

# NEVADA LEGISLATURE

Eighty-Second Session, 2023

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## ASSEMBLY DAILY JOURNAL

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### THE THIRTY-SEVENTH DAY

CARSON CITY (Tuesday), March 14, 2023

Assembly called to order at 11:41 a.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Reverend Karen Foster.

May we take this opportunity to open our hearts to prayer.

Spirit of love and life, we give thanks for this day. We give thanks for the rain that is nurturing the ground and all of life. We give thanks for these mountains and our desert lands, and above all, we give thanks for the people of Nevada. We give thanks for the opportunity to make life better and relieve suffering for Nevadans.

May we allow our hearts to be engaged and moved by our neighbors who are hungry, by those who have no homes, who struggle with mental illness, who have health issues, who continue to struggle with losses and ramifications due to COVID, other illnesses, addiction, or economic challenges. For we have been entrusted with our fellow human beings' welfare. It is they who call us to our best and highest selves.

May we gather our strength and our courage and accomplish together that which we could never do alone. May our care and compassion guide us. In the many Names of the holy we pray.

AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with and the Speaker and Chief Clerk be authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

Motion carried.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

*Mr. Speaker:*

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which were referred Assembly Bills Nos. 17, 231, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

Also, your Committee on Judiciary, to which were referred Assembly Bills Nos. 68, 76, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

BRITTNEY MILLER, *Chair*

*Mr. Speaker:*

Your Committee on Natural Resources, to which was referred Assembly Bill No. 19, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

LESLEY E. COHEN, *Chair*

*Mr. Speaker:*

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred Assembly Bill No. 268, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and do pass as amended.

DANIELE MONROE-MORENO, *Chair*

#### MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

By Assemblymen Hafen, O'Neill, Dickman, Kasama, Hansen, DeLong, Gallant, Gray, Gurr, Hardy, Hibbetts, Koenig, McArthur and Yurek; Senators Titus, SeEVERS Gansert, Goicoechea, Hansen, Stone, Buck, Hammond and Krasner:

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 4—Proposing to amend the Nevada Constitution to remove the constitutional provisions governing the Legislature's authority to apportion Senators and members of the Assembly among counties or legislative districts of the State and create the Independent Redistricting Commission vested with the power to apportion Senators and members of the Assembly in the Legislature and members of the United States House of Representatives among districts established by the Commission.

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That a new section, designated Section 5A, be added to Article 4 of the Nevada Constitution to read as follows:

*Sec. 5A. 1. There is hereby created within the Legislative Department of the State Government the Independent Redistricting Commission. It shall be the duty of the Commission in the year 2031, and after each subsequent decennial census of the United States, to apportion the number of Senators and members of the Assembly among legislative districts established by the Commission and to apportion the number of representatives in the United States House of Representatives among congressional districts established by the Commission.*

*2. The Commission is composed of seven members who are registered and eligible to vote in this State and who meet the qualifications established in subsection 4. The Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader, Speaker of the Assembly and Assembly Minority Leader shall each appoint one commissioner.*

*3. The four commissioners appointed pursuant to subsection 2 shall appoint three additional commissioners, each of whom must not have been registered or affiliated with the largest or second largest political party for at least 4 years immediately preceding his or her appointment, according to voter registration data published by the Secretary of State as of January 1 of the redistricting year, and none of whom, if registered or affiliated with a political party, is affiliated or registered with the same political party as another commissioner.*

*4. Within the 4 years immediately preceding his or her appointment and during his or her term, a commissioner may not be:*

- (a) A registered lobbyist;*
- (b) A candidate for a federal, state or partisan local office;*
- (c) An elected official to a federal, state or partisan local office;*
- (d) An officer or member of the governing body of a national, state or local political party;*

(e) A paid consultant or employee of a federal, state or partisan local elected official or candidate, political action committee, committee sponsored by a political party or committee that seeks to influence elections to federal, state or partisan local offices;

(f) An employee of the State of Nevada, except for employees in the Judicial Department of the State Government, the Armed Forces of the United States or a state institution of higher education; or

(g) Related within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity to any person disqualified under paragraphs (a) to (f), inclusive.

5. The term of office of each commissioner expires once the Commission has completed its obligations for a census cycle, but not before any judicial review of the redistricting plan is complete, or upon the release of the subsequent decennial census of the United States, whichever is earliest.

6. All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public. The Commission shall ensure that the public has opportunities to view, present testimony and participate in hearings before the Commission. All Commission materials are public records.

7. The Commission shall adopt rules to govern its administration and operation.

8. The powers granted to the Commission are legislative functions not subject to the control or approval of the Legislature and are exclusively reserved to the Commission.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That a new section, designated Section 5B, be added to Article 4 of the Nevada Constitution to read as follows:

*Sec. 5B. 1. The Independent Redistricting Commission shall draw districts for a redistricting plan using the following criteria, in the order listed:*

*(a) Districts comply with the United States Constitution and applicable federal law.*

*(b) Districts have an approximately equal number of inhabitants.*

*(c) Districts are geographically contiguous.*

*(d) Districts are not drawn with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political process or elect representatives of their choice, whether by themselves or voting in concert with other persons.*

*(e) Districts do not unduly advantage or disadvantage a political party, when considered on a statewide basis.*

*(f) Districts reflect county, city and township boundaries, to the extent practicable.*

*(g) Districts do not divide communities of interest, to the extent practicable. Communities of interest are areas with recognized similarities of interest, including without limitation, racial, ethnic, economic, social, cultural, geographic or historic identities, but not including communities based on political affiliation.*

*(h) Districts are reasonably compact.*

*(i) Districts are politically competitive, to the extent practicable without impairing compliance with paragraphs (a) to (h), inclusive. A district is politically competitive if there is a reasonable potential for the party affiliation of the district's representative to change at least once between each federal decennial census.*

2. Not later than July 1, 2031, and not later than 180 days after each subsequent decennial census of the United States, the Commission shall approve a redistricting plan for the Nevada State Senate, the Nevada State Assembly and all congressional districts in this State, after providing public notice of each proposed final plan and allowing sufficient time for public review and comment. The Commission may only approve a final plan with at least five affirmative votes, including at least one from a commissioner registered with the largest political party, one from a commissioner registered with the second largest political party and one from a commissioner not registered or affiliated with the largest or second largest political party, according to voter registration data published by the Secretary of State as of January 1 of the redistricting year.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That a new section, designated Section 5C, be added to Article 4 of the Nevada Constitution to read as follows:

*Sec. 5C. If any part of Section 5A or 5B of this Article, as applicable, is declared invalid, or the application thereof to any person, thing or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions or application of Section 5A or 5B of this Article, as applicable, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of Sections 5A and 5B of this Article are declared to be severable. This section shall be construed broadly to preserve and effectuate the purpose of Sections 5A and 5B of this Article.*

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 5 of Article 4 of the Nevada Constitution be amended as follows:

Sec. 5. Senators and members of the Assembly shall be duly qualified electors in the respective counties and districts which they represent, and the number of Senators shall not be less than one-third nor more than one-half of that of the members of the Assembly.

It shall be the mandatory duty of the Legislature at its first session after the taking of the decennial census of the United States in the year 1950, and after each subsequent decennial census, to fix by law the number of Senators and ~~[Assemblymen, and apportion them among the several counties of the State, or among legislative districts which may be established by law, according to the number of inhabitants in them, respectively.]~~ **members of the Assembly.**

And be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Summers-Armstrong, Marzola, Bilbray-Axelrod, Carter, González, C.H. Miller, Nguyen, Peters and Watts:

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 4—Directing the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Government Affairs to conduct a study of the use of polygraphic examinations on certain employees.

Assemblywoman Gorelow moved that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections.

Motion carried.

#### NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

March 10, 2023

The Fiscal Analysis Division, pursuant to Joint Standing Rule No. 14.6, has determined the eligibility for exemption of: Assembly Bills Nos. 14, 147, 201, 211, 216, 228, 237, 238, 239, 254, 273.

SARAH COFFMAN  
*Fiscal Analysis Division*

March 14, 2023

The Fiscal Analysis Division, pursuant to Joint Standing Rule No. 14.6, has determined the eligibility for exemption of: Senate Bills Nos. 126, 158, 204, 253.

WAYNE THORLEY  
*Fiscal Analysis Division*

#### INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

By Assemblymen Gorelow, Anderson, Carter, Cohen, Duran and Nguyen:

Assembly Bill No. 281—AN ACT relating to health care; requiring the administrator of a senior living facility to ensure a senior living facility is equipped with functional ventilation and filtration systems; establishing

requirements for the assessment of and any improvement to such ventilation and filtration systems; requiring certain personnel to complete an assessment report on such a ventilation or filtration system; requiring the administrator of a senior living facility to prepare a report on such a ventilation or filtration system; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Summers-Armstrong, Marzola, Nguyen, González, Brittney Miller, Bilbray-Axelrod, Carter, C.H. Miller, Peters and Watts:

Assembly Bill No. 282—AN ACT relating to substitute teachers; requiring school districts to provide certain substitute teachers with a subsidy for the purchase of health insurance coverage; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Education.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Summers-Armstrong, Marzola, Peters, Bilbray-Axelrod, Carter, González, Brittney Miller, C.H. Miller, Nguyen and Watts:

Assembly Bill No. 283—AN ACT relating to health care; requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to seek an increase to certain reimbursement rates under the Medicaid program for doula services; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Motion carried.

By Assemblywoman Kasama:

Assembly Bill No. 284—AN ACT relating to mortgage companies; authorizing an employee of a mortgage company, including a mortgage loan originator employed by or associated with the mortgage company, to conduct the business of the mortgage company at a remote location under certain circumstances; setting forth certain requirements and restrictions concerning the conducting of the business of a mortgage company at a remote location; requiring the Commissioner of Mortgage Lending to adopt certain regulations; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

By Assemblywomen Taylor, Torres, Anderson and Hansen:

Assembly Bill No. 285—AN ACT relating to education; removing requirements for the use of restorative disciplinary practices in public schools; revising provisions governing the development of a plan of discipline by the

board of trustees of a school district; revising provisions governing age requirements for the suspension, expulsion and permanent expulsion of pupils; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Education.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Brittney Miller, C.H. Miller, Anderson, Backus, Bilbray-Axelrod, Cohen, Considine, D'Silva, Duran, González, Gorelow, La Rue Hatch, Marzola, Monroe-Moreno, Mosca, Newby, Nguyen, Peters, Summers-Armstrong, Taylor, Thomas, Torres and Watts:

Assembly Bill No. 286—AN ACT relating to elections; providing for the establishment of polling places in a county jail, city jail, local facility for the detention of children, regional facility for the treatment and rehabilitation of children and state facility for the detention of children; requiring the Secretary of State to allow certain prisoners to use a certain system of approved electronic transmission to preregister and register to vote and to cast a ballot; requiring such a jail or facility to allow certain prisoners to register to vote; requiring such a jail or facility to allow a prisoner to vote and return his or her mail ballot; requiring such a jail or facility to submit a report to the Secretary of State after each election; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Gray, O'Neill, Yurek, Hibbetts, McArthur, DeLong, Dickman, Gallant, Gurr, Hafen, Hansen, Hardy, Kasama and Koenig; Senators Hansen and Stone:

Assembly Bill No. 287—AN ACT relating to civil actions; providing that peace officers are immune from civil liability under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman O'Neill:

Assembly Bill No. 288—AN ACT relating to human trafficking; establishing the Nevada Blue Ribbon Committee on Human Trafficking; prescribing the membership and duties of the Committee; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Carter, La Rue Hatch, C.H. Miller, Summers-Armstrong and Watts and Senator Pazina:

Assembly Bill No. 289—AN ACT relating to human remains; authorizing the use of natural organic reduction for the cremation of human remains; revising various provisions relating to the disposition of human remains; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Brown-May, Carter, D'Silva, González, Koenig, Nguyen and Torres and Senator Goicoechea:

Assembly Bill No. 290—AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; authorizing, under certain circumstances, a dealer and purchaser to enter into a written return agreement to cancel a vehicle sale; revising provisions relating to the registration of certain vehicles when the certificate of title is lost, unlawfully detained or otherwise not available; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Growth and Infrastructure.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Judiciary:

Assembly Bill No. 291—AN ACT relating to crimes; revising provisions relating to the prosecution of certain crimes; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By Assemblywomen González and Summers-Armstrong; Senators Spearman, Neal and Scheible:

Assembly Bill No. 292—AN ACT relating to incarceration; setting forth certain rights of offenders and prisoners; requiring certain persons and governmental entities to take certain actions relating to such rights; providing for the designation of an ombudsman for each institution, facility or jail and prescribing the powers and duties relating to that position; revising provisions relating to training for correctional staff; revising provisions relating to a risk and needs assessment; prohibiting the use of restraints on a pregnant offender or prisoner who is being transferred or transported under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman Orentlicher:

Assembly Bill No. 293—AN ACT relating to Medicaid; requiring the Medicaid program to provide coverage of certain services provided by a medical-legal partnership; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman Orentlicher:

Assembly Bill No. 294—AN ACT relating to tobacco; prohibiting the sale of certain flavored tobacco products and flavoring agents for tobacco products; prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to certain persons; requiring annual inspections of locations that sell certain tobacco, vapor products and other nicotine products; prohibiting the sale of cigarettes after a certain date; eliminating the tax on cigarettes after that date; requiring certain insurers to cover certain services for ceasing the use of tobacco; providing penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Yurek, Gray, D'Silva, Gallant, Hansen and Hardy:

Assembly Bill No. 295—AN ACT relating to taxation; revising provisions relating to certain tax exemptions for veterans and surviving spouses of veterans; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Revenue.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen D'Silva and Torres:

Assembly Bill No. 296—AN ACT relating to education; prohibiting the counting of a pupil for apportionment purposes unless the pupil receives a certain amount of instructional time; requiring the Department of Education to adopt regulations limiting the amount of time used to prepare for and conduct certain examination and assessments; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Education.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman O'Neill:

Assembly Bill No. 297—AN ACT relating to pretrial release hearings; excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays for the purpose of calculating the 48-hour period in which a pretrial release hearing must occur after a person

has been taken into custody; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By Assemblywoman Jauregui:

Assembly Bill No. 298—AN ACT relating to real property; requiring, under certain circumstances, a landlord who collects from a prospective tenant any fee to apply to rent a dwelling unit to return such fees; requiring any written agreement for the use and occupancy of a dwelling unit or premises to contain separate appendices relating to fees and tenant rights; making it unlawful for a landlord or certain other persons to charge a tenant certain fees; temporarily exempting certain transfers, assignments or conveyances of real property from the real property transfer tax; temporarily prohibiting a landlord from entering into a rental agreement with certain existing tenants that increases the rent due from the tenant by more than a certain amount; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman Yeager:

Assembly Bill No. 299—AN ACT relating to State Government; creating the Nevada Medal of Distinction and the Nevada Awards and Honors Board; setting forth the process for awarding the Nevada Medal of Distinction; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman Yeager:

Assembly Bill No. 300—AN ACT relating to domestic partnerships; clarifying provisions governing the termination of a domestic partnership upon the death of either domestic partner; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There being no objections, the Speaker and Chief Clerk signed Assembly Bill No. 152.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the Assembly recess until 4:45 p.m.

Motion carried.

Assembly in recess at 12:11 p.m.

ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 4:59 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Quorum present.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Mr. Speaker appointed Assemblywoman Torres and Assemblyman McArthur as a committee to invite the Senate to meet in Joint Session with the Assembly to hear an address by Nevada Supreme Court Chief Justice Lidia Stiglich.

The members of the Senate appeared before the bar of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker invited the members of the Senate to chairs in the Assembly.

IN JOINT SESSION

At 5:08 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

The Secretary of the Senate called the Senate roll.

All present except Senator Krasner, who was excused.

The Chief Clerk of the Assembly called the Assembly roll.

All present except Assemblyman Gray, who was excused.

Mr. Speaker appointed a Committee on Escort consisting of Senator Scheible and Assemblywoman Marzola to wait upon the Honorable Chief Justice Lidia Stiglich and escort her to the Assembly Chamber.

The Committee on Escort in company with the Honorable Nevada Supreme Court Chief Justice Lidia Stiglich appeared before the bar of the Assembly.

The Committee on Escort escorted the Chief Justice to the rostrum.

Mr. Speaker welcomed Chief Justice Stiglich and invited her to deliver her message.

Chief Justice Stiglich delivered her message as follows:

MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEVADA  
EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION, 2023

Lieutenant Governor Anthony, Speaker Yeager, Majority Leader Cannizzaro, Majority Leader Jauregui, Attorney General Ford, distinguished members of the Senate and the Assembly, honorable constitutional officers, and honored guests, thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Nevada Legislature on behalf of our state's judicial system. My name is Lidia Stiglich, and I am the Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court. I have had the privilege of serving in the Judiciary since 2012 and have worked alongside my colleagues to uphold the principles of fairness, impartiality, and justice for all Nevadans. I am honored to have this opportunity to share

with you the progress we have made and the challenges we face as we work to strengthen the Judicial Branch of our state government.

I would like to acknowledge my colleagues on the Nevada Supreme Court: Associate Chief Justice Elissa Cadish, Justice Kristina Pickering, Justice Linda Bell, Justice Ron Parraguire, Justice Douglas Herndon, and Justice Patty Lee. It is my privilege to serve with these distinguished jurists, and I am honored that they have selected me as their Chief. From the Nevada Court of Appeals, I would like to acknowledge Chief Judge Michael Gibbons, who is here with us tonight; Judge Bonnie Bulla; and Judge Deborah Westbrook. I would like to acknowledge retired Justice James Hardesty, who is also with us today. I would like to recognize and thank the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Elizabeth Brown; our legal counsel, Phaedra Kalicki; the Supreme Court's extraordinary legal staff; the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Katherine Stocks; Assistant Court Administrator John McCormick, as well as all of the dedicated and hardworking staff of the Supreme Court and the AOC [Administrative Office of the Courts]. I would also like to extend my personal appreciation to Chief Clerk Susan Furlong and her incredible team for their warm and gracious welcome today.

Our mission of service to the residents of the Silver State is to provide timely access to impartial justice—in fact, it is our fundamental purpose. We are privileged to be charged with this duty. The pandemic had a tremendous impact on our society as a whole, including, of course, the Judiciary. As a branch, we can be slow to change, and we are often too busy adjudicating disputes to comprehensively examine our processes. The pandemic, though, compelled us to reflect on why and how we serve the people of Nevada. We took a critical look at our institutions, and we identified where we can improve our delivery of timely access to impartial justice. Tonight, I ask you to join me in looking forward and focusing on the who, why, and how of the Nevada Judiciary.

Who are we and who do we serve? I am privileged to appear on behalf of our 7 Supreme Court justices, 3 court of appeals judges, 90 district court judges, 68 justices of the peace, 31 municipal court judges, and the nearly 2,000 judicial employees throughout the state of Nevada. In the appellate courts, we are served by a staff of highly skilled attorneys and subject matter experts, responsible for managing the business of the courts and supporting the business of the trial courts to promote timely access to impartial resolution of all the cases filed. We proudly serve every Nevadan, along with those who visit our great state. We serve those with civil disputes, criminal charges, and administrative matters.

According to a report by The Pew Charitable Trusts, 47 percent of households had at least one civil legal issue that involved a court in a 12-month period. When traffic is added, that number jumps to 56 percent of households that had an interaction with a court. More than half of all households have some sort of civil matter that is going to come before a court in any given year. Broadly published estimates indicate that about a third of the adult population has been involved in some fashion in the criminal justice system. We serve litigants whether they choose to use our system or are required to participate. But, regardless of how someone gets to our courts, it is our responsibility to ensure that they are treated fairly.

So, why do we serve? For each of us, there are unique motivations to become public servants, yet all of us are here to do just that—to serve. Some of us came to the Judiciary because of a positive experience and a desire to pay that service forward. There are others among us that came to the Judiciary with a motivation to improve a system that they felt may have fallen short. For most, it is both, but we serve because it is both our duty and our distinct privilege to provide an impartial forum for the resolution of disputes and to ensure access to the courts for all.

So, we ask: How do we serve and how will we serve? To answer this question, we started with a survey of the entire Nevada Judiciary in the form of a strategic planning process. By engaging with statewide stakeholders, we identified existing innovations that are scalable to improve service delivery across Nevada: guided interviews for self-represented litigants, self-help forms, and improved websites as well. We also identified areas where improvements are needed—training for court staff and a living wage for our employees.

Ultimately, the “how” for the Supreme Court became Senate Bill 58, the Nevada Judicial Branch budget reform act, which is before you now. Senate Bill 58 and its corresponding reforms offer long-term improvements in the administration of Nevada's Judiciary. These reforms are essential to ensuring that the Judiciary meets its core constitutional functions. Senate Bill 58 brings stability and consistency to our budget as well as ensures that the Court will be able to be

responsible to the needs of our branch and have that flexibility to ensure our business processes meet the needs of those that we serve and the priorities set here by the Legislature.

Time is of the essence to implement these long-overdue improvements to the systems and structures of the Supreme Court. Our current strategic plan, as supported by S.B. 58 and our proposed budget, is guided by three primary strategies: stability, flexibility, and responsiveness. Those are designed to improve the way the Judiciary provides fair, timely, equal, and universal access to justice. We are duty bound to simplify and improve public access to the courts, and we need to do that while we continue to ensure that all parties are treated fairly.

Through the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds, we embarked on improvements in access to justice in response to the needs of those that we serve. As an example, three projects are either months away from completion or are already in deployment. Our statewide online temporary protection order portal will allow a victim of abuse or stalking to be able to file a petition for a temporary restraining order online, from anywhere in the state of Nevada. States that have already deployed this option see at least 50 percent of petitions completed through that platform.

A statewide self-help portal utilizes guided interviews to create court pleadings and provides resources in written and video formats. There are currently three iterations of self-help websites in Nevada, and we are combining the three together in one place for court users. We are thankful to be partnering with Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada to ensure the initial and ongoing success of this critical resource for access to justice.

Our family case management—as a follow-up to a recent study of Nevada’s family courts, we are utilizing federal funds to bring differentiated case management for family law cases. Our trial courts will have access to an evidence-based tool that places a case into tracks of complexity. Each case will still receive individual attention; however, a court is able to dedicate necessary internal resources to cases of higher complexity. This project is coming out of the initial research phase. We are excited about it, and pilot courts are being recruited.

Alongside these particular projects, we have worked to develop methods for Nevada courts to be supported by sustainable, appropriate funding of judicial and personnel resources, as well as technological improvements and systems at all levels of the branch. For this biennium, we took a two-tier approach that works together to stabilize the Supreme Court’s current and future operations. We are seeking to reduce reliance on administrative assessments through statutory and budget request changes. Administrative assessments revenues peaked in 2010, have dropped steadily since, and have dropped 50 percent in the last few years. These revenues are not showing signs of recovering, and even with a reduced AA [administrative assessments] budget request, we are 30 percent below the budget for this biennium.

We have submitted a budget that includes a living wage salary based upon the cost of living in Nevada. That is for a household with two children and two working adults and establishes operations, professional, and managerial career paths for our employees. Our classification and compensation schedule reflects the court’s commitment to recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce that is paid a living wage. A factor in stabilizing turnover and being an employer of choice is the ability for our employees to have only one job. We demand a special set of skills for our employees, and those employees deserve to be compensated appropriately. All of our employees are required to have legal knowledge, an understanding of the Judiciary, and familiarity with the *Nevada Revised Statutes* and court rules.

Once we determined an appropriate minimum living wage, we overhauled our classification and compensation schedule. Thank you to the team from the AOC that spent months scouring vacancy announcements, pay tables, and wage and labor data in order to establish and validate the revised system that is based on the specific skill set required to effectuate our duty to the people of Nevada. We are, in effect, a midsize law firm, and we rely heavily on both our attorneys and subject matter experts to help us do the work of the appellate courts and support the 74 trial courts in the state of Nevada.

I have personally received some feedback that our requests may have created some confusion. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify our intent. Senate Bill 58 and our budget request are designed to work in tandem, and they reflect our operating needs. Specifically, S.B. 58 creates the Judicial Fund that allows the court to retain appropriations across the biennium. This fund is subject to legislative oversight, and we do not seek to change that. The court’s proposals in S.B. 58 and our budget are designed to provide the flexibility the court needs to effectuate the Legislature’s

priorities and fulfill our constitutional purpose. Our specialty courts are an example of this current predicament, and it is a predicament which hinders our ability to provide critical resources to treatment courts when AA revenues fall short. Currently, because they are funded in part with administrative assessments, we must cut funding to our specialty court programs even when there are funds available in another Supreme Court account. That is what S.B. 58 does—it gives the court the flexibility to meet those needs as they arise.

Speaking of specialty courts, which are near and dear to my heart, I would like to highlight the success of our programming here in Nevada. The Nevada specialty court's transition to virtual and remote hearings exemplifies the resiliency of our Judiciary and our participants. As a result of the pandemic, online status checks, telehealth counseling, virtual 12-step meetings, GPS-enabled breathalyzers, and drug patches allowed treatment courts to continue to monitor sobriety while providing necessary treatment and access. This contributed to a significant decrease in arrests and criminal filings across the state. Moreover, the recidivism rates for people in the specialty court programs, even those individuals who do not complete the programs, are lower than those who do not receive the intervention. I am proud to report that 91.8 percent of the people who graduated from a Nevada specialty court program in 2018 have not had a new conviction within three years, and 81 percent of the people who did not successfully complete a program have not reoffended as well. Some treatment is better than no treatment, and our treatment is excellent.

Looking forward, with the assistance of the AOC, the specialty court program is exploring utilizing drug testing equipment at a fixed rate, which could leverage statewide collaboration to lower testing costs, streamline testing, and ensure consistency across the state. This will dovetail with the peer review program, as the AOC endeavors to connect the courts and grow those programs that we already have in place. We have many achievements that received a push from the adversity of the last few years that are worth celebrating. We have identified areas for improvement, and we are actively addressing them. With your help, the future is encouraging.

In closing, I would like to take a moment to remember some of the distinguished members of our Nevada Judiciary family who passed away. We mourn the loss of Justice Robert Rose; Judge Brent Adams; Judge Mathew Harter; Justice of the Peace Melanie Tobiasson; Justice of the Peace Kent Jaspersen; Justice of the Peace Cassandra Jones; Justice of the Peace Juanita Colvin; treasured court employee Lilliette Brooks, who we lost just a week ago; and, of course, the incomparable Ben Graham. These individuals dedicated their careers to serving our communities and upholding the principles of justice and fairness. Their contributions to the Judiciary will not be forgotten, and we extend our deepest sympathies to their families and their loved ones. As we move forward, let us continue to honor their legacy by upholding the values and ideals that they held dear.

Thank you for allowing me to provide you this summary of the courts and our 2023 legislative agenda. I am excited to work with you—we all are—to continue to improve and expand timely access to impartial justice for every Nevadan. And thank you, legislators, for your service. We ask a lot of our public servants in Nevada, but especially of our legislators. God bless you and your families, who are going at it alone for these 120 days—hopefully, just 120 days—and may God bless the great State of Nevada.

Senator Ohrenschall moved that the Senate and Assembly in Joint Session extend a vote of thanks to Chief Justice Stiglich for her timely, able, and constructive message.

Seconded by Assemblywoman Backus.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee on Escort escorted Chief Justice Stiglich to the bar of the Assembly.

Assemblywoman Cohen moved that the Joint Session be dissolved.

Seconded by Senator Titus.

Motion carried.

Joint session dissolved at 5:31 p.m.

ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 5:31 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Quorum present.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF ASSEMBLY FLOOR

On request of Assemblywoman Anderson, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Judge Cynthia Lu.

On request of Assemblywoman Brown-May, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Kristlynn Allison and Megan Philippi.

On request of Assemblyman Carter, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Cathy Montenegro, Santiago Montenegro, and Joanna Gomez.

On request of Assemblywoman Cohen, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Ivan Alis Williams and Xanobia Alis.

On request of Assemblywoman Considine, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Sophia A Romero, Alexandria K. Vaccarino, and Marcos V. Vaccarino.

On request of Assemblyman D'Silva, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to DeCuba McMillion-Porter, Edrie Ward, Kaisii Varner, and Christine McNally.

On request of Assemblyman DeLong, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Britt Young.

On request of Assemblywoman Gallant, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Kaylynn Diebold.

On request of Assemblywoman González, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Aishlinn Flores, David Acevedo, and Kenya del Castillo.

On request of Assemblyman Gray, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Jennifer Baker.

On request of Assemblyman Hafen, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Amanda Flocchini.

On request of Assemblywoman Hansen, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Lela Arney and Jana Nettleton.

On request of Assemblywoman Kasama, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Ava Nalty.

On request of Assemblyman Koenig, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Samantha Zuniga, Emanuel Hernandez Gomez, and Jason Hernandez.

On request of Assemblywoman La Rue Hatch, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Anthony Hernandez, Jacqueline Martinez, and Steven Pena.

On request of Assemblywoman Marzola, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Spencer Flanders and Cyndi Latour.

On request of Assemblyman McArthur, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Ashley Tran, Chris Tran, Chris Tran, Abigail Ambriz, and Daniel Ambriz.

On request of Assemblyman C.H. Miller, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Andrea Pierce, Jessica Murrillo, and Ashley Dines.

On request of Assemblywoman Brittney Miller, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Jordan Hankins, Dr. Tracy Edwards, and Jay Fair.

On request of Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Judge Tiara Jones.

On request of Assemblywoman Mosca, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Ivette Aguirre, Estrella Gomez, Johnny Dominguez, and JanCarlo Argueta.

On request of Assemblywoman Newby, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Ryley Harris.

On request of Assemblyman Nguyen, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Tessa Antonio, Nikole Phomninh, Kyan Octaviano, and Travis Brewer LaChapelle.

On request of Assemblyman O'Neill, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to and Chief Judge Lynne Simons.

On request of Assemblyman Orentlicher, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Arturo Jimenez and Angelynn Vilchis.

On request of Assemblywoman Peters, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Kendra Bertschy and Aimee Banales.

On request of Assemblywoman Summers-Armstrong, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Anai Rico, Esli Olivares, Andrea Sanchez, and Brianna Dominguez.

On request of Assemblywoman Taylor, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Sidney Hernandez, Emmanuel Basilio, Cait Liddle and the following students, teachers, and chaperones from Elmcrest Elementary School: James Barker, Brianna Bonilla, Zennen Bucio, Issabella Dalmas, Chanel Diaz, Natalia Espinoza-Cerritos, Symphanii Fields, Izabelle Foley, Aiden Gaddis, Joslynn Webb, Rowland Hanson, Brinton Jack, Aviona Kapell, Josephine Mangan, Vivian Marsh, Rey Martinez, Allison Massey, Alivia McKenna, Isaiah Monroe, Mason Price, Andrea Reyes Acuna, Cherish Williamson, Hunter Wilson, Angel Winbush-Cruz, Magaby Chavez, Aariah Aviya Dia, Wesley Bruno, Dylan Coley-Leiva, Keira Dickenson, Jude Faulkison, Dante Freese, Scarlett Gaddis, Christopher Gomez Caldera, Arely Gutierrez Espinosa, Latwan Hoskins, Edmund Mance Julian, Greyson Marsala, Yaretzi Nevarez Ceja, Alexa Nunez Garcia, Alekzandra Ponce Cruz, Cataleya Rodriguez, Itzabel Sanchez, Sahar Shafiq, Maya Silva, Audrey Stanley, Brandon Steers-Ortega, Tamali's Taua, Skyler Thomsen, Carter Wilson, and Orrin Herzog.

On request of Assemblywoman Thomas, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Dylan Hinton, Rachel Pope, and Riley McDaniel.

On request of Assemblywoman Torres, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Tequila Hall, Kristy Robinson, and Charlene Brown.

On request of Assemblyman Watts, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Hannah Lay, Lisa Marie Valles Blancart, and Cali Lily Valles Blancart.

On request of Assemblyman Yeager, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Bitu Yeager, Eden Wolde, Justice James Hardesty, and Cyvyn Perry.

On request of Assemblyman Toby Yurek, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Annise Hickman and Donald Hickman-Lewis.

Assemblywoman Jauregui moved that the Assembly adjourn until Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 11:30 a.m.

Motion carried.

Assembly adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Approved:

STEVE YEAGER  
*Speaker of the Assembly*

Attest: SUSAN FURLONG  
*Chief Clerk of the Assembly*