

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**Eightieth Session  
June 3, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Finance was called to order by Chair Joyce Woodhouse at 10:08 a.m. on Monday, June 3, 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. Settelmeyer  
Senator Ben Kieckhefer  
Senator Pete Goicoechea

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mark Krmpotic, Senate Fiscal Analyst  
Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst  
Michael Keever, Committee Secretary  
Felicia Archer, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jhone Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nevada Department of Education

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

The Committee meeting will start with a work session.

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

Assembly Bill 71 was presented by Caleb Cage of the Nevada Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (EMHS) to the Committee on June 2, 2019.

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

Section 3, subsection 1 of A.B. 71 requires the EMHS to establish a revolving account within the State General Fund for the awarding of grants by the EMHS from the revolving account to persons who own and occupy homes damaged by a disaster. This bill would expand the EMHS Disaster Relief Account by providing relief to individual homeowners as opposed to the local and State government entities currently provided in statute. Upon the declaration of a disaster, the EMHS chief may request approval by the Nevada Legislature's Interim Finance Committee (IFC) for the transfer of money from the Disaster Relief Account to the revolving account.

The Disaster Relief Account currently holds approximately \$7 to \$8 million. In the past, there have been instances where there could have been relief provided to homeowners relating to home damages when a declaration of a disaster was made by the Governor. With A.B. 71, the IFC has an opportunity to review any requests for a transfer from the Disaster Relief Account. The EMHS is required to adopt regulations to carry out the provisions contained in section 3 of A.B. 71. There was a similar program funded by the Legislature on a more temporary basis in the past, and there was a limitation placed on individual requests or claims from the Disaster Relief Account on the part of homeowners; this limitation was applied to a case of flooding that occurred in Fernley.

Section 4 of A.B. 71 states that during an emergency or a declaration of a disaster, if the EMHS chief determines that the balance in the EMHS Emergency Assistance Account is insufficient to cover the expenses relating to the emergency or disaster, the EMHS chief may request from the Director of the Governor's Office of Finance (GFO) a temporary advance from the General Fund to the Emergency Assistance Account for the payment of those expenses. The Emergency Assistance Account is a separate account available to the EMHS to address unforeseen emergencies and disasters. The GFO Director needs to be

vigilant in regards to approving an advance from the General Fund, because these advances are expected to be paid back within the same year.

Assembly Bill 71 is not a budget implementation bill nor are there any appropriations contained within it. This bill was referred to this Committee in order to address the provisions which would be heard by the IFC.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 71.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS KIECKHEFER, PARKS AND SETTELMAYER WERE EXCUSED FOR THE VOTE.)

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

Assembly Bill 111 was heard on June 2, 2019.

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)

This bill contains an appropriation of \$200,000 from the General Fund to the Nevada Legislature's Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice to conduct a study. There was testimony submitted for A.B. 111 indicating the intent of the appropriation was to use the money to possibly contract with a consultant to assist the Committee on Child Welfare's study. The bill becomes effective on July 1, 2019, and the appropriation is not included in the Executive Budget.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 111.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS KIECKHEFER, PARKS AND SETTELMAYER WERE EXCUSED FOR THE VOTE.)

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MR. KRMPOTIC:

Assembly Bill 219 was presented by Assemblywoman Torres to the Committee on May 31, 2019, and revises provisions relating to education which govern the reporting of certain information concerning the achievement of pupils who are English language learners (ELL) pursuant to the Statewide system of accountability.

ASSEMBLY BILL 219 (2nd Reprint): Makes various changes relating to education. (BDR 34-673)

The bill also requires the principals of certain public schools that demonstrate low achievement for pupils who are ELL to develop a corrective action plan, authorizes a pupil who is an ELL to enroll in a public high school outside the zone of attendance in which the pupil resides and requires the adoption of a plan to ensure that a policy of instruction to teach English to pupils who are ELL achieves certain objectives.

As provided in section 4 of A.B. 219, the bill becomes effective upon passage and approval. There are no appropriations contained in the bill.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Is there a fiscal note attached to A.B. 219?

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The Nevada Department of Education (DOE) submitted a fiscal note for the original A.B. 219. The DOE also submitted a fiscal note for the first reprint of A.B. 219 which identifies costs associated with math- and science-to-Spanish translations totaling \$175,611 in fiscal year (FY) 2020 and \$163,801 in FY 2021.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Will the costs of the fiscal note come from DOE budgets?

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The expenditures in the fiscal note show as an additional and incremental expense to the DOE; it is unclear if these costs will come directly from DOE budgets.

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CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

Can the additional staff and appropriations relating to computer hardware and software be explained?

JHONE EBERT (Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nevada Department of Education):

The added DOE fiscal note relates to aid assessments in math and science that Nevada currently does not utilize. There will be additional costs associated with adding the assessments, and the DOE did not ask for additional staff to administer them. After thoroughly analyzing our Title 1 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 funding and our Title 3 of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 funds, we have not identified any funds available to implement additional assessments; we will continue looking for additional funding.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I would like to move A.B. 219 out of this Committee, and we will continue to manage it with any resources that become available.

SENATOR CANCELA MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 219.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS KIECKHEFER, PARKS AND SETTELMAYER WERE EXCUSED FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

The Committee will now hear A.B. 235.

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

MR. KRMPOTIC:

Assembly Bill 235 was heard by the Committee on June 2, 2019. Section 3.8 of A.B. 235 contains total appropriations of \$25,000 in each year of the 2019-2021 biennium that are not included in the Executive Budget to be used for awarding grants and funding to mentorship programs in accordance with the provisions contained in *Nevada Revised Statutes* 385.780.

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Section 3.6 of A.B. 235 includes an appropriation of \$5,000 to the DOE Nevada Advisory Commission on Mentoring for expenses relating to planning and hosting a Statewide conference on mentoring.

Section 3.3 of A.B. 235 includes a sum of \$101,000 for the purpose of initiating an affiliate process to support the work of the Nevada Commission on Mentoring. Testimony provided for the bill indicated that the \$101,000 relates to work done with an affiliate on the national level.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

This funding will total \$156,000 in each year of the 2019-2021 biennium.

CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

As the Committee did on A.B. 219, I feel we should move this bill out of Committee; we will check throughout the day if funding is available.

SENATOR CANCELA MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 235.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS KIECKHEFER, PARKS AND SETTELMAYER WERE EXCUSED FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

The Committee will now hear 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)

MR. KRMPOTIC:

Assembly Bill 229 was presented by Assemblywoman Swank. Section 2 of A.B. 229 includes appropriations of \$10,000 in FY 2020 and \$20,000 in FY 2021 to the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources State Historic Preservation Office. The funding will be used to carry out the technical advisory program established in section 1 of A.B. 229. The appropriations contained in A.B. 229 are not included in the Executive Budget.

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SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I understand that you want to move this bill out of Committee, but I will oppose A.B. 229 when it is heard on the floor.

SENATOR CANCELA MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 229.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS KIECKHEFER AND PARKS WERE EXCUSED FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

Seeing no further questions, this meeting is adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Tom Weber,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Chair

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



| EXHIBIT SUMMARY |                         |   |                  |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Bill            | Exhibit /<br># of pages |   | Witness / Entity | Description       |
|                 | A                       | 1 |                  | Agenda            |
|                 | B                       | 2 |                  | Attendance Roster |