

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Eighty-first Session
May 18, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair James Ohrenschall at 5:46 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, Online and in Room 2149 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator James Ohrenschall, Chair
Senator Roberta Lange, Vice Chair
Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro
Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert
Senator Carrie A. Buck

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Stewart, Policy Analyst
Bryan Fernley, Counsel
Barbara Young, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Heather Korbolic, Policy Director, Office of the Governor
Connor Cain, Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance
Dylan Keith, Vegas Chamber
Russell Rowe, Nevada System of Higher Education
Anthony Ruiz, Nevada State College

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

We will open up the hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 450.

ASSEMBLY BILL 450 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to workforce development. (BDR S-1108)

HEATHER KORBULIC (Policy Director, Office of the Governor):

We are presenting A.B. 450 which appoints a committee to conduct an interim study to align workforce training and programs offered by community colleges in the State of Nevada. I would like to acknowledge the work of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) as it relates to the Covid-19 pandemic response. Campuses across the State implemented mitigation measures immediately to protect faculty, students and our communities. Science departments helped the State build Covid-19 test kits which were in short supply around the Country at the time. The Nevada State Public Health Lab became a Statewide leader in testing, research and genomic analysis. The NSHE colleges and universities have trained and built the State's contact-tracing workforce, and NSHE scholars have provided key input on the Governor's mitigation as members have informed the State's path going forth throughout this pandemic. The college and university campuses have been great partners in everything from testing to vaccination, and we are always appreciative of them. The Governor is grateful for the efforts of our State's institutions today and every day.

As Governor Steve Sisolak said in his State of the State Address on January 19, he is calling on the Legislature to work with NSHE over the next two years to develop a framework to analyze community colleges in rebuilding Nevada's workforce and economic future. As the State rebounds and finds new footing in this new pandemic landscape, community colleges as they relate to our workforce development efforts will become more important than ever. Since the time the Governor served on the Board of Regents, he has been vocal about the importance of community colleges and the desire for the State to focus on supporting and expanding access to certificate programs and two-year degrees, which can lead to immediate jobs. The timing is right to review the governance and role of the State's community colleges.

Assembly Bill 450 proposes the creation of a multidisciplinary committee to study the governance structures in Nevada's community colleges as they relate to the State's workforce development needs. Nevada's workforce development system is in need of a meaningful transformation to meet the needs of our evolving economy. These needs have been magnified by the current public health crisis. The NSHE is governed by the Board of Regents and encompasses several different types of institutions of higher education including community colleges. Community colleges will remain critical to the State's efforts to develop a workforce as the economy continues to expand and diversify to meet

the needs of existing trades and professions for emerging careers in our future. Nevada's community colleges provide a broad spectrum of education from traditional degree programs to certificate and training programs, all of which are essential to developing Nevada's workforce. The recent economic downturns in the State highlighted this need for community colleges to be more closely aligned to the diverse students in the business communities and the regions of this State that they serve. To maximize the opportunities offered by Nevada's community colleges and expand the economy, Nevada must take the coalition approach to identifying opportunities for realigning education, training and funding. This includes increasing our coordination and collaboration among partners within the workforce system and establishing accountability for a Statewide workforce development going forward. With an evolving State economy and workforce, Nevada has to ensure the higher education funding formula incentivizes the education and training of tomorrow's workforce.

Additionally, it is important to determine whether new methods of coordinating, governing or funding community colleges in this State are necessary to improve and advance the purpose of the State's community colleges. This committee will conduct an interim study to identify opportunities for aligning workforce training with community colleges to meet this need of our evolving economy. The committee will analyze the government structures and the funding mechanisms for community colleges to ensure coordination is occurring among all of Nevada's workforce development partners.

To reiterate, the Governor believes that NSHE's funding formulas are in need of review, and this is why he is specifically calling on the study committee to analyze these funding structures. The bill establishes a collaborative effort to establish a committee which includes relative stakeholders. It will be co-chaired by the Chancellor and other industry partners. This will include one member of the Governor's Office of Economic Development; three members of chambers of commerce, including one member from a northern chamber and two from a southern chamber; one member of a labor organization; the Superintendent of Public Instruction; as well as a community college president. These meetings will be subject to the Open Meeting Law which will allow for other stakeholders to attend and participate. The study will be data-driven and will require and rely on the expertise of national experts. It will identify best practices of governments and funding methods for community colleges which will include the analysis of effective relationships among local school districts, workforce development and community colleges. Recommendations will be made

concerning how the State can strengthen these relationships to improve achievement. It will also analyze effective relationships between business, industry and community colleges to strengthen relationships to better prepare students for entry into the workforce. The committee will provide a report of its findings to the Governor, Legislative Counsel Bureau and the Chair of the Board of Regents in time for recommendations to be considered in advance of the Eighty-second Legislative Session.

CONNOR CAIN (Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance):

I am testifying in support of A.B. 450. We appreciate that this legislation recognizes the unique challenges southern Nevada faces coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic. There is no better time than now to develop a dislocated worker's strategy and an alignment plan with our community colleges. We thank the Governor and his staff for leadership on this issue and look forward to assisting in any way with A.B. 450.

DYLAN KEITH (Vegas Chamber):

The Chamber is in support of A.B. 450. I will read from my testimony ([Exhibit B](#)).

RUSSELL ROWE (Nevada System of Higher Education):

I am speaking in the neutral position. We want to thank the Governor and his team for working collaboratively with NSHE on this study. We support the Governor's commitment to strengthen our community colleges and the vital contribution of community colleges to workforce development. We greatly appreciate the inclusion of NSHE. The team has been fantastic.

ANTHONY RUIZ (Nevada State College):

I am testifying in neutral. We appreciate this bill and the work which has been done. Workforce development is important any time, particularly as we work to recover in a pandemic. While this bill is primarily geared to community colleges, we are a comprehensive four-year college; nevertheless, we stand ready to work with this committee as they shall determine and see fit. We hope to have a piece in the puzzle, contributing what we can in workforce development.

SENATOR LANGE:

With this bill, will more staff need to be hired in community colleges, or will existing staff be utilized?

MS. KORBULIC:

This research panel can analyze, whether we have the appropriate staffing structure. It could be in our community colleges or in our workforce development force where we need to be actively working.

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

We will now close the bill on A.B. 450. We have two more items, a work session on Senate Concurrent Resolution (S.C.R.) 11 and public comment.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 11: Creates a joint special committee to conduct a study concerning innovation zones. (BDR R-1148)

MICHAEL STEWART (Policy Analyst):

The one bill we have on work session ([Exhibit C](#)) is S.C.R. 11. It creates a special joint committee to construct a study of innovation zones, which must include at least three members of the Assembly and three members of the Senate appointed by Legislative Leadership. The committee shall study the potential community and economic benefits of innovation zones and their impact on potential revenues and taxes, as well as various entities, industries and natural resources. There is required input from various stakeholders, and a report of the special committee's findings must be submitted to the Governor on or before December 31, and include recommendations on whether no further action should be taken on innovation zones or related legislation should be proposed during the regular or special Session of the Legislature. A report must also be submitted to the Legislature, and the Committee may request a drafting of one legislative measure at the 82nd Session of the Legislature. There are no amendments for consideration at this time.

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

I would open up for a motion on S.C.R. 11.

SENATOR LANGE MOVED TO ADOPT S.C.R. 11.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATOR BUCK VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

We will close the hearing on S.C.R. 11. Seeing there are no public comments, we are adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Barbara Young,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator James Ohrenschall, Chair

DATE _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit Letter	Begins on Page	Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
A.B. 450	B	1	Dylan Keith / Vegas Chamber	Support Testimony
S.C.R. 11	C	1	Michael Stewart	Work Session Document