

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**Eightieth Session  
June 2, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Finance was called to order by Chair Joyce Woodhouse at 10:14 a.m. on Sunday, June 2, 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 David R. Parks, Vice Chair  
Senator Moises Denis  
Senator Yvanna D. Cancela  
Senator Chris Brooks  
Senator James A. Settlemeyer  
Senator Ben Kieckhefer  
Senator Pete Goicoechea

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro, Senatorial District No. 6  
Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Assembly District No. 14  
Assemblyman Jason Frierson, Assembly District No. 8  
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Assembly District No. 1  
Assemblywoman Heidi Swank, Assembly District No. 16  
Assemblyman Steve Yeager, Assembly District No. 9

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mark Krmpotic, Senate Fiscal Analyst  
Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst  
Eileen O'Grady, Committee Counsel  
Desirae Munns, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Rique Robb, Deputy Administrator, Aging and Disability Services Division,  
Department of Health and Human Services

Natha Anderson, Nevada State Education Association; Washoe Education  
Association

Mary Pierczynski, Nevada Association of School Superintendents

Sarah Nick, Management Analyst, Legislative Liaison, Department of Education

Michael Flores, Chair, Nevada Advisory Commission on Mentoring

Chris Daly, Nevada State Education Association

Kirsten Searer, Clark County School District

Matt Walker, Clark County Association of School Administrators

Sylvia Lazos, Nevada Immigrant Coalition

Lindsay Anderson, Washoe County School District

Jessica Ferrato, Nevada Association of School Boards

Sarah Adler, Charter School Association of Nevada

John Vellardita, Clark County Education Association

Andy Bischel, President and CEO, Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Nevada

William Stanley, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Southern Nevada Building and  
Construction Trades Council

Alex Ortiz, Clark County

Leonardo Benavides, Clark County School District

Paige Barnes, Communities in Schools

Shani Coleman, City of Las Vegas

Alexander Marks, Nevada State Education Association

Caleb S. Cage, Chief, Division of Emergency Management; Advisor, Office of  
Homeland Security, Department of Public Safety

Brad Crowell, Director, State Department of Conservation and Natural  
Resources

James R. Lawrence, Deputy Director, State Department of Conservation and  
Natural Resources

Kyle Davis, Nevada Conservation League

Helen Foley

Dave Dazlich, Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce

Chaunsey Chau-Duong, Las Vegas Valley Water District; Springs Preserve  
Foundation

Andrew MacKay, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited

Lisa LaPlante, City of Boulder City

Larry Bender, Boulder City Economic Vitality Commission

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Jaina Moan, The Nature Conservancy  
Jared Busker, Children's Advocacy Alliance  
Dagny Stapleton, Nevada Association of Counties

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will start the meeting today with Assembly Bill (A.B.) 104.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 104 (1st Reprint)**: Makes an appropriation to the Account for the Nevada Main Street Program. (BDR S-532)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HEIDI SWANK (Assembly District No. 16):

Assembly Bill 104 makes an appropriation to the Nevada Main Street Program. The Nevada Main Street Program started after the 2017 Session. The Program is a historic preservation and economic development program run through the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Program provides guidance mainly to small towns, but Reno and Henderson are also Main Street communities. The Program provides a wide range of support services to reduce vacancies in businesses and help towns and cities develop a marketing identity to bring in new businesses and tourism. Minden and Gardnerville were in the Main Street Program for roughly the last ten years but not under the Nevada Main Street Program until after last Session.

This bill appropriates \$350,000 to provide grants to Main Street towns. A \$350,000 appropriation was made in the 2017 Legislative Session. Despite a couple of hiccups involving staff turnover in the startup of the program, the Program was able to spend all but \$40,000 of that appropriation in the last 2 years.

SENATOR BROOKS:

What was the money from the appropriation received last Session spent on?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK:

Patricia Herzog who is the Director of the Nevada Main Street Program could provide specific details, but she was unable to be present today. One example is Ely installed wayfinding signs to museums, sites of historic interest, business districts and the like. In general, visitor brochures to the various towns and those kind of small-dollar projects get done through this Program.

SENATOR BROOKS:

Do you have any anecdotal evidence from the businesses in Ely of benefits derived from the activities? Ely was the only town that received assistance, correct?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK:

We have ten Main Street towns. The Main Street money was spent in Winnemucca, Ely, Elko, Wells, Reno, Henderson and Tonopah. There may have been others. Developing walking tours and similar activities were completed across all of those towns.

SENATOR PARKS:

How much does the Program receive in matching federal funds?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK:

The Program is run through the National Trust for Historic Preservation which is a private nonprofit and not a federal organization. The support received is not in the form of matching funds. The State Program pays a fee to the National Trust and in return receives support—mainly in training—from the National Trust. For example, the National Trust provided training to the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) employees who run the State Program. The GOED employees then train local personnel. The benefit is the national Main Street America program support and attending the national Main Street Now Conference. The support is provided to the State and local entities running these programs.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 104 and open the hearing on A.B. 229.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 229 (1st Reprint)**: Requires the establishment of a technical advisory program for the protection and preservation of certain buildings and structures. (BDR 33-299)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HEIDI SWANK (Assembly District No. 16):

Assembly Bill 229 will create a technical advisory program based on a similar program which exists in Iowa. I toured the towns and cities in Iowa where this program is in place. This bill requests a \$30,000 appropriation.

The way people built buildings 50 years ago may not be as commonplace today. It is hard to find people to work on the historic features of older buildings. This bill allows owners of buildings which are 50 years or older to get assistance for those buildings. The building does not have to be on a register or designated in any way. It just needs to be at least 50 years old.

This bill sets up an advisory program in which the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) compiles a list of persons who can provide advice on older buildings.

Section 1, subsection 2 lays out the qualifications of the technical advisers to include meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Professional Qualification Standards.

The OHP will create a list of qualified technical advisers and provide grants to individuals, organizations or nonprofit corporations that own older buildings and need assistance. The State grant money will pay the salary and travel expenses of the technical assistance person; the grantee will pay for lodging and meals. The expenses are split between both entities. The advice received from the technical assistance person is not binding advice, it is merely advice which was sought out.

This program is successful in Iowa where owners had a hard time finding people who knew how to work with the older buildings. Having the OHP create a list made the process easier.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

Assembly Bill 229 has an appropriation of \$30,000; \$10,000 the first year, \$20,000 the second year. This bill also has a fiscal note from the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources of approximately \$34,000 or more in the first year and \$8,700 in the second year. Is the fiscal note from Conservation and Natural Resources reflective of the appropriation?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK:

A second fiscal note should show the Department zeroed out the fiscal note. The effective dates were adjusted to allow OHP \$10,000 the first year to compile the list. The grant program will start in the second year with the \$20,000.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 229 and open the hearing on A.B. 250.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 250 (1st Reprint)**: Makes an appropriation to the Legislative Fund for certain members of the Legislative Committee on Public Lands to attend informational meetings and tours in Washington, D.C., during the 2019-2020 interim. (BDR S-508)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HEIDI SWANK (Assembly District No. 16):

Assembly Bill 250 came out of the Legislative Committee on Public Lands which I chaired this last Interim. Prior to the economic downturn, the Public Lands Committee traveled to Washington, D.C., once during each Interim to meet with federal government agencies since Nevada has the largest percentage of land, 84 percent, owned by the federal government.

The federal government has had a lot of interaction with public lands under this Administration, including: plutonium shipments to Nevada; talks of eliminating the Nevada State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Department of the Interior; and consideration of drilling in the Ruby Mountains. The interactions have not all been doom and gloom. With this Administration, the State may be able to gain some traction with resolving our checkerboard lands. Reestablishing these conversations between Nevada's Public Lands Committee and the federal government, specifically on public lands issues, is a good way to spend \$13,980.

SENATOR GOICOCHEA:

I went to Washington, D.C., as a county commissioner representative a couple of times over the years on issues related to public lands. The county government paid the travel expenses for its members. Is that still the case?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK:

I believe so at this point.

SENATOR GOICOCHEA:

Although counties are not addressed in this bill, historically, the counties paid for its personnel to attend meetings in Washington, D.C.

SENATOR DENIS:

Is this travel something new or something the Public Lands Committee is already doing?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK:

The Public Lands Committee used to travel. This was one thing that went by the wayside during the Great Recession. The Committee needs to hold these conversations again, and the conversations are good for our State to have. The Public Lands Committee would like to see this process come back.

SENATOR PARKS:

In the past, former Senator Dean A. Rhoads chaired the Legislative Committee on Public Lands for numerous sessions. Senator Rhoads always organized and took a delegation to Washington, D.C. This bill will reestablish the efforts which Senator Rhoads established many years ago.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Historically, did the Committee take one or two staff members? It seems to me the Committee included at least two staff members. I went a couple of times as a county representative and once as a Legislator. I remember former Assemblywoman Genie Ohrenschall went once and was careful with how many people traveled. It depends on who goes whether one or two staff members are needed. That is the only issue concerning me.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK:

The Committee talked with legislative staff and determined that starting smaller would be a good idea. Also, given the late date in the Session, I am hesitant to amend too many things.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 250 and open the hearing on A.B. 543.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 543**: Makes various changes regarding state financial administration and makes appropriations for the support of the civil government of the State. (BDR S-1280)

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

Assembly Bill 543 is otherwise known as the General Appropriations Act to support the operations of State government for the upcoming two-year period. This bill was presented in bill draft request (BDR) form before the Committee a couple of days ago. The bill has passed the 24-hour period that it needs to sit after introduction and has passed the Assembly. This bill will pass the Senate once the Distributive School Account (DSA) clears the Assembly through passage.

## EDUCATION

### K-12 EDUCATION

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Budget Account 101-2610

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

This Committee walked through this bill the other day when we had the BDR. I will close the hearing on A.B. 543 and move to work session.

MR. KRMPOTIC:

I will review Senate Bill (S.B.) 93 with the Committee. This bill was heard in this Committee on April 1.

**SENATE BILL 93**: Revises provisions relating to the Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired. (BDR 38-449)

This bill renames the Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired to the Nevada Commission for Persons Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

The bill increases the number of persons on the Commission from 9 to 11 members and redefines the appointment of the members. The bill creates a State employee within the Office of the Governor for the Commission for Persons Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The bill also includes General Fund appropriations of \$50,000 per year in section 5.



As testified to by the Aging and Disability Services Division and also conveyed to staff by Susan Brown, who is the Director of the Office of Finance, the intent of the Administration is to transfer the Commission out of the Office of the Governor to the Aging and Disability Services Division.

In discussions with the Aging and Disability Services Division, the cost of the bill of \$50,000 General Fund appropriations each year can be stricken. The funding for the bill can come from telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) surcharges which flow through the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada.

The other provisions in S.B. 93 would stand.

There were no proposed amendments when the Committee on Finance heard S.B. 93 on April 1. If it is the Committee's pleasure to pass this bill, Fiscal staff suggests an amend and do pass action. The conceptual amendment would involve removing the appropriations of \$50,000 for each year in section 5. The amendment would also transfer this Commission to the Aging and Disability Services Division.

The Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing is already supported by the Aging and Disability Services Division even though it resides in the Governor's Office. It is the Administration's intent to place the Commission under the Division that provides its administrative support and addresses the community that Division is responsible for.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

Originally, the Division had requested an increase in the TDD surcharges but that is no longer in the discussion, correct? Is raising the touchtone dial tone fee by 2 cents no longer in the bill? It seems to me the Governor gave the Division about half of what the Division requested, and then the Division put forth a bill draft to try to find the rest. I want that clear on the record.

MR. KRMPOTIC:

I recall discussing this issue with the Division right after the hearing. The Division's representative is in the audience. As I recall, the Division staff had reserves to apply to the costs of implementing this bill for the upcoming biennium. If anything I am saying is incorrect, I ask Rique Robb to clarify.

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RIQUE ROBB (Deputy Administrator, Aging and Disability Services Division, Department of Health and Human Services):

You are correct. Should this bill pass, the TDD surcharge will cover the cost of the director position. A request is included in Governor Steve Sisolak's Executive Budget 2019-2021 for \$50,000 for the biennium. The additional \$50,000 requested from the State General Fund can be eliminated.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 93.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR KIECKHEFER WAS EXCUSED FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will open the hearing on A.B. 196.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 196 (1st Reprint)**: Makes an appropriation for incentives for teachers who currently teach at Title I schools and underperforming schools. (BDR S-144)

NATHA ANDERSON (Nevada State Education Association; Washoe Education Association):

I am not speaking on behalf of the policy for this bill. I am speaking to the appropriation. Our highly qualified Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 teachers—meaning teachers with high evaluations—have not been able to get a bonus created the last Legislative Session. Only the teachers who transferred in to the Title I schools were able to receive a bonus. This bill will allow the Department of Education to recognize and show appreciation for those teachers who excel in the Title I schools.

I ask for your support for A.B. 196.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

Assembly Bill 196 does not promote or encourage more teachers to move to Title I schools. This bill provides an incentive for those teachers already teaching at Title I schools. How many teachers Statewide would that be?

MS. ANDERSON:

I do not know off the top of my head. I will get that information for you. I asked for the Washoe County numbers a few months ago. I should be able to get the information to you today.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

Would this be a one-time bonus, or would this be through the biennia?

MS. ANDERSON:

I am here to speak in support of A.B. 196. What I understand is this is a one-time bonus.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

The Department would take the \$5 million, divide it by the number of teachers and send the teachers a check?

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

That is correct. The new teachers going in to Title I schools have this incentive built in. This bill is a means in which the State can address those teachers who are involved and have been working at the Title I schools. It is demoralizing for the existing teachers if a new teacher coming in is getting extra dollars for coming to that school. People who have given their blood, sweat and tears to those schools are being bypassed. This situation was something missed last Session. The Legislature is trying to make it right.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I agree with the concept. It is interesting that this Committee does not have an idea of how many teachers the incentives will go to. It would be nice to do the math. If the allocation is \$5 million and the Department is rewarding X number of teachers, is the Committee considering giving the teachers \$200 or \$2,000? I really have no idea.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will follow up. Ms. Anderson, if you could check with Washoe County and your counterparts from Clark County to identify that number, the Committee can also check with the Department of Education on what number it has.

MS. ANDERSON:

I can provide the Washoe County numbers now. Washoe County has a total of 1,319 Title I educators; of that number, 459 are highly qualified. I will check with an education group out of Clark County and double-check with the Department for the other counties.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

Are you saying 400 teachers would qualify for this incentive in Washoe County?

MS. ANDERSON:

Four hundred and fifty-nine teachers would qualify in Washoe County.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

This incentive is for teachers employed at Title I schools or schools designated as underperforming. There could be additional schools not Title I-designated that are designated as underperforming, correct?

MS. ANDERSON:

That is correct. This is based upon guidelines coming from the Department of Education as well. That would be another thing to double-check to see what other guidelines are being utilized.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Is underperforming a one- or two-star school under the current standards?

MS. ANDERSON:

I believe so, yes.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

The criteria includes "currently employed" and is effective upon passage and approval. Does that mean for the 2019 school year regardless of whether the teacher is in a Title I school in the subsequent year?

MS. ANDERSON:

I do not know, but if I may, I will try to get that information for you.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

We need some clarity over these issues.

MS. ANDERSON:

I will try to get that information for you.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

That would be greatly appreciated. Under the time limits, any additional information you can get for us on this would be helpful.

SENATOR DENIS:

All schools in my Senate District are Title I schools. I know how hard the teachers work. I have heard from many teachers that the new teachers coming in got the bonus, and the teachers, like you said, who have spent their blood, sweat and tears did not. My wife teaches at a Title I school in my district, and she is one of those what would fall into this category. My wife does not get treated any differently than anybody else in this bill. As a husband of a teacher, I appreciate that the Legislature is valuing the work of Title I school teachers. Teachers spend more out of their own pockets at the Title I schools than teachers at other schools because there is such a need.

Senator Kieckhefer's questions might be answered with the State Board of Education that has the adoption regulations on how the incentive works, who gets it and the like.

MS. ANDERSON:

Thank you Senator Denis for bringing that up. I want to make it clear I did not let the Assembly Speaker, who is the sponsor of A.B. 196, know I was coming to the table. I just wanted to make sure this bill got through. The Speaker might be coming up later to speak about this bill as well.

MARY PIERCZYNSKI (Nevada Association of School Superintendents):

The incentive issue was a problem in some of our schools. I am happy to help Ms. Anderson obtain the numbers for you from the 15 rural districts.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

A fiscal note exists for a full-time Education Programs Professional from the Department. Sarah Nick will address the fiscal note.

SARAH NICK (Management Analyst, Legislative Liaison, Department of Education):

The fiscal note on record for an Education Programs Professional (EPP) is based on our previous experience of incentivizing, recruiting and retaining teachers in our Title I schools. Education Programs Professionals track down funds and make sure the funds are fully spent so no items are returned to the General Fund. The Department stands by its fiscal note. Programs with a fully staffed member to track grant funds have fewer instances of reversions back to the General Fund.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

If this is a formulaic distribution of money, I struggle to see how the Department needs one person full time over the biennium to complete the task.

MS. NICK:

I understand where you are coming from. I will give the example of the Department's Teach Nevada Scholarships. Once the Department had a staff person in the EPP role, the Department was able to correct its allocations within a couple of months. The scholarship program is the healthiest it has been fiscally.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I am confused. The Committee will have to follow up with the Speaker. In the first testimony, it was indicated that the Department would take the \$5 million, determine the number of qualified teachers and send the teachers a check. That is a one-time action. This is different in needing a person to track the funding.

MS. NICK:

Yes. Even when an item is formulaic, having staff ensures the money is following and getting back to the teacher. As Ms. Anderson previously reflected, Speaker Jason Frierson may better address some of these concerns.

The Department is grateful for A.B. 196 as it goes forward. We echo the importance of using this money to not only recruit but also retain the highly effective teachers in Title I schools.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 196 and before bringing it back to work session, will double-check with Speaker Frierson to make sure the questions get answered.

We will open the hearing on A.B. 235.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 235 (2nd Reprint)**: Revises provisions governing the Nevada Advisory Commission on Mentoring. (BDR 34-149)

Ms. NICK:

I thank Assemblywoman Dina Neal for shepherding A.B. 235 across the finish line. I am presenting the appropriations for this bill. I want to recognize the leadership of Majority Leader Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson for meeting and working with the Department of Education to make sure these appropriations are honored in the bill.

This bill has three appropriations. The first appropriation of \$5,000 is for a biannual Statewide conference on mentoring.

The second appropriation of \$25,000 is for grant funding. The Nevada Advisory Commission on Mentoring will subgrant to local communities to make a more robust network of mentoring across the State.

The third appropriation of \$101,000 is for the State to buy in to a national network on mentoring.

MICHAEL FLORES (Chair, Nevada Advisory Commission on Mentoring):

Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson was passionate about mentoring. Assembly Bill 235 is a service to his legacy. Assemblyman Thompson was clear about his vision for this Commission. We discussed these items with him. I cannot express how important the administrative support is for the success of the Mentoring Commission. Before the start of the Commission, Assemblyman Thompson had no staff but worked diligently with the Department of Education to make sure support was available as the Commission moved forward and completed its work.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Can you talk about the appropriation related to an affiliate process? I am not sure what that is.

MR. FLORES:

Assemblyman Thompson worked with a national affiliate with chapters throughout the Country which offers support to states trying to grow capacity in mentoring. The company provides support for fundraising and different operations relating to mentoring. The company lowered the price for us through negotiations. I can give you more information. We presented that in the policy committee.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 235 and open the hearing on A.B. 309.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 309 (1st Reprint)**: Makes various changes relating to state financial administration. (BDR 34-886)

ASSEMBLYMAN JASON FRIERSON (Assembly District No. 8):

This bill provides transitioning from our current funding formula to what is hoped to be a new funding formula for education. This bill will provide a bridge and flexibility for school districts to get ready for the upcoming possible adjustment and get the districts through the next biennium. This bill could be the bridge or could exist indefinitely and be renewed until the new formula is implemented.

I reached out to school districts and asked what was needed to have some flexibility to make ends meet throughout the next biennium. School districts and teacher organizations both agreed on a number of categoricals which could be better used by the school districts to provide flexibility with the districts' budget. Assembly Bill 309 lays out categoricals that could be converted to block grants to allow the school districts to use the grants however needed in the biennium. The process would be a one-cycle treatment of those funds as block grants.

Language in A.B. 277 set up a payment structure of raises for teachers. That bill expressly included a set amount.



**ASSEMBLY BILL 277**: Requires school districts to establish, through negotiations with an employee organization, a program to increase the salaries of teachers and other employees. (BDR 34-1045)

However, A.B. 309 requires an account specifically for raises be set up. The teachers and their school districts would negotiate in good faith. Whatever amount is negotiated would be set aside in a separate account and protected so the raises could be provided as indicated in collective bargaining.

We do not want a school district to negotiate a salary or an increase just to close negotiations knowing full well the district cannot pay the increase. That would become an issue in the Interim.

This bill includes a measure to enable counties to raise sales tax up to 0.25 percent for express purposes. Those purposes would largely be to help education outside of the kindergarten to 12th grade (K-12) instruction and other areas to enable the counties to deal with county issues.

The counties would be able to use those funds to pay for pre-kindergarten (pre-K) education, adult education, truancy, affordable housing initiatives and homelessness. This is enabling language. The counties could process through a board of county commissioners vote or by a majority vote of the people.

We as Legislators value teachers and our students' role models. Assembly Bill 309 is intended to address teacher shortages. Part of the struggle with teacher shortages is not just pay but challenging work conditions. The conditions include not enough support and respect, testing and data collection on the profession, and low pay and resources. Several studies confirm these are reasons that teachers either leave the profession or people who could do not enter into the profession.

One report from Pennsylvania State University and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation indicated that teachers rated the lowest in feeling teachers' opinions counted at work. This bill is designed to help address that concern.

This information was something received from teachers and school districts. This was not something that just came from nowhere. A lot of work went into this bill to give school districts the flexibility to recruit high-quality teachers and give the districts the tools needed.

Homelessness was included because of the issues seen in both southern and northern Nevada with respect to affordable housing and homelessness—in particular, addressing the spike in teen homelessness.

Assembly Bill 309 is an effort to promote transparency and accountability to State funding for public education. The first section of the bill declares the intent of the Legislature to account for State and local financial aid to public schools, including per pupil and per program support. Legislators recognize we are here to provide for all children throughout the State. Certain counties in the State have needs outside of instruction, and counties should be able to address those needs.

Section 3 provides that if a school district negotiates with an employee organization to increase salaries of licensed teachers and classified employees, the board of trustees must reserve enough funds to pay for those increases and salaries. Any unspent funds carry over to the next fiscal year and must be used for salary increases.

Sections 4 through 8 authorize the counties or ordinances to increase sales tax for the purposes I already set forth, including pre-K, adult education, truancy, homelessness and affordable housing.

One key item in this bill is incentives for the recruitment and retention of licensed teachers for high-vacancy schools in a school district.

High-vacancy schools are defined as public schools in which 10 percent or more of the classroom teacher positions are vacant for 20 consecutive days or more or filled by a substitute teacher for 20 consecutive days or more in the same classroom or assignment. Section 8 will apply to schools which have a disproportionate number of permanent substitute teachers. These are substitute teachers who are not fully licensed. Having many permanent substitute teachers deprives the children in those classrooms of equal ability to be taught by a fully licensed professional.

Section 13 of A.B. 309 provides the flexibility on the use of funds from the Account for Programs for Innovation and the Prevention of Remediation created under *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 387. This account is referred to as the School Remediation Trust Fund. This refers to contracts the schools have for new textbooks every seven years. Statute allows school districts to waive the

renewal of textbooks for a two-year period based on a hardship or other reasons. As one teacher told me, "Spanish doesn't change." If schools are able to delay renewal for two years and use the money for other needs, that will give the school districts flexibility to help make ends meet.

That is an overview from a 20,000-foot level. Assembly Bill 309 addresses inequities throughout the State without addressing the K-12 instruction. This bill does not do anything to offend *The Constitution of the State of Nevada* but provides school districts with requested flexibility in areas teachers have agreed would be better used to help make ends meet throughout this next Interim.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

With the imposition of the up to 0.25 percent sales tax, do you envision the county making a determination of how it would allocate those funds prior to the imposition of the tax? Distribution formulas would be considered, and if a school district was able to use these funds for personnel, it locks it in permanently for that use. Do you envision the proposed use being determined prior to the adoption of the ordinance?

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON:

Assembly Bill 309 includes language to make it clear that this a short-term adjustment. It would behoove the counties not to use these funds for ongoing base expenses because it would fall on the local government to be sure the ongoing funding is provided for. The bill is clear this funding is not for increasing the base, and the counties are not to use this in subsequent cycles to justify an increase in the base. This funding is strictly to makes ends meet, so it would behoove the counties to use it in that way.

I was approached by some who requested parameters such as requiring 50 percent of the funds be used specifically for the education-related factors and the other 50 percent be used for the other factors. I am open to that, but as Legislators are held accountable, the county officials who will consider these actions are also going to be held accountable. If county commissioners put the vote before the people, the counties would have more direction in how the funds would be spent. Even in a county commission's own decision-making, it would behoove them to have direction as well.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I appreciate the concept of being able to give all of the money to education; would that be possible? Or does a certain portion have to be left for counties to utilize for other sources?

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON:

I philosophically do not disagree because this Legislative Body wants as much money as possible for education. Much of what is needed for instruction is in the base. It is constitutionally protected and would create haves and have-nots. The areas in education that need increased support the most are those in basic instruction. Putting all the funds toward the education factors set out in A.B. 309 runs the risk of violating the Nevada Constitution when it comes to the factors of education in K-12 instruction. This bill is on the fringe and designed to be on the fringe of funding which does not impact the K-12 instruction base per pupil spending. The counties also need to have skin in the game. If this bill asks the counties to consider moving funding either by a county commission vote or by sending it to the people, the counties need to have some influence and benefit if the counties will be putting their necks out on the line as well.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I would love to see the majority of the money go to education, but you are correct. In order to accomplish the goal, A.B. 309 must provide options. Otherwise, all of the money will go to the DSA. I understand what you are trying to do.

SENATOR CANCELA:

I am grateful the bill includes language for money for truancy programs. Those are important programs. It would be beneficial if the money was used to get truancy diversion programs in all schools which need them.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON:

I had in-depth conversations with many on the county level about their needs. Truancy interacts with the education system and the juvenile justice system. The potential for a lot of partnerships and savings across the system exist which could not be reduced to writing.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I need a reaffirmation on A.B. 309, section 8, subsection 1, paragraphs (a) and (b) regarding early childhood and adult education being handled at the local school district level or the county level. I strive for curriculum standards and the quality of the programs. Is it your intent that these programs be handled locally instead of the way the programs are handled now? Would those administering the programs be expected to maintain the same level of standard or better?

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON:

The intent of section 8, subsection 1, paragraphs (a) and (b) is not to replace our current efforts but to add to. The expectation is that the counties will partner with the organizations and agencies providing these programs to provide more. The intention is not to replace what is already being provided.

SENATOR DENIS:

Following up on the question regarding section 8 on early childhood education, you envision the counties would provide additional programs and follow the same regulations and requirements for pre-K done through the Department of Education. Is that correct?

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON:

Absolutely. The county is not in the business of providing pre-K and should not be. The counties should partner with organizations and agencies in a department which provides pre-K education to expand access and provide more of it.

SENATOR DENIS:

This provision is in addition to the pre-K education provided. Do you envision the additional services being part of the DSA or outside of the DSA?

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON:

I do not envision these provisions being part of the DSA. We as a Legislative Body have to resolve the State's budgets and cannot depend on whether a county takes action to do more. We would never be able to depend on this as a Legislature, but locally a county could enhance what the State provides.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

I have concerns about the shift from some of the categoricals into a block grant program. I am concerned about the Nevada Ready 21 Program and the technology investments, coupled with the temporary waiver, I am a little

nervous that this provides too much flexibility to districts to not purchase the supplies and technology improvements and investments which the districts have requested for a long time. I am particularly surprised that Nevada Ready 21 was on the list. Did the districts provide any sort of context as to why that program was a good choice to include in the block grants?

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON:

I do not know the particular reason why Nevada Ready 21 was included, but that was not something I put out there. I got the suggestion from school districts and teacher organizations as something they thought would help meet their needs overall, at least for the next biennium, by treating the funds from that program in a block grant fashion.

CHRIS DALY (Nevada State Education Association):

The Nevada State Education Association supports A.B. 309. We thank the Speaker for his leadership in trying to figure out this dilemma which has been vexing many people in this building: how to appropriate more dollars to public education and how to make sure those dollars get to the appropriate places like salaries for educators. Salaries for educators include teachers, other licensed educational professionals as well as education support professionals and others working in education.

KIRSTEN SEARER (CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT):

Clark County School District supports A.B. 309 and thanks Speaker Frierson for the flexibility of approximately \$13 million in its budget along with the ability to enhance programming for pre-K, adult education, truancy and other important programs.

The District recommended at least 50 percent of the funds go toward education, but having a minimum amount would be beneficial. The District wants to put that on the record.

Otherwise, the District is thankful to the Speaker for working closely with the District on this bill to give this flexibility.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Clark County School District has talked about an ongoing potential budgetary shortfall for the next school year. If the District gets \$13 million in flexibility from this piece of legislation, would that amount reduce the proposed shortfall?

MS. SEARER:

Yes. As the District has been looking at its numbers as well as analyzing S.B. 555 and the per pupil amount, the District has been subtracting \$13 million from our shortfall.

**SENATE BILL 555**: Ensures sufficient funding for K-12 public education for the 2019-2021 biennium. (BDR 34-1279)

MATT WALKER (Clark County Association of School Administrators):

The Clark County Association of School Administrators thanks the Speaker for bringing this bill forward. The Association supports A.B. 309. This bill will provide a powerful tool for local governments. The flexibility in the bill for county commissioners to customize this program for the communities' needs and build a coalition which will successfully push us forward is greatly appreciated.

SYLVIA LAZOS (Nevada Immigrant Coalition):

Nevada Immigrant Coalition supports A.B. 309. This bill supports working families and is oriented toward education programs that work for kids with less-advantaged backgrounds, such as pre-K, adult education and incentives for teachers in Title I.

MS. N. ANDERSON:

Washoe Education Association supports A.B. 309. Everything I would have said has already been stated. I ask for your support.

LINDSAY ANDERSON (Washoe County School District):

Washoe County School District supports A.B. 309.

JESSICA FERRATO (Nevada Association of School Boards):

The Nevada Association of School Boards supports A.B. 309.

MS. PIERCZYNSKI:

The Nevada Association of School Superintendents supports A.B. 309.

SARAH ADLER (Charter School Association of Nevada):

The Charter School Association of Nevada supports A.B. 309. The flexibility to invest at a local level in truancy, homelessness and affordable housing is

important to education. Children need a solid base. Children need their home so they can invest their energy in learning. This is well-structured.

JOHN VELLARDITA (Clark County Education Association):

Clark County Education Association supports A.B. 309. The Association thanks the Speaker for not just sponsoring this bill but working diligently over the last several weeks and months on the issues captured in this bill. This bill captures the importance of appropriated dollars at the State level intended for educators' salary increases that should not be used for anything else. The Association is appreciative of this. That issue has been a struggle for the last couple of Sessions.

Some of the categoricals captured in this bill are no longer effective, for example, the \$5,000 signing bonus for the recruitment of teachers from S.B. No. 511 of the 78th Session. Giving the districts the option to use the money differently gives flexibility at a time when those dollars are needed. Other examples include the Great Teaching and Leading Fund, the Peer Assistance and Review program and so on.

The Association worked hard trying to find a local revenue option in addition to the dollars provided under the DSA. The Speaker explained the barrier of giving the counties the ability to raise revenue on K-12 funding and the constitutional restrictions.

The areas laid out in the bill identified for local revenue to cover are not just good but are strategic. For example, one study showed Clark County's student performance would lift from forty-seventh to twenty-ninth nationally if 80 percent of all children eligible for pre-K were enrolled in pre-K; graduation rates would lift from the bottom to ninth nationally. This bill builds additional capacity on the front end of the education process for students.

Every year school districts ask for waivers on textbook renewals so the districts can use those dollars differently. This bill gives that flexibility.

On behalf of the Clark County Education Association Executive Board, we thank the Speaker for sponsoring this bill and working with us on this bill. We ask everybody to find the will to support it.



SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Section 3, subsection 1 of A.B. 309 refers to the carveout for the negotiated salary increase amounts. Do you anticipate the 3 percent COLA increase in the Executive Budget approved by this Legislature as well as the 2 percent rollup costs would then have to be carved out and put into this separate category?

MR. VELLARDITA:

Absolutely. The operative language of that section says the board of trustees of the school district shall reserve an amount of money sufficient when combined with any appropriations for that purpose for the fiscal year.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

That is how I read it too. I wanted to see if you were in agreement.

MR. VELLARDITA:

We are in agreement. The 3 percent, the 2 percent and any additional money appropriated would be part of this.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

A fiscal note exists from the Department of Education for a management analyst position. I received a text from the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jhone Ebert, on A.B. 196; does that information apply to A.B. 309 as well?

MS. NICK:

Yes. The Department will be withdrawing its fiscal note from A.B. 196. However, I will confirm with my team to see if the same will apply for the fiscal note on A.B. 309.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 309 and reopen the hearing on A.B. 196. Natha Anderson did a nice job of explaining the reasons why the money is needed, but there were some questions from Committee members.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

The Department will take the \$5 million, divide it by the number of current teachers at Title I and underperforming schools to give the teachers a bonus for the work the teachers are doing. I agree with the concept. How many teachers will qualify for the bonus?

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON:

I am unaware of how many teachers will qualify. The incentive program which already exists incorporates the ability for the Department to develop regulations on how the Department distributes the bonuses whether the bonus is given to every teacher or through an application process, I was supportive of letting the Department do what it needs to do to develop the criteria. The genesis of the bill is incentives are provided for new teachers who are just starting and teachers transferring in while ignoring the teachers who have been sticking it out with these kids. Those teachers were the valuable ones who provided stability for those kids, and those kids deserve that. I am fine with leaving the criteria for the incentives up to the Department, similar to the Department developing regulations for the transferring in and new teachers.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I want to at least have an idea of which way the Department is going because the Committee could be considering giving teachers \$20 or \$2,000. It is not a concern if the Department is giving teachers \$2,000, but if the Department is only giving them \$20, I am not sure that is a good idea. I am trying to figure out the numbers. This Committee needs the Department or somebody to give us some type of indication of what the numbers would be. Unfortunately, the State has a lot of Title I schools and schools that are underperforming. What percentage is that? Does the Department think it is 50 percent of all teachers? Ten percent? I really have no idea.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON:

I appreciate that concern. While I zoomed through the hearing on my notes on the previous bill, the bonus issue really speaks also to the morale issue which has been devastating for teachers. Those who make policy might not see it that way. Education professionals have told me they would rather have \$20 for all teachers than for the Department to pick and choose. The teachers felt overlooked this last cycle when the bonus was only for transferring-in teachers. It shocked me to hear this, but the teachers were clear that in solidarity the teachers would rather the bonuses be spread out throughout the teachers who have stuck it out, even if it was \$20 each.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I agree with that. If the Department gave the bonus to every teacher at a Title I or underperforming school, what is that number? I have no idea because I do not know the number of eligible teachers.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON:

I am happy to try to get that information. I do not think it will take long.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I know Natha Anderson indicated she would be working on getting those numbers as well.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Ultimately, my question will probably be answered by the Department through the regulatory process, but section 1, subsection 1 of A.B. 196 refers to providing incentives for teachers who are "currently employed." The language does not peg an academic year or something along those lines. I understand the intent and am supportive of the intent. It would be demoralizing for someone who watches other teachers who get hired and given a bonus while he or she has been doing the good work for years. The regulatory process will answer the questions. Maybe the bill has a little more flexibility than we would like.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON:

In previous cycles, morale was such that teachers were leaving schools so they could come back to be eligible for incentives. We as Legislators do not want that. The State wants to reward teachers and have teachers stick it out.

I appreciate the help of Natha Anderson in helping to follow up in getting some information. In looking at statistics on teachers' morale, in particular in struggling schools, the bonus is more than a gesture but sends a message of the Legislators' value of them sticking it out.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Senator Denis and I were trying to do the math. If 2,500 teachers are eligible, the bonus would be \$2,000 per teacher. It may be more than that, but it is a framework.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

Clark County School District is in the audience. Clark County can get back to us on the number for its district. If the Committee has Washoe and Clark Counties' information, we will have a good handle on how many teachers that would be.

Ms. NICK:

The Department will be withdrawing its fiscal note on A.B. 196 for an Education Programs Professional position. We are working on getting the data of how many teachers may be eligible for such a bonus.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 196 and open the hearing on A.B. 495.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 495 (1st Reprint)**: Makes appropriations to certain nonprofit organizations in the State. (BDR S-1118)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MAGGIE CARLTON (Assembly District No. 14):

I am presenting A.B. 495 which makes an appropriation to the Nevada Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs, Inc. and an additional appropriation to address a community learning center in southern Nevada.

ANDY BISCHER (President and CEO, Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Nevada):

Assembly Bill 495 serves the entire State and the Nevada Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs. There are five Boys and Girls Club organizations throughout the State represented in this bill.

Positive Action is a drug prevention program for children from the ages of 6 to 18 years old. The Boys and Girls Club started the program with the Office of the Attorney General last year and wants to carry the programming forward. The Club offers science, technology, engineering and mathematics programming throughout the year at all locations Statewide. The Club also offers a Summer Brain Gain program which helps with academics through the summer so children do not regress in their reading or math levels. The program tries to keep the children at grade level or advanced.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Assembly Bill 495 also provides \$1.8 million to the Nevada Partners for construction and operation of a community learning center. Nevada Partners is an institution on the west side of Las Vegas. The institution makes a definite difference in the lives of the families in that area. Nevada Partners has done a lot of good work over the years.

A lot of people left New Orleans the year of Hurricane Katrina and came to Las Vegas. Nevada Partners was an integral partner with the Culinary Union in

helping to bring those people in and get them settled. That happened to be one of the projects I assisted with.

Of the total appropriation in A.B. 495, \$625,000 is designated for the completion of construction of the community learning center.

Section 4 of the bill describes the rest of the program.

The bill also includes accountability to the Legislature. The Legislature will know exactly what is going on. Whenever the State becomes a partner with a nonprofit that serves our constituents, the Legislature wants to make sure it is kept in the loop on how things are progressing and if there are any bumps in the road. The Legislature also wants to hear about its partners' success. I am sure this project will be a great success.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

I am not as familiar with Nevada Partners. I understand Nevada Partners has a current facility which it has probably outgrown and has more work than it can handle at the current site. Is the new site selected? How far along is the project to create this new center?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

These funds will be the last dollars to help Nevada Partners complete the project. Nevada Partners has done well so far. Typically, the State takes this kind of stance in helping with those last dollars to get projects over the finish line. These funds will help Nevada Partners get to the final stage and provide the resources to get the center up and running.

SENATOR CANCELA:

I want two things on the record. The nonprofit I work for rents space at Nevada Partners. Being on campus, it is incredible to see how many people walk up to the facility and are in the facility every day, receiving real on-the-job training and accessing opportunities they would not otherwise know about. I am especially excited because in the last few years, Nevada Partners has put together a youth outreach program for underprivileged youth to do everything from support groups to helping young folks get into jobs. It is an incredible organization. Between that and the Boys and Girls Club, I do not know of a bill that I am more excited about to get out of our Committee.

SENATOR BROOKS:

I would like to disclose for the record that I am a long-time board member of Nevada Partners and will not be participating in any action on this bill.

WILLIAM STANLEY (Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Southern Nevada Building and Construction Trades Council):

Nevada Partners does a lot of work. The building trades have partnered with Nevada Partners for the last three of four years. It provides the wraparound service for our Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) program at High Desert State Prison. When a person is released from High Desert, the Building and Trades Council has the capacity to get a person into the apprenticeship program. The Council has the capacity to assist with the work side of things. Many of these individuals still need help with drug or alcohol counseling and those types of social services which the building trades do not have the bandwidth to provide.

The Council has partnered with Nevada Partners the entire time of having the successful MC3 program. Nevada Partners provides those wraparound services. Without those services, our program would not have been as successful.

Monica Ford and the folks at Nevada Partners are fantastic, and the Council continues to work with them and hope for their success.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 495 and open the hearing on A.B. 322.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 322 (1st Reprint)**: Makes an appropriation to the Eighth Judicial District to support the operation of juvenile assessment centers. (BDR S-713)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DANIELE MONROE-MORENO (Assembly District No. 1):

I am presenting A.B. 322. The original form of the bill had an appropriation request of \$16 million. However, adjustments to the requested funding amount were made in the reprint of the bill. The appropriation request is now \$3 million to fund The Harbor Juvenile Assessment Center in southern Nevada after the \$1.9 million one-shot funding provided to The Harbor in A.B. No 472 of the 79th Session.

The Harbor utilized every dollar the State gave them in its success working with the youth in our community. The additional funding of \$3 million is to expand into the northwest valley to help more families in our community.

ALEX ORTIZ (Clark County):

Clark County supports A.B. 322. We thank the sponsor for bringing the bill forward. I am here on behalf of Brigid Duffy who is the Clark County Chief Deputy District Attorney and the Director of the Juvenile Division of the Clark County District Attorney's Office.

The Harbor has been a successful program. The program has served over 8,000 children and families with over a 96 percent success rate.

SENATOR DENIS:

How many more children will be helped under this bill?

MR. ORTIZ:

Since The Harbor has been in operation, it has served over 8,000 children and families. The initial \$1.9 million one-shot funds received in 2017 afforded the opportunity to open one facility. Since then, The Harbor opened a second facility and converted the first facility, which had limited hours, to a 24/7-hour facility.

The Harbor is contemplating adding another facility. I can give you the actual numbers, but as noted, The Harbor continues to expand and will be able to provide for several thousand more.

LEONARDO BENAVIDES (Clark County School District):

Clark County School District supports A.B. 322. We thank Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno for bringing this bill forward. Clark County School District has used The Harbor on more than 2,000 occasions since it opened. The District is conducting a comprehensive study, and our preliminary data shows success in academic achievement, attendance and discipline events after a referral to The Harbor.

A recent analysis provided to the District shows it costs about \$3,456 to support 1,623 youths over 90 days through this program as opposed to the estimated detention cost of \$88,970 to detain one student for 3 months. This

program has had a lot of impact on the students, their families, our teachers and principals.

PAIGE BARNES (Communities in Schools):

Communities in Schools is an evidence-based dropout prevention program. We support the work of The Harbor in our community and support any funding which can go to continue its efforts.

SHANI COLEMAN (City of Las Vegas):

The City of Las Vegas supports A.B. 322 and concurs with everything previously stated.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 322 and open the hearing on A.B. 331.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 331 (2nd Reprint)**: Creates the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program. (BDR 35-89)

ASSEMBLYMAN STEVE YEAGER (Assembly District No. 9):

It is an honor to present A.B. 331. This bill enacts what I call the "no child left inside" program. This is patterned after a similar program which took place in the state of Washington, following enactment in 2007.

Section 2 creates a Grant Program called the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program.

Section 3 creates the Program, spells out the Program's goals, indicates which students should be focused on, provides details of the regulations and what should be included in those regulations.

Section 4 is the establishment of an advisory committee to assist and advise the Administrator of the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources regarding the grant program. It also specifies who will be on the advisory commission.

Sections 5 and 6 create accounts, one in the General Fund to grant out for these activities. Section 6 creates an endowment fund in the State Treasury.



Section 7 makes an appropriation for staffing which will be needed at the Division of State Parks to run the program and get things off the ground.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Was the appropriation inserted in A.B. 331 to address the concerns of the Division of State Parks?

ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER:

That is correct. The appropriation matches what was requested in the fiscal note submitted by Division of State Parks. The funding request is for a Grants and Projects Analyst II position as well as a small operating budget. Section 7 was added to the bill after being heard in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

SENATOR PARKS:

I like this program. Assembly Bill 486 deals with the creation of the Division of Outdoor Recreation. Is there any nexus between these programs? Might you draw upon one to assist the other?

**ASSEMBLY BILL 486 (2nd Reprint)**: Creates the Division of Outdoor Recreation within the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. (BDR 18-840)

ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER:

You raise a great point. I have communicated with Assemblywoman Carlton about how these two bills might interact. There could be a good nexus where these programs could pair up and be able to receive federal funding for these types of programs as well. We are still looking at that. In discussing the issue, it was determined it made sense to submit these bills in tandem. I think having similar bills helped get this bill through the Assembly Ways and Means Committee to some degree as well.

ALEXANDER MARKS (Nevada State Education Association):

The Nevada State Education Association supports A.B. 331.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 331 and open the hearing on A.B. 414.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 414**: Makes an appropriation to provide grants to assist senior citizens and certain other persons with independent living. (BDR S-101)

Ms. ROBB:

Assembly Bill 414 resulted from a presentation regarding respite services in Nevada provided by the Aging and Disability Services Division to the Committee to Study the Needs Related to the Behavioral and Cognitive Care of Older Persons.

Many challenges face informal caregivers in accessing respite services due to the lack of available workforce in rural and frontier, limited funding which contributes to wait lists and often one-time vouchers which do not meet the ongoing needs for the individuals.

The existing respite voucher is capped at \$1,000 annually. Through the appropriation, A.B. 414 will increase the voucher to \$1,200 annually, allowing the caregivers to access more respite hours with each voucher.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Appropriations are in section 1, subsections 1 and 2. What is the difference in the activities covered by the appropriations?

Ms. ROBB:

The appropriations in section 1, subsection 1 cover the increase in the vouchers. The additional funding in section 1, subsection 2 is for the wait list. The wait list for respite care includes 248 individuals.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

What is the current grant amount?

Ms. ROBB:

I do not have that answer. I can get that information for you.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Assembly Bill 414 brings the amount up to \$1,200.

Ms. ROBB:

Correct. It is a voucher. The voucher limit is \$1,000 annually. This bill takes it up to \$1,200 annually.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

This is one of the four pieces of legislation brought forward by the Committee to Study the Needs Related to the Behavioral and Cognitive Care of Older Persons that Senator Goicoechea and I served on. Assembly Bill 414 is the result of that work.

We will close the hearing on A.B. 414.

We will open the hearing on A.B. 71.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 71 (1st Reprint)**: Makes various changes concerning expenditures related to disasters and emergencies. (BDR 31-349)

CALEB S. CAGE (Chief, Division of Emergency Management Advisor; Office of Homeland Security, Department of Public Safety):

Assembly Bill 71 addresses three items identified during after-action reviews from 2017, the year of emergencies and disasters experienced by the State.

The first is to ensure that the Disaster Relief Account would be available for tribal governments in the State which it currently is not.

The second is to address the needs of private property owners, homeowners in particular, for individual assistance-type resources at the State level. These needs are addressed in this bill by reestablishing a program previously known as the Homeowners Disaster Assistance Program which was removed from statute in 2011.

The third is to allow more flexibility for distributions and funding from the Disaster Relief Account (DRA) to the Emergency Assistance Account (EAA) so the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security would not have to continue to seek alternative ways of renewing the funding available in the Emergency Assistance Account during times of emergency and disaster.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Is there a reason the Fiscal staff wanted this Committee to review this bill?

MR. KRMPOTIC:

Assembly Bill 71 changes a policy with respect to the DRA in the State. In statute, the DRA is available to primarily provide assistance to local

governments or State agencies in the event of a disaster. The Account has assisted entities such as the City of Caliente, Lincoln County, Douglas County and so forth.

Section 3 of the bill establishes a revolving account within the General Fund. The bill allows the Division to award grants of money to those who occupy homes damaged by a disaster. That is a significant change in policy for the State. In the 2005 Legislative Session, the Legislature set aside a certain amount of money—I do not recall the amount—for assistance to homeowners. I believe that action coincided with floods which occurred in Fernley to homeowners who required assistance.

Assembly Bill 71 is a significant policy change at this juncture from what has been established up until now.

This bill allows the Chief of the Division to request approval from the Interim Finance Committee to transfer money from the DRA to the revolving account. The bill also provides for transfers to the EAA. The EAA receives interest earnings from the DRA, which is a smaller amount of money. Section 4 allows for advances from the General Fund to the EAA. Advances from the General Fund are typically paid in the same year the advances are granted. A lot of times, these Disaster Relief grants take a significant amount of time to repay.

I am bringing this information to the Committee's attention because of the significant policy shift for the DRA.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:  
How much is generally in the DRA?

MR. KRMPOTIC:  
The balance is in the \$5 million to \$7 million range based on staff's knowledge. A significant number of requests have not been made from that account as of late.

A funding mechanism is in place for the DRA. The funding mechanism is based on a balance in the Account to Stabilize the Operation of State Government which is also referred to as the Rainy Day Fund. The balance in the fund is significant. Based on the balance in the Rainy Day Fund, transfers take place from the General Fund to the DRA to replenish the DRA in the maximum amount

of \$2 million per year. Staff takes into account the DRA receives \$2 million from the General Fund each year when accounting for the General Fund balance. The allocations from the DRA in recent months and years have not been significant, so the Account has been building up its balance.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

As an example of the grants provided in section 3 of A.B. 71, would homeowners from the Little Valley fire be eligible to access grants to cover actual costs based on this change if the fire was a declared disaster by the Governor?

MR. KRMPOTIC:

Assembly Bill 71 would provide an avenue for those homeowners to seek assistance. The bill requires the Division to establish regulations, possibly identifying maximum amounts to grant to homeowners. The policy adopted in 2005 had a cap or maximum amount allowable to assist homeowners. Generally, this bill will allow a funding avenue.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 71 and open the hearing on A.B. 84.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 84 (1st Reprint)**: Provides for the issuance of state general obligation bonds to protect, preserve and obtain the benefits of the property and natural and cultural resources of the State of Nevada. (BDR S-326)

BRAD CROWELL (Director, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources):

Assembly Bill 84 is a continuation and renewal of Nevada's extremely successful conservation bond program which was first passed by the Legislature in 2001 and approved by the voters in 2002. The bond program was State Question No. 1 on the ballot for the 2002 general election, and that is the program commonly referred to as the Question 1 or Q1 Program. The original Q1 Program in 2002 authorized \$200 million in bonds to carry out a variety of conservation and recreation projects.

The success of the program has helped establish bond sales as a successful program for supplementing conservation projects throughout Nevada without the need to raise new revenue.

The Q1 Program supported bond sales for the Las Vegas Springs Preserve, the Las Vegas Wash, numerous wildlife projects across the State carried out by the Department of Wildlife, critical improvements to State parks as well as needed restoration projects along the Truckee and Carson Rivers. The Q1 Program bond sales also supported the first phase of the Lake Tahoe bike path which is set to open this month between Incline Village and Sand Harbor.

While the Q1 Program was essential for these high-profile projects, it is the multitude of smaller projects which defines the success of the Q1 Program. These smaller-scale efforts included countless recreational trail improvements, river enhancement projects, open-space acquisitions and wildlife habitat improvements in every corner of Nevada.

As the Q1 Program comes to an end, this is the time to renew our commitment to protecting Nevada's natural landscapes and historic treasures with a new conservation bond program.

Assembly Bill 84 is essentially the same program as the Q1 Program with many of the same eligible projects but expanded further to meet the needs and challenges the State faces today to protect and enhance Nevada's natural resources.

This legislation increases the bond authorization level from \$200 million to \$217.5 million by rolling approximately \$17.5 million in bond authority remaining under the Q1 Program into A.B. 84.

Assembly Bill 84 will improve efficiency by streamlining the conservation bond program into a single program. More importantly, the bill helps expand the categories of eligible projects to establish an even broader consensus of stakeholders to ensure the new conservation bond program is even a greater success.

JAMES R. LAWRENCE (Deputy Director, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources):

I will review A.B. 84. Section 1 establishes the authority for the State Board of Finance to issue general obligation bonds not to exceed a total of \$217.5 million for the various purposes identified in the bill.

The original Q1 Program provided for bonds totaling \$200 million; however, a remaining authority of \$17.5 million still exists in that program. This bill proposes to combine the two. We had multiple conversations with the Treasurer's Office regarding the pros and cons of keeping the two amounts separate or combining them. A downside was not identified regarding combining the existing \$17.5 million with this bill's funding and was seen as a positive for the purposes of selling bonds, tracking bond expenditures and for overall program efficiency.

Section 2 outlines the projects and program categories eligible for expenditures from the proceeds of the bond sales. Section 2, subsection 1 authorizes \$30 million for improvements to State parks. Section 2, subsection 2 authorizes \$30 million to the Department of Wildlife for habitat and facility improvements. Section 2, subsection 3 authorizes \$30 million to the Las Vegas Springs Preserve. Section 2, subsection 4 authorizes \$10 million to Clark County for the Wetlands Park and Lower Las Vegas Wash. This is largely a continuation of the projects done under the original Q1 Program.

Section 2, subsection 5 authorizes \$30 million to the Division of Museums and History for the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City, the East Ely Depot Museum and for other improvements to museums in the State system. Section 2, subsection 6 allocates \$5 million to the State Land Registrar for preservation and rehabilitation of properties in Nevada listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A minimum of \$2 million of the \$5 million is for the Caliente Railroad Depot. This section is in line with A.B. No. 371 of the 79th Session passed by this Body authorizing the State Land Registrar to enter into public-private partnerships to protect historic buildings.

Section 2, subsection 7 allocates \$10 million to Clark County for the planning, design and construction of the Las Vegas Valley Rim Trail.

Section 2, subsection 8 allocates \$10 million to the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to be distributed through grants for enhancement and restoration projects in the Truckee and Carson River watersheds. This is also a continuation of the original Q1 Program.

Section 2, subsection 9 allocates \$5 million to the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the Lake Tahoe Path System.

Section 2, subsection 10 allocates \$57.5 million to carry out a Statewide competitive grant program. Many of the categories in the Statewide grant program are in the original Q1 Program, but new categories have been added and some removed to reflect conditions in 2019.

The grant categories are for the following purposes: construction of recreational trails and facilities; sensitive land acquisition by counties and municipalities; measures improving sagebrush ecosystems utilizing the State's conservation credit system to quantify the improvements; improvement of watershed conditions to conduct necessary fuel reduction work and carry out restoration activities.

Section 2, subsection 10, paragraph (a), subparagraph (5) provides grants for necessary inventory, enhancement and restoration of wetlands throughout the State. These grants must be coordinated with the Nevada Natural Heritage Program and the Department of Wildlife.

Section 2, subsection 10, paragraph (b) covers contracts and agreements with nonprofit organizations for acquisition of environmentally sensitive land or interest in such land.

A requirement for the Department to adopt regulations to carry out the program is at the end of section 2. Any rules regarding match requirements are included in the regulations.

Section 3 is largely administrative, and I will not go over all of the provisions. The provisions are largely identical to the administrative provisions in the original Q1 Program.

Section 3, subsection 9 allows the reallocation of amounts in this bill if deemed necessary with the approval of the Interim Finance Committee.

Section 3, subsection 13 establishes a reporting requirement for the Department to report to the Governor and the Legislative Counsel Bureau to keep abreast of the progress of this program.

Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7 have the necessary administrative language for bond sales and proceeds that is largely identical to the Q1 Program language.



Section 8 is an appropriation for one position starting in the second year of the biennium. This position will be in charge of getting the necessary regulations in place and coordinating with the stakeholders in anticipation of bonds being sold to carry out the projects in the next biennium.

Section 9 repeals the existing Q1 Program as the remaining authority is included in this bill.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Pieces of these bonds would be exempt from the State's debt caps. Is it spelled out which pieces fit that criteria? Are there debts related to water projects and things of that nature outside of the certain limitations of our debt obligations?

MR. LAWRENCE:

The Treasurer's Office refers to it as exempt or nonexempt from the debt limit. I do not know if the bill spells out which projects are exempt or nonexempt. In carrying out the Q1 Program, the nonexempt projects were largely land acquisitions that included protection of historic resources.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

I will read back through the bill.

KYLE DAVIS (Nevada Conservation League):

The Nevada Conservation League is proud to support A.B. 84 which continues an incredibly successful program. The extension of the conservation bond program is a priority of the Nevada Conservation Network which is a coalition of 22 conservation groups from across the State. The support is illustrated by the letters you have on file from Western Resource Advocates, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, Battle Born Progress and the Walker Basin Conservancy. There may be others that I am not aware of.

The support is also illustrated by the comments on the Nevada Legislature website. In the section of the website where a person can share his or her opinion on bills, 1,502 people have registered in support of this bill; only 3 people have registered opposition. Two of the opposition were clearly commenting on a different issue because I do not see anything in this bill that has to do with abortion or pre-K education. Of the top 15 bills most commented on, A.B. 84 is the only bill with more comments in favor than against.

Assembly Bill 84 is an opportunity for Nevada to invest in conservation. The bill presenters outlined the positive activities completed in the previous Q1 Program and the opportunities the State has moving forward.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize Senator Kieckhefer who was willing to work with us on this issue long before we knew this administration was planning to move forward with an extension of this program.

With climate change, invasive species, wildfire and drought, it is even more important to protect Nevada's land, water and wildlife for future generations. This legislation is the opportunity to our State to invest in our public lands and waters.

HELEN FOLEY:

I am representing myself on A.B. 84. I am a fourth-generation Nevadan coming from the rural areas of Nevada. There are some real treasures in this State. Many of the treasures have been in a state of disrepair for a while and need to be resurrected. One of the treasures is the Caliente Train Depot. It was built in 1923 at the time of steam engines. In the 1940s, diesel locomotives came along. In the meantime, the most gorgeous Mission Revival depot was built in Caliente. The depot is absolutely magnificent. When arriving in Caliente, it is shocking to see this huge Mission Revival train depot with few people there. The Depot is on the National Register of Historic Places. It needs funding because it has started to crumble. An appropriation for the Depot is in this bill. I urge you to pass A.B. 84.

DAVE DAZLICH (Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce):

The Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce supports A.B. 84. We have supported legislation similar to this bill for these bonds in prior sessions. This is a priority for the Southern Nevada Forum.

CHAUNSEY CHAU-DUONG (Las Vegas Valley Water District; Springs Preserve Foundation):

The Las Vegas Valley Water District and Springs Preserve Foundation support A.B. 84.

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ANDREW MACKAY (Nevada Bighorns Unlimited):

As a longtime member and former board member of Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, we enthusiastically support A.B. 84 because it will help endow and advance its core mission of habitat and wildlife conservation.

LISA LAPLANTE (City of Boulder City):

The City of Boulder City supports A.B. 84.

LARRY BENDER (Boulder City Economic Vitality Commission):

Boulder City Economic Vitality Commission supports A.B. 84.

JAINA MOAN (The Nature Conservancy):

The conservation bond program has provided many benefits to Nevadans. One important benefit is the funding can be used to leverage additional revenue to achieve larger-scale restoration efforts. An example of this is The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) restoration work along the lower Truckee River below Reno and Sparks. The Conservancy was the recipient of approximately \$4.5 million of original Q1 Program funding. The Conservancy matched those funds with a little over \$25 million of federal, local and nonprofit grants to ultimately complete a \$30 million restoration effort which benefits fish and wildlife, flood control, water quality and recreational users.

A great need for conservation funding exists in our State. In 2016, TNC commissioned a conservation needs assessment for Nevada. The final assessment report indicated the midpoint of the range of funding needed for existing State conservation programs is \$66.4 million per year. This number does not factor needs beyond existing State programs which are likely to grow with increased frequency of wildfires and droughts.

The bonds authorized by A.B. 84 will bring benefits to all Nevadans and to the many visitors who pass through our State. We encourage the Committee to pass A.B. 84.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I am commenting in the neutral. Regarding the \$30 million that is going to the railroad museums and the East Ely Depot, I would ask on the record that the Division of Museums and History work with the Northern Nevada Railway Foundation to coordinate these projects to come up with a better package and working relationship.

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CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 84 and open the hearing on A.B. 111.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 111 (1st Reprint)**: Requires the Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice to conduct a study concerning the funding of the child welfare system in this State. (BDR S-451)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DANIELE MONROE-MORENO (Assembly District No. 1):

During the Interim, I had the honor to serve as chair of the Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. During several hearings, the Children's Advocacy Alliance presented information regarding the federal funding Nevada receives compared to the other 49 states including the District of Columbia.

According to Child Trends, in fiscal year (FY) 2016, Nevada received just over \$87 million in federal funds, roughly \$128.96 per capita, ranking Nevada thirty-sixth in the Nation. If Nevada was able to move up to twenty-fifth in the Nation, or \$160.00 per capita, the State could bring in roughly \$21 million in additional funds.

Assembly Bill 111 addresses the disparity in federal funding by requiring the Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice to conduct a study during the 2019-2020 Interim concerning the federal funding of the child welfare system in our State in order to identify opportunities and maximize federal funding for the child welfare system. In doing so, the bill appropriates \$200,000 for the Committee to employ a qualified independent consultant to aid the Committee in the commissioning of the study.

JARED BUSKER (Children's Advocacy Alliance):

The Children's Advocacy Alliance thanks Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno for bringing this bill forward. We support A.B. 111.

MR. ORTIZ:

Clark County supports A.B. 111.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 111 and open the hearing on A.B. 345.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 345 (3rd Reprint)**: Makes various changes relating to elections.  
(BDR 24-873)

ASSEMBLYMAN JASON FRIERSON (Assembly District No. 8):

I am presenting A.B. 345 and will give a truncated overview and discuss the fiscal impact. This bill proposes to do several things with respect to our election process.

Assembly Bill 345 authorizes vote centers which are polling locations in the county where any person entitled to vote by personal appearance may do so on the day of a primary or general election. Clark County already has vote centers which have worked wonderfully thus far. This bill establishes in statute what some municipalities are already doing to make sure provisions can be revised in the future.

Law establishes closing dates. Assembly Bill 345 provides that after voter registration closes until the Thursday preceding an election, an eligible individual may register to vote by computer using the system provided by the Office of the Secretary of State. This voter may vote in person at a polling place during early voting or on Election Day. An elector may also register to vote in person during the early voting period and vote on the same day as registration. Same-day voter registration will require the individual to complete an application and provide proof of identity and residence. The elector will be deemed to be conditionally registered and must cast a provisional ballot under those circumstances.

Assembly Bill 345 provides that a voter may use an online system established by the Office of the Secretary of State to update information regarding his or her entire registration information, including name, address and party affiliation. The voter may also update information by using a paper form which was an accommodation for several counties. We made this process as easy and seamless as possible but also practical in implementation.

This bill requires clerks to prescribe a procedure to verify the voter has not already voted in the current election.

Assembly Bill 345 also addresses automatic voter registration, which voters passed in 2018, permitting a person to register to vote or not register to vote by

giving an opt-out opportunity. This process will be done at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and a drop box at the DMV.

This bill makes changes to operations at the polls. In Clark County and other places, the practice has been that if a person is in line waiting to vote before the close of the polling time, he or she is still allowed to vote. Assembly Bill 345 puts that practice in statute. The bill also authorizes the extension of some voting hours. We collaborated a great deal with the county clerks to make sure we were taking practical application into consideration. These provisions were all accommodations in consultation with those clerks.

Assembly Bill 345 makes changes to accommodate a voter request for an absent ballot. The absent ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by the clerk within seven days after the election. The time a voter can request an absent ballot has been extended. Existing law requires 7 days, and this bill extends that period to 14 days. These are accommodations for the counties. This extension in particular was an accommodation because clerks indicated the postal service could not guarantee deliveries of all absent ballots if it were seven days. The extension to 14 days accommodated that concern.

This bill includes requirements regarding technology. The Office of the Secretary of State must establish a system for voter registration on the Secretary's internet website by January 1, 2020. The Office indicates it is on track to do so. The DMV will ensure it has a database capable of processing information relating to applications to vote. This is a large part of what gave rise to the fiscal impact. We worked with the counties to mitigate the impact the best we could.

Assembly Bill 345 amends relevant city charters to make sure cities and the State are on the same page and that the cities are not implementing policies or ordinances which would contradict this statute for city elections.

Fiscal impact exists for all of the counties. The total fiscal impact for all counties to be able to implement this bill is \$3.3 million.

Automated voter registration was largely approved by the voters in an effort to make voting easy for eligible voters. We heard from states which have implemented automated voter registration that the process is more secure. The

process has a requirement of verifying identity through the DMV and the ability of the clerks to verify a person has already voted.

There has been concern that provisions in this bill could slow down the final election results. With all things considered, what this Body really wants is to have an accurate count. This bill makes it easy for eligible voters to vote but also takes into account the need to be accurate with the results.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

The Office of the Secretary of State's fiscal note is from April 6. This Committee is considering A.B. 345. The Office showed a significant financial impact. Has that impact been resolved through the amendments?

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON:

Originally, the Office of the Secretary of State had upwards of \$8.6 million in the first year and \$4.3 million in the second year. The Office has reduced the fiscal impact to \$550,000 for the biennium. The original fiscal note included the Office's desire to go from its current bottom-up system to a top-down system which would have been significantly more expensive. While I understand the desire for the Office to have a top-down system, that is not what the Office has now and not what A.B. 345 proposed. With respect to the proposal in A.B. 345, the Office of the Secretary of State indicated an impact of \$550,000 for the biennium in the last hearing.

I have worked with Joe Gloria who is in the Registrar of Voters in Clark County and has been participating, but I do not see him here today. He testified in prior substantive Committee hearings.

DAGNY STAPLETON (Nevada Association of Counties):

On behalf of the county clerks, we thank the sponsor and Speaker for working with them. The Speaker's staff worked diligently in reaching out to the county clerks to determine the impacts and work on those numbers. The counties appreciate the appropriation.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON:

The investment of A.B. 345 is well worth the assurance of all of the work the State has done to provide additional security and access without the danger of increased fraud. What we have seen in other states demonstrates the ability to

decrease fraud with an automated system. This legislation is doing the State a great service in expanding democracy.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 345 and move to our work session.

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The first bill under consideration for work session is A.B. 345. This bill was just heard in this Committee. This bill makes various changes to elections. The bill includes General Fund appropriations in sections 148.4 through 148.8.

The fiscal note submitted on the bill included the Office of the Secretary of State. The Speaker testified the cost over the biennium is \$550,000. The appropriation in section 148.6 provides that cost. The appropriations for the Department of Motor Vehicles are included in sections 148.4 and 148.5 of the bill. There were no amendments on the bill.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 345.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

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

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The Finance Committee has a number of budget appropriation Assembly bills previously heard by this Committee to consider. Now that the DSA bill has passed the Assembly, passage by this Committee and by the House would meet the constitutional provision.

The first is A.B. 500.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 500 (1st Reprint)**: Makes and extends the reversion of appropriations to the Office of Finance for costs associated with replacement of the Advantage Financial and Human Resources System with the Enterprise Resource Planning System. (BDR S-1166)



This bill makes an appropriation to the Office of Finance for the Silver State Modernization Approach for Resources and Technology in the 21st Century system. The bill was heard on May 28 in this Committee. The appropriation is included in the Executive Budget.

SENATOR CANCELA MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 500.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill for consideration in the work session is A.B. 501.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 501 (1st Reprint)**: Makes an appropriation to the Fleet Services Division of the Department of Administration for the replacement of vehicles. (BDR S-1171)

Assembly Bill 501 was heard by this Committee on June 1. The bill makes an appropriation to the Fleet Services Division for the replacement of vehicles. The appropriation for A.B. 501 is included in the Executive Budget.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 501.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 502.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 502**: Makes an appropriation to the Office of Finance for an electronic tracking system for capital improvement projects. (BDR S-1172)

Assembly Bill 502 was heard by this Committee on May 28. This appropriation is included in the Executive Budget.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 502.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 503.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 503 (1st Reprint)**: Makes an appropriation to the Fleet Services Division of the Department of Administration for the purchase of new vehicles. (BDR S-1174)

Assembly Bill 503 makes both General Fund and Highway Fund appropriations to Fleet Services Division for the purchase of new vehicles. The bill was heard by this Committee on May 31. These appropriations are included in the Governor's Executive Budget.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 503.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 504.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 504 (1st Reprint)**: Makes appropriations to the State Department of Agriculture for water conservation projects, the purchase of replacement vehicles and the purchase and replacement of laboratory equipment. (BDR S-1177)

Assembly Bill 504 makes appropriations for water conservation projects and lab equipment. Senator Goicoechea talked about a potential amendment to the bill.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I was the one who suggested an amendment to A.B. 504. The concept was to remove the \$125,000 from the water conservation projects which has some problems and switch it to allow the State Department of Agriculture, Livestock Enforcement to buy four vehicles rather than two. This amendment would change the funding from \$100,000 to \$225,000 for the vehicle purchases by taking \$125,000 out of page 1, line 3 of the bill, adding it into line 9 and changing it from 2 to 4 vehicles.

MR. KRMPOTIC:

That is staff's recollection as well.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 504.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 505.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 505 (1st Reprint)**: Makes appropriations to the Division of State Parks for self-pay kiosks, replacement of vehicles, a paving project and construction at Ice Age Fossils State Park and maintenance of equipment for Sand Harbor at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. (BDR S-1180)

Assembly Bill 505 was heard by this Committee on May 31. This bill includes appropriations in the Executive Budget.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 505.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 506.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 506 (1st Reprint)**: Makes appropriations to the Department of Corrections for systems and equipment. (BDR S-1182)

The appropriations for this bill are for the Nevada Offender Tracking Information System. This bill was heard by this Committee on May 31. Appropriations are included in the Executive Budget.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 506.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 507 which was heard by this Committee on May 28.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 507**: Makes appropriations to the Department of Corrections for the replacement of buses and other vehicles. (BDR S-1183)

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 507.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 508 which was heard by this Committee on May 28 and includes appropriations from the Executive Budget.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 508 (1st Reprint)**: Makes appropriations to the Department of Corrections for certain medical equipment. (BDR S-1185)

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 508.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 509 which was heard by this Committee on May 28 and has appropriations included in the Executive Budget.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 509**: Makes an appropriation to the Nevada Equal Rights Commission for the new automation solution to streamline the intake process. (BDR S-1187)

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 509.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 510.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 510**: Makes an appropriation to the Department of Motor Vehicles for the Automatic Voter Registration Initiative. (BDR S-1190)

This bill was heard on May 28 by this Committee and includes appropriations in the Executive Budget.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 510.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 511 which was heard by this Committee on May 31 and includes appropriations in the Executive Budget.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 511 (1st Reprint)**: Makes appropriations to the Investigation Division of the Department of Public Safety for the replacement of vehicles and computer software and hardware. (BDR S-1194)

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 511.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 512 which was heard by this Committee on May 31 and includes appropriations in the Executive Budget.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 512 (1st Reprint)**: Makes appropriations to the Office of Finance as loans for the implementation and replacement of computer applications. (BDR S-1216)

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 512.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 513.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 513 (1st Reprint)**: Makes appropriations to the Department of Public Safety for the replacement of computer hardware and software. (BDR S-1219)

This bill provides appropriations for replacement computers, software and building maintenance. The bill was heard by this Committee on May 31 and includes appropriations in the Executive Budget.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 513.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 515 which was heard by this Committee on May 28 and includes appropriations in the Executive Budget.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 515 (1st Reprint)**: Makes appropriations to the Legislative Fund for building maintenance, computer hardware, dues of national organizations and reimbursement of the interim costs of the Nevada Right to Counsel Commission. (BDR S-1227)

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 515.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 516 which was heard by this Committee on May 31, 2019.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 516 (1st Reprint)**: Makes appropriations to the Interim Finance Committee for the unanticipated costs related to the implementation of Marsy's Law. (BDR S-1229)

Assembly Bill 516 calls for appropriations of \$5 million in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 respectively. The bill has an effective date of July 1. Staff suggests an amendment to combine the appropriations into a single \$10 million appropriation and change the effective date to upon passage and approval.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 516.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 517 which was heard by this Committee on May 28.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 517 (1st Reprint)**: Makes supplemental appropriations to the Office of the Governor for an unanticipated shortfall in contract, utility and other operating costs. (BDR S-1230)

SENATOR BROOKS:

I refer to my earlier disclosure and abstain from this agenda item.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 517.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS ABSTAINED FOR THE VOTE.)

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 518 which was heard by the Committee on May 28 and includes appropriations in the Executive Budget.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 518**: Makes a supplemental appropriation to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health for an unanticipated shortfall in indirect cost rate revenue. (BDR S-1233)

SENATOR SETTELMAYER MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 518.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 519.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 519 (1st Reprint)**: Makes appropriations to restore the balances in the Stale Claims Account, the Reserve for Statutory Contingency Account and the Contingency Account. (BDR S-1240)

Assembly Bill 519 was heard by this Committee on June 1. The amounts in the bill were adjusted from what the Governor recommended but have been accounted for by staff in tracking the General Fund balance.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 519.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 520 which was heard by this Committee on May 28 and includes appropriations in the Executive Budget.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 520**: Makes appropriations to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health for a web-based Community Health Services system, the replacement of computer hardware and software at certain facilities and a skid-steer. (BDR S-1244)

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 520.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 522 which was heard by this Committee on May 31 and includes appropriations in the Executive Budget.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 522 (1st Reprint)**: Makes appropriations to the Budget Division for an upgrade to the Nevada Executive Budget System and the replacement of office furniture. (BDR S-1165)

SENATOR GOICOECHEA MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 522.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 523 which was heard by this Committee on May 31 and includes appropriations in the Executive Budget.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 523 (1st Reprint)**: Makes appropriations to the Department of Motor Vehicles for replacement of uninterruptible power supply equipment and Storage Area Network units, an upgrade to the Avaya telephone and PBX Systems and CrowdStrike software. (BDR S-1191)

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 523.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 541.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 541**: Authorizes and provides funding for certain projects of capital improvement. (BDR S-1282)

Assembly Bill 541 is otherwise known as the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) or CIP Bill. This bill was heard by this Committee on June 1. This bill would implement the capital improvement program for the upcoming biennium.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 541.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 542 which was heard by this Committee on June 1, 2019.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 542**: Provides for compensation of state employees. (BDR S-1283)

This bill is otherwise known as the Pay Bill. This bill would implement the salaries for unclassified employees and also the 3 percent cost of living increase in addition to other items for the upcoming biennium.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 542.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. KRMPOTIC:

Assembly Bill 543 makes various changes regarding state financial administration and makes appropriations for the support of the civil government of the State. This is otherwise known as the State Appropriations Act and was heard earlier today by this Committee. It is required to provide for the operation of State government over the next two-year period.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 543.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

This Committee has more to do. We will get these bills turned in to the Floor to be taken care of.

This Committee will continue with our work session.

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The first bill for consideration is S.B. 495.

**SENATE BILL 495**: Creates the Office of the Small Business Advocate. (BDR 18-136)

This bill creates the Office of the Small Business Advocate within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. Proposed Amendment No. 6116 to Senate Bill 495 ([Exhibit C](#)) has been handed out to the Committee members. This bill implements a budget decision to add a position within the Lieutenant Governor's Office to assume the role and duties of a small business advocate.

The amendment proposes to strike some sections of the bill which may infringe upon some of the duties and authority of the Governor. Section 8 of the

amendment aligns the position categories with what is in the budget. Section 8 of the bill initially indicated "Employees of the Office are not in the classified or unclassified service of the State and serve at the pleasure of the Lieutenant Governor."

The positions within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor are considered unclassified service of the State, and the salary is established in the Pay Bill. The stricken language in section 8 is necessary to align the status of the position with other positions in the Lieutenant Governor's Office.

The amendment strikes duties of developing processes that ensure a small business receives a timely response to any inquiry, resolving issues, identifying and recommending efficient, responsive and nonretaliatory procedures and so on from section 9, subsection 4, paragraphs (b) through (d).

The amendment strikes language in section 10, subsection 4, paragraphs (a) and (b) which indicates the Office may make recommendations to a State agency for the resolution of the issues set forth in the request for assistance and may contact and discuss the issues with the administrative head of the agency. Those duties are stricken.

Those are the changes to S.B. 495 incorporated in the proposed amendment.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 495.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

ALEX HAARTZ (Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division,  
Legislative Counsel Bureau):

Assembly Bill 84 was heard in this Committee earlier today. This bill requires the State Board of Finance to issue an additional \$217.5 million in State general obligation bonds for the protection and preservation of natural resources in the State.

As presented, \$17.5 million of the proposed authority is remaining bond authority under the original Q1 bonds. Specific amounts of the total bonds issued are allocated as follows: \$30 million is allocated to the Division of State Parks; \$30 million is allocated to the Department of Wildlife; \$30 million is allocated to the Las Vegas Springs Preserve in Clark County; \$10 million is allocated to Clark County for the Clark County Wetlands Park and the Lower Las Vegas Wash; \$30 million is allocated to the Division of Museums and History of the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs; \$5 million is allocated to the State Land Registrar of the Division of State Lands; \$10 million is allocated to Clark County to disburse to a nonprofit organization to plan, design, construct or develop the Las Vegas Valley Rim Trail; \$10 million is allocated to the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for grants to State agencies, local governments, water conservancy districts and nonprofit organizations; \$5 million is allocated to the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for grants to Douglas County, Washoe County or Carson City and municipalities located within those counties for grants for purposes of enhancing and developing the Lake Tahoe Path System; and \$57,500,000 is allocated to the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to carry out the purposes set forth in section 2, subsection 10 of the bill.

Section 8 of A.B. 84 contains a General Fund appropriation of \$122,104 for FY 2021 for personnel and operating costs for the administration of the program. The testimony was that the Department anticipates one full-time equivalent position needed to manage this program and distribute the funding to the intended recipients. Section 9 repeals language regarding the issuance of the prior bonds and is effective upon passage and approval. The balance of the act in terms of the State Board of Finance is effective July 1.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 84.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

I had put in a bill draft request to extend this program. This is an incredibly valuable program. I encourage people to temper expectations because this Body has to fit this bill in with our existing bonding while considering affordability, and big wads of cash will not be available for all these projects in the immediate future.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 104 which was heard earlier today in this Committee. This bill makes an appropriation of \$350,000 to the Nevada Main Street Program from the General Fund. The act is effective upon passage and approval. The appropriation is not included in the Executive Budget.

The Nevada Main Street Program was established in the 2017 Legislature and money was appropriated by that Legislature.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 104.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS KIECKHEFER AND SETTELMAYER VOTED NO.)

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. HAARTZ:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 196 which was heard by this Committee today. This bill makes a \$5 million appropriation to fund incentives for teachers who currently teach at Title I and underperforming schools. A fiscal impact no longer exists with the fiscal note for the Department of Education as heard during the presentation. This bill becomes effective upon passage and approval. These funds are not included in the Executive Budget.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We received information for the record from several entities. Washoe County School District put its information on the record this morning. The number of educators by school districts affected by this bill are as follows: approximately 1,000 in Clark County; 459 in Washoe County; 27 in Churchill County; 133 in Lyon County; 162 in Humboldt County; 47 in Pershing County; 47 in Mineral County; and 40 in Lincoln County. This is the information received so far. Thank you to the school districts who are providing that information.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 196.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 224 which was heard by this Committee on June 1.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 224 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions governing the NV Grow Program. (BDR S-28)

This bill is related to economic development and makes an appropriation of \$425,000 which is not included in the Executive Budget. The effective date is July 1.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 224.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR SETTELMAYER VOTED NO.)

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. HAARTZ:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 250 which was heard by this Committee today. This bill makes a \$13,980 appropriation to the Legislative Fund for the Legislative Committee on Public Lands to attend informational meetings and tours in Washington, D.C., during the 2019-2020 Interim. The appropriation is to fund five members of the Public Lands Committee and one staff member of the Legislative Counsel Bureau to attend to meetings and tours. The bill identifies how the Commission shall select five members of the Public Lands Committee to attend. The appropriation is not included in the Executive Budget. The bill is effective July 1.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 250.



SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 309 which was heard today in this Committee. This bill is related to financial administration expressly for the Legislature to account for all financial aid in public schools in the DSA. The bill revises the formula for calculating the basic support guarantee. Assembly Bill 309 also requires each district to reserve a certain amount of money necessary to carry out increases in salaries for employees negotiated with an employee organization.

Assembly Bill 309 authorizes the imposition and provides for the administration of a new sales and use tax for the benefit of counties and school districts. This bill also authorizes counties and school districts to use the proceeds of the tax for certain purposes.

Additionally, A.B. 309 provides a temporary waiver from certain requirements governing expenditures for textbooks and instructional supplies, hardware and software by school districts.

The bill authorizes the Legislative Commission to request an allocation from the Contingency Account in the General Fund for the costs of a special audit or investigation of school districts of the State.

Assembly Bill 309 provides for reallocation of monies in K-12 education, not the DSA, for block granting to school districts. The effective date is July 1.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 309.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. HAARTZ:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 322 which was heard in this Committee this morning.

This bill makes a General Fund appropriation of \$3 million to the Eighth Judicial District to support the operation of juvenile assessment centers. The \$3 million is intended to fund: the operation of each juvenile assessment center in the district; proper mental health professional staff required at each juvenile assessment center; any portion of support services provided by such a center that is not covered by Medicaid, excluding any services related to substance abuse; and regional multidisciplinary prevention teams to provide support services directly to pupils in need of such services throughout the District. The funding is intended to supplement and not supplant or cause to be reduced any other source of funding for the purposes of the operation of the juvenile assessment centers. This bill is effective upon passage and approval.

It was mentioned during the presentation and included in the bill that the facility in Clark County is known as The Harbor. This appropriation is not included in the Executive Budget.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 322.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 331. This bill creates the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program and was heard today in this Committee. This bill requires the following: the Administrator of the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to develop and administer the Grant Program; adopt regulations; and appoint an advisory committee. The bill contains appropriations totaling \$99,135 in FY 2020 and \$96,659 in FY 2021 to the Division of State Parks to provide for the salary of a Grants and Projects Analyst II position. The bill is effective July 1.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 331.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. HAARTZ:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 338 which was heard by this Committee on May 31.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 338 (2nd Reprint)**: Revises requirements for the operation of a motor vehicle by a young driver. (BDR 43-600)

Assembly Bill 338 authorizes completion of a hands-on defensive driving course in lieu of certain supervised driving experience for any applicant for a driver's license who is under 18 years of age; requires the DMV to approve and maintain a list of such courses; and makes an appropriation to the DMV. The driving threshold which would be waived upon completion of a defensive driving course is at least 50 hours of supervised driving experience.

Section 2 of A.B. 338 sets forth the provisions of the hands-on defensive driving courses. The requirements include both theory of defensive driving and practical experience in defensive driving skills and maneuvers.

The appropriation from the State Highway Fund is included in section 10.7 of the bill to the DMV for personnel and operating costs to approve hands-on courses in defensive driving pursuant to section 2 of the bill and to audit the courses. The appropriation amounts are \$91,844 in FY 2020 and \$92,099 in FY 2021.

Various provisions of this bill become effective at different times. Sections 1 to 10.5, inclusive, and 11 become effective upon passage and approval for purposes of adopting any regulations and performing necessary preparatory administrative tasks. The effective date for all other purposes is July 1, 2020. The funding contained in the bill becomes effective July 1. The Highway Funds are not included in the Executive Budget.

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SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

What is the total amount of the fiscal note? Is it the amount from the State Highway Fund?

MR. HAARTZ:

It is \$91,844 in the first year and \$92,099 in the second year, approximately \$184,000 over the biennium.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 338.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 348 which was heard by this Committee on May 29, 2019.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 348 (1st Reprint)**: Makes various changes to prevent and track workplace violence at certain medical facilities. (BDR 53-843)

This bill relates to occupational safety and health, requiring certain medical facilities to develop and carry out a plan for the prevention of workplace violence and report incidents of workplace violence to the Division of Industrial Relations. Additionally, A.B. 348 prohibits such medical facilities from taking certain actions against an employee or other provider of care who seeks assistance of a public safety agency in response to workplace violence or who reports workplace violence.

The Proposed Amendment No. 6079 (Exhibit D) to A.B. 348 was handed out to the Committee members. The amendment was proposed by Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow who presented the bill to the Committee. The bill becomes effective upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting regulations and performing preparatory tasks for section 19.6 of the bill. The effective date for all other purposes is July 1.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
A.B. 348.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. HAARTZ:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 414 which was heard by this Committee today. This bill makes various appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services Division for the purposes of providing grants for existing or new programs that provide respite care or relief of informal caretakers to assist senior citizens and other specified individuals with independent living.

The appropriation is to provide grants in the amount of \$1,200 for each grant as well as to reduce the current waiting list. The General Fund appropriation is \$149,000 in each year of the biennium. The current level of the individual grants is \$1,000. The \$149,000 funds the \$200 difference for the purposes of making the grants.

Included in the appropriation is \$296,803 in each year of the 2019-2021 biennium for the purpose of reducing the waitlist of individuals to receive such a grant for programs to provide respite care or relief of informal caretakers. The Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services shall not use more than \$72,403 of the \$296,803 for purposes of paying operating costs incurred to carry out the provisions of removing individuals from the waitlist.

This act becomes effective July 1. These General Fund appropriations are not included in the Executive Budget.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Without knowing what the Chair's intent is with this bill, I am interested in making a motion to strike subsection 1 of section 1 to eliminate the

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appropriation associated with the increased rate and fund the bill thereafter to eliminate the waitlist but do so at the existing voucher amount.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:  
Is that a motion?

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:  
I will make the motion if that is something you are interested in taking.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:  
Will you repeat the motion for the Committee to be sure we have it written down?

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:  
I recommend an amendment to A.B. 414 to strike section 1, subsection 1 and keep the rest of the bill intact.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 414.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. KRMPOTIC:  
The next bill in the work session is A.B. 297 which was heard by this Committee on June 1.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 297 (2nd Reprint)**: Revises provisions governing fire safety equipment. (BDR 42-1051)

The bill requires the owner or operator of a building with certain fire safety equipment to have the equipment inspected by technicians with certain qualifications. The bill makes an appropriation to the State Fire Marshal in the amount of \$276,098 in FY 2020 and \$210,856 in FY 2021. This bill is effective July 1.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 297.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. HAARTZ:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 487, heard in this Committee on May 31, 2019.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 487**: Makes an appropriation to the Department of Veterans Services to provide financial assistance and support for the Adopt a Vet Dental Program. (BDR S-1247)

In each year of the 2019-2021 biennium, this bill makes a \$250,000 appropriation. The funding is available effective July 1. This funding is not included in the Executive Budget.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 487.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 495 which was heard in this Committee today. This bill makes appropriations to the Nevada Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs to be used for programs provided by the Alliance throughout the State and to Nevada Partners to be used for the construction and operation of a community learning center and providing other matters related thereto.

The appropriation to the Boys and Girls Club totals \$2 million in section 1 of the bill. In section 1.5, the Nevada Partners appropriation includes \$1.8 million to be used for the construction and operation of a community learning center.

Assembly Bill 495 is effective July 1.

SENATOR BROOKS:

I abstain from any actions on this bill and disclose that I am on the Board of Directors of Nevada Partners.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 495.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS ABSTAINED FOR THE VOTE.)

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. HAARTZ:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 527 which was heard by this Committee on May 28.

ASSEMBLY BILL 527: Revises provisions relating to the annual fee imposed for collections of child support in certain cases. (BDR 38-1246)

Existing federal law requires the State to charge an annual fee for each case that receives child support services under certain circumstances pursuant to Part D of Title IV of the Social Security Act. *Nevada Revised Statutes* 425.3847 provides for the required fee and conforms to the federal requirement. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 increased the amount of the mandatory annual fee. This bill makes the conforming change.

Section 1 of A.B. 527 changes the annual fee from \$25 to \$35 for certain cases and increases the amount collected in affected cases during a year in excess of \$550. Any fees collected are required to be used to carry out the child support enforcement program. This bill is effective October 1.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 527.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.



THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 532. This is a budget implementation bill which was heard by this Committee on May 28.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 532**: Revises provisions governing sales of motor vehicles.  
(BDR 43-1211)

This bill authorizes the DMV to enter into a contract with a vendor for the issuance of and tracking of certain temporary placards for newly obtained motor vehicles. This bill does not contain any appropriations. The bill becomes effective July 1.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 532.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. HAARTZ:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 540 which was heard by this Committee on June 1.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 540**: Revises provisions governing the distribution of the proceeds of certain administrative assessments. (BDR 14-1287)

This bill deals with the assessments that are allocated to the Nevada Supreme Court and the Office of the Court Administrator. This is a budget implementation bill. This bill changes the existing distribution of administrative assessments within those that are assigned to the Office of the Court Administrator. Statute says no less than 51 percent of administrative assessment revenues are allocated to the Office of the Court Administrator. Assembly Bill 540 reallocates and sets different percentages to provide the

courts with flexibility in terms of how the administrative assessment revenue will be distributed between the various budgets of the Supreme Court.

This bill becomes effective on July 1 and expires by limitation on June 30, 2021.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 540.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is A.B. 320 which was heard in this Committee on May 31.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 320 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions governing commercial motor vehicles. (BDR 43-255)

This bill relates to additional fees for the registration of certain commercial motor vehicles based on the weight of the vehicle.

In addition, A.B. 320 revises provisions governing the permitting of certain commercial motor vehicles based on the length of the vehicle and other matters. The bill does not contain any appropriations and becomes effective January 1, 2020.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 320.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. HAARTZ:

The next bill in the work session is S.B. 440 which was heard in this Committee on April 8, 2019.

**SENATE BILL 440**: Makes an appropriation to pay certain costs relating to smoke alarms and home fire safety. (BDR S-1134)

This bill proposes to make an appropriation of \$300,000 in General Fund monies to the American Red Cross of Nevada to pay for the costs of providing a variety of services to the residents, including: the installation of smoke alarms; replacement of smoke alarm batteries; provision of preparedness education relating to home fire safety; and preparation of customized evacuation plans for home fires and related materials.

Various reporting requirements to the Interim Finance Committee are required of the American Red Cross of Nevada upon acceptance of the appropriations, including reports on or before December 18, 2020, and September 17, 2021.

Senate Bill 440 becomes effective July 1. These funds are not included in the Executive Budget.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

Discussion during the testimony indicated this bill would free up funds for uses other than just smoke detectors, alarms and things of that nature. In that respect, I am worried this bill allows the funding to go to administrative-type costs which I do not support. For that reason, I will be opposing S.B. 440 tonight.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

I never got an answer as to where the money was going. As I recall talking about this bill, there was uncertainty over who was going to receive the money. I think it was going to an organization out of State and then disbursed back into this State. I was not comfortable with that.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I had some conversations regarding this measure. One suggestion, which this Committee does not have to deal with tonight, is to put it on the record to the Committee that the appropriation would be made to one entity within the State, such as the American Red Cross of Northern Nevada, and a proportional amount

would then be given to the American Red Cross of Southern Nevada since it is not a joint organization at this point. This suggestion can be worked out at the proper time.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 440.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The next bill in the work session is S.B. 443, heard in this Committee on April 1, 2019.

**SENATE BILL 443**: Appropriates money to increase rates of reimbursement for certain meal programs. (BDR S-728)

This bill provides an appropriation of \$1.5 million to establish rates of reimbursement of \$3.20 for congregate meals and home-delivered meals for food-insecure persons who are over 60 years of age. The appropriation is not included in the Executive Budget. The effective date is July 1 and requires reversion by the end of the biennium.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 443.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. HAARTZ:

The next bill in the work session is S.B. 303 which was heard in this Committee on April 8.

**SENATE BILL 303**: Makes an appropriation for incentives for teachers who have received a national board certification and are employed to teach at Title I schools. (BDR S-1070)

As originally introduced, the bill made General Fund appropriations to the Department of Education in the amount of \$450,000 each year of the 2019-2021 biennium. The intent of the funding is to provide an incentive for teachers who have a national board certification and are employed to teach at a Title I school. The incentive was not to exceed \$2,500 per year.

At the presentation, a conceptual amendment was presented which did two things. It reduced the amount of the General Fund appropriation to \$200,000 in each year, thus a reduction of \$250,000 in each year. The amendment also qualified that the incentives were for teachers who teach at Title I Tier I schools in Nevada.

The effective date is July 1. These appropriations are not included in the Executive Budget.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

This Committee just passed A.B. 196 for the Speaker which gave \$5 million for one-time bonuses to teachers teaching at those schools. Does this work in conjunction with that bill, or is this a separate action?

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I believe this is separate, but Senator Cancela can address the question.

SENATOR CANCELA:

This bill covers a smaller group of teachers who have received national board certification which takes about three years to accomplish. The intention is to have these teachers stay at or come to Title I Tier I schools. The Speaker's bill, A.B. 196, was for all teachers at Title I schools, so a broader category. Senate Bill 303 covers a more specific group of teachers and a smaller group of schools.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I appreciate that. The State will be able to give the Title I teachers a nice bonus since some teachers will get the other bonus as well, if I am reading the bill correctly. I am okay with giving both bonuses and appreciate the concept.

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SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS  
AMENDED S.B. 303.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:  
We will open the hearing on S.B. 446.

**SENATE BILL 446 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions relating to Medicaid.  
(BDR 38-974)

SENATOR JAMES A. SETTELMAYER (Senatorial District No. 17):

This bill pertains to personal care attendants. This bill seeks to create a self-directed personal assistance services State plan option for Medicaid authorization. The appropriation for a position and associated costs is \$125,021. The conceptual amendment would delete the rest of the portion of the bill dealing with prisoners in order to let the bill proceed forward.

A constituent and several others are having difficulties finding people to take care of their needs at \$9 or \$10 an hour due to the great economy. Senate Bill 446 will allow persons with disabilities to become their own intermediary, meaning they can cut out the middle man—the agency. By doing so, this allows persons with disabilities to hire people at about \$24 an hour to provide personal care services. At that rate, people could actually find personal care attendants.

The Department of Health and Human Services has known about this concept for five or six years. Kansas was the first state to provide this service. The Department has not applied for the license needed to provide this service Statewide. This funding is the amount needed to get said certificate.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:  
I remember this bill from Health and Human Services. It is a good bill.

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SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Is the recommendation to keep sections 2, 3 and 4 and delete everything that follows?

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I do not have the bill in front of me. I would need to verify that. Mr. Krmpotic might know the correct sections.

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The conceptual amendment for Senate Bill 446 deletes sections 4 and 5, which removes all provisions containing the Medicaid eligibility for incarcerated persons. The amendment would remove the fiscal note from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 446 and will place it on work session.

SENATOR BROOKS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 446.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We are considering S.B. 551. Proposed Amendment No. 6101 ([Exhibit E](#)) was provided to the Committee members.

**SENATE BILL 551 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions relating to state financial administration. (BDR 32-1286)

SENATOR NICOLE J. CANNIZZARO (Senatorial District No. 6):

I will walk the Committee through the salient points of Proposed Amendment No. 6101, [Exhibit E](#), for S.B. 551. The first part of the amendment deletes the portions related to the "more cops tax" or the sunset of the sales and use tax for Clark County which has funded law enforcement officers. That part has been removed from the bill.

The remainder of S.B. 551 still includes the provisions that this Body discussed regarding the buydown of the Modified Business Tax (MBT) and removing the sunset for that tax.

However, after reviewing the changes and in looking at where money would go for schools within this bill, the bill has some changes to the amounts and the designated place for the overall money which would be generated from the buydown of the MBT.

The first portion of the money would still go to school safety. However, the amount for the School Safety Account would go to facility improvements in the amount of approximately \$16.7 million. This is on top of the other money which has already gone to school safety. The \$16.7 million would be designated for facility enhancements which this Committee is familiar with.

The remainder of what would exist for the MBT buydown would fund the students who are currently in school through the Nevada Opportunity Scholarship Program. The total amount over the biennium is \$9.5 million. This provision will not include any additional enrollees for the Opportunity Scholarship Program. The provision will not include growth over any long period of time. Proposed Amendment No. 6101, [Exhibit E](#), just includes those students who are currently on the Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship Program—also known as the Opportunity Scholarship program—to be grandfathered in; as the students matriculate out, the Program would decrease over time.

The additional money left in the MBT balance of approximately \$72 million will go to each of the school districts as designated on pages 32 and 33 of the Proposed Amendment No. 6101, [Exhibit E](#). These funds would be on a per pupil basis through the Account for Programs for Innovation and the Prevention of Remediation for each of the school districts. The amounts in that section are for those districts affected as a result of the provisions of S.B. 551.

This bill, although it is not reflected in Proposed Amendment No. 6101, will be stamped with a two-thirds majority requirement.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

I appreciate the spending priorities. For the Opportunity Scholarship program, Proposed Amendment No. 6101 subs out the language included in the one-time \$20 million appropriation from last Session, puts in \$4.75 million in



one year, \$9,490,000 for the biennium. Would this be considered one-time money for this biennium, and the Legislature would have to reauthorize this next biennium as well rather than building it into base in section 2.5, subsection 4 of Proposed Amendment No. 6101?

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:  
That is correct.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:  
With the amendment, the Opportunity Scholarship program would not allow any new students to enter into the program in any way, shape or form. The provision is only meant to keep current participants in the program. I am concerned as I have seen many individuals who have two children and one child is in an Opportunity Scholarship program at a particular school and the other child is not of school age. In the next couple of years, the other child will be of school age. Rather than having the parent take their children to two different places, S.B. 551 will not allow other children of the same family to enter the program. Is that correct?

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:  
That is correct. This amendment would not allow for any additional enrollees. It will only cover the students currently operating and receiving those funds.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:  
How many total students are in Nevada, period? As discussed, \$72 million will go to each of the school districts per pupil. How many total pupils exist Statewide?

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:  
I do not have that number off the top of my head but will provide it later.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:  
I was even looking for a ballpark figure. I know Clark County has 320,000 pupils. I was just trying to figure it out.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:  
Senate Bill 551 with Proposed Amendment No. 6101 is before us under work session.

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SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 551.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

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CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

Having no other business before this Committee and seeing no one for public comment, this meeting is adjourned at 10:59 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Desirae Munns,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Chair

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

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit / # of pages		Witness / Entity	Description
	A	2		Agenda
	B	13		Attendance Roster
S.B. 495	C	7	Fiscal Analysis Division / Legislative Counsel Bureau	Proposed Amendment No. 6116
A.B. 348	D	18	Fiscal Analysis Division / Legislative Counsel Bureau	Proposed Amendment No. 6079
S.B. 551	E	35	Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro	Proposed Amendment No. 6101