

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**Eightieth Session
May 24, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Finance was called to order by Chair Joyce Woodhouse at 8:25 a.m. on Friday, May 24, 2019, in Room 2134 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4412 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Chair
Senator Moises Denis
Senator Yvanna D. Cancela
Senator Chris Brooks
Senator James A. Settelmeyer
Senator Ben Kieckhefer
Senator Pete Goicoechea

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator David R. Parks, Vice Chair (Excused)

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop, Senatorial District No. 8
Senator James Ohrenschall, Senatorial District No. 21
Senator Melanie Scheible, Senatorial District No. 9

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Krmpotic, Senate Fiscal Analyst
Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Felicia Archer, Committee Secretary
Desirae Munns, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michael Hackett, Nevada Primary Care Association
Elisa Cafferata, Planned Parenthood Votes Nevada
DuAne Young, Deputy Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, Department of Health and Human Services
Amy Davey, Administrator, Office of Traffic Safety, Department of Public Safety
Pete Vander Aa, Program Administrator, Program for the Education of Motorcycle Riders, Office of Traffic Safety, Department of Public Safety
Victoria Hauan, Manager, Impaired Driving Program, Office of Traffic Safety, Department of Public Safety
April Sanborn, DMV Services Manager 3, Management Services and Programs Division, Department of Motor Vehicles
Susan Fisher, Piaggio Fast Forward
Ward Patrick, Administrator, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration
Kacey KC, State Forester Firewarden, Division of Forestry, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Colonel John O'Rourke, Chief, Nevada Highway Patrol, Department of Public Safety
Mandi Davis, Deputy Administrator, Administrative Services, Division of Child and Family Services, Department of Health and Human Services
Susie Miller, Deputy Administrator, Residential Services, Division of Child and Family Services, Department of Health and Human Services
Susan Brown, Director, Office of Finance, Office of the Governor
David Walker, Chief Executive Officer, Nevada Museum of Art
Michael Hillerby
Paul Moradkhan, Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce
Tick Segerblom, Commissioner, District E, Clark County Commission
Felicia Denney, Chief, Financial Management Division, Department of Transportation
David Bobzien, Director, Office of Energy, Office of the Governor
Carrie Embree, Governor's Consumer Health Advocate, Office of Minority Health and Equity, Department of Health and Human Services
Homa Woodrum, Chief Advocacy Attorney, Aging and Disability Services Division, Department of Health and Human Services
Jill Berntson
Alex Ortiz, Clark County

Senate Committee on Finance
May 24, 2019
Page 3

Nicole Thomas, Public Guardian, Douglas County
Angie Santos, Detective, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Troyce Krumme, Sergeant, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Natha Anderson, President, Washoe County Education Association
Chris Daly, Nevada State Education Association
Michelle Booth, Educate Nevada Now
Michele Sanchez-Boyce, Ph.D.
Jessica Lunardelli
Cori Zancanella
Calen Evans
Tom Wellman, President, Nevada State Education Association—Retired
Gerri North, President, Clark Retired Education Association
Harry Beall, Nevada State Education Association—Retired
Sylvia Lazos, Nevada Immigrant Coalition
Elisa Martinez
Cecia Alvarado, Nevada State Director, Mi Familia Vota
Tyler Daykin, Ph.D.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I will open the meeting on Senate Bill (S.B.) 344.

SENATE BILL 344: Revises Medicaid reimbursement rates related to family planning services. (BDR 38-743)

SENATOR MELANIE SCHEIBLE (Senatorial District No. 9):

We have three ideas to help improve access to medical care for Nevadans, especially for rural Nevadans. These ideas do not cost any money. Two of the ideas are reflected in the proposed amendment ([Exhibit C](#)). The proposed amendment for S.B. 344 implements two different policies.

Section 1, subsection 1, [Exhibit C](#), indicates that a provider of family planning services is able to utilize grant money for long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARC). These devices are long-acting intrauterine devices, implants and physical medical devices utilized for contraceptive purposes that are currently not covered with grant funds. Clinics have to pay costs upfront for these devices. Section 1, subsection 2 prohibits any copayments for Medicaid recipients for those kind of services. The proposed amendment allows the fiscal note for S.B. 344 to be removed.

MICHAEL HACKETT (Nevada Primary Care Association):

The proposed amendment does two things. First, it will allow providers of family planning services, including the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), to use other sources of money in addition to Medicaid reimbursement to cover or help offset the cost of contraceptive devices and supplies ordered for Medicaid participants. This is important because Medicaid rules do not allow FQHCs to bill a device separate from the visit. The FQHC must often write off the cost of the device in order to provide the service. In the case of LARCs, which are among the most effective methods of contraception, this can translate to health centers losing up to \$500 per patient.

The proposed change would allow health centers to use other funds to cover the cost for the contraceptive devices and supplies, which in turn would make LARCs available to more patients while Medicaid reimbursement continues to cover the office visit. Recent guidelines from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) emphasize the need for states to eliminate regulatory and payment barriers to access these services. Other states have amended their state plans to allow this, including New York, Illinois, Georgia and Maryland.

The second provision would prohibit any efforts to require copays from Medicaid participants. This idea is gaining traction within CMS guidance. We have seen this practice play out in other states, including Arizona, Indiana, Michigan, Iowa and Montana. This provision would serve to protect a vulnerable population. The provision is in line with efforts from last Session to further protect Nevadans by putting into statute provisions from the Affordable Care Act, such as those for women's preventive health services and preexisting conditions.

ELISA CAFFERATA (Planned Parenthood Votes Nevada):

We support S.B. 344. There is an incredible need for increased access to family planning around the State, particularly in rural Nevada. In 2010, the last year for which we have records, the State spent \$6 million on family planning. This resulted in Medicaid cost savings of over \$30 million by allowing women to start their families when they wanted and receive treatment for sexual transmitted diseases and other reproductive health care needs. It is great to have a bill that does not have a fiscal note but which provides significant savings and improved health care outcomes.

DUANE YOUNG (Deputy Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, Department of Health and Human Services):

One of the barriers to family planning services within Nevada is that clinics are not able to pay for LARCs upfront and access the Medicaid reimbursement. They are not able to offer these services to those in need. The proposed amendment would allow the clinics to access these grant funds so the clinics can receive the Medicaid reimbursement. The Medicaid reimbursement is tied to the actual visit. Nevada Medicaid does not currently impose any copays. The proposed amendment, [Exhibit C](#), would not affect our current practices.

A forthcoming amendment will add community health workers under a medical model. The Division of Health Care Financing and Policy has determined the addition of the medical model will not change the fiscal impact of the bill. We are neutral to S.B. 344.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We have your fiscal note from March 27, 2019, of \$163,500 in fiscal year (FY) 2019-2020 and \$114,284 in FY 2020-2021. Has the fiscal note been removed?

MR. YOUNG:

With the proposed amendments, the fiscal note has been removed.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

This is correct. I will be submitting an amendment before the work session to also include community health workers. Long-acting reversible contraceptives are an important way for women to access birth control without having to take a pill every day, go to a clinic every week or see a doctor for additional contraceptive needs.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I will open the hearing on S.B. 408.

SENATE BILL 408 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to public safety.
(BDR 43-805)

SENATOR MARILYN DONDERO LOOP (Senatorial District No. 8):

This bill addresses four important safety issues: trimobiles and mopeds, pedestrian crossing signs, mobile carrying devices and ignition interlock devices.

Amendment Nos. 326 and 535 to S.B. 408 were adopted by the Senate on April 22, 2019. The amendments remove the fiscal impact to the State.

The skills needed to operate a three-wheel motorcycle are different from those required to operate a two-wheel motorcycle; therefore, training and required testing needs to be different. The 2016-2020 Nevada Strategic Highway Safety Plan recommends revising the definition of a trimobile. The Plan noted that a trimobile operator is currently only required to possess a class C license, so there is little incentive for the rider to take a trimobile training class. Requiring a motorcycle endorsement certifies the rider possesses the skills needed to operate his or her vehicle safely.

Sections 1 and 6 of S.B. 408 clarify that, for the purposes of vehicle registration and traffic laws, a vehicle designed to travel with three wheels in contact with the ground must be equipped with handlebars and a saddle seat to meet the definition of a trimobile. Section 8 of the bill requires a driver or a passenger on a trimobile or moped to wear protective headgear.

Section 9 of the bill authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Program for the Education of Motorcycle Riders to include instruction for a trimobile or moped. Section 10 stipulates that a person who holds a driver's license is eligible to enroll in the Program.

The Senate Committee on Growth and Infrastructure proposed an amendment to the original version of the bill to remove the \$6 motorcycle safety fee on all moped registrations. This amendment removed the two-thirds majority vote requirement originally placed on the bill. This amendment, Amendment No. 326, was adopted by the Senate on April 22, 2019.

In 2017, the Departments of Public Safety (DPS) and Transportation reported 100 persons died in pedestrian crashes. Pedestrian crossing signs keep pedestrians and drivers alert and safe.

Section 3 of S.B. 408 clarifies that when a countdown timer is included with a pedestrian signal exhibiting the words "walk," "wait" or "don't walk," a pedestrian may cross a roadway when such a signal is flashing, so long as the pedestrian completes the crossing before the countdown timer reaches zero. The bill also revises references to certain symbols displayed by crosswalk signals, including a walking person symbol and an upraised hand symbol.

Amendment No. 535 was adopted by the Senate on April 22, 2019. The amendment provided provisions governing the operation of a mobile carrying device on sidewalks and in crosswalks. These provisions are contained in sections 2.5 and 2.7 of the current version of the bill. This amendment has no fiscal impact on the State.

Currently, a court must order a person who is convicted of certain offenses involving driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicating liquor, controlled substance or a combination of both to install an ignition interlock device. The device must be installed for a period of not less than 185 days unless the violation was punishable as a felony or vehicular homicide, the person proximately caused the death of or substantial bodily injury to another person, or the person was found to have had a concentration of alcohol of 0.18 percent or more in his or her breath. If any of those conditions are met, the interlock device must be installed for a period of not less than 12 months or more than 36 months.

Section 4 of S.B. 408 clarifies that such a person is only required to install the ignition interlock device for the longer time period if one of the previously listed conditions is met. The result of the change is that regardless of whether or not a blood or breath test was administered or whether the results or lack of results was used in the defense of the person, the person is eligible for the shorter period of required use of an ignition interlock device, so long as none of the previously listed conditions are met.

Section 4 also eliminates from the list of exemptions a determination by the court that requiring the person to install a device would cause the person to experience an economic hardship. Also eliminated from the list of exemptions are requirements for the use of a motor vehicle to travel to and from work in the scope of employment and the need to obtain medicine, food and other necessities or health care services for the person or a family member of the person.

Sections 4 and 5 of S.B. 408 require the manufacturer of an ignition interlock device or an agent of the manufacturer to notify the court if the device has been tampered with.

A fiscal note for the moped and trimobile fees was placed on the original version of the bill but has been removed.

Senate Committee on Finance
May 24, 2019
Page 8

AMY DAVEY (Administrator, Office of Traffic Safety, Department of Public Safety):

I am here with other representatives of the DPS to help answer questions about the bill language pertaining to trimobiles, mopeds or ignition interlock devices.

SENATOR DENIS:

Section 9 changes the definition of motorcycle to include moped. Does this change require insurance for a moped?

PETE VANDER AA (Program Administrator, Program for the Education of Motorcycle Riders, Office of Traffic Safety, Department of Public Safety):

I am the Administrator of the motorcycle safety program. The change is just to include mopeds in the training program. The change does not address anything regarding insurance or the related requirements.

SENATOR DENIS:

Does this require moped riders who do not have a motorcycle license but who have a regular license to take the motorcycle safety course?

MR. VANDER AA:

No, it just makes the regular license holders eligible and allows the program to train moped riders.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Senator Dondero Loop, I got lost in your description of the changes taking place in section 4 of S.B. 408 as it relates to when interlock devices need to be installed. Can you walk through that section again?

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

Section 4 addresses the potential economic hardship faced by a person who is required to install a device. Is this where you need more of an explanation?

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

It looks like S.B. 408 strikes out some of that language. Under current law, there is an exemption if someone needs to drive to work. Does this eliminate that exemption?

VICTORIA HAUAN (Manager, Impaired Driving Program, Office of Traffic Safety, Department of Public Safety):

The intent of section 4 is to clean up and eliminate the exemption for economic hardship because affordability is addressed elsewhere in S.B. 408.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

I am specifically concerned about section 4, subsection 2, paragraph (b) regarding travel to and from work in the scope of a person's employment or to obtain medicine and food. Is that addressed elsewhere?

Ms. HAUAN:

It is addressed elsewhere in the bill. The person can still be exempt if he or she is driving an employer's car. That is an allowable exception. However, if the person is just going to and from work, he or she would still need an ignition interlock device to ensure he or she is driving alcohol-free.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

The change to section 4, subsection 1, paragraph (a) is not clear. Can you explain this change?

Ms. HAUAN:

This identifies the specific violations for alcohol and controlled substances that will require an ignition interlock. The ignition interlock requirement is currently tied to the .018 blood alcohol level. The .018 requirement is removed in the bill; instead, a person convicted of any the identified violations will be required to have an ignition interlock for 185 days. If a person receives any of the other more severe convictions, an ignition interlock would be required for 12 to 36 months.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

Could a representative from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) address the fiscal note from April 4, 2019?

APRIL SANBORN (DMV Services Manager 3, Management Services and Programs Division, Department of Motor Vehicles):

The removal of the \$6 motorcycle fee removed the DMV's fiscal note. To Senator Denis' previous question, insurance is not required for a moped.

SENATOR DENIS:

I know insurance is not required for a moped. I wanted to make sure that redefining a moped as a motorcycle did not change the insurance requirement.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

In your fiscal note, you indicated the in-house programming hours can be absorbed by the DMV. Is that correct?

MS. SANBORN:

That is correct; we can absorb those hours.

SUSAN FISHER (Piaggio Fast Forward):

I have submitted a fact sheet about "gita" ([Exhibit D](#)), a mobile carrying device designed by Piaggio Fast Forward. We appreciate Senator Dondero Loop allowing us to use S.B. 408 to enact legal changes necessary for the operation of our vehicle. The definition of a mobile carrying device is included in sections 1.5, 2.5 and 2.7 of S.B. 408. These sections were added in an amendment presented on the Senate Floor and carry no fiscal notes.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I will open the hearing on S.B. 519.

SENATE BILL 519: Makes an appropriation to the Office of Finance for a Snowcat vehicle for winter access to the pump house and dam at Marlette Lake. (BDR S-1228)

WARD PATRICK (Administrator, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration):

Senate Bill 519 is a funding request for a Snowcat to service the Marlette Lake water system in the winter. The system provides raw water to Carson City and Storey County. The Snowcat is a snowplow with tracks for wintertime work. The current method for servicing the Marlette Lake water system is to use two snowmobiles. The snowmobile equipment is at the end of its useful life, and parts are difficult to obtain for pieces of equipment made in 2003. Assessing the system with snowmobiles is dangerous. It limits the ability to take tools and equipment up to the system for repairs. Contractors are prevented from accessing the system because they are not allowed to use the snowmobiles. These problems would be solved with the solution proposed in S.B. 519.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I will open the hearing on S.B. 525.

SENATE BILL 525: Makes appropriations to the Division of Forestry for equipment and maintenance. (BDR S-1179)

KACEY KC (State Forester Firewarden, Division of Forestry, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources):

Senate Bill 525 makes appropriations to the Division of Forestry for equipment and deferred maintenance. Section 1 is an appropriation for the replacement of one helicopter. The Division currently operates three Bell UH-1H helicopters primarily for initial attack response to wildland fires. One of those helicopters is owned by Nevada, the other two are on loan from the U.S. Forest Service through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program.

The helicopters range in age from 48 to 52 years old with airframe times from 6,000 to 8,500 flight hours. They have reached the end of their useful life, and it is time to start looking at replacements for these helicopters. The helicopters we run were produced in the 1960s for utilization by the U.S. Army. The army ended their use in 2005; we obtained those excess helicopters from the Army.

Parts for these helicopters are no longer available on the market as they are no longer produced. We have stockpiled about three to seven years of parts to fix the helicopters, as long as they continue to break in a fashion that allows us to keep a stockpile. Mechanical support for these helicopters is readily available. The Division employs mechanics for small mechanical issues. We have to transport the helicopters to Redding, California, for repairs larger than what we can handle in our offices.

We looked at multiple replacement options for this service in the State. This particular purchase is the cheapest option in both the initial cost outlay as well as the long-term maintenance costs for the aircraft. These are used airframes with low-flight hours, but a new engine will be put into the used airframe, so the helicopters will come to the Division like new helicopters.

This is a similar contract to the one the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) recently used to purchase two aircraft. Our contract is for a larger version of the same helicopter because we carry helitack crews and drop the crews into the fire first. Those initial attack forces are the ones suppressing the fire

immediately and telling all aircraft support and the helicopter where to drop water.

This purchase is highly efficient for the Nevada Division of Forestry and the NDOW because the helicopter hangers are directly across the parking lot from each other. Having the same aircraft would allow us to share pilots and mechanics across our mission areas. The original request for the replacement of the helicopter was \$4.5 million. The revised quote is \$4,610,000 which is an increase of \$110,000.

Section 2 of S.B. 525 is an appropriation for the replacement of six wood chippers. We currently operate multiple chippers daily on natural resource, wildland fire suppression and rehabilitation projects. This appropriation would replace six of our worn chippers that have diameters too small for the required work with three larger diameter chippers for large diameter tree stock and three medium diameter chippers for brush.

The current chippers range from 12 to 18 years old and have many usage miles. We have had three catastrophic failures this year in chippers and on-the-blade failures. This replacement is necessary for the natural resource work we do every day. The original request for the replacement of 6 chippers was \$485,088. The revised quote is \$517,017.

Section 3 is an appropriation for the replacement of four Agency vehicles. Two are forester II fire protection officer trucks. Their daily job is fuel reduction around Nevada. Those trucks are also equipped with initial attack response capacity. Both of these vehicles are in the rural areas; one is in Pioche, and the other is in Ely.

The other vehicles included in the request are mechanic service trucks. The mechanic service trucks provide service to all of our vehicles around the State. The trucks also respond to wildland fires in support of other vehicles which encounter issues while suppressing wildland fires. The four vehicles to be replaced each have close to 200,000 miles and range from 10 to 25 years old. The original replacement cost for the 4 vehicles is \$711,651. The revised quote is \$729,518.

Section 4 is for deferred maintenance in the general forestry budget account for buildings across the State. To create the request, we worked with the

Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) staff on the average of what we spent in the last two biennia. The original request was for \$259,544. The revised amount is \$510,000.

Section 5 of S.B. 525 is the appropriation for the replacement of three mobile incident kitchen trailers for the Division. We have three Sonoma mobile incident kitchen trailers that primarily provide service for wildland fire response, feeding firefighters on small fires across Nevada. The kitchens are also used to feed natural resource project crews camping on the sites of large projects. The Nevada Division of Forestry received these three excess kitchens from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in 1985. We have done a good job of piecemealing them together for the last 35 years; however, they are in need of replacement.

The kitchens are mostly used to feed firefighters responding to small incidents. By contract, the mobile trailers can only feed a maximum of 150 people per meal each day. Meal service for larger fires goes to a national catering contractor. In the past, when national caterers were not available we have at times provided meals by mobilizing multiple kitchens to one fire in order to maintain the service for firefighters. The original quote for the replacement of the 3 kitchens is \$218,295. The revised quote is \$243,126.

Section 6 is the appropriation for the replacement of ten crew carriers for the Nevada Division of Forestry. The crew carriers are for conservation camp crews which do natural resource management projects every day and respond to wildland fires across Nevada and into California. These vehicles range from 13 to 15 years old and have well over 200,000 miles on each of them. Unfortunately, these are not highway miles. All of these projects are off the highway, and these vehicles take a lot of wear and tear. These vehicles have a crew carrier in the front and room for 10 to 12 inmates in the back. The original replacement cost of 10 crew carriers was \$2,234,850. The revised quote cost is \$2,527,420.

Section 7 of S.B. 525 is an appropriation for deferred maintenance in the conservation camp program. We have nine conservation camps across the State. Working with LCB, we looked at an average cost of expenditures over the last biennia. The original request was for \$2,103,642. The updated request is for \$310,000. The original request for all of these items was \$12,848,070. The updated cost is \$9,447,081.

Section 8, subsection 2 puts a deadline of June 30, 2020, on sections 6 and 7, the requests for the crew carriers and the deferred maintenance for the conservation camps. The Division would like to change the deadline to match that in section 8, subsection 1 which allows the request to be completed over both years of the biennium. The crew carriers are custom buildups that have to go out to bid and are not readily commercially available. Many groups do not have these types of crews, so it often takes longer than one year to get those trucks built.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I am concerned about section 3. This seems expensive for four vehicles. Are the two pickups one ton four-wheel drive trucks with a slide-in pump apparatus in the back, or are they more extensive than that?

Ms. KC:

That is what they are.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Service trucks can cost a lot of money, but you already have two in existence. What are you doing with those boxes?

Ms. KC:

Anything that can be salvaged will be moved over. All the equipment that is still useable will be moved onto the new trucks. We have eight mechanics around the State. If any parts of the vehicles are useable, they will move them onto other vehicles.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Is this request only for two service trucks?

Ms. KC:

Yes.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

That puts the cost for each truck at around a quarter million dollars.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Sections 1 through 5 of S.B. 525 are coming out of the current fiscal year, but sections 6 and 7 are coming out of the next biennium. Is there a reason it is budgeted like that?

MARK KRMPOTIC (Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau):

This is the way the recommendations came over from the Governor's Executive Budget. In addition to the amendments and adjustments noted by Ms. KC, Fiscal staff recommends that section 9, subsection 2 become effective on passage and approval instead of becoming effective July 1, 2019. Fiscal staff recommends the same change for the request for the Snowcat in S.B. 519.

SENATOR DENIS:

A lot of equipment is included on this replacement list. What percentage of your current equipment is represented in this request? It looks like you are replacing everything all at once.

Ms. KC:

We have a lot more than this. This represents less than 5 percent of our current fleet. The actual need is much larger, and this is the compromise we came to.

SENATOR GOICOCHEA:

The ten crew buggies are probably the most critical in all of this because they have to respond. There is nothing like having a crew of inmates who have to wait for a wrecker to show up. That is problematic especially if they are on the scene. A lot of these costs seem high, but this equipment is very expensive.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE:

This is specialized equipment needed in order to do a difficult job. I will open the hearing on S.B. 526.

SENATE BILL 526: Makes appropriations to the Nevada Highway Patrol for the replacement of patrol vehicles and motorcycles. (BDR S-1223)

COLONEL JOHN O'ROURKE (Chief, Nevada Highway Patrol, Department of Public Safety):

Senate Bill 526 makes appropriations to the Nevada Highway Patrol for the replacement of patrol vehicles and motorcycles. Section 1 is an appropriation of \$13,282,242 from the State Highway Fund to the Nevada Highway Patrol for the replacement of patrol vehicles and motorcycles. We propose to remove the word "motorcycles" in section 1.

Section 2 is an appropriation of \$256,712 from the State Highway Fund to the Nevada Highway Patrol for the replacement of patrol vehicles. We propose to remove the word "vehicles" from section 2 and change it to "motorcycles". Those are the only two corrections which we request be made to S.B. 526.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE:

Seeing no questions or comments on S.B. 526, I will open the hearing on S.B. 527.

SENATE BILL 527: Makes appropriations to the Division of Child and Family Services for deferred maintenance projects and security camera system upgrades at various facilities. (BDR S-1245)

MANDI DAVIS (Deputy Administrator, Administrative Services, Division of Child and Family Services, Department of Health of Human Services):

Senate Bill 527 makes General Fund appropriations to the Division of Child and Family Services for deferred maintenance projects, replacement equipment and security camera system upgrades at various facilities throughout the Division.

Sections 1 and 2 include a total of \$341,858 for deferred maintenance projects and replacement kitchen and laundry equipment at the Caliente Youth Center. Section 3 includes \$780,206 for deferred maintenance projects at the Nevada Youth Training Center in Elko. Section 4 includes \$113,396 for security camera system upgrades at the Adolescent Treatment Center, the Family Learning Homes and the administration building for the Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services campus in Reno. Section 5 includes \$204,240 for deferred maintenance projects throughout the Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services campus in Las Vegas. Section 6 includes \$308,723 for deferred maintenance projects at the Summit View Youth Center in Las Vegas. We do not have any amendments to those dollar amounts.

Senate Committee on Finance
May 24, 2019
Page 17

SUSIE MILLER (Deputy Administrator, Residential Services, Division of Child and Family Services, Department of Health and Human Services):
I am here to answer any additional questions on S.B. 527.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

Seeing no questions or comments on S.B. 527, I will open the hearing on S.B. 533.

SENATE BILL 533: Makes an appropriation to the Office of Finance for the statewide expansion plan for the Northern and Southern Museum of Arts. (BDR S-1167)

SUSAN BROWN (Director, Office of Finance, Office of the Governor):
Senate Bill 533 makes an appropriation to the special appropriations account for the Statewide expansion plan for the Northern and Southern Museum of Arts. We have submitted a proposed amendment for this bill ([Exhibit E](#)). In section 2 of the amendment we request the allocated funds be matched. The proposed amendment, [Exhibit E](#), also adds language to require reporting to the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) as these funds are spent and drawn down.

SENATOR CANCELA:

As the reports are coming to the IFC, I would like to make sure there is a clear breakdown of how the money is being allocated to northern Nevada versus southern Nevada. While this is a Statewide nonprofit and we want the entire State to benefit from the Museum, southern Nevada has a dirt lot and northern Nevada has a thriving museum. The south is far behind the north in getting to a place where we can have a thriving museum. As the reports come in, we need to know how much is being spent and how much is being allocated to the south versus the north.

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The Committee could consider appropriating the money to the IFC and seeing it upfront as those requests come forward.

DAVID WALKER (Chief Executive Officer, Nevada Museum of Art):

I am here today on behalf of the Board of Trustees, Museum staff and volunteers. I will read some prepared remarks ([Exhibit F](#)) to explain why the appropriations in S.B. 533 are critically important to the Museum.

SENATOR BROOKS:

I have some of the same concerns as Senator Cancela. I am sure former-Senator Tick Segerblom wanted to make sure these dollars were well spent on progressing the vision of an art museum in southern Nevada. I want to make sure there is some accountability that the money gets spent in southern Nevada on the southern Nevada Art Museum. The City of Las Vegas has made an investment in this project and in the land which is far greater than the appropriation you are asking for. If we are going to do this, 100 percent of these funds need to go to advance the effort of the Southern Nevada Museum of Art. It was concerning that the \$1 million allocation in former-Senator Segerblom's appropriation went toward a land purchase in Reno. I want all of this money to go toward advancing the Southern Nevada Museum of Art.

MR. WALKER:

We made an internal decision to allocate 75 percent of the \$1 million appropriated in S.B. No. 187 of the 79th Session to Las Vegas and 25 percent to Reno. We are prepared to make a similar allocation with the \$5 million allocated in S.B. 533. It is important to note this effort is largely being driven by staff and the Board of Trustees in northern Nevada. We are open to any kind of requirements the Legislature may put on the \$5 million. I would just ask that you appreciate the fact that we have 2 people on the ground in Las Vegas and 60 people in Reno. We are putting a great deal of time into building momentum and raising money. We hope to have good news in October with regard to the \$12 million we need to raise to match the investment made by the City of Las Vegas. We are open to your recommendation, and I want you to know the spirit of this \$5 million request is largely in support of establishing the Museum in Las Vegas. The budget for the construction of the facility is estimated to be around \$200 million.

SENATOR DENIS:

Raising money has been one of the largest barriers to an art museum in Las Vegas. How is the effort going in raising money?

MR. WALKER:

We are getting the Las Vegas Stadium for the Raiders. Las Vegas has just about everything you can imagine except for an art museum. Everyone is well aware of that now, and there seems to be tremendous interest across the board. There are currently no issues related to north and south politics which have arisen in

the past. The time is right. We have done ten years of research and involved the whole community in this project. We are having meetings with prominent residents of Las Vegas and are receiving a lot of support.

SENATOR DENIS:

The previous efforts were disheartening because we could not get support. It is exciting that we now have momentum; it seems to be the right time to raise the funds and get the art museum that we need.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I understand there are needs for the Northern Nevada Museum of Art as well, but I would like to echo a bit of the frustration shared by my colleagues. You said 75 percent of the previous appropriation went to Las Vegas, but hopefully the Board would consider a higher percentage going to southern Nevada to get the project off the ground. It is your decision, but I would ask that you share with the Board how important it is that the museum in southern Nevada get started as quickly as possible.

MICHAEL HILLERBY:

Mr. Walker did a great job of talking about the programming and the scale of the Museum's commitment to the State. As a former chair of the Board, I can assure you the money will be well spent. I know the quality of Mr. Walker, the staff and the Board, and the commitment they have made. I support S.B. 533.

PAUL MORADKHAN (Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce):

The Chamber supports S.B. 533 and the appropriation dollars. We have had conversations with the group regarding dollars for southern Nevada. These conversations have been similar to the one held by the Committee today.

TICK SEGERBLOM (Commissioner, District E, Clark County Commission):

I would like to echo everything that has been said. I support S.B. 533 and the idea that all the money comes to southern Nevada. This project is going to flourish.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I will open the hearing on S.B. 534.

SENATE BILL 534: Makes an appropriation from the State General Fund to the Office of Finance for the replacement of the Nevada State Radio System. (BDR S-1168)

FELICIA DENNEY (Chief, Financial Management Division, Department of Transportation):

Senate Bill 534 provides an appropriation from the State General Fund to the Governor's Office of Finance in the amount of \$4,090,651 for replacement of the Nevada State Radio System for the biennium. A correction to S.B. 534 needs to be made. The amount should be \$3,645,989. The first figure included some amounts that have already been placed in the Department's budget.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I will open the hearing on S.B. 536.

SENATE BILL 536: Revises provisions governing the Account for Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Loans. (BDR 58-1196)

DAVID BOBZIEN (Director, Office of Energy, Office of the Governor):

Senate Bill 536 converts the current purpose of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds from a loan program to a grant program. This is part of a nationwide transition that many states in similar positions to Nevada are undertaking, recognizing the appetite for loans has not been commensurate with the overhead required for tracking those loans. We are moving from the current loan program to a new targeted grants program in order to expend down the funds from the ARRA era.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I will open the hearing on S.B. 540.

SENATE BILL 540: Revises provisions relating to vulnerable persons. (BDR 14-1201)

CARRIE EMBREE (Governor's Consumer Health Advocate, Office of Minority Health and Equity, Department of Health and Human Services):

Senate Bill 540 will give the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHSS) the authority needed to carry out the expansion of adult protective services (APS) already approved in

decision unit E-225 in Budget Account 101-3266. Nevada is one of only three states not currently providing APS.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES

HHS-ADSD - Home and Community-Based Services — Budget Page DHHS-ADSD-35 (Volume II)
Budget Account 101-3266

E-225 Efficient and Responsive State Government — Page DHHS-ADSD-42

Everyone deserves to be free from abuse at every stage of their life regardless of age or disability. Senate Bill 540 will give authority to ADSD to receive and investigate reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation. This bill will ensure all vulnerable adults access to services and support to alleviate situations of abuse, neglect and exploitation. The ADSD has been working on several efforts to begin the expansion of protective services from elderly individuals 60 years of age and older to all vulnerable adults over the age of 18.

We are utilizing 2016 Administration for Community Living grant funds to hire a team of expert consultants through the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA). The consulting team is assisting the ADSD in planning the expansion of elder protective services (EPS) to a full APS program. As part of this consultation, the NAPSA has created a blueprint for implementation which includes milestones and checkpoints to ensure our progress.

We have applied for and received Victims of Crime assistance funding through our DHSS sister agency, the Division of Child and Family Services, in order to fund additional positions that provide direct services. We have adjusted our cost-allocation plan to include Medicaid administrative claiming for certain activities related to Medicaid-eligible individuals, allowing us to draw down additional federal funds in the current protective services program.

Additionally, ADSD applied for and was awarded the 2018 Administration for Community Living grant to enhance APS. This is a three-year grant designed to strengthen the State's APS programs. With these funds, we are looking to enhance our current data reporting abilities in a manner that is consistent with

the National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System. This will allow us to report on the expanded population should the Legislature approve the expansion of our statutory authority to provide protective services to all vulnerable adults.

HOMA WOODRUM (Chief Advocacy Attorney, Aging and Disability Services Division, Department of Health and Human Services):

Jay P. Raman of the Clark County District Attorney's Office has submitted comments on the current law ([Exhibit G](#)). Currently, the only option for reporting issues related to abuse, neglect, exploitation, isolation or abandonment of persons from ages 18 to 59 years old is to go through law enforcement. For persons over 60, EPS does much more than just criminal prosecution. Senate Bill 540 grants authority and options for the protection of vulnerable persons related to those already in place for older persons. The bill also eliminates references to the old model for the protection of vulnerable persons.

Section 1 amends the repository related to crimes against older persons to include those involving vulnerable persons. This repository is overseen by the Attorney General's Office. Section 2 makes changes to a reference in the privileged statute related to a later elimination of a separate provision that was distinguishing between vulnerable persons versus older persons.

Section 3 makes changes to formerly separate references to financial services mandatory reporting. The current statute limits options to report abuse of vulnerable persons to just law enforcement but includes both law enforcement and EPS options for older persons. Section 4 amends *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 200 to add a requirement that law enforcement entities in the State designate a point person to receive communication from the ADSD. Law enforcement entities are required to communicate the designee's identity to the ADSD.

Section 5 updates the definition of protective services in Nevada to not just be limited to older persons. Section 6 amends protective services' legal reference to include vulnerable persons and not just older persons. Section 7 makes conforming changes to eliminate an older statutory reference rendered obsolete by this bill.

Section 8 addresses confidentiality provisions for protective services related to information that could be shared with certain entities. Section 8, subsection 3, paragraph (k) adds the ability to share information about protective services

investigations with court appointed counsel in guardianship proceedings. Section 8, subsection 3, paragraph (l) allows for the sharing of information with the Statewide Guardianship Compliance Office. Clark County is opposed to certain language in paragraph (l). Clark County has submitted an amendment ([Exhibit H](#)) which includes the deletion of 11 words that allow for communication of requested information to a local office of public guardian. We agree with the deletion of this language.

Section 9 of S.B. 540 updates references to add vulnerable persons to the demographic information collected for the DHSS. Section 10 adds clarification regarding attorneys in guardianship cases who represent persons who are vulnerable or older. The section discusses reporting requirements related to the same.

Elder Protective Services currently has the authority to host multi-disciplinary teams regarding older persons. Senate Bill 540 will expand this authority and allow these important team meetings to include topics related to vulnerable persons. Additional sections of the bill make changes to conform to the previously described sections. The final section of the bill sets an effective date of July 1, 2019.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Sections 28 and 29 strike language from the NRS. Is this the language that limited reporting to law enforcement? Is there anything in other sections that requires reporting to law enforcement?

Ms. WOODRUM:

When we submitted the bill, we went through every mention we could find in the NRS to touchpoints regarding, specifically, the reporting by financial organizations. In the current law, if a person is under 60, law enforcement is the only option for reporting. If a person is over the age of 60, there are 2 options for reporting. This change collapses the two paths into one and necessitates significant deletions in these sections. We believe we have caught every possible situation with touchpoints for protective services, and we are open to hearing about any ones we might have missed.

JILL BERNTSON:

I am a previous deputy administrator with the ADSD. I had a career-long goal of expanding protective services to include the vulnerable population. When

I retired, I left this goal in the hands of capable ADSD staff. With my 28 years of experience at the DHSS, I have seen a long time gap in services for our vulnerable population. Passing S.B. 450 would go a long way in addressing some of the public issues we have had around abuse and neglect done to this vulnerable population in various settings in our State. I support S.B. 450.

ALEX ORTIZ (Clark County):

Clark County supports S.B. 540. In our amendment to section 8, subsection 3, paragraph (l), [Exhibit H](#), we are proposing to remove the local office of the public guardian as one of the entities able to receive a report. As the appointed guardian, section 8, subsection 3, paragraph (h) already gives Clark County the ability to receive the report.

NICOLE THOMAS (Public Guardian, Douglas County):

I am the Douglas County Public Guardian, and I support S.B. 540. Adult protective services will administer an overwhelming need in Nevada. This will alleviate a financial burden on rural counties by providing services to vulnerable adults and addressing the majority of these cases that end up in my care while offering the ability to provide less restrictive environments and less expensive alternatives.

For example, I received a traumatic brain injury case a few years ago. The gentlemen's case was based on workers' compensation. He had not received services for over 30 years. He was living in a motel and was severely disabled with mental health issues. We were unable at the time to investigate any exploitation as the client was below the age of 60. Unable to identify any appropriate lower level of care, we were forced to proceed with guardianship. Guardianship requires a significant amount of county time and resources. If APS would have been in place, this case would have easily had protections prior to our guardianship appointment, helping the client navigate other services in the community. Addressing the exploitation and abuse of this client would have redirected services and realized significant cost savings for the life of the client.

In another case, a client with a developmental disability had been cared for by her elderly father during her adult life. She had never received any State services. After the client's father passed away, the client lived in her home with no running water, power or medical attention for two years. Neighbors had no resources to address the client's needs, as she was below the age of 60 and did not have a disability that would have been proven prior to the age of 22.

Therefore, our regional services were unable to help provide assistance. Guardianship became the only option at a significant cost to Douglas County. As the client had no viable income and could not pull down federal funds, the cost of her guardianship and eventual medical care fall to both the County and the State. The assistance provided by APS could have significantly decreased the cost of this client's care.

On average, my office secures at least five guardianships per year and can only offer limited assistance to address client needs as they do not qualify for either State regional services or other useful assistance to identify exploitation or abuse. These cases often fall to community partners, public guardians and local law enforcement, all of which have limited resources in rural areas. These cases increase the cost of these counties' limited resources.

ANGIE SANTOS (Detective, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department):

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) has worked hard for the last three years to provide protection and communication for the community of elderly and vulnerable people. Over the last couple of years, we have created a police detail that supports mainly the investigation of elderly and vulnerable persons. Passing S.B. 540 and allowing EPS to extend assistance to vulnerable persons between the ages of 18 and 59 will help bridge the assistance and protection of people in communities around Nevada. I support S.B. 540.

TROYCE KRUMME (Sergeant, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department):

I work in the Abuse/Neglect Detail of the LVMPD. There is no argument that social services provides a help multiplier for law enforcement in Nevada. Social services resources are current available for children under 18 years of age and the adult population of persons 60 and older, as defined by NRS. There is a wide-ranging gap for vulnerable persons between the ages of 18 and 59 who do not fit into the protections provided in statute. Providing those additional social services for the community of persons between the ages of 18 to 59 would bring Nevada forward into line with the vast majority of other states and provide vital services for this population. I support S.B. 540.

MS. EMBREE:

Anyone who has known or loved a person with disabilities understands that many people who have disabilities are vulnerable and recognizes the critical need to safeguard their civil rights. Vulnerable adults with disabilities in Nevada deserve to live free from victimization. It is important that protective services be

Senate Committee on Finance
May 24, 2019
Page 26

available when they are needed. I appreciate your consideration of this much-needed service.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

Does the ADSD support the amendment from Clark County, [Exhibit H](#)?

Ms. WOODRUM:

Yes. We were able to avoid duplicative language and come to a consensus that the provision is addressed appropriately in other areas of the statute, specifically the public guardian statute. We have accepted the amendment.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I will open the hearing on S.B. 545.

SENATE BILL 545: Revises provisions governing the distribution of certain tax proceeds. (BDR 32-1241)

Ms. BROWN:

Senate Bill 545 is a budget implementation bill. This bill places the retail marijuana tax into the Distributive School Account (DSA) B/A 101-2610. The DSA was closed with this funding added contingent upon on approval of this bill.

EDUCATION

K12 EDUCATION

NDE - Distributive School Account — Budget Page K-12 EDUCATION-17
(Volume I)

Budget Account 101-2610

NATHA ANDERSON (President, Washoe County Education Association):

I support S.B. 545. The current funding for our schools is not adequate. In April, the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees approved a budget with a \$17 million deficit. Senate Bill 545 would help backfill some of that deficit.

As classes or schools get smaller or larger, a process called "overages" allows current employees to get those jobs in different areas. Many of those areas are in early childhood education, Zoom and Victory programs. Last week, 20 people did not have jobs. These individuals are K-2 licensed, but they might not have

jobs because of a funding loss caused by a federal government grant decision. Early childhood education is important, and that loss of money will severely impact the future of many of these students. In addition, 28 elementary education specialists, most of whom are part of the Zoom and Victory programs, have been placed to teach middle school because that is where the District has openings. Most of these people have never taught above Grade 3. We need to address the funding problem. Senate Bill 545 is one way to do something about our funding.

CHRIS DALY (Nevada State Education Association):

The Nevada State Education Association supports S.B. 545. I will read my prepared testimony ([Exhibit I](#)).

MICHELLE BOOTH (Educate Nevada Now):

Educate Nevada Now supports S.B. 545. I will read my prepared testimony ([Exhibit J](#)).

MICHELE SANCHEZ-BOYCE, PH.D.

I support S.B. 545. Redirecting the marijuana tax proceeds to the DSA is an important first step to adequately fund public schools in Nevada. I work in the public school system but not as a teacher. I am one of the other licensed educational professionals who work in public schools. Other licensed professionals have been some of the educators most affected by the previous budget deficits.

I have not had a raise in nine years, and my caseload is increasing to the point where I cannot manage the number of kids anymore. I am a bilingual speech pathologist. I am responsible for 43 schools, and I work 2 days a week. I am responsible for testing all of the kids who are referred for Spanish speech and language evaluations. The increase in the paperwork to bill Medicaid has become almost unbearable, and there is no time for paperwork in addition to all the time spent testing.

I have a Ph.D. and 39 years of experience, and I make \$27 an hour. In the private sector, I would be making \$60 an hour. This is a factor because it affects the recruitment and retention of qualified professionals other than teachers who want to come and work in the Nevada public school system. Without some increases and without this important bill, we will be in a difficult place when trying to replace people like me who are trying to retire.

JESSICA LUNARDELLI:

I am a second-grade teacher at Smithridge STEM Academy, and I support S.B. 545. I am a sixth-year teacher with a master's degree who still has to work two jobs to make ends meet. I work at a school where students cannot afford to bring supplies necessary to be successful. The teachers supplement their supplies from their own paychecks because Nevada is ranked among the lowest states in per-pupil funding. I work with staff members who have 36 students in their classrooms and not enough desks to seat them because Nevada has some of the largest class sizes in the Country. This should not be the standard of our education system. You have an opportunity before you to impact schools in a positive way by increasing funding to schools. Education needs to be made a priority in Nevada and not simply a campaign promise. Our community, educators and students deserve better.

CORI ZANCANELLA:

I am educator at Smithridge STEM Academy in Reno. I work as a K-5 STEM educator and see over 700 students a week. I work with some of these classes which have over 36 students and not enough seats. Even the most experienced teacher has a hard time servicing this many students and their individual needs in the way the students deserve. We need this additional funding to reduce class sizes and have more staff working with the students in order to serve them as best as we can. As an educator, I am consistently working outside of my contract time, looking for grant money to get supplies for projects and creating authentic learning experiences for our students. This should be incorporated into our funding from the State. I support S.B. 545.

CALEN EVANS:

I support S.B. 545. I am the STEM coordinator at Dorothy Lemelson STEM Academy in Reno. This bill seems like a no-brainer. The message behind the legalization of marijuana was clear to the general public—legalization equaled educational funding. This is still the belief of many members of the public. It is difficult for educators across the State to feel like this Legislature is making education a top priority when none of the bills that have been seriously considered for passage are adding any additional funding to education. This bill is the only bill actually adding money which has a chance to pass. One of my responsibilities as a STEM coordinator is to look for additional funds to make the program sustainable. When do educators get to stop begging for money to fund our schools and support our students? Senate Bill 545 is a small but essential step in the right direction.

Senate Committee on Finance
May 24, 2019
Page 29

TOM WELLMAN (President, Nevada State Education Association—Retired):
I support S.B. 545. I will read from my prepared testimony ([Exhibit K](#)).

GERRI NORTH (President, Clark Retired Education Association):
I support S.B. 545. I will read from my prepared testimony ([Exhibit L](#)).

HARRY BEALL (Nevada State Education Association—Retired):
I support S.B. 545. I will read from my prepared testimony ([Exhibit M](#)).

SYLVIA LAZOS (Nevada Immigrant Coalition):
We support S.B. 545. I will read from my prepared testimony ([Exhibit N](#)).

ELISA MARTINEZ:
I support S.B. 545. I will read from my prepared testimony ([Exhibit O](#)).

CECIA ALVARADO (Nevada State Director, Mi Familia Vota):
I am here representing Mi Familia Vota, and we support S.B. 545. Our mission is to unite Latino and Latina immigrants and allied communities to promote social and economic justice for our communities.

MR. MORADKHAN:
The Chamber has a long-standing position to ensure we have adequate dollars in the Account to Stabilize the Operation of State Government, also known as the Rainy Day Fund. However, our leadership has met and discussed this measure. We understand the need and support the specific transfer of these dollars to the DSA. We support S.B. 545.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:
I will open the work session on S.B. 540.

MR. KRMPOTIC:
Senate Bill 540 was heard this morning. This is a budget implementation bill to extend EPS to the adult population between the ages of 18 to 59. The Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means approved a decision unit in the budget for ADSD to provide funding for this initiative. Some of the funding may have come from the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 grant and the General Fund. Senate Bill 540 is required to implement that decision approval on the ADSD budget. A proposed amendment, [Exhibit H](#), was

Senate Committee on Finance
May 24, 2019
Page 30

submitted by Clark County and concurred in by the ADSD. The amendment would modify lines 26 and 27 on page 13 of the bill.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
S.B. 540.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I will open the hearing for public comment.

SENATOR JAMES OHRENSCHALL (Senatorial District No. 21):

Last Saturday I was privileged to see my stepbrother earn his doctorate from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). He earned his Ph.D. in plasma physics. He reached out to me with concerns about science in Nevada, particularly about trying to keep scientists, engineers and certain programs that could be lost in the future.

TYLER DAYKIN, PH.D.:

The Nevada Terawatt Facility (NTF) is a great research facility that in the last 10 years has graduated 40 students with Ph.D.s which is more than a majority of large departments. I am deeply concerned there is no more funding available. It is sad to see. As a recent alumni, I fear I am the last generation to come out of the NTF.

The research done at the NTF is fundamental for defense and fusion. The University of Nevada, Reno is the only university in the U.S. that can perform the experiments with ultra-intense, ultrashort pulse lasers and mega-ampere pulse-powered machines. The only other place in the entire U.S. where this is done is Sandia National Laboratories. Sandia National Laboratories can only do 15 percent of the shots that can be done at the NTF. The capacity at UNR allows for collaborations with national labs and other university teams that coming to Nevada to perform high-energy density physics research.

This research is groundbreaking. The NTF allows great opportunities for graduate students and faculty to perform this research and for graduate students to get hands-on work experience. Most places, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Rochester, do not give the hands-on experience. In those universities, technicians do the work; the scientists and the graduate students analyze data. At UNR and the NTF, we do it all. This work is important, and it will help UNR maintain its R1 research university status.

A committee that evaluated the UNR physics department in 2017 said the future of the NTF needs attention from the University. That attention has not been given despite the fact that NTF grants support a large portion of the faculty in other departments and their salaries and despite the fact that the NTF grants are among the largest in the University. The committee said the NTF is the anchor that holds the Department together and provides great research opportunities for graduate students and faculty. We ask for support in keeping this open so we can have future generations of professors and graduate students to continue the great research done at the NTF. The NTF is important to the future of the State, especially for science in Nevada.

Remainder of page intentionally left blank; signature page to follow.

Senate Committee on Finance
May 24, 2019
Page 32

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:
This meeting is adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Desirae Munns,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit / # of pages		Witness / Entity	Description
	A	2		Agenda
	B	11		Attendance Roster
S.B. 344	C	1	Senator Melanie Scheible	Proposed Amendment
S.B. 408	D	2	Susan Fisher / Piaggio Fast Forward	gita Presentation
S.B. 533	E	2	Susan Brown / Office of Finance	Proposed Amendment
S.B. 533	F	3	David Walker / Nevada Museum of Art	Testimony
S.B. 540	G	2	Clark County Office of the District Attorney	Testimony of Jay P. Raman
S.B. 540	H	3	Alex Ortiz / Clark County	Proposed Amendment
S.B. 545	I	1	Chris Daly / Nevada State Education Association	Testimony
S.B. 545	J	1	Michelle Booth / Educate Nevada Now	Testimony
S.B. 545	K	1	Tom Wellman	Testimony
S.B. 545	L	2	Gerri North	Testimony
S.B. 545	M	1	Harry Beall	Testimony
S.B. 545	N	1	Sylvia Lazos / Nevada Immigrant Coalition	Testimony
S.B. 545	O	1	Elisa Martinez	Testimony