

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

**Eighty-First Session
April 14, 2021**

The Committee on Ways and Means was called to order by Chair Maggie Carlton at 6:03 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, Online. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Vice Chair
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson
Assemblyman Jason Frierson
Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow
Assemblyman Gregory T. Hafen II
Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui
Assemblyman Glen Leavitt
Assemblywoman Brittney Miller
Assemblywoman Sarah Peters
Assemblyman Tom Roberts
Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus
Assemblywoman Jill Tolles
Assemblyman Howard Watts

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Brody Leiser, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Mary O'Hair, Committee Manager
Adam Cates, Committee Secretary
Bet Torres, Committee Assistant



OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott W. Anderson, Chief Deputy Secretary of State, Office of the Secretary of State
Gregory Lovato, Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Kristen Averyt, State Climate Policy Coordinator, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Christi Cabrera, Policy and Advocacy Director, Nevada Conservation League
Alex Ortiz, Assistant Director, Clark County Department of Administrative Services
Randy Robison, Chairman, College of Southern Nevada Institutional Advisory Council, and representing the City of Las Vegas, Nevada
My-Linh Nguyen, Administrator 2, Environmental Program, Engineering Division, Nevada Department of Transportation
Andrew Clinger, Chief Financial Officer and Interim Director of Government Affairs, Nevada System of Higher Education
Margo Martin, Chief Accreditation and Institutional Effectiveness Officer, College of Southern Nevada
Mariana Kihuen, Director of Government Affairs, College of Southern Nevada
Adrian Bell, Student, College of Southern Nevada
Nate Mackinnon, Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges, Nevada System of Higher Education
Myron Freedman, Acting Administrator, Division of Museums and History, Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs
Selena La Rue Hatch, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada
Kathy Flanagan, representing The Springs Preserve, Las Vegas, Nevada
Elisa Cafferata, Director, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation
Isla Young, Executive Director, Office of Workforce Innovation, Office of the Governor
Tiffany Greenameyer, Deputy Director, Office of Finance, Office of the Governor
William Stanley, representing Southern Nevada Building Trades Union

Chair Carlton:

[The meeting was called to order. Roll was taken and protocol was discussed.] We have five Assembly bills before us this evening. We will open up the hearing on our first bill, Assembly Bill 451, for the Office of the Secretary of State and the replacement of computer hardware and software.

Assembly Bill 451: Makes an appropriation to the Office of the Secretary of State for the replacement of computer hardware and software. (BDR S-1061)

Scott W. Anderson, Chief Deputy Secretary of State, Office of the Secretary of State:

With me are Deputy Secretary of State for Elections, Mark Wlaschin; Deputy Secretary of State for Operations, Debbie Bowman; and Chief Information Technology (IT) Manager, Timothy Horgan. Assembly Bill 451 is a one-shot appropriation for \$2.53 million over the 2021-2023 biennium to fund the five-year replacement of most desktop units and printers,

as well as all servers, storage devices, and networking devices that interconnect them. These devices and components are on a five-year life cycle and replacement schedule in accordance with the Division of Enterprise Information Technology Services (EITS), Department of Administration, recommended schedule. This is for the replacement of the complete Secretary of State infrastructure which will be out of warranty and cannot be extended any further. Maximum warranty extensions will remain due to the requested budget cuts for fiscal year (FY) 2021; normally scheduled hardware replacement for the agency was shifted to FY 2023 to accommodate the cuts. This includes replacing equipment that is overdue for replacement at the EITS facility and the disaster recovery site at Switch in Reno. These are the primary sites that house our infrastructure. The hardware and software at both sites must be compatible in order to provide disaster recovery capabilities. This request was originally decision unit enhancement (E) 710 in our budget account 1050 biennial request but has since moved to A.B. 451. The total amount remains the same as we presented in our budget hearing. Please note that \$30,992 of the request is in FY 2022, with the remainder in FY 2023, to maximize the previously mentioned warranties that were put in place to address the requested budget cuts.

Chair Carlton:

I am going to ask an educational question for the Committee's benefit. Your bill says, "Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2023, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred . . ." You confirmed the amount. This money will go to this project. There is no intention of moving money from this project to another project. This money will strictly be used for this project, and if it is not totally expended, then it will come back to the state. Is that correct?

Scott W. Anderson:

That is correct. This is for the replacement of our existing computer equipment that is now running out of warranty. By FY 2023, it will no longer be supported. We are not planning on using this money for anything other than that. If there are any funds left over, they will be reverted.

Chair Carlton:

I wanted to make sure the Committee was aware of the boiler plate language that we are going to see in many of these bills. It is our basic guarantee that when we appropriate the dollars, they will be used there and only there. If they are not used, they will come back to the state. Committee members, I will now open it up for questions on A.B. 451. [There were none.] We will now go to comments in support, opposition, and neutral as required for each bill that we will hear. Is there anyone to speak in support of A.B. 451? [There were none.] Is there anyone to testify in opposition of A.B. 451? [There were none.] Is there anyone to testify as neutral? [There were none.] Mr. Anderson, do you have any closing comments?

Scott W. Anderson:

We appreciate your consideration of A.B. 451. This will allow us to continue with the services that we provide in the Office of the Secretary of State over the next several fiscal years.

Chair Carlton:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 451 and open the hearing on Assembly Bill 452 with Administrator Gregory Lovato. Please proceed.

Assembly Bill 452: Revises provisions relating to environmental protection. (BDR 40-1093)

Gregory Lovato, Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:

I am here to introduce Assembly Bill 452. With me are Jeffrey Kinder, Deputy Administrator, Air Programs, Sustainable Materials Management, Industrial Site Cleanup, and Corrective Actions; and Danilo Dragoni, Chief, Bureau of Air Quality Planning, both of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR); and Kristen Averyt, Nevada State Climate Policy Coordinator. The purpose of A.B. 452 is to strengthen reporting requirements regarding greenhouse gas emissions. NDEP is currently tasked with preparing and submitting an annual report on greenhouse gas emissions and projections; however, absent a requirement for certain state agencies to compile and provide that information to NDEP, there is a risk of significant data gaps. A.B. 452 also provides a funding mechanism to cover costs associated with one position to help compile this report.

To accomplish this, A.B. 452 proposes three changes to existing statutes. First, section 1, paragraph 5 requires certain state agencies and other entities, such as airport authorities and local agencies, to report certain information to NDEP. We will use the information to prepare the annual report with the most up-to-date information. Second, section 1, paragraph 6 provides authority for the State Environmental Commission to adopt regulations requiring certain information that is related to additional reporting of the group of potent greenhouse gasses (GHG) known as refrigerants or hydrofluorocarbons, also referred to as HFCs. Third, section 3, paragraph 1 authorizes up to \$500,000 per year from the Fund for Cleaning Up Discharges of Petroleum to be transferred to the Account for the Management of Air Quality to support the direct and indirect costs of preparing the annual GHG report.

As amended in the 2019 legislative session, *Nevada Revised Statutes* 445B.380 requires NDEP to prepare an annual statewide inventory of the GHG emissions, including emission projections for the following 20 years. Emissions are broken down into six sectors: electricity production; transportation; industry; commercial and residential; agriculture; and land use, land use change, and forestry. The accuracy of the report relies on the availability and accessibility of information that is gathered by state agencies and other entities. In many instances, this information is already provided to federal agencies that collate the data and provide it back to the state via the United States Environmental Protection Agency's State

Inventory Tool. Unfortunately, that process takes time, resulting in a delay in data availability and the report's timeliness. For example, the 2020 annual report NDEP published this year was largely based on data from 2017.

Acquisition of this information directly from the source is critical to improve the timeliness of the report and will provide policymakers with more accurate information to analyze and assess potential emission reduction policies and strategies. This statutory amendment would require the identification and reporting of information that is necessary to complete the annual GHG report. For example, statistics on ground and aviation fuel sales, vehicle registration, and vehicle miles travelled are critical for an accurate annual report. NDEP would work with state agencies such as the Nevada Department of Transportation, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and the airport authorities. We do plan to make best use of existing resources and, as much as possible, to minimize the burden and duplicative efforts.

Additionally, one of the emerging and more significant contributors to GHG emissions are the ozone depleting substances (ODS) substitutes, such as hydrofluorocarbons, which are mainly used in refrigeration and air conditioning. Emissions of these substances occur when they are released into the atmosphere from leaks and end-of-life disposal or destruction of equipment. Emissions of these substances are currently projected to become a significant and increasing contributor of GHG emissions statewide due to increases in population and ambient temperature. The collection of data associated with the type, sale, use, and disposal of products and equipment that contain these substances would be augmented, and the accuracy would be greatly improved, by relying on Nevada-specific information instead of national statistics that are portioned to Nevada based on our population.

Assembly Bill 452 also proposes to allow transfers of up to \$500,000 per year from the Fund for Cleaning Up Discharges of Petroleum [the Petroleum Fund] to the Account for the Management of Air Quality, budget account 3185. The Petroleum Fund is funded by a 3/4 cent fee on each gallon of motor vehicle fuel, diesel fuel of grade numbers 1 and 2, and heating oil imported to or refined in this state. The Petroleum Fund is primarily used to pay for investigation and cleanup of fuel releases from underground storage tanks. Since the 2007 legislative session, amounts above \$7.5 million in the Petroleum Fund account are transferred to the State Highway Fund as of July 1. Since 2013, the amount transferred to the State Highway Fund has ranged between \$2.7 million and \$7.4 million per year. The Executive Budget proposed for the next biennium recommends adding one environmental scientist position to perform the GHG inventory work required in *Nevada Revised Statutes* 445B.380. Expenditures are estimated at \$91,883 for FY 2022 and \$121,322 for FY 2023. We are not requesting any other expenditures at this time.

This statutory amendment will increase collaboration between state agencies and other entities, and will provide the state with a more comprehensive, accurate, and timely annual report.

Chair Carlton:

I know this is a budget implementation bill, but this hearing is more about the dollars and cents. If we can get to the conversation about the actual appropriation, that would be great. We can expand on the conversation after that, and I will open it up for questions.

I would like to understand the waterfall that will happen. You have the \$7.5 million. Anything above that goes the State Highway Fund. Where does the \$500,000 come in within that waterfall?

Gregory Lovato:

Up to \$500,000 would be transferred prior to the transfer to the State Highway Fund.

Chair Carlton:

So, the account would still maintain \$7.5 million, this would add up to another \$500,000, and then anything after that would go to the State Highway Fund, yes?

Gregory Lovato:

Correct. That is the statutory amendment, but we would also have to receive approval for our budget authority via the typical appropriations process.

Chair Carlton:

You are requesting up to \$500,000, but this year the amount that you are looking for is delineated in the budget for 2022 and 2023. It is those amounts?

Gregory Lovato:

That is correct.

Chair Carlton:

We always want to get the dollars and cents of the bill on the record as we move forward. If you would like to proceed and give us a high-level view of the purpose behind this, that would be fine.

Kristen Averyt, State Climate Policy Coordinator, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:

Assembly Bill 452 will support the goals of the Nevada Climate Initiative. Projections of Nevada's future greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are an important part of the annual inventory that is developed by the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP). In 2019, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 254 of the 80th Session, which set GHG emissions reduction targets of 28 percent by 2025, 45 percent by 2030, and net-zero emissions by 2050. According to the latest update of the state GHG emissions inventory, however, Nevada will fall 4 percent short of the 2025 target, 19 percent short of the 2030 target, and well short of the net-zero goal for 2050. Understanding where we are with respect to our emissions reduction targets is critical. The data and modeling provided by NDEP gives us the baseline information necessary to identify appropriate policies we can implement

that will both reduce our emissions and optimize our investments. Simply, we cannot manage what we cannot count.

The importance of a robust, accurate, transparent, and up to date GHG emissions inventory is highlighted in Nevada's *State Climate Strategy*, issued in December 2020. As it relates to A.B. 452, the *State Climate Strategy* states the following:

- To support a comprehensive and consistent evaluation of GHG emissions-reduction benefits from policies across the state, the State of Nevada's capability to inventory GHG emissions would need to expand.
- The individual evaluations of climate mitigation policies illuminated additional data needs. In many cases, the impact of a policy, program, or regulation on GHG emissions could not be estimated because of a lack of data.
- All governmental entities engaged in the stakeholder process expressed a strong interest in continued interagency collaboration on consistent GHG inventory practices but noted that available resources for GHG inventory efforts are very limited.

Finally, the *State Climate Strategy* is clear: a climate action is not a revenue neutral proposition, but the cost of inaction is far greater. All this considered, the goals of A.B. 452 are consistent with the *State Climate Strategy*.

Chair Carlton:

I will now open it up to questions.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson:

I am most concerned about breaking the nexus between how we collect these dollars and what they are collected for, specific to the petroleum clean up, and then the higher nexus to air quality. Do not get me wrong—I think these are all good battles, and we need to fight on many fronts, but I do not know that we are ready to divert money away from the ground and soil issue, especially with regard to underground heating and storage tanks. Look at the list of all the underground heating and oil tanks that are out there. We have a fund specifically to help businesses clean up their buried oil tanks, but we have nothing for residents. On that list there are thousands of oil tanks and no assistance with that aspect of the cleanup. I do not know if we are at the point to say that we do not need these resources to continue in the fight on soil and that we can move them over to this new purpose. Is there anything that you can tell me to help me think differently?

Gregory Lovato:

Rest assured, the Petroleum Fund is able to take care of all the reimbursements and demands related to investigation and cleanup of releases of petroleum, including residential heating oil tanks. Residents are eligible to receive reimbursement for cleanup from the Petroleum Fund, and they do receive that. The Petroleum Fund has been very successful. We compared our performance to different states, and we are proceeding well in terms of getting the cleanups done. We obviously do have some cases that are more difficult depending on individual site-

specific circumstances, but we can provide more information about how well the Petroleum Fund is doing. I do know that the people who benefit most from the fund, including the Nevada Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, are aware of this bill, and I do not think they are expressing any opposition or concern with respect to diverting money. Between \$2.7 million and \$7.4 million have been transferred to the State Highway Fund each year since 2013. After taking care of all the clean ups, whatever amount over \$7.5 million is sitting there goes to the State Highway Fund. One of the reasons we think it makes sense to access these funds is because transportation emissions are the largest source of GHG emissions now in Nevada. Currently, NDEP funds GHG inventory work through use of a permitting fee from stationary sources. To date, we have not been allowed to use federal grants—that may change. If federal grants become available for GHG inventory work, we will not need to access this, but that has not been the case since 2008. I think we are well in hand in terms of handling Petroleum Fund clean ups, and we can provide more data if you would like it. That is what we see as the nexus to transportation and why we identified this as a potential source of funding.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson:

I represent a part of southwest Reno, and I became more familiar with this issue a few years back when residents had issues with their underground storage and heating oil tanks. It seemed like these residents were not able to get help or access funds to get them removed. The experience I had with my constituents trying to access these funds to address soil concerns in their backyards was a different experience than what I just heard represented, but I am keeping open ears.

Assemblywoman Peters:

My question has to do with the fiscal note that is attached to this bill. The fiscal note comes from the Department of Transportation (NDOT), and they recognize that A.B. 452 would require the addition of one full time employee (FTE) to address the reoccurring annual efforts. Is this FTE specific to NDOT's reporting requirement under this bill, or is this a result of the potential hit to NDOT's budget because of the FTE you are asking for?

Gregory Lovato:

We were aware that NDOT was going to place a fiscal note. I believe they are available to testify today in neutral, but my understanding is that they want to highlight the ongoing requirement NDOT would have to cooperate in the Nevada Climate Initiative and GHG reporting in particular. I will defer to them in terms of their fiscal note and its effects, but I do not think they are asking for appropriations that are related to this \$500,000. I think they are talking about the level of effort related to GHG reporting in general.

Assemblywoman Peters:

It sounds like there will be an opportunity to ask them for clarification on this.

Chair Carlton:

When we get to that point, we will make sure that we get your question answered. I want to follow up on Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson's concern about residents. I heard her say

that residents were having some issues, but I heard you say that you do help residents. What is the program you have to help residents with petroleum clean up? Is it a stipend to help them deal with it? How does that program compare to the bigger program that removes larger tanks in other places?

Gregory Lovato:

The heating oil tank cleanup for residences has a different place in the system. Businesses with normal underground storage tanks, like a gas station, have an enrollment fee of \$100 per year. They also have a copay of ten percent up to the total cost of the cleanup. It can be as much as \$100,000. That is the gas station example. In terms of heating oil tanks, it is simple. They need to test the tank to see if it is leaking prior to getting enrolled. If it is not leaking, they can enroll for \$250 and be reimbursed for whatever cleanup is needed. There may be specific circumstances with individuals, and we would be happy to follow up on any specific cases, but by and large, we have a successful record of managing underground storage cleanup and heating oil cases all over. We would be happy to follow up on instances where someone feels they did not get appropriate financial assistance. For the most part, we think we are successful with the purpose of the fund—helping to get those cleaned up. Sometimes we are not able to get all of [the leaked oil] out because [doing so] might undermine the foundation. We would not necessarily try to fund that level of financial assistance, rather only what would be needed to protect the soil, ground water, and any potential receptors nearby. We would not always fund a complete clean up that takes it back to pristine, but only what is necessary to protect water and adjacent landowners.

Chair Carlton:

If a resident did not realize that they needed to enroll, then once they have a problem, their ship has sailed. This might be an issue that we need to create a public education campaign about to make sure people know that. This is similar to the sewer issues we have in southern Nevada. If you do not get the protection when you get the house, once a problem happens, the water line issue is all on you. I see this as being very similar. Are there any other questions?

Assemblywoman Titus:

Is this the same fund and amount of money that we heard you present to a previous committee regarding the Petroleum Fund? The presentation mentioned increasing the amount of funds that industry businesses with larger fuel tanks were able to access for cleanup if they had to mediate their property. Is this the same pot of money?

Gregory Lovato:

Yes, it is.

Assemblywoman Titus:

During the hearing on the previous bill [Assembly Bill 40], we heard that there were not enough funds for some of these bigger projects. Now I am hearing there are more than enough funds, and you are going to do this new program with them. Can you clarify how this money is being used and how many things this pot of money actually funds?

Gregory Lovato:

In Assembly Bill 40, there was an amendment request from petroleum marketers to allow the ceiling to be raised for certain cleanups.

Assembly Bill 40: Revises provisions relating to petroleum storage tanks. (BDR 40-343)

Gregory Lovato, Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:

It is not that there is not enough money in the fund for them; it is that out of the thousands of cleanup projects that we have funded over the years, there are a few individual projects that have exceeded the existing coverage amounts. Assembly Bill 40 would allow an increased amount of coverage for those particular cases. We are definitely not seeing any cleanup projects being held up because of a lack of funding. That amendment was a request from those people, so they do not have to access what we are currently accessing. It is a little complicated. There are \$1 million that are offered for cleanup, and then the fund also covers \$1 million to address what are called "third party liability damages." We are already providing all the funding, and no cleanup projects are being slowed for lack of funding.

Assemblywoman Titus:

A discussion of A.B. 40 is not appropriate for the hearing on this bill, but I want to make sure that there is adequate funding for the goals of A.B. 452. The Petroleum Fund comes from all industry paid fees, correct? These are not State General Fund dollars, correct?

Gregory Lovato:

Correct. The fund is from fees collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles on fuel imported or refined in this state. This is a fee paid by the industry.

Chair Carlton:

If we carry that domino of a fee that is collected one more time, I am sure the people that are paying that fee pass its cost along to the taxpayer as part of the cost of doing business. I would assume it is built into the fuel rates.

Gregory Lovato:

That is correct, but A.B. 452 does not propose to increase or decrease fees. The fees will remain the same. This bill is merely requesting that a portion of what is already transferred to the State Highway Fund be allowed for the use of greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory.

Chair Carlton:

Anyone who buys fuel in this state is contributing to the fund. That is the point I was trying to make. Committee members, are there other questions? [There were none.] With that, we will go to testimonies in support, opposition, and neutral, beginning with anyone in support of A.B. 452.

Christi Cabrera, Policy and Advocacy Director, Nevada Conservation League:

I am here in support of A.B. 452. As home to some of the fastest warming cities in the United States, Nevada is already feeling the impacts of climate change. Our state has made strides to become a cleaner and greener state, but we are still not on track to meet our climate goals, and there is still plenty of work to be done. The Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has been tasked with preparing annual reports that include a statewide inventory of GHG emissions as well as projected GHG emissions. These reports provide the framework for the Legislature to determine what policies are needed to meet our state's climate goals. We must make sure the DCNR has the resources and information they need to prepare them. We strongly urge you to support A.B. 452.

Alex Ortiz, Assistant Director, Clark County Department of Administrative Services:

Clark County supports A.B. 452 as written. Clark County has undertaken climate action and GHG emission reduction planning in its All-In Clark County plan. This bill proposes streamlined, state-level data reporting and makes access to GHG emissions information easier and quicker to obtain. Timely receipt and use of the most current GHG emissions data will help guide the policy decisions necessary to meet state and county GHG emission reduction goals. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) has been tasked with additional responsibilities related to GHG inventories and with the monitoring, modeling, and managing of GHGs. Clark County can benefit from this work in its own climate planning and implementation. This bill proposes to augment staff and resources to help meet these new responsibilities, and it is necessary to support the implementation of actions to achieve state and county GHG emission reduction goals.

Randy Robison, representing the City of Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am here in support of A.B. 452. The City of Las Vegas participated in the Nevada Climate Initiative over the past year. Las Vegas supports this bill and NDEP's efforts to supplement the continued reporting efforts that include other state, local, and regional collaborators. This will help with outlined emissions mitigation and adaptation efforts now and in the future.

Chair Carlton:

We will now go to speakers in opposition of A.B. 452. [There were none.] We will go to people in neutral.

**My-Linh Nguyen, Administrator 2, Environmental Program, Engineering Division,
Nevada Department of Transportation:**

I am here on behalf of the environmental program in the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). Section 1 of this bill requires agencies and entities to submit necessary information to the DCNR to prepare the annual GHG emissions report. While NDOT supports the intended purpose of the bill, we want to note the cost to implement the requirement. Therefore, NDOT has submitted the fiscal note for the addition of a new environmental scientist position to address the recurring efforts that are required of the Department to coordinate, track, and report the necessary information.

Chair Carlton:

To our presenters, are there any closing comments? [There were none.]

Chair Carlton:

With that, we will close the hearing on A.B. 452, and we will open the hearing on Assembly Bill 454, making an appropriation to the Nevada Promise Scholarship account.

Assembly Bill 454: Makes an appropriation to the Nevada Promise Scholarship Account to support the Nevada Promise Scholarship Program. (BDR S-1113)

**Andrew Clinger, Chief Financial Officer and Interim Director of Government Affairs,
Nevada System of Higher Education:**

I am here to present Assembly Bill 454, which makes an appropriation to the Nevada Promise Scholarship program in the amount of \$7.33 million. This amount was derived using the 2020 fall semester numbers of close to 1,400 students with a disbursement of \$1.83 million. That amount was carried forward to project for fiscal year (FY) 2022 and FY 2023, which is how we arrived at the \$7.33 million projection. I am happy to answer any questions.

Chair Carlton:

You glanced upon how you came to the number, but could you expand a little about the base year you are using and how you came up with the \$7.33 million?

Andrew Clinger:

We used the recipient count for the fall semester of 2020. We had 1,371 recipients of the scholarship. The amount at that time was \$1.83 million, which was used to project for both FY 2022 and FY 2023. We doubled the \$1.83 million to get approximately \$3.6 million per year, which then gives the total request of \$7.3 million in the bill.

Chair Carlton:

It is always good to have all of that on the record. With that, I am happy to open it up to questions from the Committee.

Assemblyman Roberts:

During the 2020 special session, I thought that we reduced the money for these scholarships. Am I remembering that incorrectly?

Andrew Clinger:

No, you are correct. In fact, for the spring semester 2021, the original plan was to use federal funds to make up the difference. I had a discussion during that special session with Director Michael Brown, Governor's Office of Economic Development, when the reduction was made about the use of federal funds. As it turned out, because of restrictions on the federal funds, we were not able to use them. Instead, we authorized the institutions to use a portion of student access funds only for spring semester of 2021. When a student pays their registration fee, up to 15 percent of that fee goes into the student access funds which are then used for

scholarships. For spring of 2021, we did use about \$346,000 of student access funds to cover the difference.

Assemblyman Roberts:

I recall there were some adjustments made, and I think it is an important fund.

Chair Carlton:

Because the student access funds, in essence, backfilled those lost dollars, will any of these new dollars go toward paying back those student access funds, or are the books closed on them, we move forward, and these dollars will all go towards the Nevada Promise Scholarship in this next round?

Andrew Clinger:

All of these funds will go towards the scholarship recipients. The student access funds will not be paid back.

Chair Carlton:

Are there any other questions of Mr. Clinger? [There were none.] With that, I will open it up to those in support of A.B. 454.

Margo Martin, Chief Accreditation and Institutional Effectiveness Officer, College of Southern Nevada:

I am here in support of A.B. 454. The Nevada Promise Scholarship program is a game changer for the high school youth and families of southern Nevada. Since 2017, the Nevada Promise Scholarship has played a key role in stimulating a college-going culture across the state. Year-over-year, an increasing number of high schools have encouraged more students to participate. Since the scholarship's inception, close to 35,000 students representing 11 counties and 114 high schools have submitted applications to the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) Promise Scholarship program. Despite COVID-19, CSN received almost 5,000 Nevada Promise Scholarship applications for this upcoming academic year, and 1,153 eligible students are moving forward to complete the mentoring and community service requirement. This is a 5 percent increase from last year. In terms of persistence, 103 Nevada Promise Scholarship 2018 cohort students will complete three years with the program this spring semester. A total of 295 students from the 2019 cohort are completing their second year, and 254 students from the 2020 cohort are completing their first year. Regarding community service, CSN Promise Scholarship students have contributed more than 126,000 service hours total, and our mentors have completed close to 8,500 mentoring sessions since 2018. We currently have 358 active mentors in the program and are continuing to recruit. The Nevada Promise Scholarship has created incredible synergy around access and community support for higher education in southern Nevada and continues to positively impact the lives of our high school seniors and their families. We urge this Committee to support A.B. 454.

Mariana Kihuen, Director of Government Affairs, College of Southern Nevada:

College of Southern Nevada (CSN) is in full support of A.B. 454. We thank Governor Sisolak for including the Nevada Promise Scholarship program in his recommended budget and urge this Committee to support A.B. 454. Continued funding for the Nevada Promise Scholarship is one of CSN's top 2021 Legislative Session priorities. Last Wednesday was CSN's day at the Legislature. We premiered a video outlining our 2021 legislative priorities and that video includes testimony from Governor Sisolak, Senator Moises Denis, and CSN students on why they support the Nevada Promise Scholarship. We highly encourage this Committee to watch that video at www.csn.edu/csnday.

Adrian Bell, Student, College of Southern Nevada:

I am a Nevada Promise Scholarship recipient here to support A.B. 454. I am a full-time college student at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) pursuing a business degree in finance. Because of the Nevada Promise Scholarship, I am able to focus entirely on my academics without having to worry about how I will pay for tuition. I have been a Nevada Promise Scholarship recipient for the last two years, and I have come to realize that this scholarship provides more than funding to students. Since becoming a recipient, the scholarship has made me a better version of myself and a role model that my little brother can now look up to.

Because of the scholarship, I have been more involved in my community and have realized the importance of civic engagement through volunteering at numerous organizations to fulfill my community service requirement. Because of the mentoring aspect of the program, I went from a shy, introverted individual to an outspoken leader who can now represent his peers and community.

This scholarship has given me the opportunity to work closely with my peers and ensure they graduate with a degree by allowing me to become a facilitator for the scholarship program. By working closely with Nevada Promise Scholarship coordinators and other CSN faculty, I have been a helping hand to bring attention to the importance of mentorship in a college student's life, along with raising our school's awareness of things that first generation college students undergo. This would not have been achievable without the Nevada Promise Scholarship by my side.

I am the living testimony for why this scholarship should continue to be funded. Before the scholarship, I did not have direction. I did not realize my potential. I did not have the needed support to achieve greatness. After becoming a part of the scholarship, I have maintained a 4.0 each semester, earned the prestigious Regent Scholar Award for my school, become a familiar face in my community due to volunteering, and become a beacon of hope for people that look for me. Committee and Chair Carlton, please continue with this scholarship so that when my brother has a chance to go to college, he can reap the same benefits as I did, and he, too, can become a better version of himself.

Chair Carlton:

Mr. Clinger, you should have let him present the bill. With that, we will hear the next person in support.

Randy Robison, Chairman, College of Southern Nevada Institutional Advisory Council:

You have heard plenty of good testimony, and, most important, you just heard from one of our amazing students who is a scholarship recipient. I can tell you, having had the privilege of speaking with many recipients of the Nevada Promise Scholarship, what the Legislature has done with this scholarship has absolutely changed lives. I could not be more in support of this bill. In fact, if you want to put some more money into it, I will support that too.

Chair Carlton:

We will now go to those in opposition of A.B. 454. [There were none.] Is there anyone to testify as neutral? [There were none.] I think the people who testified did an excellent job of sharing with us how they feel about the bill. Are there any closing comments?

Nate Mackinnon, Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges, Nevada System of Higher Education:

Thank you for considering this today. We would like to invite all members of the Legislature, if you would be willing, to consider becoming a mentor for the Nevada Promise Scholarship program. We are very much in need of mentors. Please help spread the word. It has been a challenge getting mentors; COVID-19 caused us to take a hit on the number of mentors available. As you can hear, our Nevada Promise Scholarship students are fantastic, and the mentoring component is a huge part of the program, but we need responsible adults who are willing to give a little bit of time each semester. Please, if you could contact your local community college, we would really appreciate it.

Chair Carlton:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 454. Next, we will open the hearing on Assembly Bill 460.

Assembly Bill 460: Makes an appropriation to the Division of Museums and History of the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs to restore the school bus program to reimburse transportation costs for public school students to visit state museums. (BDR S-1116)

**Myron Freedman, Acting Administrator, Division of Museums and History,
Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs:**

I am here to speak on Assembly Bill 460. This is a one-time appropriation to the Division of Museums and History for our school bus program. This appropriation allows us to offer public schools across the state to plan a tour to one of our state museums and be reimbursed for the school bus costs. We ask the Committee to please consider this. It has been a successful program in the past. The one-time appropriation allows us to bring approximately 8,000 to 10,000 students per year, depending upon the schools that apply for

the reimbursement. Thank you for your consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Chair Carlton:

I was involved with the inception of this idea as a member of a museum in southern Nevada and working with their wonderful volunteers. They started this program purely with donations, and they showed us how valuable it is. I am curious how you came to the \$100,000 amount. I know we have done more than that in the past to make sure we had enough for students statewide. Are there still funds left over from the COVID-19 shutdown? How did you decide on \$100,000?

Myron Freedman:

The program was still ramping up in the early years when it was first established. We were returning funds to the state. This is a more modest request, but it does cover the historic attendance we have had. We also have to factor in that the schools will need to ramp up from the pandemic period, while bringing the students 100 percent back to the school. We are not exactly sure what that is going to look like in the next biennium. So, it is a more modest approach this time, but based on the historic numbers, we feel that it will cover the demand.

Chair Carlton:

In the school year before the pandemic, can you tell me how many students accessed this program?

Myron Freedman:

In 2018, it was 6,168, and then it ramped up quite a bit in 2019 to 10,629. This was largely in Clark County, but Washoe County as well. Splitting the difference, we are estimating 7,600 students in 2022. We are bumping that up to 8,000 students in 2023. We could prepare for more, but based on the historic numbers, we feel this is a viable number.

Chair Carlton:

Committee members, I will now open it up for questions. [There were none]. We will now open it up to those in support of A.B. 460.

Selena La Rue Hatch, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada:

I am calling as a current high school history teacher, former middle school history teacher, and a Washoe Education Association and NSEA [Nevada State Education Association] member. I support this bill and the program. As a history teacher, I can tell you that the importance of having students see history and not just read about it on the page cannot be overstated. Especially coming out of this pandemic year, our kids need to be out of their chairs and out in the community and the museums, engaged in a way that they have not been able in the past year. I strongly support this bill and this measure especially since school bus costs are often the reason that we cannot take our kids on field trips. The busses are expensive, and a lot of schools do not have a budget for them, so we are required to collect money from the students in order to pay for a bus. Obviously, this causes a lot of issues with equity. If students cannot afford to go, they miss out on a learning opportunity. It creates a

system where kids can see who is paying for the bus and who is not. This program removes all of that, taking out that stress, and allowing all of our students, regardless of their ability to pay, to engage with our state's history and take advantage of a really great program.

Kathy Flanagan, representing The Springs Preserve, Las Vegas, Nevada:

The Springs Preserve is a home to the Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas. Museums preserve history, promote understanding, and provide enrichment. The school bus program enables public school teachers to provide these experiences to their students. We urge your support of this measure.

Chair Carlton:

Are there any others to speak in support? [There were none.] Is there anyone to speak in opposition of A.B. 460? [There were none.] Is there anyone to testify as neutral? [There were none.] Mr. Freedman, do you have any closing comments?

Myron Freedman:

I want to echo the testifiers in support. It is important that the students engage with Nevada history in these museums where we have the real items on display. It makes a big impression on them. It helps the teachers. I thank the Committee for their consideration and look forward to many students visiting our museums in the coming years.

Chair Carlton:

When I was a kid, it was all about the field trips, and I think there is going to be a demand for them very soon. With that, I will close the hearing on A.B. 460 and open the hearing on Assembly Bill 459. We did have a discussion on this issue earlier today in the joint full meeting, so I will ask Elisa Cafferata, Director, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, to walk us through the bill, and we will go from there.

Assembly Bill 459: Revises provisions relating to workforce development. (BDR 18-1068)

Elisa Cafferata, Director, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation:

As the Director of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), I am here to present Assembly Bill 459. I am joined by Isla Young, Executive Director of the Office of Workforce Innovation; Tiffany Greenameyer, Deputy Director of the Governor's Finance Office; and additional DETR staff including David Schmidt, Chief Economist; Karlene Johnson, Deputy Administrator for the Workforce Solutions Unit; Troy Jordan, Senior Attorney; Jennifer Casselman, Deputy Director; and Christopher Sewell, Assistant to the Director, Chief Operating Officer, and legislative liaison. Assembly Bill 459 is the policy bill to implement the Governor's recommended budget priority of moving the Office of Workforce Innovation (OWINN) to DETR. It is the companion bill to OWINN's budget items that were considered this morning in the joint meeting with the Senate Finance Committee. I know there are a lot of questions about this move.

We strongly believe that this move makes sense on many levels. First, OWINN's mission is in alignment with DETR's mission as the state's workforce development agency. We believe this move provides administrative support for OWINN. This is a move to put OWINN, as a unit, in an agency, DETR, where they can receive financial management support, grant monitoring, tracking support, and human resources assistance. The Governor's Office is not set up to provide these services or this support to the OWINN team. This move will allow the OWINN staff members to focus on their mission without needing to be part-time bookkeepers and human resources experts. Second, this move provides administrative efficiencies for DETR and OWINN, as OWINN receives significant funding from DETR grants. This consolidation eliminates the need for us both to create subgrant agreements, administrative plans, monitoring, and reporting. This administrative work currently goes from DETR to the Department of Administration to OWINN, and then comes back again. This adds several layers to the process, including time and staff resources, that we would be able to eliminate. Finally, this move will allow OWINN and DETR to tap into programs and expertise concerning workforce development, as well as research and analysis, so we can all do our jobs better and more efficiently by communicating more clearly. We do anticipate that there will be an amendment with some technical changes to make sure this language conforms with federal requirements. That will be coming, but they are largely technical changes.

In terms of process, A.B. 459 moves OWINN, as a unit, from the Governor's Office to DETR. I will specifically go through the bill at a high level.

Section 1 removes OWINN from *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 223.085, which sets out the staff in the Office of the Governor. Section 2 of the bill updates NRS Chapter 232, which lists the state departments, by putting OWINN in DETR.

Sections 3 through 6 basically mirror the language that created OWINN in the Governor's Office but moves that over to DETR. Specifically, section 3 creates OWINN and gives it the responsibility for apprenticeship programs in the state. Section 4 sets out that the Governor appoints the Executive Director of OWINN and changes the Executive Director from a nonclassified position to an unclassified position. Section 5 lists the responsibilities of the Executive Director. This language is an exact, mirrored copy of the current law, but it moves it to a different chapter in the NRS. Section 6 mirrors the law that requires DETR, the Department of Education, the Nevada System of Higher Education, and the Department of Motor Vehicles to provide education and workforce data to be included in the statewide longitudinal data system, known as the Nevada P-20 Workforce Research Data System (NPWR).

The remaining sections complete the confirmation changes. Sections 7 and 8 make the changes in NRS Chapter 232 needed to move OWINN to DETR. Sections 9, 10 and 13 amend NRS Chapter 400 to describe the duties of the NPWR Advisory Committee who assists OWINN and will now be at DETR. Sections 11 and 12 amend NRS Chapter 610, describing the duties of the Nevada State Apprenticeship Council and the Nevada State Apprenticeship Director. Section 14 says that any reports to the Legislature required by this

law will remain the same. Section 15 repeals the NRS chapters that created OWINN in the Office of the Governor, and section 16 makes the bill effective July 1, 2021. We are happy to answer any questions.

Chair Carlton:

I expressed concern over this earlier today. In the original conversations, OWINN was to be constructed out of components from DETR and the Office of the Labor Commissioner. Those components were put together and moved to the Office of the Governor. We are now untying the strings and moving things back. Could you address the issue with the apprenticeship program? It was not with DETR before; it was in the Office of the Labor Commissioner. It seems that if we are going to put things back to where they were in square one, I would like to have a conversation about the apprenticeship program, the thought process, and what the conversations are around that issue.

Elisa Cafferata:

I have a few things I can share about that, but this will need to be an ongoing conversation. We are aware that the Governor's Office has been having conversations about the appropriate place for the Nevada State Apprenticeship Council (NSAC) to live. The move to put it in OWINN predates my service with the state. I understand that one of the goals was to be able to create apprenticeship programs that address the high-demand jobs of the future. That was part of the thinking by putting it in the Office of Workforce Innovation. I think that is an important goal for the program—to make sure we are continuing to build the workers for all of the industries that we need in Nevada. I believe the conversation has started about where the NASC ultimately lands. That will be ongoing.

Chair Carlton:

I know those conversations will probably continue. Since we had the conversation this morning about this, we should have it on the record here as well. There are some questions from members of the Committee.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno:

I have to express that I agree—I am not sure if the apprenticeship program should be in DETR. To go along the lines of the conversation in the earlier hearing, DETR has a lot on their plate currently. I want to ensure that if this change does happen, the staff currently in OWINN will be transferred with their duties, to continue the work, along with the budget that goes with those positions. Will that be true?

Elisa Cafferata:

Yes, the intent of this move and the language of the bill both are that the soon-to-be ten people at OWINN will move as a unit. On the organizational chart, they will move to DETR, but they are not physically moving. I know people are concerned that DETR has a lot on its plate, but those staff will continue to do the work they are doing. We believe this move makes the work easier for both DETR and OWINN because we will have funds directly in the budget without doing the subgranting, the monitoring, the tracking, and the reporting. We are taking out a whole layer of administration for all of us, on both sides of the equation.

Those staff will continue to do the work they are doing, only they will be freed up to focus on their mission, as opposed to administrative services.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno:

I appreciate you putting that on the record because that was a concern brought up this morning. As we come out of this pandemic, people may not be able to go back to the jobs they had before. The retraining for jobs and the unemployment issues that come from going into a new career field will make this ideal. I look forward to seeing how this plays out, but I do think the apprenticeship program should be placed somewhere else.

Assemblywoman Tolles:

As I figure out all the puzzle pieces, I concur on the question surrounding the apprenticeship program and whether or not it is appropriate to put it back with the Office of the Labor Commissioner. I am very interested in that conversation, and I agree. I appreciate the opening remarks on what it is we are trying to solve and why this would be more beneficial for OWINN and DETR. I appreciate the reasoning that necessary administrative support is lacking, and that there will be streamlining in that reporting process. I drew a triangle between DETR, the Department of Administration, and back to OWINN. That was helpful, but when I read the bill and go back into the statute, I am focused on section 5 in particular. In section 5, I see the actual functions of OWINN, and, as you mentioned, that communication is intricately tied to the Governor and the Governor's various offices. In section 5, subsection 1, it says that the Executive Director is to provide support to the Department and the Governor's Workforce Investment Board; and per subsection 2, is in coordination with the Office for Economic Development (GOED); and per subsection 4 (d), is in consultation with the Governor's Workforce Investment Board; and per subsection 4 (h), is in coordination with the Governor and the Governor's Workforce Investment Board. It is the same thing in subsection 4 (i) and subsection 4 (j). The Governor's Office is all over section 5. I understand there are administrative benefits to putting OWINN in DETR, but if our goal is to better communication and keep it streamlined, will doing this create other communication issues that are more easily streamlined by staying in the Governor's Office?

Elisa Cafferata:

First, the Executive Director of OWINN will still be appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor. That is a direct relationship and a direct report. Second, the Executive Director of OWINN is considered a cabinet-level position and that also remains the same. The importance of the position and the work remain the same. The access to all the other cabinet-level directors is the same. Certainly, the intention of the Governor's Office is to continue to rely heavily on OWINN for this support, the reporting, and the coordinating function that they are providing. We at DETR are in very regular communication with the Governor's Office. They are very accessible, as I am sure you are all aware. I do not think that will change, but the change is that OWINN is freed from having to also do this administrative work. As I am sure you can appreciate, when you are administering federal grants, the administrative burden is quite large. The OWINN being able to rely on our grant staff, our fiscal management staff, and our human resources staff, will free them up to focus

on their collaboration and communications roles, not chasing down invoices or things of that nature.

Assemblywoman Tolles:

I do wonder if the fix is to just provide more administrative support in where it is housed today to help with that function. Section 6, subsection 1 is in regards to the workforce data to be included in the statewide longitudinal data system—which I find impressive and a phenomenal program after having sat with the person who used to manage it—but in subsection 1, it also lists who reports back to OWINN. This is the only time, other than transferring the office over, that DETR is specifically mentioned. Will DETR report back to OWINN within DETR, along with other agencies? Am I reading that correctly?

Elisa Cafferata:

This is a tricky thing about reading bills. When it talks earlier in this bill about the "Department" or the "Director," that is specifically referring to DETR and the Director of DETR. While it is not spelled out, the bill is actually referring to DETR throughout. As to this reference in section 6, it is not that we are reporting to OWINN. These are the public agencies that report this specific data to the NPWR system, which is impressive as you say. The engagement is very involved with that, but this is just a list of agencies, at a minimum, that provide data to the reporting system.

Assemblyman Roberts:

You mentioned that the Executive Director of OWINN is a cabinet-level position, and they are moving over to DETR. Who will they report to at DETR?

Elisa Cafferata:

The bill and the conversation have mostly been focused on moving the budget piece and on the language that moves OWINN to DETR as a whole. We are still having conversations about exactly where it lives within our organizational chart. There is a commitment from the Governor's Office that this remains "The Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation" with a cabinet-level position, attention, and focus.

Assemblyman Roberts:

So, it would still be a cabinet-level position. Are there any other cabinet-level positions who report to other people within the state government but are still a part of the Governor's Cabinet?

Elisa Cafferata:

My understanding is that the Nevada Indian Commission is another example of a unit that is within another agency and also has a cabinet-level position. It is not unique in the state. That arrangement is for the exact same reason—the administrative needs of small commissions like OWINN and the Nevada Indian Commission are a pretty heavy lift when you have a small staff. The Nevada Indian Commission was put in an agency to support those administrative pieces, but they remain on the cabinet.

Assemblyman Roberts:

When OWINN was moved from DETR to the Office of the Governor before, was that position upgraded to cabinet level and would that be the same level as your position, Ms. Cafferata, as far as an executive director?

Elisa Cafferata:

I do not know, but as a correction, I do not believe OWINN was at DETR before. It was created by former Governor Brian Sandoval. Perhaps Isla Young could answer that question.

Isla Young, Executive Director, Office of Workforce Innovation, Office of the Governor:

Would you mind repeating the question?

Assemblyman Roberts:

If OWINN was created and originally placed in the Office of the Governor, then it was not ever moved there from DETR, but my curiosity is more about moving it to DETR. I look at it from the perspective of my own background in policing—it would be like me working for someone who is the same level and pay grade as I am. Structurally, it may not make sense to keep the person at that high level if they are reporting to someone of the same level.

Isla Young:

It has been the wish of the Governor's Office that I would maintain my position level even with the move. I do not have information outside of that, but we could definitely follow up with more if that would help.

Assemblyman Roberts:

I am just trying to figure out the structure. If we do not know, then thank you.

Chair Carlton:

I was here when the position was created, and it was created as a cabinet-level position. The OWINN did not exist before. Different components were put together over much conversation and negotiation. That cabinet-level position was created, and there have been issues with people who were in that position off and on over a couple of years. I would like Ms. Cafferata to confirm—it is my impression that this cabinet-level position will not be reporting to DETR; it will just be colocated with DETR. It is not as if they are reporting to the Director of DETR; this is more of a symbiotic relationship for administration purposes, and the position will still have all the jurisdiction and powers that it has always had. It will not be reporting to you, Ms. Cafferata, as if you were in the supervisory position over a cabinet-level position. Am I correct?

Elisa Cafferata:

Yes, that is my understanding. The operations will continue as they are, essentially.

Chair Carlton:

I see this as more of an efficiency move. I do not see it as one agency going under another agency. Any other questions at this time?

Assemblyman Hafen:

First and foremost, I want to thank DETR. I know in the last year you have been working hard, and I am sure you do not get as much appreciation as you should. I see that this act becomes effective July 1, 2021. With all the moving pieces, is that 30-day window going to be enough time for you, or will that be one of the technical changes you are looking at?

Elisa Cafferata:

I believe the July 1 effective date is important because of the movement of the budget pieces. We are still in conversations about making that deadline. That may need to be amended, but I believe that is the purpose of the date. Because we are not physically moving anyone or changing offices, it really is the Governor's Finance Office that is going to make the change in the budget. They are here to chime in, but we believe that is the reason and think they can make it. We will let you know if that changes.

Tiffany Greenameyer, Deputy Director, Office of Finance, Office of the Governor:

The change is just a process change that we do at the beginning. Paperwork will be sent over to the Nevada State Controller's Office mid-June for a July 1 start.

Chair Carlton:

It is a paper move, a budget move. Are there other questions from Committee members at this time? [There were none.] We will go those in support of A.B. 459. [There were none.] Is there anyone to testify in opposition? [There were none.] We will open it up to those in neutral.

William Stanley, representing Southern Nevada Building Trades Union:

I am representing the Southern Nevada Building Trades Union and the northern Nevada building trades in this meeting. On behalf of the Nevada building trades, we would like to thank the Governor and his staff for working on this bill with us. The building trades want to ensure that Nevada's apprenticeship agency remains defined in statute. This body worked throughout the 2017 and 2019 Legislative Sessions to ensure that Nevada's apprenticeship policies remain in compliance with the Department of Labor regulations, and we want to ensure that work remains intact. To wrap it up, we want to thank the Governor's staff and the Chair for working with the building trades on this important issue. We will continue to work in hopes of finding a resting place for the Nevada State Apprenticeship Council and its Director and ensuring that the state has in statute an agency that is required by the Department of Labor regulations.

Chair Carlton:

Is there anyone else to testify in neutral? [There were none.] Ms. Cafferata, do you have any closing comments before we close the hearing on this bill?

Elisa Cafferata:

We will provide additional information to you as we get it.

Chair Carlton:

We appreciate your hard work as always. With that, I will close the hearing on A.B. 459. The last thing on our agenda is public comment. [There was none.] We are adjourned [at 7:47 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Adam Cates
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

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