

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Eightieth Session
May 31, 2019**

The Committee on Education was called to order by Chair Edgar Flores at 4:16 p.m. on Friday, May 31, 2019, in Room 3138 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4406 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/80th2019.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Edgar Flores, Chair
Assemblywoman Bea Duran
Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow
Assemblywoman Alexis Hansen
Assemblywoman Melissa Hardy
Assemblywoman Lisa Krasner
Assemblywoman Brittney Miller
Assemblywoman Connie Munk
Assemblywoman Sarah Peters
Assemblywoman Jill Tolles
Assemblywoman Selena Torres

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Senate District No. 5

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kelly Richard, Committee Policy Analyst
Victoria Gonzalez, Committee Counsel
Sharon McCallen, Committee Secretary
Trinity Thom, Committee Assistant

Minutes ID: 1407



OTHERS PRESENT:

Sarah Nick, Management Analyst, Department of Education
Christy McGill, Director, Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment,
Department of Education
Jamie Rodriguez, Government Affairs Manager, Office of the County Manager,
Washoe County
Lindsay Anderson, Director, Government Affairs, Washoe County School District
Natha C. Anderson, President, Washoe Education Association; and Member, Board
of Directors, Nevada State Education Association
Bradley Keating, Director, Government Relations, Clark County School District; and
representing Nevada Association of School Superintendents
Sarah Adler, representing Charter School Association of Nevada
Paige Barnes, representing Nevada Association of School Boards
Chris Daly, Deputy Executive Director, Government Relations, Nevada State
Education Association
David Dazlich, Director, Government Affairs, Las Vegas Metro Chamber of
Commerce
Mark Newburn, Vice President, State Board of Education
Mary Pierczynski, representing Nevada Association of School Superintendents

Chair Flores:

[Roll was called. Committee protocol and rules were explained.] We have two bills that we will be hearing this afternoon. We have presenters here and some of you have to leave, and I understand that, but please give me a heads up if you have to leave for a bill presentation so that we know what time you have to go and hopefully as members leave, others will come back. I would like to invite our presenters for Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint) to come forward.

**Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint): Makes various changes relating to education.
(BDR 34-331)**

Sarah Nick, Management Analyst, Department of Education:

Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint) represents a statewide collaboration from students, education leaders, legislators, and many subject matter experts to create the safest environments for our teachers and students. I would like to extend my gratitude again to the Statewide School Safety Task Force and its 11 members representing school psychologists, emergency management, the Department of Public Safety, the State Fire Marshall, a licensed mental health professional, the Department of Health and Human Services, principals, students, and teachers. All of them have put forward their recommendations in the final report and advocate on behalf of their state. This collective good work informed both Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint) along with the school safety provisions in the Governor's *Executive Budget*.

The Department of Education would also like to acknowledge the work of the Legislature, which is truly recognizing the importance of school safety by hearing this bill and honoring our budgetary request to fund student safety in our schools. Our request for social workers, school resource officers, physical safety improvements, and support for teachers and principals was heard by the Joint Committees on Finance and Ways and Means, as well as the Senate Committee on Education, and here again today. I thank you, the Assembly Committee on Education, for honoring our students and teachers by hearing the policy for student well-being in safety in S.B. 89 (R2).

I am joined by my colleague, Director Christy McGill of the Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment, who, at your request, can walk through the portions of the bill. Since you have already heard this bill multiple times, she is also available if you would like to go straight to questions.

Chair Flores:

For the sake of clarity, because we are going to be discussing an amendment, walk us through the bill. It could be a quick overview. It does not have to be too detailed until we review the amendment. We may get into the weeds on that because it is going to be brand-new information for the Committee.

**Christy McGill, Director, Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment,
Department of Education:**

I will walk through the 44-component bill in six sections. It is a high-level overview under the recommendations the Governor's Statewide School Safety Task Force has made. Then, if there is any need to go deeper, we can. To let you know, the author of the amendment, Washoe County, is here and can talk about the amendment ([Exhibit C](#)) as well.

Overall, the Statewide School Safety Task Force and its many partners contributed their wisdom and were bold in their school safety approach in utilizing an ecological or public health model, meeting multiple strategies across multiple sectors, valuing the role of mental health providers, school police officers, infrastructure, safety, prevention and intervention, and treatment practices.

Out of this came six recommendations to further improve school safety [*Nevada Statewide School Safety Task Force Final Report*, November 19, 2018], and those recommendations are part of the 44 sections of Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint), this omnibus bill.

Recommendation No. 1 would amend Chapter 388 of *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) which provides for the establishment of school safety teams, committees to develop crisis plans, and the content requirements of crisis plans. This part of S.B. 89 (R2) addresses recommendation No. 1, and clarifies that school crisis plans developed by school safety teams are inclusive of mental and behavioral health and recovery services for after a traumatic school event. This expands the Department's model plan for crisis, emergency, and suicide response to include threat assessment, annual drills, and behavioral health services—basically taking the current school safety plans and broadening and deepening the mental health portion of them.

Recommendation No. 2 of the task force is to make a significant investment in school-based mental health professionals and services. Progress toward this recommendation is that there is currently a block grant, and in Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint) there are ratios and recommendations for those behavioral health providers as well.

Recommendation No. 3 is to make a commitment to ensure the availability of additional trained school resource officers and school policy personnel.

Recommendation No. 4 is to provide funding to ensure safe learning environments, and the progress toward this recommendation has been projected facility enhancements for a one-time funding of \$7 million for districts.

Recommendation No. 5 is to support prevention and social-emotional learning and provide legislation and budgetary authority that would grant districts funds to ensure students and staff have the prevention skills needed to help all students be successful and safe in school. In S.B. 89 (R2), that shows up as restorative discipline, and also looking at the importance of making sure that social-emotional learning is part of school safety.

The final recommendation, No. 6, is to make the necessary statutory and regulatory changes regarding disproportionality of school discipline. The progress toward that recommendation is that S.B. 89 (R2) as well as Assembly Bill 459 and Assembly Bill 490 make those changes in NRS Chapter 385A. Really looking and making sure that by increasing school police officers, we are also doing a good job of monitoring the data and making sure that discipline does not go up as well.

That was a very broad overview of the six recommendations and what S.B. 89 (R2) does to help move those forward.

Chair Flores:

Did you want to continue?

Christy McGill:

No. If you want to go over the amendment, Ms. Rodriguez can come up and describe the amendment to you.

Chair Flores:

Perfect, we will do that.

Jamie Rodriguez, Government Affairs Manager, Office of the County Manager, Washoe County:

We do have an amendment ([Exhibit C](#)) regarding section 37, which starts on page 35 of the bill. The bill, as drafted, included the school district if they had school police officers and added them to the E911 [Enhanced 911] advisory committees with the intention of making them eligible for funding for body cameras. We understand that intention and want to make them eligible for that. Our concern of adding them as voting members onto these advisory committees was that the advisory committee could become far more weighted on the focus of body cameras and not dispatch.

The amendment in front of you deletes the additions in section 37, subsection 1(b) and subsection 2(c) where it added "if the school district has school police officers." That removes them from the advisory committee. If you go to the second page of the amendment [page 2, ([Exhibit C](#))], on line 13, this is where NRS allows for the E911 surcharge to be used for the purchase of body cameras. What we did was list entities, including those mandated to have body cameras through Senate Bill 176 of the 79th Session, and then added, "School district if the school district has school police officers." This still opens them up to the funding without making them voting members of the advisory committees and potentially shifting that dynamic.

I would also like to state that I have been working with the Washoe County School District. I do understand that they would like to be an ad hoc or a nonvoting member for the Washoe County E911 advisory committee. We are fully supportive of that in Washoe County and will be making that change. We do not want to make that change in the bill as a whole because several of the counties that have the surcharge do not use it for body cameras. Adding them as members of the committee that is only for dispatch did not really make a lot of sense to us. That is the purpose of the amendment—to still open them up to the potential for the funding without shifting that balance of the advisory committees as the focus of those advisory committees is supposed to be for dispatch and the E911 systems.

[Assemblywoman Miller assumed the Chair.]

Acting Chair Miller:

Members, are there any questions? Seeing none, if you are finished with your presentation, we would be happy to hear from those in support of Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint).

Lindsay Anderson, Director, Government Affairs, Washoe County School District:

I do not want to reiterate, but I will just call your attention back to when we had the joint hearing on this bill [March 4, 2019]. Superintendent Traci Davis was present. She was a member of the Statewide School Safety Task Force over the interim along with our school police chief, Jason Trevino, and our director of counseling, Katherine Loudon, so we are incredibly vested in the recommendations made by this task force. We are in support of the bill.

I do appreciate what Ms. Rodriguez from Washoe County said about the E911 task force. We appreciate their willingness to include us and address the fiscal issue around the body cameras as a result of this legislation so we can support that, and we look forward to working with them on that. We are certainly in full support of all of the recommendations in the bill.

I wish I could tell you more about all of the amazing social-emotional learning work we are doing in the Washoe County School District and a lot of the recommendations that are in the legislation, but this is a really important measure for our school district and we are in strong support.

[Assemblyman Flores reassumed the Chair.]

Natha C. Anderson, President, Washoe Education Association; and Member, Board of Directors, Nevada State Education Association:

We are also in support of Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint). We appreciate the amendments that have occurred to make sure that the teacher voice is also part of the commission. I am still a little concerned about how long the number of counselors will take, but also understand that has to do with whether we have enough counselors. We ask for your support of S.B. 89 (R2), and again, there are other great things going on and we need to continue that work.

Bradley Keating, Director, Government Relations, Clark County School District; and representing Nevada Association of School Superintendents:

We are here in support of Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint) and urge you all to support it as well.

Sarah Adler, representing Charter School Association of Nevada:

We, too, are in full support of this ecological, holistic approach to school safety. We think the internal and external human and physical aspects of this will really guide schools to having a comprehensive look at their school climate, their participation in that, and it is going to be great.

Paige Barnes, representing Nevada Association of School Boards:

We really appreciate all the work that has gone into this bill in the interim and this session. We look forward to implementation.

Chris Daly, Deputy Executive Director, Government Relations, Nevada State Education Association:

We are in support of Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint). I want to note that we have an exhibit on the Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System that seeks an amendment [([Exhibit C](#))], Joint Meeting of the Senate Committee on Education and the Assembly Committee on Education, March 4, 2019]. That amendment was made, and we appreciate the Committee working on this bill. We are in full support.

David Dazlich, Director, Government Affairs, Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce:

We would like to thank everyone for all of the effort that has gone into this bill, and for all the work that was done in the interim. School safety is an incredibly important item, and we are in full support.

Chair Flores:

Is there anyone else wishing to speak in support of Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint)? [There was no one.] Is there anyone wishing to speak in opposition? [There was no one.] Is there anyone wishing to speak in neutral? [There was no one.] Are there any closing remarks?

Christy McGill:

I want to close with gratitude to all of the people who helped make this bill a reality, and also end on the voice of the students who helped drive this bill. They are the ones who made sure we had a strong mental health component, and I hope we made them proud.

Chair Flores:

We will close the hearing on Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint). We will open the hearing on Senate Bill 313 (2nd Reprint).

Senate Bill 313 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to computer literacy and computer science education. (BDR 34-731)

Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Senate District No. 5:

I am excited to be here today to present Senate Bill 313 (2nd Reprint) which continues—in bold words—continues to strengthen Nevada's work in computer literacy and computer science education. The fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, also known as STEM, are becoming more and more critical for our nation to remain competitive in the global marketplace and to maintain our strength, innovation, and advancement across all professional disciplines. It is more important than ever for our students to be well versed in such technologies when they graduate from high school. In fact, local business leaders have testified in recent years that the workforce they require to remain competitive needs to be computer savvy, including possessing a certain level of coding skills.

In Nevada, growth in STEM jobs, including computer science, is projected to be 40 percent higher than in non-STEM jobs between 2014 and 2024. According to the website code.org, there are currently more than 2,200 open computing jobs here in Nevada. In 2017, there were only 163 computer science graduates and just 25 percent were female. We have a lot of work to do there.

During the last several sessions, the Legislature recognized the critical need to meet the workforce demands for highly skilled graduates in computer science and related STEM fields. Nevada has done a lot of bipartisan work in this area for the last several years, and this bill continues that work toward making our state the leader in these initiatives.

I would like to share with the Committee that, nationwide, we are being considered one of the states that is very forward-looking in the area of computer science and literacy, particularly by the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Education Commission of the States. Senate Bill 313 (2nd Reprint) does several things. I will briefly review those highlights.

Section 1 requires Nevada's Department of Education to make online resources available for providing computer science instruction in all grades to school districts, charter schools, and university schools for the profoundly gifted. The resources must include instruction in computational thinking, computer instruction, and computer coding. The Department must also assist these schools in establishing computer science instruction that meets the needs of the students.

Section 2 authorizes a person who receives an endorsement to teach computer literacy and computer science to request a reimbursement for the cost of the coursework.

Section 3 creates the Account for Computer Education and Technology in the State General Fund, and establishes requirements for the use of the money in that account. The Superintendent of Public Instruction will administer that account.

If financial resources are available, section 3.5 requires the State Board of Education to establish a program to award grants to certain school districts and charter schools to provide incentives for a teacher to earn a degree or other credential in computer science.

Section 4 requires regional training programs for educational personnel to provide training on methods to teach in those fields.

Section 6 authorizes the Board of Regents to apply for a grant from the Account for Computer Education and Technology to develop the curriculum and standards required to educate and train students studying to become teachers in such fields.

Lastly, section 7 appropriates funds for purposes of carrying out the provisions of the bill.

In closing, I urge your support of this very important legislation, and since it does have a substantial fiscal impact and appropriation, I urge you to process the measure as quickly as possible so we can get it to the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means. This bill does support our efforts to provide teachers and students the necessary training and resources for effective education in computer literacy and computer science.

This concludes my part of the presentation. I would like to turn the microphone over to Mark Newburn in Las Vegas for his testimony. Mr. Newburn is a member of the State Board of Education. He also serves on the Nevada STEM Advisory Council. He and individuals within the Nevada Department of Education have been so very helpful in drafting this measure, bringing the kinds of things we needed to move forward. I look to them for the next part of the presentation.

Mark Newburn, Vice President, State Board of Education:

I am here today as the cochairman of the Nevada STEM Advisory Council, and chair of their Computer Science Subcommittee.

Senate Bill 313 (2nd Reprint) is the result of specific recommendations by the Nevada STEM Advisory Council and the Computer Science Subcommittee based on national best practices. This bill is designed to help create the high-skilled workforce needed by the new Nevada. All of Nevada's economic sectors are now increasingly dependent on computer technology. This includes our traditional sectors of mining and gaming. Nevada is not producing enough skilled computer workers to meet the demand of this expanding workforce. This is a workforce with a notorious lack of diversity—women, Hispanics, and African Americans are vastly underrepresented. More ominously, recent advances in artificial intelligence and automation now threaten to eliminate many traditional jobs, replacing them with new jobs requiring computer technology skills.

Senate Bill 313 (2nd Reprint) addresses these issues by expanding the number of K-12 computer science teachers, thus increasing access for girls, kids of color, rural kids, and kids with disabilities. Senate Bill 200 of the 79th Session laid the foundation with K-12 computer science standards and requirements. It was groundbreaking and instantly became the model legislation used by the rest of the country. The impact has been immediate. From 2017 to 2018, Nevada's participation in advanced placement computer science principles grew by 127 percent. Female participation grew by 175 percent, Hispanic participation grew by 179 percent, and African-American participation grew by 216 percent.

The roadblock now is a lack of trained computer science teachers. Senate Bill 313 (2nd Reprint) expands the number of computer science teachers in three important ways: It continues the grant funding of school districts to help them expand their initial in-service computer science teacher training; it incentivizes teachers to earn the new computer science teacher endorsements by reimbursing the cost of college classes needed for those endorsements; and it incentivizes our colleges and universities to develop new preservice teacher training in computer science.

Our children are entering a world where every job may be a computer job, a world where the jobs their parents had may no longer exist. Senate Bill 313 (2nd Reprint) is the next step in preparing our kids to succeed in that future.

Chair Flores:

I will open the hearing for questions.

Assemblywoman Peters:

This is a very important, fundamental skill that we should have. I feel really lucky that my dad is a programmer. I learned coding when I was seven; I am not good at it. I did not follow that career path, but I am competent enough in the lingo to be able to participate in STEM fields. This is more of a comment than a question.

One of the things that comes up for me when we talk about bringing skilled and experienced science professionals into our schools is that it is often a pay cut, which can be a struggle when individuals are choosing a career path in the science field. I appreciate the fact that we are building in funds to assist in enhancing what skill sets are available to teach these programs, and I appreciate and support ensuring our students get the best and most skilled teachers they can to learn this very serious, fundamental educational component.

Assemblywoman Krasner:

Senator Woodhouse, I want to thank you for bringing this excellent piece of legislation that relates to STEM and training for STEM. This is right on the mark.

Chair Flores:

Members, are there any additional questions or comments? Seeing none, thank you both for your presentation. I would like to invite forward those in support of Senate Bill 313 (2nd Reprint).

David Dazlich, Director, Government Affairs, Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce:

We are here today in support of Senate Bill 313 (2nd Reprint), and we would like to thank the sponsor for bringing it forward. Computer literacy and competence is a key factor in not only workforce readiness coming out of the schools, but the ability to get jobs in the first place. We support this as a component of education and encourage a yes vote.

Mary Pierczynski, representing Nevada Association of School Superintendents:

We are in strong support of this bill. I want to thank Senator Woodhouse for bringing it forward.

Lindsay Anderson, Director, Government Affairs, Washoe County School District:

I am here in support. There are so many reasons I love this bill. I will not go through all of them but certainly No. 1 is that we have a champion in the Washoe County School District who has really taken this on as a project. The expansion that I have seen in computer science education in our school district is something amazing. A lot of that came from Senate Bill 200 of the 79th Session and the resources that were available from the 2017 Session.

Second, it has an appropriation included. Sometimes school districts get a bad rap for being sort of negative about really good legislation with good ideas, but if we do not put the resources behind it to expand that workforce, as Assemblywoman Peters referenced, we are not going to be able to implement it with fidelity. We are very grateful for having that appropriation and giving our educators a chance to expand their skill set into things like robotics clubs and others that are really expanding across our school district.

Third, as a point of personal privilege as the mother of a 9-year-old, I am really excited to see this roll out so when my daughter is ready to take this on and be an engineer like her daddy, there are resources available for her to go down that career path.

Bradley Keating, Director, Government Relations, Clark County School District:

We are here in total support of Senate Bill 313 (2nd Reprint). These programs make a huge difference on our campuses and give students an opportunity to come in excited to learn on campus, provide them the incentive to be there, and to be willing to learn. We certainly appreciate the appropriation obviously, and we look forward to providing these services on campus.

Chair Flores:

Is there anyone else wishing to speak in support of Senate Bill 313 (2nd Reprint)? [There was no one.] Is there anyone wishing to speak in opposition? [There was no one.] Is there anyone wishing to speak in neutral? [There was no one.] We will close the hearing on Senate Bill 313 (2nd Reprint).

Members, as time is of the essence, and we are on the eve of *sine die*, we will be considering in work session Senate Bill 313 (2nd Reprint) and Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint). We will consider Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint) first.

**Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint): Makes various changes relating to education.
(BDR 34-331)**

I stepped out briefly and it was not entirely clear to me whether we discussed an additional amendment to Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint). I believe we discussed the proposed amendment (Exhibit C) regarding the makeup of the advisory committees, but we did not discuss the information that would be provided in the open meeting.

Members, I want to walk you through a conceptual amendment that I am proposing per a conversation I had with Assemblywoman Tolles on Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint) regarding section 7.5, subsection 2, paragraph (e). I had an opportunity to speak with both Senator Denis and Washoe County School District, who brought up the issue to our presenters, and I believe we are all in agreement. The bill states, "Present the findings of the school security risk assessment conducted pursuant to paragraph (d) and any recommendations to improve school safety and security based on the assessment at a public meeting."

The concern is, we are going to do an assessment of everything that is flawed or weaknesses we may have in security, and we are going to put those flaws and weaknesses in a public meeting and announce it to the world. Anyone who would want to do harm would have that information readily available to them. Out of an abundance of caution, my conceptual amendment would say that a summary of the findings would be presented without detailed information so we would not expose any security risks beyond what is already there. We do not want to make anyone's life easier who is trying to do harm.

The motion would be to amend and do pass with the stated conceptual amendment which extends to any other section in the bill that requires the assessment be presented in an open meeting. The information available would be a summary or something similar in order to not disclose all of that information in a public meeting. Additionally, the proposed amendment ([Exhibit C](#)) presented during the presentation would be included in the motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN KRASNER MADE A MOTION TO AMEND AND DO PASS SENATE BILL 89 (2ND REPRINT) WITH THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT PRESENTED DURING THE HEARING AND THE PROPOSED CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MILLER SECONDED THE MOTION.

Members, is there any discussion? [There was none.]

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Assemblywoman Hansen will take the floor statement. Next we have Senate Bill 313 (2nd Reprint).

Senate Bill 313 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to computer literacy and computer science education. (BDR 34-731)

I would entertain a motion to do pass Senate Bill 313 (2nd Reprint)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MILLER MADE A MOTION TO DO PASS SENATE BILL 313 (2ND REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN KRASNER SECONDED THE MOTION.

Members, is there any discussion? [There was none.]

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Assemblywoman Krasner will take the floor statement. Is there anyone here for public comment? [There was no one.]

Members, I appreciate all of the hard work. There may be a possibility that we have to meet tomorrow. Please pay attention during the floor session if we make an announcement then. An email will be sent as soon as we have an understanding of what time and when we are meeting.

This meeting is adjourned [at 4:52 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Sharon McCallen
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman Edgar Flores, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

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

[Exhibit C](#) is a proposed amendment to Senate Bill 89 (2nd Reprint), submitted by Jamie Rodriguez, Government Affairs Manager, Office of the County Manager, Washoe County.