student slot matrix with total funding of \$1.1 million in FY 2017-2018 and \$1.2 million in FY 2018-2019, as recommended by the Governor, with the technical adjustment noted, and authorize Fiscal staff to make any necessary technical adjustments?

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I do sit on the WICHE Veterinarian Medical Board. I realize it is only one slot reduction in veterinarian medicine, but what really concerns me, especially with Utah State University and their new veterinarian college, is we will continue to see leakage from Nevada. Typically, students attend the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) for their postgraduate degree and then go through the WICHE and other programs. They actually have gone to Colorado. As we reduce these slots, those students will not attend UNR, especially if they can go to Utah State and establish residency in one year.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO APPROVE B/A 101-2681 THE NEVADA WICHE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDED PSEP AND HCAP STUDENT SLOT MATRIX WITH TOTAL FUNDING OF \$1.1 MILLION IN FY 2017-2018 AND \$1.2 MILLION IN FY 2018-2019, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, WITH THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT NOTED, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. LEISER:

There is one other closing item. The 75th Legislative Session reissued a Letter of Intent which permits WICHE to administratively adjust the number of slots per profession to meet student demand. If such reallocation occurs, WICHE is required to inform the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) staff in writing of these changes so it can be reported to the Interim Finance Committee (IFC). The Letter of Intent also requires WICHE to report on an annual basis if slots have been reduced because of insufficient repayment revenues being received.

The 78th Legislative Session's money committees continued approval of authority for WICHE to balance forward any unexpected fee revenues received after May 15 of each year, as long as the balance-forward amounts were expended to support the HCAP loan repayment slots.

Does the Committee wish to issue a Letter of Intent permitting WICHE to continue to administratively adjust the number of slots per profession to meet student demand, and to permit WICHE to balance forward unexpended fee revenues received after May 15 of each year to support loan repayment slots for the HCAP?

SENATOR FORD MOVED TO ISSUE A LETTER OF INTENT PERMITTING WICHE TO CONTINUE TO ADMINISTRATIVELY ADJUST THE NUMBER OF SLOTS PER PROFESSION TO MEET STUDENT DEMAND, AND TO PERMIT WICHE TO BALANCE FORWARD UNEXPENDED FEE REVENUES

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RECEIVED AFTER MAY 15 OF EACH YEAR TO SUPPORT LOAN  
REPAYMENT SLOTS FOR THE HCAP.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGET CLOSED.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will begin the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 514.

**SENATE BILL 514**: Revises provisions governing the Division of Water  
Resources of the State Department of Conservation and Natural  
Resources. (BDR 48-903)

JASON KING, P.E. (State Engineer, Division of Water Resources, State Engineer's  
Office, State of Nevada):

I will read from my prepared testimony ([Exhibit D](#)).

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

What is the expected dollar amount of the carryforward?

MR. KING:

We have \$111,000 in FY 2016-2017 that we would like to carry over into  
FY 2017-2018 and FY 2018-2019. We are currently pursuing a very large  
contract of about \$750,000 for the fall of 2017.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Is the alternative to put in a budget request for General Fund appropriations that  
would meet your anticipated need?

MR. KING:

I know we have gone to IFC in many cases if we did not have the money in our  
*Executive Budget*.

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SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Are you authorized to spend the money even if it is in your account but not appropriated? Do you have to go through the appropriations process in order to fund the project?

MR. KING:

For the next biennium the funding is contemplated at \$347,000 in each fiscal year.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Is this funding General Fund appropriations?

MR. KING:

Yes. We leveraged that money against a grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to perform the project that we want to complete in the fall of this year.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Is the alternative to come in and request an additional \$110,000 in the first year of the biennium?

MR. KING:

Yes. If the funds reverted, I believe that is correct.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Are you saying that, instead of the \$347,000, the Committee appropriates \$460,000 for the biennium?

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

The idea is, if it was not expended in the current year, it would revert. If still needed for a designated purpose, the Division would be able to request an appropriation of the commensurate amount in the first year of the biennium. I do not know if this is more or less efficient.

MARK KRMPOTIC (Senate Fiscal Analyst):

The provision encoded in section 1 of this bill does not revert the unexpended monies to the State General Fund. The Committee, as a Body, approves very few of these accounts in State government that do not revert each fiscal year. One possible alternative for the Committee to consider, and would also meet the needs of the Water Resources because they have a fairly narrow time window

to get the work done on the dam, is to appropriate the monies that would be included in the Division of Water Resources' (DWR) budget for the South Fork Dam for a four-year period. This is similar to what is done for capital improvement project appropriations. This would allow them to expend the money. If they did not meet the time window for one year, they would be able to continue the work in the following year. The money would revert at the end of the four-year period.

Currently, in the *Executive Budget*, the DWR has about \$305,000 in a category, not a separate account, in the DWR's budget for FY 2017-2018 and about \$141,000 for FY 2018-2019. As I read this bill, it would not accomplish the DWR being able to balance-forward monies from FY 2016-2017 to FY 2017-2018 without some transitory language in the back language of the Appropriations Act.

As an alternative, if the Committee wishes to meet the request of the DWR and also not set this up as a nonreverting account, it could appropriate \$305,000, plus \$141,000. This would allow that money to be spent over a four-year period, and the reversion date would be somewhere at the end of FY 2020-2021. The DWR would then have to come back and seek another appropriation for further repairs to the South Fork Dam.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:  
Senator Kieckhefer, does that help?

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:  
Yes, it does.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:  
So would this keep the money in place until 2021?

MR. KRMPOTIC:  
That is correct. If the Committee wishes to go in that direction, it could consider including the appropriations in this bill. Then we would simply remove them from the DWR budget and you would allow this money to be spent over a four-year period.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

It is fairly critical in years like we have now. With the snow on the Ruby Mountains, we may have to let some water out. If we could make that amendment it would also work for the Division, to give them a longer time frame to get the work on the dam accomplished. I would like to see the bill amended to include this language.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

This is a hearing today, but we can bring it back to work session to amend the bill.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

I am generally resistant to funds that do not revert. Would that meet your needs Mr. King, to have some flexibility of spending those monies the way Mr. Krmpotic outlined? I understand your intent and what you are trying to accomplish. I want to make sure we try to meet it.

MR. KING:

I appreciate your comments. I apologize. I am trying to catch up with Mr. Krmpotic's scenario. The thing I am a little bit vague on is that we have \$110,000 in this current fiscal year unspent. It sounds like we are losing this money if we do not spend it by June 30, 2017. What you outlined for FY 2017-2018 and FY 2018-2019 funding, giving us four years to spend it, does work. It gives us the flexibility to carry it over during that four-year period. It sounds like the \$110,000 we have remaining, if we do not spend it will be reverted.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

I think what Mr. Krmpotic indicated is that if we were to amend the bill to provide the flexibility for four years of expenditures, we could also include the appropriations of \$110,000 from the end of this fiscal year that would carryforward into the next fiscal year.

MR. KING:

I appreciate that clarification and it would work for us.

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The Committee will see that exact mechanism when we hear Assembly Bill (A.B.) 488 next.

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**ASSEMBLY BILL 488**: Revises provisions relating to the system modernization project of the Department of Motor Vehicles. (BDR S-910)

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I will close the hearing on S.B. 514. We will move on to A.B. 488.

AMY MCKINNEY (Deputy Director, Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles):

I will read from my prepared testimony ([Exhibit E](#)).

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 488. Both of these bills will come back to the Committee under work session.

MR. KRMPOTIC:

Assembly Bill 488 is going to have sit until we pass the education funding bill.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will hear the LCB budget, B/A 327-2631.

LEGISLATIVE-JUDICIAL

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

LEG – LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU — Budget Page LEGISLATIVE-9  
(Volume I)

Budget Account 327-2631

RICK COMBS (Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau):

I have provided a four-page document ([Exhibit F](#)). The first page is the proposed adjustments to the Governor's recommended budget for the LCB. During the Joint Committee hearing with Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means in late February, I asked for your consideration for additional positions. The positions requested are a paralegal for the Legal Division, an information technology technician, a police officer for the Legislative Police, and to restore funding for a chief deputy auditor position. The total budgeted amount of these positions is \$379,833 for FY 2017-2018 and \$390,580 for FY 2018-2019.

There is also an adjustment to the base budget due to an error that was discussed during the budget hearings in the calculation of personnel costs. A correction to the error in the base budget for personnel costs is a savings of \$70,316 in FY 2017-2018 and \$74,143 in FY 2018-2019. This correction will fund the first priority position.

A decision unit for out-of-state travel and training was not discussed in the budget hearing. Since the Great Recession, we have not restored all of our travel funds. There are opportunities to send a research analyst, attorney or fiscal analyst to a meeting or conference on specific policy topics. We are requesting additional funding to address the out-of-State travel and training needs. The total amount requested is \$5,000 for each year of the biennium.

If all the budget adjustments are approved, the adjustments total \$314,517 in FY 2017-2018 and \$321,437 in FY 2018-2019.

I am also requesting authority to make some technical adjustments after the budget closing. As we discussed in the budget hearing, there is \$30,000 budgeted for the costs of interim studies for the upcoming biennium. There are quite a few proposed interim studies coming forward. If I can make those adjustments prior to the budget closings, I would like the authority to do so. If adjustments are unable to be made due to the timing of the approval of legislative measures, I would like to request additional funding for this purpose from the Legislative Fund.

There are a number of bills that require the creation of new statutory committees to study issues during the upcoming biennium. I request authority to make the adjustments to accommodate the workload that is generated by the bills that are ultimately approved by the Legislature, or request additional funding for this purpose from the Legislative Fund.

There are additional duties and responsibilities placed on the LCB near the end of the Legislative Session. I request authority to add to this budget any additional funds approved by the Legislature after budget closings.

There is also a memorandum ([Exhibit G](#)) that was written in response to the questions regarding travel policies for Legislators. In particular, the Legislative Commission's travel policy regarding Legislators' attendance at meetings of national organizations. I will briefly go through the memorandum.



Until May 29, 2009, Legislators were reimbursed for certain out-of-State travel costs for attending meetings of national organizations. Prior to December 16, 2008, Legislators were reimbursed for travel to meetings of national organizations according to the policy set forth in [Exhibit G](#). After December 16, 2008, in response to a State budget shortfall resulting from the Great Recession, Legislators were restricted to reimbursement for only one out-of-State meeting each year unless the Legislator was elected to a position of leadership in one of the organizations. The Speaker of the Assembly can approve the reimbursement for additional meetings for an Assembly member, and the Majority Leader of the Senate can approve the reimbursement for additional meetings for a Senate member. On May 29, 2009, the Commission voted to repeal the amendment they made to the travel policy effective on January 1 of that year and instead froze all travel reimbursements for national meetings for the 2009-2011 biennium, as no funding had been approved in the budget. The Commission has extended the freeze on travel reimbursements in each biennium since. These funds have never been unfrozen.

If no funding is approved for Legislators for out-of-State travel, this policy would need to be extended. If funding is approved this Session, that policy would need to go to the Commission to be revised. We estimate that the cost to restore travel reimbursements under the policy in effect prior to January 1, 2009, would be approximately \$225,000.

I just left the Assembly Ways and Means Committee meeting, and they approved \$63,000 in each year of the biennium; each of the 63 Legislators could receive not more than \$1,000 for travel expenses in each year of the biennium. The travel funds could be used for attendance at meetings of national organizations. There was discussion about limiting the funds to national organizations of which we are a member.

The Legislator would submit a travel claim for reimbursement of costs for conference registration and travel expenses. If you are in agreement with these proposed adjustments, this Committee would need to make a decision on the additional travel funds of \$1,000 per Legislator totaling \$63,000 for both Senators and the Assemblymen.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

I disagree with the policy to fund out-of-State travel for Legislators for \$130,000 over the biennium.

SENATOR DENIS:

In this Session we talked about professional development for teachers and school board trustees. I think we need to invest in ourselves also, to be able to do the best job we can. The amount does not cover the full cost, but it is important for us to see what is happening nationally and to go to training to help us be better Legislators. I do support the amendment.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

If one Legislator went to three or four conferences or trainings would they be receiving \$3,000 or \$4,000 or is it defined as \$1,000 per Legislator, per year?

MR. COMBS:

It is limited to \$1,000 per Legislator, per year regardless of whether they attended more than one conference per year.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

It is also based on reimbursement.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

If there were leftover funds a Legislator still would not be able to exceed the \$1,000 per year?

MR. COMBS:

Yes, that is the intent. One Legislator can take up to \$1,000 and no more in that fiscal year. There is a travel policy in the Legislative Commission's rules right now that will need to be amended by the Commission as a result of this decision, if the decision is to add money for this purpose. The travel policy will need to be revised. Based on the discussion in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, the intent is that each Legislator would be entitled to \$1,000 of travel funds and could not use more than this amount even if another Legislator did not use theirs.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Are we a member of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)?

MR. COMBS:

The ALEC does not charge the State dues. However, I do not know if individual Legislators are members.

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SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

So, it is uncertain if ALEC applies to the travel policy.

MR. COMBS:

The policy that was in effect listed the following organizations: The Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures, The Council of State Governments West, the American Legislative Exchange Council, or State recognized entity. This is in the current policy. The Legislature would need to amend the policy to include the travel funding discussed today.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE IN B/A 327-2631 \$1,000 IN TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT FOR EACH LEGISLATOR TO ATTEND NATIONAL CONFERENCES IN EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

I am going to vote against your whole budget because it is all in one motion.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

Senator Denis, are you willing to separate out the travel from B/A 327-2631 and make a separate motion? Senator Denis withdrew his motion. Senator Parks withdrew his second. We will take Mr. Combs' report without the Legislative travel.

SENATOR DENIS WITHDREW HIS MOTION.

SENATOR PARKS WITHDREW HIS SECOND.

\* \* \* \* \*

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE IN B/A 327-2631 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS OF \$314,517 IN FY 2017-2018 AND \$321,437 IN FY 2018-2019 FOR THE ADDITIONAL POSITIONS. AUTHORITY IS GRANTED FOR TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AFTER BUDGET CLOSINGS AND ADJUSTMENTS TO ACCOMMODATE THE WORKLOAD GENERATED BY THE BILLS ULTIMATELY APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

Senator Denis, do we have a motion regarding the \$63,000 in each year of the biennium for Legislator travel reimbursement expenses limited to \$1,000 per Legislator in each year of the biennium to attend national meetings?

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE IN B/A 327-2631 \$63,000 IN EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM FOR LEGISLATOR REQUESTED TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSES LIMITED TO \$1,000 PER LEGISLATOR IN EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM TO ATTEND NATIONAL MEETINGS.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

What really concerns me is that the \$1,000 is like a stipend; some Legislators will take it, others will not. It may be an opportunity for some to say you used it while others did not. It could be spun and played as a perquisite. I will be opposed as it is built. We, as Legislators, spend a lot more than \$1,000.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I would second what Senator Denis said earlier regarding professional development for Legislators. I know a few of the conferences—Council of the State Governments West and the National Council of State Legislatures—are wonderful for additional training for this position as well as other positions I have held in the Legislature. I think it is a very positive thing for all of us.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS GOICOECHEA, HARRIS, AND KIECKHEFER VOTED NO.)

BUDGET CLOSED.

\* \* \* \* \*

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MR. COMBS:

There is one more LCB budget account, B/A 741-1330, State Printing Office. I am recommending this budget be closed as recommended by the Governor.

LEG – Printing Office — Budget Page LEGISLATIVE-17 (Volume I)  
Budget Account 741-1330

SENATOR FORD MOVED TO CLOSE B/A 741-1330 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGET CLOSED.

\* \* \* \* \*

CLAIRE CLIFT (Secretary of the Senate):

I have a proposal to adjust B/A 327-2626 in the 2017-2019 *Executive Budget* to add \$2,500 in each year of the biennium for travel needs. I was recently elected the Vice Chair of the Mason's Manual Commission. With the responsibilities as the Vice Chair, I may have additional travel expenses. The \$2,500 would cover travel expenses for each year of the biennium.

LEG – Nevada Legislature Interim — Budget Page LEGISLATIVE-13  
Budget Account 327-2626

SENATOR FORD MOVED TO APPROVE B/A 327-2626 WITH AN ADDITIONAL \$2,500 IN EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGET CLOSED.

\* \* \* \* \*

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CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

Seeing no public comment, this meeting is adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Mary Sullivan,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>EXHIBIT SUMMARY</b>				
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Exhibit / # of pages</b>		<b>Witness / Entity</b>	<b>Description</b>
	A	2		Agenda
	B	2		Attendance Roster
	C	31		Closing List #5 5-08-2017
S.B. 514	D	3	Jason King / Division of Water Resources	Presentation
S.B. 488	E	1	Amy McKinney / Department of Motor Vehicles	Presentation
	F	4	Rick Combs / LCB	Proposed Adjustments to Budget
	G	3	Rick Combs / LCB	Memorandum Travel Policy for Legislators Attending Meetings