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TESTIMONY: SB 32

NEVADA DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

**CONTACT: DAN PRINCE, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR,
JUVENILE SERVICES**

PHONE: (702) 486-5095

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I am Dan Prince, Deputy Administrator for Juvenile Justice Services for the Division of Child and Family Services. I am here to present SB 32, requested by DCFS, which would amend NRS 62E.710 to allow juvenile court judges to place violators of youth **parole** in detention facilities for up to thirty days as a sentencing alternative. Currently, the existing statutory language provides that only youth who are **probation** violators may be sentenced to limited periods of time in juvenile facilities, or in instances where the youth has turned eighteen, in adult jails.

The bill provides for juveniles who violate parole to be placed in a facility for the detention of children. However, after reconsidering the number of juveniles who would be impacted by the bill, and in light of alternatives to juvenile detention available to youth parole officers, DCFS is requesting an

amendment that will remove the change proposed to subsection 1 (see attached proposed amendment.)

The bill, as amended, would provide that the small number of parolees who turn eighteen while under the supervision of the Youth Parole Bureau could be placed in adult jails if they violate probation. These are youth more likely to be recommended for confinement, as returning them to juvenile facilities is generally not considered good practice as they have reached adult status. Under the current statute, placing these **parole** offenders in an adult jail is not permitted since NRS 62E. 710 only allows **probation** violators to be placed in a county jail.

In some cases, these are sex offenders that are statutorily under the supervision of the Youth Parole Bureau until the age of 21. When, for example one fails a specialized placement or fails to attend counseling, a limited jail sentence would allow the Youth Parole Bureau to sanction the offender. The public interest is served by removing the individual from the community while considering longer term treatment options.

I will be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

Division of Child and Family Services

Proposed Amendment to S.B. 32

Section 1. NRS 62E.710 is hereby amended to read as follows:

62E.710 The juvenile court may order any child who is:

1. Less than 18 years of age and who has been adjudicated delinquent and placed on probation by the juvenile court [*or who has been released on parole*] to be placed in a facility for the detention of children for not more than 30 days for the violation of probation [] [*or parole*].

2. At least 18 years of age but less than 21 years of age and who has been placed on probation by the juvenile court *or who has been released on parole* to be placed in a county jail for the violation of probation [] *or parole*.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

Contact: Dan Prince, Deputy Administrator for Juvenile Justice Services

Phone: (702) 486-5095

Email: dprince@dcfs.state.nv.us