

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

**Eightieth Session  
April 24, 2019**

The Committee on Ways and Means was called to order by Chair Maggie Carlton at 8:15 a.m. on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, in Room 3137 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4404B of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at [www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019).

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair  
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson, Vice Chair  
Assemblyman Jason Frierson  
Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui  
Assemblyman Al Kramer  
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno  
Assemblywoman Dina Neal  
Assemblywoman Ellen B. Spiegel  
Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson  
Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Assemblyman John Hambrick  
Assemblywoman Heidi Swank  
Assemblyman Jim Wheeler

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst  
Sarah Coffman, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst  
Leannandra Copeland, Program Analyst  
Jaimarie Ortega, Program Analyst  
Anne Bowen, Committee Secretary  
Lisa McAlister, Committee Assistant



After call of the roll, Chair Carlton informed the Committee there would be a work session for two bills and closing of budgets.

**Assembly Bill 136: Makes various changes relating to public construction. (BDR 28-145)**

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated the first bill for work session was Assembly Bill (A.B.) 136. This bill was heard on April 1, 2019, and eliminated the requirement to set the prevailing wage for public works and other construction projects for school districts and the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) at 90 percent. The bill also lowered the minimum threshold for applicability of prevailing wage from \$250,000 to \$100,000 and eliminated language prescribing the manner in which the Labor Commissioner must determine prevailing wage in certain circumstances. Ms. Jones said that A.B. 136 also applied to charter schools, but did not apply to awards made before the bill was effective, which would be July 1, 2019.

There were two fiscal notes attached to the bill. A fiscal note of \$9 million was submitted by NSHE; however, during the hearing on April 1, 2019, Andrew Clinger, Chief Financial Officer, NSHE, withdrew that fiscal note. The State Public Works Division, Department of Administration, also had a fiscal note of \$425,940 in fiscal year (FY) 2020 and \$369,980 in FY 2021. The State Public Works Division testified at the hearing that the fiscal effect would be reduced, and the Division provided new information to Fiscal Analysis Division staff indicating the fiscal effect would be approximately \$159,562 in FY 2020 and \$103,603 in FY 2021 based on the projects that might be approved in this Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Ms. Jones remarked that what had substantially changed was the removal of statewide projects, because most of those would be under the threshold individually, rather than counting those in totality. Ms. Jones noted that Michael Pelham, Nevada Taxpayers Association, indicated it could cost more dollars for those projects in the long run, but no documentation in support of that statement was received from Mr. Pelham.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI MOVED TO DO PASS  
ASSEMBLY BILL 136.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL SECONDED THE MOTION.

Mr. Kramer said he could not support A.B. 136 in its current form. He said he actually agreed with the concept of prevailing wage, and this was not a bad way to calculate it. While the fiscal note for the state had been removed, there remained a fiscal note for counties, and if there was a way to exempt rural counties, he would probably vote for it.

Assemblywoman Titus said she could not support the bill for the same reasons that Assemblyman Kramer stated.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblymen Kramer and Titus voted no. Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Frierson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

Chair Carlton stated she would take the floor statement for A.B. 136, and she opened the hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 220.

**Assembly Bill 220: Requires the issuance of bonds for environmental improvement projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin. (BDR S-435)**

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, explained that the second bill being processed was Assembly Bill (A.B.) 220, which required the issuance of bonds for environmental improvement projects for the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Environmental Improvement Project (EIP) program was started in 1997. In 2009, the Legislature authorized the issuance of not more than \$100 million in general obligation bonds to pay for Nevada's share of the program. Ms. Jones said A.B. 220 requested \$8 million of that \$100 million for the upcoming biennium for continued projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Fiscal Analysis Division staff noted that those bonds were included in The Executive Budget submitted by the Governor, and this was a budget implementation bill.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were any questions from any Committee members on A.B. 220, and seeing none, she called for a motion.

ASSEMBLWOMAN SPIEGEL MOVED TO DO PASS  
ASSEMBLY BILL 220.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Frierson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

Chair Carlton stated she would take the floor statement for A.B. 220, and she opened the budget closing for budget account (BA) 1003.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
OFFICE OF SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (101-1003)  
BUDGET PAGE ELECTED-36**

Jaimarie Ortega, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, presented budget account (BA) 1003, Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT).

Ms. Ortega stated there was one major closing issue for BA 1003, and that was the Governor's recommendation of a \$1 million General Fund appropriation in each year of the 2019-2021 biennium to continue the Wide Area Network (WAN) Incentive Program.

Ms. Ortega explained this amount was based on the funding approved in each year of the 2017-2019 biennium. The funding was to be used to develop a statewide E-rate consortium that would leverage E-rate dollars from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The OSIT indicated the federal E-Rate program provided discounted telecommunications, internet access, and internal connections to eligible schools and libraries, which ranged from 20 percent to 90 percent, with higher discounts for higher poverty and rural schools and libraries. The FCC provided a dollar-for-dollar match of up to 10 percent for a project if the state also contributed 10 percent to the project. The OSIT further indicated the applications submitted to the FCC from various schools and libraries reflected total projected costs of approximately \$58 million in fiscal year (FY) 2019. Ms. Ortega said that if the FCC approved all of the submitted applications, OSIT projected that total funding of \$3,737,497 would be needed.

The Office of Science, Innovation and Technology currently had \$1.9 million available in FY 2019, of which \$140,533 had been obligated, leaving a balance of \$1.8 million. Since subgrant applications totaled approximately \$3.7 million, OSIT planned to prioritize the available FY 2019 funding based on a number of factors, including impact to students, poverty level, impact on internet speed, and the subrecipient's commitment to digital learning. According to OSIT, the FCC would make decisions on approval on a flow basis through the end of FY 2019, and the Office intended to use the Governor-recommended budget of \$1 million in each year of the upcoming biennium to fund the FY 2019 applications, if necessary.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONTINUATION OF THE WIDE AREA NETWORK INCENTIVE PROGRAM FUNDED WITH GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$1 MILLION IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2019-2021 BIENNIUM, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Frierson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Ortega said there were five Other Closing Items that appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff. Fiscal staff noted on Other Closing Item 5 that The Executive Budget recommended this budget retain the ability to transfer General Fund appropriations for the WAN Incentive Program between fiscal years, with IFC approval in the 2019-2021 biennium. Fiscal staff recommended Other Closing Items 1 through 4 be closed as recommended by the Governor, as well as the back language recommended for the Appropriations Act in Other Closing Item 5, with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 1 THROUGH 4 IN BUDGET ACCOUNT 1003 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND THE BACK LANGUAGE RECOMMENDED FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS ACT IN OTHER CLOSING ITEM 5, AND TO AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Frierson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

BUDGET CLOSED.

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**ELECTED OFFICIALS**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE - OFFICE OF WORKFORCE INNOVATION (101-1004)**  
**BUDGET PAGE ELECTED-89**

Jaimarie Ortega, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, presented budget account (BA) 1004, Office of Workforce Innovation.

Ms. Ortega said there were two major closing issues in budget account (BA) 1004. The first major issue was the Governor-recommended conversion of three contract positions, which were currently filled, to nonclassified, full-time positions, effective July 1, 2019. The recommendation reflected that those positions were initially funded with Technical Readiness and Apprenticeship (TRAIN) grant funds and private New Skills for Youth (NSY) grant funds. Once the grants expired, the Governor recommended continuing the positions funded with Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Governor's Reserve funds.

The Office of Workforce Innovation, Office of the Governor (OWINN), indicated the recommendation to convert those contract positions to state positions would allow the positions to have opportunities for professional growth and development through state training and professional development programs.

Ms. Ortega said the first position recommended for conversion was an assistant coordinator position, which would provide administrative support for the executive director and the state apprenticeship director positions and update the Registered Apprenticeship Partners Information Management Data System (RAPIDS), which was a system that contained registered apprenticeship programs nationwide. Fiscal Analysis Division staff noted that OWINN currently had one nonclassified executive assistant position providing administrative support for the agency.

According to Ms. Ortega, the second position was a youth apprenticeship and work-based learning navigator position, responsible for developing comprehensive resources and monitoring and expanding the Youth Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning programs for the state. The OWINN further indicated there was no existing infrastructure or agency in Nevada coordinating youth apprenticeship, which focused on developing career pathways for noncollege students and building opportunities for young adults to receive work experience.

The third position was an employer engagement specialist position, which would increase partnership with industry, conduct research to identify employer needs and trends relating to industry growth, and encourage employers to hire applicants with certain certifications.

Fiscal Analysis Division staff noted that the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) currently had over 40 positions for its workforce development programs. Those programs were designed to assist employers in meeting their workforce needs and aid job seekers in returning to work through job referrals, short-term skill enhancement training, and career guidance, which appeared to have similar objectives to those performed by this position.

Fiscal staff recommended a technical adjustment to correct the overstated reduction in contract services in fiscal year (FY) 2020 and to continue the TRAIN grant funds that would be available in FY 2021, resulting in an increase in WIOA Governor's Reserve funds of \$123,051 over the 2019-2021 biennium.

Ms. Ortega stated options for consideration by the Committee were as follows:

- A. Approve converting three contract positions to full-time state positions, increasing WIOA Governor's Reserve funds by \$192,671 over the 2019-2021 biennium, which includes the technical adjustment noted by Fiscal Analysis Division staff.
- B. Approve one youth apprenticeship and work-based learning navigator position and allow Fiscal staff to make the necessary technical adjustments.

Assemblywoman Titus requested clarification regarding the expiration of the grant, leaving two positions unfunded, and the Governor-recommended elimination of two Nevada Department of Education (NDE) positions. She asked whether those positions were part of the three positions the Governor was recommending be changed to state employees.

Ms. Ortega said those positions were under NDE and were not associated with the positions in this budget.

Assemblywoman Titus said in the OWINN budget, two positions would be eliminated because they were grant-funded, and the other three positions were a separate matter, and Ms. Ortega said that was correct.

Assemblywoman Neal said she was aware that in December, the OWINN office had been informed that it needed to consolidate the NSHE and employer pathway. She wondered what was happening with the new director and whether this affected that requirement.

Assemblywoman Neal had a second question regarding the 40 positions at DETR that seemed similar. She noted that DETR's workforce positions were under the Wagner-Peyser Act, and the way it was reported did not provide detailed information about outcomes. For example, under Wagner-Peyser, there might be contact and 10,000 people might walk through the door, but the Legislature would not know the outcomes. Under WIOA, there were outcomes that had to be reported.

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, referred to the Workforce positions at DETR in the Employment Security Division, and stated there were over 40 positions just in the business services area, which were funded by a variety of sources, including Wagner-Peyser and Career Enhancement Program funds. Those programs funded by the Department of Labor had outcomes indicating whether people had entered employment, regardless of whether it was Wagner-Peyser or WIOA funds. She noted that there were 40 or so positions at DETR that also performed the same kind of work in reaching out to employers.

Assemblywoman Neal commented that she just wanted those programs to produce what they said they did and show the Legislature that they engaged meaningfully with employers.

Chair Carlton remarked that she did not like the term "youth apprenticeship" because it was really work-based learning, not youth apprenticeship. Eventually, that misnomer was going to be addressed because an apprenticeship program was working 40 hours a week and then participating in an apprenticeship program. Chair Carlton did not believe the title was being used correctly, and the position was correctly a work-based learning navigator for youth. She supported the concept because there was definitely a labor shortage in the skilled trades: her concern was that OWINN had begun last session and it had been a rough ride for two years. While Chair Carlton was not comfortable in converting contract positions to nonclassified positions, she believed it was a conversation for the future.

Assemblyman Kramer stated it was his understanding that WIOA dollars could be spent through nonprofits or community colleges, and even though contract employees were being paid with those dollars, paying state employees with those dollars cost flexibility.

Chair Carlton called the new director of OWINN to testify.

Craig Von Collenberg, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation (OWINN), said there had been a question about the coordination with an apprenticeship navigator position at Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE). The contract was approved on March 12, 2019, and the hiring process was being conducted for that position so the navigator would be working in tandem with the youth navigator, as well as the employer specialist. The idea was that all of the positions could work together to align systems around

work-based learning and bring in the colleges, as well as OWINN, and align the entire system. Mr. Von Collenberg addressed the concerns about the contract positions and said there had been a lot of progress made, but he wanted to make sure there was continuity of service.

Chair Carlton remarked that the positions could stay without the TRAIN grant and be funded through WIOA dollars, so she did not believe that would be a problem. She was aware that Mr. Von Collenberg was new at the directorship and she would not rehash the issues over the last two years with OWINN. Mr. Von Collenberg would have a chance to do his job and report back to the Legislature with the progress being made.

Assemblywoman Neal asked Mr. Von Collenberg what he was going to do with those positions and how he was going to connect with what was done in the past to move OWINN forward.

Mr. Von Collenberg stated there was a lot still to be determined on where the agency was going, but employer engagement was key. Work-based learning or apprenticeship would not work without employers at the table from the beginning. He believed having the team work together to create a new vision that tied in the good work that had been done already was the path of the future.

Chair Carlton said she would accept a motion to not convert the three contract positions to nonclassified and not approve the employer engagement position at this time. She believed there was a technical adjustment that would have to be made, and the proposed motion would include one youth apprenticeship and work-based learning navigator position and further authorize fiscal staff to make necessary technical adjustments.

Ms. Jones noted that currently, the funding recommended in the budget was a combination of the continuation of the TRAIN grant, the NSY grant, and WIOA funds. For the upcoming biennium, she believed Chair Carlton was suggesting only funding two of those positions with the remainder of the TRAIN grant, the NSY grant, and then the balance with WIOA funds, which would reduce the total funding by \$123,051 over the biennium. Regarding the employer engagement specialist position: the NSY grant provided enough funding for approximately one-half of fiscal year (FY) 2020.

Ms. Ortega stated for clarification that if the motion was to not approve the employer engagement specialist position, which was currently funded with the New Skills for Youth (NSY) grant, the only two remaining positions were the assistant coordinator and the youth and work-based learning navigator. Those positions were funded with the TRAIN grant.

Chair Carlton stated the assistant coordinator and youth and work-based learning navigator positions were going to remain contract positions.

Ms. Jones explained that the employer engagement specialist would be funded with NSY funds for approximately one-half of FY 2020. She was trying to determine what would happen with the balance of that grant if that position was not continued and wondered whether the \$51,922 could be used to support the assistant coordinator and the navigator in lieu of the WIOA funds.



Ms. Ortega stated that if the employer engagement specialist position was not converted to full-time, the NSY grant would continue to fund this position as a contract.

Chair Carlton said the motion would be to not convert the contract positions to nonclassified; to allow the employer engagement specialist position to expire at the end of the grant funding, with the caveat that the agency could come back to IFC for permission to use other funding to continue the position if needed; and allow Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments as needed. She believed that covered all the components in this decision unit.

Assemblyman Thompson remarked this was a question for OWINN, and he hoped someone could identify the need to convert the contract position to a full-time position to attract qualified candidates.

Ansara Martino, M.A., Program Administrator/Officer, Office of Workforce Innovation (OWINN), Office of the Governor, said the concern with the position was that the employer engagement specialist who had been working with employers had established relationships. She believed that at last count over 190 employer contacts had been made since starting the position. The concern was that should the current employee leave, employers might not feel there was any consistency within OWINN.

Assemblywoman Neal referred to the 190 contacts that the current contract employee had made and asked whether those established relationships would be lost if the current employee was denied becoming a full-time employee.

Ms. Martino explained that the relationships the current employee had built was as an employee of OWINN, with the specific purpose of furthering employers' knowledge about apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities. Obviously, if the current employee were to leave, he or she would not necessarily take those contacts; however, it might confuse employers, and the second employee would have to build the relationship and trust with employers again.

Mr. Von Collenberg opined that while the current employee was still under contract, there was no concern with the job being done, and the work would continue to be performed with continuity. The concern was that at the end of the NSY grant, when that position ended, if there was no further funding, it might be a detriment to the work that had already been done.

Assemblywoman Spiegel said she supported the Chair's suggested motion.

Chair Carlton restated the proposed motion to not approve the conversion of the three contract positions to nonclassified, retain the employer engagement specialist until the end of the grant period, and allow OWINN to come back to IFC to discuss moving the position to another funding source, with technical adjustments as needed.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL MOVED TO NOT APPROVE CONVERTING THREE CONTRACT POSITIONS TO FULL-TIME STATE NONCLASSIFIED POSITIONS; TO RETAIN THE EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST UNTIL THE END OF THE GRANT PERIOD, TO ALLOW THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE INNOVATION (OWINN), OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, TO COME BEFORE THE INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE TO REQUEST FURTHER FUNDING FOR THE POSITION; AND TO AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Ortega continued her presentation. The Governor recommended revising the funding source for the state apprenticeship director (SAD) position from General Fund appropriations to WIOA Governor's Reserve, resulting in General Fund reductions of \$220,155 over the 2019-2021 biennium. The Governor also recommended using WIOA Governor's Reserve funds totaling \$37,068 over the upcoming biennium for out-of-state and in-state travel expenditures for the SAD position. According to OWINN, the recommendation to revise the funding source for this position would align the duties and responsibilities of the position with the appropriate funding source, which would be used for establishing and implementing innovative training programs that demonstrated the capacity to enhance the state's workforce system, education, and employment opportunities.

Pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 610.120, the SAD position was responsible for the following:

- Administer the provisions of Chapter 610 of NRS with the advice of the State Apprenticeship Council.
- Issue apprenticeship certificates of completion.
- Promote apprenticeship programs through public engagement activities and other initiatives.
- Assist the State Apprenticeship Council in identifying opportunities to link and coordinate the state's economic development and workforce development systems.
- Coordinate community-based outreach initiatives designed to promote apprenticeship opportunities.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MODIFICATION OF THE FUNDING SOURCE FOR THE STATE APPRENTICESHIP DIRECTOR POSITION AND ASSOCIATED OPERATING EXPENDITURES FROM GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS TO WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) FUNDS, TOTALING \$220,155 OVER THE 2019-2021 BIENNIUM.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Ortega said the Governor also recommended WIOA Governor's Reserve funds totaling \$17,892 for out-of-state travel for the state apprenticeship director to attend three national conferences. This represented a 39.4 percent increase in each year of the 2019-2021 biennium when compared to the legislatively approved travel in fiscal year (FY) 2019. In follow-up communication with Fiscal Analysis Division staff, OWINN indicated it could reduce out-of-state travel expenditures by allowing this position to attend one conference per year as opposed to three conferences per year, reducing WIOA Governor's Reserve funds by \$11,928 over the upcoming biennium.

The Governor also recommended WIOA Governor's Reserve funds totaling \$19,176 for the state apprenticeship director to attend the quarterly Nevada State Apprenticeship Council meetings and meet with apprentice program sponsors and employers. In follow-up communication with Fiscal Analysis Division staff, OWINN indicated it could reduce in-state travel expenses expenditures by allowing this position to travel from Las Vegas to northern Nevada 4 times as opposed to 12 times each fiscal year, reducing WIOA Governor's Reserve funds by \$12,784 over the 2019-2021 biennium.

Chair Carlton commented that she believed it was important that state employees be able to travel in state, and she was fine with the recommended 12 trips per fiscal year. As for restricting out-of-state travel, Chair Carlton said the Committee had come up with a general philosophy of looking at out-of-state travel in one vein, but in-state travel in another, to ensure that state employees had the opportunity to travel back and forth.

Assemblywoman Spiegel said she was aware that there were out-of-state conferences that provided scholarship dollars for participants. She wondered whether any of those proposed conferences had scholarship funds that could be used for the position.

Mr. Von Collenberg said from what he understood, the conferences that had been identified offered no scholarships for attendance.

Chair Carlton said she did not believe that anything done today would prohibit the director from participating should a conference scholarship become available, because there would be no fiscal impact.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO APPROVE OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL EXPENDITURES FOR THE STATE APPRENTICESHIP DIRECTOR TO ATTEND ONE NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND APPROVE IN-STATE TRAVEL EXPENDITURES FOR THE STATE APPRENTICESHIP DIRECTOR TO TRAVEL BETWEEN LAS VEGAS AND NORTHERN NEVADA TWELVE TIMES EACH FISCAL YEAR OVER THE 2019-2021 BIENNIUM.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Ortega stated there was one Other Closing Item for this budget which appeared reasonable. Fiscal Analysis Division staff suggested this budget be closed as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE OTHER CLOSING ITEM IN BUDGET ACCOUNT 1004 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND TO AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

BUDGET CLOSED.

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**ELECTED OFFICIALS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
NEVADA P20 WORKFORCE REPORTING (101-3270)  
BUDGET PAGE ELECTED-95**

Jaimarie Ortega, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, presented budget account (BA) 3270, Nevada P20 Workforce Reporting.

Ms. Ortega stated there was one major closing issue in BA 3270. The Governor recommended total General Fund appropriations of \$15,564 over the 2019-2021 biennium for the strategic

data manager position to travel from Las Vegas for meetings in northern Nevada and travel out-of-state to attend the Institute of Education Sciences Conference in Washington, D.C.

The Governor's recommendation for additional in-state travel expenditures represented a 262.4 percent increase in each year of the biennium when compared to the actual in-state travel in fiscal year (FY) 2018. The Office of Workforce Innovation (OWINN), Office of the Governor, indicated all members of the Nevada P20 Workforce Reporting system (NPWR) Advisory Committee were based in northern Nevada, while the strategic data manager position was assigned to OWINN's Las Vegas office.

Fiscal Analysis Division staff noted that based on data from the state accounting system, travel expenditures incurred in FY 2018 totaled \$1,829, which appeared to include two trips to attend the NPWR Advisory Committee meetings. Ms. Ortega said that in follow-up communication with Fiscal staff, OWINN indicated it could reduce travel expenditures to \$915 per trip to attend the quarterly Advisory Committee meetings in Carson City. This figure was based on the FY 2018 average expenditures and would result in General Fund reductions of \$5,938 over the 2019-2021 biennium.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL MOVED TO APPROVE TRAVEL EXPENDITURES FOR THE STRATEGIC DATA MANAGER POSITION IN BUDGET ACCOUNT 3270 TO TRAVEL FROM LAS VEGAS FOR MEETINGS IN NORTHERN NEVADA AND TO ATTEND THE YEARLY INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON D.C., WITH NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Ortega related there were two Other Closing Items which appeared reasonable to Fiscal staff and recommended this budget be closed as recommended by the Governor, with authority for staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO APPROVE OTHER CLOSING ITEMS IN BUDGET ACCOUNT 3270 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND TO AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

BUDGET CLOSED

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The meeting recessed at 9:21 a.m. and reconvened at 9:25 a.m.

**COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE LOAN (101-1524)  
BUDGET PAGE GOED-5**

Leandra Copeland, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, presented budget account (BA) 1524, Small Business Enterprise Loan.

Ms. Copeland stated that the 2017 Legislature had approved Senate Bill (S.B.) 126 of the 79th Legislature (2017), which included a General Fund appropriation of \$1 million to establish the Small Business Enterprise Loan Account (SBELA) to provide small business, minority-owned, women-owned, and disadvantaged business enterprises with loans.

There were no major closing issues in this budget, and the Governor did not recommend additional funding. The \$1 million that had been appropriated in the 2017 session was carried forward. The Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) was able to carry forward the unexpended funds and had entered into an agreement with an outside bank to administer the funds on GOED's behalf. *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 231.1409 required the payments on the loans be deposited into the State General Fund for a credit to this budget. Ms. Copeland said per the memorandum of understanding (MOU) that GOED had with the outside bank, it directly received principal and interest payments. These payments were not deposited into the Small Business Enterprise Loan Account as required by statute.

Ms. Copeland said the Committee might wish to request a bill draft to amend NRS 231.1409, subsection 9, to align with the agency's current practice, or direct GOED to comply with existing provisions of the NRS, which would require GOED to revise its MOU with the outside bank.

Ms. Copeland said the Committee might wish to consider the following options:

1. Request a bill draft to amend NRS 231.1409, subsection 9, to enable the Governor's Office of Economic Development to continue its current arrangement for the Small Business Enterprise Loan Account with an external bank administering the loan program with loan repayments of principal and interest being deposited in an external bank, with the understanding that all remaining funds would be transferred back to the state in the event the agreement was canceled.

2. Direct the Governor's Office of Economic Development to modify its current arrangement to require loan payments of principal and interest to be deposited into the State General Fund for credit to the Small Business Enterprise Loan Account, in accordance with the existing provisions of NRS 231.1409, section 9. This option would require Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make a technical adjustment to this budget to reflect anticipated loan repayments in the 2019-2021 biennium.

Staff requested authority to make technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI MOVED TO DIRECT THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO MODIFY ITS CURRENT ARRANGEMENT TO REQUIRE LOAN PAYMENTS OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST TO BE DEPOSITED INTO THE STATE GENERAL FUND FOR CREDIT TO THE SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE LOAN ACCOUNT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXISTING PROVISIONS OF NRS 231.1409, SUBSECTION 9; TO ALLOW FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE A TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT TO THIS BUDGET TO REFLECT ANTICIPATED LOAN REPAYMENTS IN THE 2019-2021 BIENNIUM; AND TO AUTHORIZE FURTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGET ACCOUNT 1524 AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Frierson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

BUDGET CLOSED.

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**COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
NEVADA MAIN STREET PROGRAM (101-1532)  
BUDGET PAGE GOED-6**

Leannandra Copeland, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, presented budget account (BA) 1532, Nevada Main Street Program.

Ms. Copeland informed the Committee that the Nevada Main Street Program was created in the 2017 Session with an appropriation of \$350,000 to provide grants for main street revitalization. The appropriation was not intended to finance ongoing expenditures. There were no major closing issues in this budget account. The other closing item was the elimination of this budget. The Governor did not recommend ongoing funding for the Nevada Main Street Program budget. There were no grants awarded in fiscal year (FY) 2018 because of the

ramp-up of the program. However, the agency indicated that there were six cities and towns that had requested funding, which totaled \$99,206.

Assembly Bill (A.B.) 104 provided a General Fund appropriation of \$350,000 to the Nevada Main Street Program to continue the program. Ms. Copeland explained that this bill was declared exempt as of February 25, 2019, and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means on January 28, 2019.

Chair Carlton explained that even if the Committee concurred with the Governor's recommendation to eliminate this budget, if A.B. 104 passed, the budget would be reestablished.

Assemblywoman Titus believed it would be premature to approve this item. She was not in favor of eliminating the Main Street Program at this time with grants that were still in the application process.

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, explained that a decision could be made to maintain this budget account; however, as included in the Governor's budget, there would be no funding.

Chair Carlton said the Senate had closed this budget as recommended by the Governor, which would create a budget closing difference.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO NOT APPROVE THE  
ELIMINATION OF THE MAIN STREET PROGRAM, BUDGET  
ACCOUNT 1532.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Frierson,  
Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

BUDGET CLOSED.

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**COMMERCE & INDUSTRY**  
**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
**GOED - GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEV (101-1526)**  
**BUDGET PAGE GOED-8**

Leandra Copeland, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, presented budget account (BA) 1526, Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED).



Ms. Copeland said this was the main budget account for the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), and there were three major closing issues in this budget.

The first major closing issue was to change the funding source for the mining industry specialist position. The Governor recommended replacing the Nevada Mining Association (NMA) financial support for the mining industry specialist with General Funds of \$60,000 in each year of the 2019-2021 biennium. Ms. Copeland said General Funds had been the de facto funding source since fiscal year (FY) 2017, after GOED stopped receiving NMA gifts in FY 2016. The GOED indicated that it preferred General Funds be the source for this position to ensure the state had complete autonomy to direct the position's activities. According to the agency, the NMA had continued to express support for the position and planned to provide financial support for trade missions, conferences, and sponsoring events. The GOED had not included any projected gifts or donations in its budget for the 2019-2021 biennium and had not, historically, sought authority from the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) for gifts and donations to pay for staff to attend trade missions. *Nevada Revised Statutes* 353.335 stipulated that the state could not accept gifts from nongovernmental sources without legislative or IFC approval if the value of the gift exceeded \$20,000.

Ms. Copeland said if the Committee approved this recommendation, it might want to consider a letter of intent to GOED requesting that all cash and noncash donations received, regardless of the work program threshold, be reported to the IFC at the end of each fiscal year.

Chair Carlton said this was a well-discussed item in the original hearing, and there was concern from the Committee regarding the donations that had been received, but not disclosed or discussed with the Interim Finance Committee (IFC). She said she was leaning toward requesting in the letter of intent that donations received be reported quarterly.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL MOVED TO APPROVE REPLACING NEVADA MINING ASSOCIATION'S FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE MINING INDUSTRY SPECIALIST WITH GENERAL FUNDS OF \$60,000 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2019-2021 BIENNIUM, AND TO ISSUE A LETTER OF INTENT TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REQUIRING QUARTERLY REPORTING OF ALL CASH AND NONCASH DONATIONS RECEIVED, REGARDLESS OF THE WORK PROGRAM THRESHOLD, TO THE INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Frierson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Copeland said the next major issue was General Fund appropriations for the Nevada Institute for Autonomous Systems (NIAS). The Governor recommended funding "anticipated emerging programs" not in the scope of NIAS's current agreement and costs not covered by

other funding sources with General Funds of \$100,000 in FY 2020 and \$75,000 in FY 2021. The NIAS was a nonprofit organization tasked with the responsibility to lead and promote Nevada's Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program. The NIAS generated revenue through fees paid by companies to use UAS facilities, provided technical expertise, and facilitated the connection between clients and UAS companies.

When the UAS program was initially discussed during the 2013 Legislative Session, GOED anticipated it would become financially self-supporting around the end of FY 2015. However, increased competition and a changing industry landscape had led to slower-than-expected revenue growth. The NIAS had continued to make progress in becoming self-sustaining.

Ms. Copeland explained that the NIAS revenue and expenditure projections for the 2019-2021 biennium predicted a net profit of \$100,000 in FY 2020 and \$200,000 in FY 2021. The GOED indicated that the NIAS projections anticipated using the Governor's recommended budget to support efforts to secure contracts, and not receiving the appropriations would directly reduce its projections and indirectly affect its ability to secure contracts, while further reducing NIAS's ability to become self-sustaining. Fiscal Analysis Division staff noted that Senate Bill (S.B.) 421 would provide a \$1 million appropriation to GOED, which would essentially be a pass-through to NIAS, and GOED indicated that a budget had not been developed for the \$1 million. The bill was declared exempt and passed the Senate Committee on Revenue and Economic Development on April 11, 2019, and was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

Ms. Copeland stated the Committee might consider the following two options:

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation for General Fund appropriations of \$100,000 in FY 2020 and \$75,000 in FY 2021 to support the Nevada Institute for Autonomous System's efforts in developing the unmanned aircraft systems industry in Nevada.
2. Not approve the Governor's recommendation for General Fund appropriations of \$100,000 in FY 2020 and \$75,000 in FY 2021, as the NIAS is projected to be self-sufficient beginning in FY 2020.

Ms. Copeland said that if it was determined the program would not attain self-sufficiency in the 2019-2021 biennium, the agency could seek IFC Contingency Account funds to address any solvency issues.

Chair Carlton commented that there had been a lot of discussion about this matter, and she hoped the agency would move toward self-sufficiency, but she understood some of the barriers and hurdles.

Assemblywoman Spiegel said that since NIAS was a nonprofit organization, her understanding was that it was not supposed to accrue profits. If NIAS was going to have net profits of \$100,000 in FY 2020 and \$200,000 in FY 2021, Assemblywoman Spiegel wondered what NIAS was going to do with those profits, especially in light of the request for state funding.

Derek Armstrong, Deputy Director, Office of Economic Development, Office of the Governor, said he believed profit was an inaccurate term. Nonprofits were allowed to have a certain percentage of operating capital for use moving forward. As NIAS moved forward, there would be a need to upgrade a lot of the infrastructure in the state to support the industry. Mr. Armstrong said the funds would be used for ongoing efforts and to perform business development.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL MOVED TO APPROVE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$100,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND \$75,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2021 TO SUPPORT THE NEVADA INSTITUTE FOR AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS' EFFORTS IN DEVELOPING THE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS INDUSTRY IN NEVADA, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Frierson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Copeland said the next major closing issue was the Nevada Global Program (NGP) travel. The Governor recommended additional in-state and out-of-state travel to support the Nevada Global Program funded with General Funds of \$26,800 in each year of the 2019-2021 biennium. The program focused on companies first founded in foreign countries and ready to move headquarters and/or operations abroad, invest in Nevada, provide jobs, and transfer technology to Nevada. The NGP began at the end of fiscal year (FY) 2018, and the recommended funding would bring travel funds for the program up to the projected need for a full year of operation.

Ms. Copeland said the increased out-of-state travel in support of the NGP would be funded with \$10,000 in General Fund appropriations and was recommended in each year of the biennium. The agency indicated the funding would allow for two international trips at a cost of \$5,000 per trip. The Nevada Global Program was based on international partnerships, with each foreign partner helping to organize highly competitive selection processes in which foreign companies competed for selection to travel to Nevada and participate in boot camps in southern and northern Nevada.

Ms. Copeland said the Committee might wish to consider the following two options:

1. Approve additional out-of-state travel in support of the Nevada Global Program, funded with \$10,000 in General Funds of each year of the 2019-2021 biennium, which would provide two additional international trips.
2. Approve one-half of the Governor's recommendation for additional out-of-state travel in support of the Nevada Global Program, funded with \$5,000 in General Funds in each year of the 2019-2021 biennium, which would provide for one additional international trip.

Chair Carlton asked about the current number of trips allowed.

Ms. Copeland stated the amount expended in FY 2018 on out-of-state travel was approximately \$130,000: an additional \$10,000 would bring it to roughly \$140,000 per year in out-of-state travel in this budget account.

Chair Carlton commented that there was still confusion about how many actual trips were taken by the agency in FY 2018, and she wondered how many trips were actually taken if the agency expended \$130,000.

Kristopher Sanchez, Acting Executive Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), said the \$130,000 in expended funds was not just international travel, but also for conferences staff attended outside of the state. Mr. Sanchez said there were quite a number of conferences, but he did not have the exact number.

Chair Carlton asked how many international trips were taken in FY 2018.

Mr. Sanchez said in 2018 there were several international trips in support of the Governor as well as preparation for those trips.

Bonnie Long, Director of Administration, Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), stated that since those trips started late in the year, there had been only one trip that was specifically for the Nevada Global Program during the base year.

Chair Carlton clarified that there was only one trip for the Nevada Global Program, but there had been other trips for other reasons.

Ms. Long said that was correct: there had been trade missions that were conducted during the base year.

Chair Carlton said it was her understanding that trade missions were totally separate from this particular program, and Ms. Long replied that was correct.

Assemblywoman Neal wondered why the agency was talking about trade missions if trade missions were not a part of the expenditures of this account.

Mr. Sanchez apologized for creating confusion. He said the Nevada Global Program was related to Nevada's international effort, and the reason he mentioned the trade missions was that they were tied together, but funded out of a different account. Nevada Global was a new program that was set up in the beginning of last year as a pilot program. Mr. Sanchez said Nevada Global was attached to the international division, but separate from the trade mission activity.

Assemblywoman Neal noted that Mr. Sanchez had been with the international division for about six years, and she asked whether he knew how many trips he had been a part of; he responded that he knew the number.

Assemblywoman Jauregui requested clarification that the \$130,000 that was spent on the Nevada Global Program in FY 2018 only covered one international trip and out-of-state trips.

Ms. Long stated that what GOED was focusing on currently was just the Nevada Global piece, which was the director of special programs. There were seven trade missions last year that were part of the \$130,000.

Assemblywoman Jauregui asked whether the seven international trips just mentioned were part of the \$130,000, and not the one, which was previously stated.

Ms. Long said the one international trip was just for the Nevada Global Initiative.

Ms. Copeland commented that the category was out-of-state travel and that would include the trade missions and the Nevada Global Program.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno asked approximately how many staff members attended the trade mission and the global trips.

Mr. Sanchez explained there were several purposes for international trips. The beginning exploratory trips were taken to introduce the state of Nevada to foreign partners so they knew Nevada was a great place to do business and a great place to relocate, and it had a great business climate. He said to keep in mind that Nevada was competing in a global market and not just regionally. Typically, one or two staff members from the international division would make the initial trips and begin to identify a foreign partner to have a potential for exchange via investment in Nevada or for trade to promote Nevada companies and their exports. Often a return trip to that country would be indicated, and the agency would take members from higher education, members of the business community, and members of the community at large. Several approaches were taken, but mainly exploratory, which indicated a small staff presence. Mr. Sanchez said there would be missions that might require an additional staff person or more to support the delegation; it depended on the type of mission and its purpose that determined how many staff were traveling.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno referred to the partnership trips with the delegations and asked whether the delegates' expenses were included in this number or whether the delegation paid for their own travel expenses and Office of Economic Development, Office of the Governor (GOED), paid for additional staff to go with the delegation.

Mr. Sanchez said Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno was correct: GOED staff members were covered through the GOED budget, and all of the delegation members covered their own expenses for the trips.

Assemblywoman Titus stated for clarification that GOED had a budget for out-of-state travel in 2018 of \$135,000. That was what the Legislature had authorized, and the agency had spent roughly \$130,000 of that. The Governor recommended an increase from \$135,000 to \$140,000 for the next biennium and the agency was already awarded \$135,000, but only spent \$130,000, which Assemblywoman Titus said was why the numbers were a little confusing.

Ms. Copeland commented that the base budget was based on what the agency expended, not what had been authorized.

Assemblywoman Titus thanked Ms. Copeland for that clarification. She continued and said that \$130,000 was spent, seven trips were taken, Nevada was still responsible for \$130,000 on these trade missions, and there was no indication what the industries spent on those trips.

Mr. Sanchez said Assemblywoman Titus was correct.

Assemblywoman Titus said the agency had anticipated several trips to different countries and wanted \$140,000 in the future to continue expanding the missions, and Mr. Sanchez said that was correct.

Assemblywoman Titus asked where to find information regarding the anticipated economic gain from the trips and requested supporting information.

Mr. Sanchez stated that information was in the original hearing with respect to the budget.

Assemblywoman Titus requested that Mr. Sanchez refresh her memory regarding that information.

Mr. Sanchez said there was another component, which was the export piece. Export initiatives were typically focused through the state trade export promotion program, which was a Small Business Administration (SBA) grant. The numbers showed that the agency subgranted \$220,000 to 53 companies and had about \$3 million in contracts signed with Nevada companies seeking to export. Mr. Sanchez said there had been a return of about \$3 million in export dollars since 2015. On the export side, there was a pretty robust return, and in just the last 18 months, 7 companies from Poland had located here. According to Mr. Sanchez, the Nevada Global Program was the reason that had happened. There was a boot camp on the ground in Poland and a subsequent series of boot camps in Nevada for companies that were

interested in locating in the United States. Mr. Sanchez commented that the agency's intent was to have those companies locate in Nevada and not in another state.

Assemblywoman Neal asked whether there was any way to break out the expenditures to determine what GOED spent, what the industry spent, and what NSHE spent, so she could have an idea going forward of what amount each entity had expended.

Mr. Sanchez stated that GOED did not have any input into an individual company or how they spent funds. The exception would be if that company had received the SBA State Trade Export Program funds, because GOED would reimburse them for possibly the cost of a conference or the cost of a flight. However, with delegates, the agency did not have any input as to how they spent their own funds.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL IN SUPPORT OF THE NEVADA GLOBAL PROGRAM IN BUDGET ACCOUNT 1526, FUNDED WITH \$10,000 IN GENERAL FUNDS IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2019-2021 BIENNIUM, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE TWO ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL TRIPS.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Frierson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Copeland informed the Committee that related to the out-of-state travel were in-state travel and operating costs in support of the Nevada Global Program. The Governor recommended \$16,800 in General Funds in each year of the biennium. The agency indicated it experienced high turnover in the base year, and the Nevada Global Program was not operational for the entire base year, resulting in less travel costs being incurred. Ms. Copeland said the additional funding would allow travel between Reno, Carson City, and Las Vegas to facilitate the National Global Program boot camp and immersion programs. Boot camps provided a series of workshops to introduce participants to the Nevada Global Program, to the Nevada Market, to the platform, and to help companies prepare standardized presentations and materials to be sent to Nevada Global Program partners in Nevada for review. For the 2019-2021 biennium, GOED anticipated organizing 12 programs.

Ms. Copeland said the Committee might wish to consider the following two options:

1. Approve additional in-state travel and operating costs in support of the Nevada Global Program, funded with General Funds of \$16,800 in each year of the 2019-2021 biennium, which would allow for 12 Nevada Global Program boot camps.
2. Approve one-half of the Governor's recommendation for additional in-state travel and operating costs in support of the Nevada Global Program, funded with \$8,400 in each

year of the 2019-2021 biennium, which would allow for six Nevada Global Program boot camps.

Assemblywoman Titus asked whether the boot camps that had been previously held were attended at the maximum levels.

Ms. Copeland said from what she recalled from the documentation the agency provided, a Polish group came to Nevada with a number of businesses.

Assemblywoman Titus said the reason she asked was that the Committee was considering funding either 12 boot camps or 6 boot camps, and if the 12 boot camps were well attended and there was a need for 12, she would be supportive. However, if the camps were not fully utilized, she would support six. She wondered why there were two options and why the agency would want to cut back if the 12 boot camps previously held were successful.

Mr. Sanchez explained that the program would host an information session in the country that it was partnering with, and there might be 50 or 60 companies that attended those information sessions. These companies were considered "scale-ups" that were considering going to the United States to do business, and with GOED's partners throughout the state, four or five companies would be chosen to come to Nevada. There was a targeted amount, typically no more than five, and Mr. Sanchez wanted to ensure the program was effective for each company. Subsequently, those five companies would travel with GOED staff for one week in northern Nevada and one week in southern Nevada. Mr. Sanchez said, typically, those companies were funded by a government entity—a regional government or state government in the host country.

Assemblywoman Titus said that did not really answer her question. She wondered if GOED offered 12 boot camps, would it then have 60 companies at 5 companies per boot camp standing in line to be exposed to what Nevada had to offer.

Mr. Sanchez said the reason the agency was requesting additional support was because the demand was great. The program was expanding, and the agency intended to expand it beyond Poland. He noted that just in the Poland market, GOED already had three regional partners, and it could fill those boot camp slots.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL MOVED TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL IN-STATE TRAVEL AND OPERATING COSTS IN SUPPORT OF THE NEVADA GLOBAL PROGRAM, FUNDED WITH GENERAL FUNDS OF \$16,800 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2019-2021 BIENNIUM, WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR TWELVE NEVADA GLOBAL PROGRAM BOOT CAMPS.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Frierson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)



Chair Carlton noted that in budget account (BA) 1526, Fiscal staff recommended approval of Other Closing Items as recommended by the Governor, and requested authority to make technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL MOVED TO APPROVE OTHER CLOSING ITEMS IN BUDGET ACCOUNT 1526 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND TO AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Frierson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

BUDGET CLOSED.

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**COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
GOED - NEVADA FILM OFFICE (101-1527)  
BUDGET PAGE GOED-14**

Leannandra Copeland, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, presented budget account (BA) 1527, Nevada Film Office.

Chair Carlton said there were no major closing issues in this budget account and asked whether the Committee had any questions. Hearing no questions, Chair Carlton called for a motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL MOVED TO APPROVE BUDGET ACCOUNT 1527 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND TO AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NEEDED.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Frierson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

BUDGET CLOSED.

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Chair Carlton recessed the meeting at 10:11 a.m. and reconvened at 10:16 a.m.

**COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
GOED - RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (101-1528)  
BUDGET PAGE GOED-18**

Leannandra Copeland, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, presented budget account (BA) 1528, Rural Community Development.

Ms. Copeland reported that the major closing issue in this budget was additional out-of-state and in-state travel. The Governor recommended additional in-state and out-of-state travel and operating costs of \$16,662 in each year of the upcoming biennium, funded from a federal grant received from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In subsequent follow-up with the agency, the agency confirmed that the increase was to bring expenditures up to the maximum allowed for the grant, and there was no particular purpose for these funds or any trips planned. The agency further indicated that it would approach the Interim Finance Committee when it had a need for the funding if the Committee wished to not approve this enhancement.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL MOVED TO NOT APPROVE THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FOR \$16,662 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2019-2021 BIENNIUM TO FUND ADDITIONAL OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL, IN-STATE TRAVEL, AND OPERATING EXPENDITURES, AND INSTEAD, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE AGENCY REQUEST INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVAL FOR EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY WHEN A NEED FOR THE FUNDING WAS IDENTIFIED.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

Assemblyman Kramer said if the agency was applying for a HUD grant for travel through the state of Nevada for low-income needs, it seemed as though there should be a better idea of how many trips were needed, what the trips were for, and how the trips would be a benefit, because that information would be needed to apply for the grant.

Ms. Copeland said Fiscal staff typically required that the agencies provide the number of expected trips and a more detailed explanation of the funding. The federal grant would not be at risk, because it was an ongoing grant, and the agency had typically not used that level of travel in the past. In fiscal year (FY) 2018, approximately \$4,100 was spent on out-of-state and in-state travel in relation to the grant.

Assemblyman Kramer said that if the money to do this was needed and if IFC provided funds at a later time when the need was specifically identified, it would be funded with General Funds, whereas if the Department was required to apply for the HUD grant, the IFC money would not be needed. He saw no reason to deny the recommendation at this time.

Chair Carlton said she did not believe Assemblyman Kramer was interpreting the matter correctly, and she would have Ms. Jones clarify the motion. She did not believe there was any grant funding at risk.

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated Chair Carlton was correct. The agency had indicated that it included the maximum amount in the budget without determining the need for those trips. The motion recommended to not approve the enhancement for \$16,662 and to allow the agency to come back to the Interim Finance Committee with a work program to increase its authority to receive and expend additional grant funds once the trips were determined. She emphasized there were no General Funds involved.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Frierson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

BUDGET CLOSED.

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Ms. Copeland said Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommended approval of the Other Closing Item in BA 1528 as recommended by the Governor, with the technical adjustment noted by Fiscal staff. Fiscal staff requested authority to make technical adjustments to this budget as necessary.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE OTHER CLOSING ITEM IN BUDGET ACCOUNT 1528 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, WITH THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT NOTED BY FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF AND TO AUTHORIZE FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Frierson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

BUDGET CLOSED.

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**COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
GOED - PROCUREMENT OUTREACH PROGRAM (101-4867)  
BUDGET PAGE GOED-23**

Leannandra Copeland, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, presented budget account (BA) 4867, Procurement Outreach Program.

Ms. Copeland explained that the Procurement Outreach Program assisted Nevada businesses in obtaining federal government contracts. There were no major closing issues and Fiscal staff suggested approval of Other Closing Items 1, 2, and 3 as recommended by the Governor, and requested authority to make technical adjustments to this budget as necessary.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL MOVED TO APPROVE OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 1, 2, AND 3 IN BUDGET ACCOUNT 4867 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND TO AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson, Frierson, Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

BUDGET CLOSED.

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**COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
GOED - NEVADA CATALYST FUND (101-1529)  
BUDGET PAGE GOED-27**

Leannandra Copeland, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, presented budget account (BA) 1529, Nevada Catalyst Fund.

Ms. Copeland stated that the 2015 Legislature authorized the Governor's Office of Economic Development to issue and approve transferable tax credits to new or expanding businesses in Nevada to promote economic development in the state rather than issuing grants through the Catalyst account. The transferable tax credits were intended to supersede the Catalyst account. Accordingly, this budget last received General Fund support in fiscal year (FY) 2016, and the GOED indicated that it would continue to allocate the remaining balance of the Catalyst account until the funds were fully expended. The Executive Budget recommended the balance forward of unexpended funds totaling \$3.5 million to FY 2020. The agency projected the reserve balance at the end of the 2019-2021 biennium would be approximately \$745,000, and

GOED projected that it would have funds in the Catalyst Account through the 2021-2023 biennium.

Chair Carlton informed the Committee members that the Senate did not take a motion on BA 1529 and neither would the Assembly.

**COMMERCE & INDUSTRY**  
**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
**GOED - NEVADA SSBCI PROGRAM (101-1521)**  
**BUDGET PAGE GOED-28**

Leannandra Copeland, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, presented budget account (BA) 1521, Nevada State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Program.

Ms. Copeland explained that the program was designed to increase access to credit for small businesses. The major closing issue in the account was to revise the SSBCI program personnel costs. The Executive Budget recommended eliminating one filled nonclassified position from the SSBCI budget, and transferring the duties of the SSBCI program to the Rural Community Development director of the Rural Community Development budget. To account for time spent on the administration of the SSBCI programs, The Executive Budget recommended funding up to 10 percent of the Rural Community Development Director's salary with funding from the SSBCI budget if that position spent time on the program.

The Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) indicated that one position had been able to absorb both the SSBCI duties and the director of the Rural Community Development duties, allowing GOED to hold the Rural Community Development director position vacant since fiscal year (FY) 2015. The intent of this decision would be to transfer the position to the vacant position in the Rural Community Development budget with the duties and position title remaining the same. The GOED indicated that the duties associated with this budget included reviewing Credit Support Program (CSP) loan documents and negotiating agreements between GOED and the bank issuing the CSP loans.

Ms. Copeland said the other component of this budget account was the Battle Born Venture Fund. The duties associated with this Fund were limited, as the 2017 Legislature approved outsourcing of the program.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI MOVED TO APPROVE THE ELIMINATION OF THE NONCLASSIFIED POSITION IN BUDGET ACCOUNT 1521 AND TRANSFER THE INCUMBENT TO A VACANT POSITION IN THE RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BUDGET, RESULTING IN A SAVINGS OF \$242,530 OVER THE 2019-2021 BIENNIUM; AND APPROVE THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS NOTED BY FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Copeland explained that decision unit Enhancement (E) 49 would establish personnel costs associated with the SSBCI program. The time spent on the SSBCI program varied depending on the workload of the CSP deals requested each year, and historically, there had been about three deals per year. The GOED instructed the director of the Rural Community Development Program to track time spent on activities related to the SSBCI and the Rural Community Development Programs to ensure the position's costs were being properly accounted for.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL MOVED TO APPROVE FUNDING OF UP TO 10 PERCENT OF THE RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S SALARY, OR \$8,910 PER FISCAL YEAR, WITH FUNDING FROM THE STATE SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT INITIATIVE (SSBCI) BUDGET IF THAT POSITION SPENT TIME ON THE SSBCI PROGRAM, AND TO AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NEEDED.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Hambrick, Swank, and Wheeler were not present for the vote.)

BUDGET CLOSED.

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**COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
GOED - WORKFORCE INNOVATIONS FOR A NEW NEVADA ACCT (101-1531)  
BUDGET PAGE GOED-33**

Leannandra Copeland, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, presented budget account (BA) 1531, Workforce Innovations for a New Nevada account.

Chair Carlton informed the Committee that the Senate had taken no action on budget account (BA) 1531, Workforce Innovations for a New Nevada (WINN) account, and therefore, the Assembly would not be taking any action. She said there would be a quick review, and if the members had any questions those would be addressed, but no motion would be proposed.

Ms. Copeland stated the Governor recommended General Fund appropriations of \$4 million in fiscal year (FY) 2020 for the WINN account. As set forth in *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 231.151, the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) may carry forward funds in even-numbered years, and in odd-numbered years those funds would revert to the General Fund. Concerning that \$4 million, any unexpended funds would be available for use in FY 2021. Ms. Copeland noted the GOED indicated the WINN projects aligned with the State Economic Development Plan and fell within targeted industry sectors. The GOED further indicated that the current agreements for all existing projects expired in FY 2019; however, it had provided a list of potential new WINN projects totaling \$3,270,000.

For reference, Assembly Bill (A.B.) 32 would allow any remaining funds in the WINN budget at the end of any fiscal year to be balanced forward to the next fiscal year, rather than reverting the remaining funds to the General Fund in odd-numbered years. The GOED indicated there was approximately \$1.2 million that would balance forward into FY 2020, if A.B. 32 passed.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson wanted to clarify that the allocation would only be in one year, but the authorization would be for GOED to be able to spend that money over two years. Ms. Copeland confirmed that was correct.

Assemblywoman Titus stated that under the list of potential future projects submitted, she noticed different colleges, universities, and technical schools throughout the state of Nevada, which was excellent. She noted there was at least one private institute on the list, and she was under the impression the allocation would go to Nevada schools. While she did not necessarily object to a private school, she needed some clarification that the funds had been used in the past for private institutes, not just Nevada public schools.

Ms. Copeland said she could not recall past projects, but perhaps the agency could provide that information.

Derek Armstrong, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development, stated that in the 2016 Special Session, the definition of authorized provider, or the educational institutions, included both private and public schools and labor organizations, as well as some other authorized providers of education. He said the one project that Assemblywoman Titus had identified was the first project outside of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) institutions.

Assemblywoman Titus asked whether this was the first time an application not from NSHE had been submitted.

Mr. Armstrong said there were two institutions that applied at one time, so that had been the only application received outside of NSHE at this point.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson noted that at least three of the potential projects were in mining, and she thought GOED was supposed to be about new business and new industry in Nevada. Mining was a historical industry in Nevada and not one that was typically thought of

as needing GOED investment. She asked Mr. Armstrong for more information about prospective projects for mining.

Mr. Armstrong mentioned that GOED sponsored projects outside of new businesses, because there were different industries in the state plan that fell under economic development, including mining.

Stacey Bostwick, Workforce Development Program Coordinator, Governor's Office of Economic Development, explained that to date, GOED supported four different sectors, and what WINN tried to accomplish was not just about supporting new businesses, but supporting changes within those critical sectors and industries. Ms. Bostwick said one of the things that was important to note for the mining sector was shifts in technologies and systems. That was one critical component of the investment in mining. The second component, and the most important one for rural and local communities, was for local consortiums and stakeholders to identify urgent needs. Ms. Bostwick said the projects that WINN funded that were within the mining sector were born of those local consortiums and partners coming around the table to figure out how to problem-solve critical needs within those industries in Ely and in Elko.

**COMMERCE & INDUSTRY**  
**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
**GOED - NEVADA KNOWLEDGE FUND (101-1533)**  
**BUDGET PAGE GOED-35**

Chair Carlton stated that the Senate did not take action on this budget item, and therefore the Assembly would not be taking action. The Committee would hear a review, and Committee members were free to ask any questions.

Leannandra Copeland, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, presented budget account (BA) 1533, Nevada Knowledge Fund.

Ms. Copeland stated the purpose of the Knowledge Fund was to spur research and the commercialization of that research. Historically, this budget account had been appropriated \$5 million in each year for the past three biennia, bringing the total investment in this account to \$30 million. The Governor recommended General Fund appropriations of \$5 million in each year of the biennium to support the Knowledge Fund, which if approved, would bring the total General Fund support to \$40 million in transfers to the Nevada System of Higher Education over the four biennia. Ms. Copeland said the Committee inquired into the rationale for distributing funds through GOED to the research universities and the Desert Research Institute rather than providing the funds directly to those entities. The GOED responded that by having the funds allocated through GOED, it ensured the funds were directed toward projects consistent with the state plan for economic development.

The Knowledge Fund was a continuing fund without reversion, allowing any remaining balance at the end of a fiscal year to be carried forward into the next fiscal year, and the agency projected there would be approximately \$2 million recommended to balance forward into fiscal



year (FY) 2020. There were 13 Knowledge Fund projects, and the agency had provided a number of indicators in regard to the return on investment. When asked how the agency intended to spend the \$10 million recommended for the 2019-2021 biennium, the agency indicated that it would consider two options. The first one was to establish a competitive pool for Knowledge Fund projects, and the second option would be continued support of existing research.

Chair Carlton reiterated that the Committee would not be taking a motion, but it was a good time for any questions or comments. She noticed there had been \$30 million of General Fund invested in the program, and there was still no return on investment numbers for this account.

Ms. Copeland said the agency indicated there had been no commercialization revenue associated with the state's investment; however, it did indicate that it had revised its contract with the research entities to broaden the language, which would make it easier for GOED to collect commercialization revenue.

Assemblywoman Neal had a question regarding the Nevada Institute of Personalized Medicine, which had been around since 2014, and she wondered what data or information was available about the program. She had been interested to find out if students at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) were being integrated into those programs versus just professors. She was curious about that program because health was a huge issue.

Karsten Heise, Director, Strategic Programs, Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), noted that in statute when the Knowledge Fund was founded, one of the main objectives was to include impact faculty. Impact faculty was defined as faculty who were entrepreneurial in their research. That research, in collaboration with the research teams that could include students, would then spin-out the technologies or license the technologies to companies. As part of the metrics that were in statute, the agency had included students being placed in internships, either with companies within the cluster where the university was operating or especially for the applied research centers that were under consideration, such as the Nevada Center for Applied Research at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) or the Nevada Institute of Personalized Medicine (NIPM) at UNLV. That project would be worked on with students' assistance, as well as having students integrated into those projects.

Assemblywoman Neal asked how many jobs had come from this program, because it was supposed to improve education and workforce training, but also promote job creation. She wondered whether the students who had participated in the program ended up with a job.

Mr. Heise stated he did not have exact numbers with him, but the universities, through the Knowledge Fund, enabled students to work on projects with industry and exposed those students to a potential future employer. The probability of the student staying in the state was one of the main objectives of the Knowledge Fund, and at the same time, employment opportunities increased tremendously.

Mr. Heise referred to the return on investment (ROI) statement and said he wanted to make sure that the Committee understood that grants and donations received by projects in the amount of \$33,993,319 and sponsored research contracts obtained of \$9,972,704 did not refer to funds received by the Knowledge Fund, but were funds that the Knowledge Fund sponsored. Mr. Heise noted that more than \$40 million in aggregate had been received with support from \$30 million from the Knowledge Fund. He believed this was a very positive ROI.

Chair Carlton said it appeared that the difference in the discussion point was that when this was originally proposed, it was about doing the research to bring new businesses to Nevada, and the commercialization component was a significant part of that discussion. Chair Carlton realized that research took a long time, but asked whether this was going to be a research appropriation or if the program was going to stick with the original intent.

Mr. Heise said he understood that concern and assured the Committee that it was the agency's intent to keep the original plan in place and to focus on commercialization. When the Knowledge Fund was first put into statute, the agency looked at Utah, and its program was very heavy on impact faculty and non-commercialization. When Nevada's Knowledge Fund began, Mr. Heise looked at the universities and what was available as a base to build upon, and it had not been very much. The agency had to create the base first, and a lot of money was spent over the first three biennia to build capacity. Going forward the response was to focus more on commercialization.

Chair Carlton called for public comment.

Sarah M. Adler, Principal, Silver State Government Relations, read the following statement into the record:

Today we celebrate denim day, part of sexual assault awareness month, and a visible pushback to cultures around the world that perpetrate sexual violence and also a way to stand up for victim survivors.

Sexual assault is a significant problem in our nation and in our state. I will share one statistic with you. In Nevada in 2017, there were 1,865 reported rapes, which was an 8 percent increase from 2016. Yet rape is considered to be the most underreported crime in our state. It is estimated that 63 percent of sexual assaults are never reported to police. We of the coalition appreciate those of you sporting denim today, and moreover, we appreciate all of you and your support of the many important pieces of legislation addressing sexual assault, sexual harassment, sex trafficking, and domestic violence that have been introduced this session.

In particular, we bring your attention to Assembly Bill (A.B.) 176, the sexual assault survivor's bill of rights, which has a significant fiscal note attached to it and is with your Committee. While it is a sizable amount of funds, we have no funding stream in Nevada for sexual assault other than the rape crisis center of

Las Vegas, which receives some of the domestic violence license funds. We appreciate your attention to all of these matters, and we look forward to working with you on A.B. 176.

Chair Carlton called for further public comment, and hearing none, adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Anne Bowen  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair

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

## **EXHIBITS**

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

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