Senate called to order at 12:46 p.m.
President Pro Tempore Hardy presiding.
Roll called.
All present except Senators Segerbloom and Smith, who were excused.
Prayer by the Chaplain, Pastor Bruce Henderson.
On this beautiful Friday afternoon, I begin by reading from the fortieth chapter of Isaiah.

“They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.”

Father, some of us do not wait well. Help us to depend on Your time frame, not ours. May we follow Your lead and no one else. By waiting upon You, Lord, we become ready to be renewed in strength for the days ahead.

AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

By previous order of the Senate, the reading of the Journal is dispensed with, and the President and Secretary are authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. President Pro-Tempore:
Your Committee on Education, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 117, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Re-refer to the Committee on Health and Human Services.
Also, your Committee on Education, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 493, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Re-refer to the Committee on Finance.

BECKY HARRIS, Chair

Mr. President Pro Tempore:
Your Committee on Government Affairs, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 27, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and do pass as amended.

PETE GOICOECHEA, Chair
Mr. President Pro Tempore:
Your Committee on Natural Resources, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 4, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and do pass as amended.

DONALD G. GUSTAVSON, Chair

Mr. President Pro Tempore:
Your Committee on Revenue and Economic Development, to which were referred Senate Bills Nos. 93, 170, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and do pass as amended.

MICHAEL ROBERSON, Chair

MESSAGES FROM THE ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER, Carson City, March 26, 2015

To the Honorable the Senate:
I have the honor to inform your honorable body that the Assembly on this day passed Assembly Bill No. 188.

CAROL AIELLO-SALA
Assistant Chief Clerk of the Assembly

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES
Senator Roberson moved that the following persons be accepted as accredited press representatives, and that they be assigned space at the press table and allowed the use of appropriate media facilities: AHORA LATINO JOURNAL: Mario De la Rosa; LAHONTAN VALLEY NEWS: Steve Ranson; Nevada Appeal: Adam Trumble; THE RECORD-COURIER: Kurt Hildebrand; RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL: Benjamin Spillman; THE STEALTH REPORTER: Theresa Catalani, Todd Bailey; THE VEGAS VOICE: Dan Roberts; veterans reporter: Chuck Baker.
Motion carried.

Senator Harris moved that Senate Bill No. 117 be re-referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.
Motion carried.

Senator Harris moved that Senate Bill No. 493 be re-referred to the Committee on Finance.
Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE
Assembly Bill No. 188.
Senator Kieckhefer moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Transportation.
Motion carried.
SECOND READING AND AMENDMENT

Senate Bill No. 23.
Bill read second time.
The following amendment was proposed by the Committee on Transportation:

Amendment No. 29.
AN ACT relating to transportation; revising provisions governing the required submission of certain reports by the Department of Transportation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:
Existing law requires the Director of the Department of Transportation to report biennially to the Legislature the highway construction and maintenance requirements for the next 3 years, and the progress being made on the Department’s 12-year plan for the resurfacing of state highways. (NRS 408.203) Existing law also requires the Board of Directors of the Department to prepare and present to the Governor a detailed proposed work program on or before July 15 of each year for the upcoming fiscal year ending in June. (NRS 408.203) Federal regulations require the Director to develop a 4-year statewide transportation improvement plan and to update the plan at least every 4 years. (23 C.F.R. 450.216) Section 1 of this bill requires the Director to report biennially to the Legislature the requirements for highway construction and maintenance for the next 4 years, instead of the next 3 years, to correspond with the federal reporting requirements. Section 1 also changes the requirement that the Director report on the progress being made on the 12-year plan for the resurfacing of highways to a 10-year plan. Section 2 of this bill requires the Board to submit annually a proposed work program to the Governor on or before October 1, the beginning of the federal fiscal year, instead of July 15, and requires the proposed work program to be for the upcoming federal fiscal year ending the following September 30.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 408.203 is hereby amended to read as follows:

408.203 The Director shall:
1. Compile a comprehensive report outlining the requirements for the construction and maintenance of highways for the next 10 years, including anticipated revenues and expenditures of the Department, and submit it to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Chairs of the Senate and Assembly Standing Committees on Transportation.

2. Compile a comprehensive report of the requirements for the construction and maintenance of highways for the next 4 years, including anticipated revenues and expenditures of the Department, no later than October 1 of each even-numbered year, and submit it to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Chairs of the Senate and Assembly Standing Committees on Transportation.
3. Report to the Legislature by February 1 of odd-numbered years the progress being made in the Department’s 10-year plan for the resurfacing of state highways. The report must include an accounting of revenues and expenditures in the preceding 2 fiscal years, a list of the projects which have been completed, including mileage and cost, and an estimate of the adequacy of projected revenues for timely completion of the plan.

4. On or before February 1 of each odd-numbered year, submit to the Governor and to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the next regular session of the Legislature a written report concerning all mobile equipment eliminated by outsourcing or purchased or leased by the Department in the preceding 2 fiscal years. The report must include, without limitation, an analysis of the costs and benefits of each purchase, lease or contract prepared pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 408.389, the justification for the decision to purchase, lease or contract and any other information required by the Director relating to such purchase, lease or contract.

Sec. 2. NRS 408.280 is hereby amended to read as follows:

408.280 1. On or before October 1 of each year the Board shall prepare and present to the Governor a detailed proposed work program, the form and content to be determined by the Board, for the federal fiscal year ending the following September 30, stating therein the amount, character, and nature of the construction, reconstruction and improvements to be initiated on the highways within the respective counties of the State during the ensuing federal fiscal year, together with an estimate of the cost to complete such work.

2. The Board shall cause a copy of the proposed work program to be provided to the chair of the board of county commissioners of the several counties of the State, and a copy must be furnished to all news media in the State.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

Senator Manendo moved the adoption of the amendment

Remarks by Senator Manendo.

Amendment No. 29 to Senate Bill 23 allows the Board of Directors of the Department of Transportation to furnish an electronic copy, rather than hard copy, of the proposed work program to the county commissioners.

Amendment adopted.

Bill ordered reprinted, engrossed and to third reading.

Senate Bill No. 30.

Bill read second time.

The following amendment was proposed by the Committee on Government Affairs:

Amendment No. 16.
SUMMARY—Authorizes a board of county commissioners to withhold longevity pay for certain elected county officers under certain circumstances, officer to elect not to receive longevity pay. (BDR 20-468)

AN ACT relating to counties; authorizing a board of county commissioners to adopt a resolution withholding longevity pay for an elected county officer under certain circumstances, officer to elect not to receive longevity pay; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law, with certain limitations, entitles an elected county officer, including a member of a board of county commissioners, who has served in his or her office for more than 4 years to receive an additional salary of 2 percent of his or her base salary for each full calendar year the officer has served in his or her office. (NRS 245.044) This bill authorizes a board of county commissioners to adopt a resolution withholding such an elected county officer to elect not to receive all or a portion of the longevity pay to which he or she is entitled for any fiscal year. (Section 1 of this bill requires that the resolution: (1) be approved by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the board; (2) provide for withholding only the longevity pay due for the fiscal year for which the resolution is issued; (3) direct the county treasurer to withhold the longevity pay for each elected county officer; (4) include a finding that the financial resources of the county justify the withholding of the longevity pay; (5) expire by limitation at the end of the fiscal year for which the resolution is adopted; and (6) be transmitted to the county treasurer not less than 10 days after the adoption of the resolution. Section 1 further provides that, upon the expiration of the resolution, an elected county officer is not entitled to receive the withheld longevity pay retroactively as additional pay in any subsequent fiscal year and that the fiscal year for which the longevity pay was withheld must be included in the calculation of full calendar years served by the officer for the purpose of calculating longevity pay in subsequent calendar years.)

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 245 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. A board of county commissioners may, for any fiscal year, adopt a resolution withholding the additional salary of 2 percent to which an elected county officer is otherwise entitled pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 245.044 for that fiscal year. A resolution adopted pursuant to this section must:
   (a) Be approved by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the board;
   (b) Provide for withholding only the additional salary of 2 percent to which an elected county officer is otherwise entitled pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 245.044 for the fiscal year for which the resolution is adopted;
   (c) Direct the county treasurer to withhold the additional salary of 2 percent for each elected county officer.
(d) Include a finding by the board that the financial resources of the county for the fiscal year for which the resolution is adopted are insufficient to pay the additional salary of 2 percent to which the elected county officers are otherwise entitled pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 245.044;

(e) Expire by limitation at the end of the fiscal year for which the resolution is adopted; and

(f) Be transmitted to the county treasurer not less than 10 days after the adoption of the resolution.

2. Upon the expiration of a resolution adopted by a board of county commissioners pursuant to this section:

(a) An elected county officer is not entitled to receive retroactively, in any subsequent fiscal year the additional salary of 2 percent withheld pursuant to the resolution; and

(b) The fiscal year for which the additional salary of 2 percent was withheld pursuant to the resolution must be included in the calculation pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 245.044 of full calendar years served by the elected county officer for the purpose of calculating additional salary to which the officer may be entitled in a subsequent fiscal year pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 245.044. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 2. NRS 245.044 is hereby amended to read as follows:

245.044  1. On and after July 1, 1973, if an elected county officer has served in his or her office for more than 4 years, the officer is entitled to an additional salary of 2 percent of his or her base salary for the appropriate fiscal year as provided in subsection 2 of NRS 245.043 or his or her annual salary set pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 245.043, as applicable, for each full calendar year the officer has served in his or her office.

2. The additional salary to which an eligible elected county officer is entitled pursuant to subsection 1:

(a) Must be calculated on July 1 of each year by multiplying 2 percent of the base salary for the appropriate fiscal year as provided in subsection 2 of NRS 245.043 or the annual salary set pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 245.043, as applicable, by the number of full calendar years the elected county officer has served in his or her office; and

(b) Must not exceed 20 percent of the base salary for the appropriate fiscal year as provided in subsection 2 of NRS 245.043 or the annual salary set pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 245.043, as applicable.

3. Any elected county officer who is entitled to additional salary pursuant to subsection 1 may elect not to receive the additional salary or any part of the additional salary.

4. Service on the Board of Supervisors of Carson City for the initial term which began on July 1, 1969, and ended on the first Monday of January, 1973, shall be deemed to constitute 4 full calendar years of service for the purposes of this section.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.
Senator Goicoechea moved the adoption of the amendment.
Remarks by Senator Goicoechea.
Amendment No. 16 authorizes a board of county commissioners to withhold longevity pay for certain elected county officers under certain circumstances.
The amendment deletes the provision authorizing a board of county commissioners to adopt a resolution to withhold longevity pay for elected county officers for any fiscal year and instead authorizes any elected county officer to elect not to receive any or all of such longevity pay
Amendment adopted.
Bill ordered reprinted, engrossed and to third reading.

Senate Bill No. 83.
Bill read second time.
The following amendment was proposed by the Committee on Government Affairs:
Amendment No. 63.
AN ACT relating to state accountability; designating as confidential certain information that is reported to the Division of Internal Audits of the Department of Administration relating to abuse, fraud or waste with respect to public money; prohibiting the disclosure of such information by the Division with limited exceptions; requiring the Division to review information that is reported and prepare a report of its findings; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.
Legislative Counsel’s Digest:
Existing law requires the Director of the Department of Administration to establish a telephone hotline at which a person may report to the Division of Internal Audits of the Department information relating to abuse, fraud or waste with respect to public money received and used by an Executive Branch agency or certain contractors. (NRS 353A.049) Section 1 of this bill designates as confidential any information reported at the telephone hotline, including the identity of the person who reported the information. Section 1 further prohibits the Division from disclosing the confidential information with certain limited exceptions. Section 1 also requires the Division to perform a review upon receipt of any information reported and prepare a report of its findings from the review.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
Section 1. NRS 353A.049 is hereby amended to read as follows:
353A.049 1. The Director shall:
(a) Establish a telephone number at which a person may confidentially report to the Division information relating to abuse, fraud or waste with respect to public money received and used by an agency or contractor; and
(b) Create a written notice that:
(1) Clearly identifies the telephone number established pursuant to paragraph (a); and
(2) Contains a statement directing any person with any information relating to abuse, fraud or waste with respect to public money received and
used by an agency or contractor to report the information at the telephone number established pursuant to paragraph (a).

2. The written notice created pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1 must be posted conspicuously:
   (a) In each public building of an agency; and
   (b) On the Internet website maintained by the Department of Administration.

3. Upon receipt of information from a person calling the telephone number established pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1, the Division shall perform a review and prepare a report of its findings. The report is a public record and:
   (a) Must include, without limitation, an explanation of:
       (1) The purpose of the review; and
       (2) Any resolution or corrective action taken by the Division that resulted from the review;
   (b) Must not include the identity of the person who reported the information.

4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 1, subsections 3 and 5, any information reported to the Division at the telephone number established pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1, including, without limitation, the identity of the person who reported the information, is confidential.

5. The Division shall not disclose information that is confidential pursuant to subsection 4 except:
   (a) Pursuant to NRS 239.0115;
   (b) For the purpose of carrying out any duty of the Division prescribed by NRS 333.031 to 333A.100, inclusive, or for the purpose of assisting the Director or Administrator in carrying out any duty of the Director or Administrator prescribed by this chapter;
   (c) Upon the lawful order of a court of competent jurisdiction; or
   (d) To the Office of the Attorney General or the office of a district attorney within this State for the purpose of investigating the alleged abuse, fraud or waste reported to the Division.

6. As used in this section:
   (a) "Contractor" means any person, business, organization or nonprofit corporation that contracts with an agency to receive public money. The term includes a subcontractor or a third party who receives any portion of the public money from the contractor to carry out any obligation pursuant to a contract between the contractor and the agency.
   (b) "Public money" means any money deposited with a depository by the State Treasurer and includes money which is received by an agency from the Federal Government for distribution and use in this State pursuant to a federal law or federal regulation.

Sec. 2. NRS 239.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:
239.010 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section and NRS 1.4683, 1A.110, 49.095, 62D.420, 62D.440, 62E.516, 62E.620,
sections 35, 38 and 41 of chapter 478, Statutes of Nevada 2011 and section 2 of chapter 391, Statutes of Nevada 2013 and unless otherwise declared by law to be confidential, all public books and public records of a governmental entity must be open at all times during office hours to inspection by any person, and may be fully copied or an abstract or memorandum may be prepared from those public books and public records. Any such copies, abstracts or memoranda may be used to supply the general public with copies, abstracts or memoranda of the records or may be used in any other way to the advantage of the governmental entity or of the general public. This section does not supersede or in any manner affect the federal laws governing copyrights or enlarge, diminish or affect in any other manner the rights of a person in any written book or record which is copyrighted pursuant to federal law.

2. A governmental entity may not reject a book or record which is copyrighted solely because it is copyrighted.

3. A governmental entity that has legal custody or control of a public book or record shall not deny a request made pursuant to subsection 1 to inspect or copy or receive a copy of a public book or record on the basis that the requested public book or record contains information that is confidential if the governmental entity can redact, delete, conceal or separate the confidential information from the information included in the public book or record that is not otherwise confidential.

4. A person may request a copy of a public record in any medium in which the public record is readily available. An officer, employee or agent of a governmental entity who has legal custody or control of a public record:

   (a) Shall not refuse to provide a copy of that public record in a readily available medium because the officer, employee or agent has already prepared or would prefer to provide the copy in a different medium.

   (b) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 239.030, shall, upon request, prepare the copy of the public record and shall not require the person who
has requested the copy to prepare the copy himself or herself.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

Senator Goicoechea moved the adoption of the amendment.

Remarks by Senator Goicoechea.

Amendment No. 63 designates as confidential certain information that is reported to the
Division of Internal Audits of the Department of Administration.

Improves transparency while protecting the identity of any person reporting a complaint to
the fraud hotline of the Division of Internal Audits of the Department of Administration.

The Division must review information relevant to such a complaint and prepare a report of its
findings. The report is a public record and must include certain information but not the identity
of the person initiating the complaint.

Amendment adopted.

Bill ordered reprinted, engrossed and to third reading.

Senate Bill No. 84.

Bill read second time.

The following amendment was proposed by the Committee on Commerce,
Labor and Energy:

Amendment No. 13.

SUMMARY—Includes certain alcohol and drug abuse counselors, problem gambling counselors, and social workers in the definition of
“provider of health care” for purposes of various provisions relating to healing arts and certain other provisions. (BDR 54-389)

AN ACT relating to health care providers; including certain alcohol and
drug abuse counselors, problem gambling counselors and social workers in the definition of
“provider of health care” for purposes of various provisions relating to healing arts and certain other provisions; and providing
other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law defines the term “provider of health care” as used in various
provisions relating to healing arts to mean a licensed physician, physician
assistant, dentist, licensed nurse, dispensing optician, optometrist,
practitioner of respiratory care, registered physical therapist, occupational
therapist, podiatric physician, licensed psychologist, licensed marriage and
family therapist, licensed clinical professional counselor, music therapist,
chiropractor, athletic trainer, perfusionist, doctor of Oriental medicine,
medical laboratory director or technician, pharmacist, licensed dietician or
licensed hospital as the employer of such a person. (NRS 629.031)

This bill expands that definition to include an associate in social work, a
social worker, an independent social worker or a clinical social worker who
is licensed pursuant to chapter 641B of NRS, an alcohol and drug abuse
counselor or a problem gambling counselor who is certified pursuant to
chapter 641C of NRS and an alcohol and drug abuse counselor or a clinical
alcohol and drug abuse counselor who is licensed pursuant to that chapter.

Adding those persons to the list of providers of health care makes certain
requirements that are currently applicable to other providers of health care
applicable to those persons as well. Such requirements include, without limitation, retention of patient records, requirements for billing, standards for advertisements and criminal penalties for acquiring certain debts. (NRS 629.051, 629.071, 629.076, 629.078)

Existing law also includes the definition of “provider of health care” by reference in various other provisions. By expanding the definition, the bill expands the definition for those other provisions, thereby making those provisions include associates in social work, social workers, independent social workers, clinical social workers, alcohol and drug abuse counselors and problem gambling counselors as providers of health care. The term is referenced in provisions relating to various subjects including, without limitation, admissibility of the testimony of hypnotized witnesses, power of attorney, practice during declared emergencies, investigations conducted concerning facilities for long-term care, confidentiality of reports and referrals relating to maternal health, payments by insurance, release of the results of certain laboratory tests, drug donation programs, interpreters and realtime captioning providers and the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange. (NRS 41.141, 48.039, 162A.790, 415A.210, 427A.145, 442.395, 449.2475, chapter 453B of NRS, NRS 652.193, chapters 656A and 695I of NRS)

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 629.031 is hereby amended to read as follows:
629.031 Except as otherwise provided by a specific statute:
1. “Provider of health care” means:
   (a) A physician licensed pursuant to chapter 630, 630A or 633 of NRS;
   (b) A physician assistant;
   (c) A dentist;
   (d) A licensed nurse;
   (e) A dispensing optician;
   (f) An optometrist;
   (g) A practitioner of respiratory care;
   (h) A registered physical therapist;
   (i) An occupational therapist;
   (j) A podiatric physician;
   (k) A licensed psychologist;
   (l) A licensed marriage and family therapist;
   (m) A licensed clinical professional counselor;
   (n) A music therapist;
   (o) A chiropractor;
   (p) An athletic trainer;
   (q) A perfusionist;
   (r) A doctor of Oriental medicine in any form;
   (s) A medical laboratory director or technician;
   (t) A pharmacist;
(u) A licensed dietitian; or a licensed hospital as the employer of any person specified in this subsection.

2. For the purposes of NRS 629.051, 629.061, 629.065 and 629.077, the term includes a facility that maintains the health care records of patients.

3. For the purposes of NRS 629.400 to 629.490, inclusive, the term includes:

(a) A person who holds a license or certificate issued pursuant to chapter 631 of NRS; and

(b) A person who holds a current license or certificate to practice his or her respective discipline pursuant to the applicable provisions of law of another state or territory of the United States.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

Senator Settelmeyer moved the adoption of the amendment.

Remarks by Settelmeyer.

Amendment No. 13 makes one change to Senate Bill 84. The amendment adds social workers who are licensed pursuant to Chapter 641B of NRS to the definition of “provider of health care.”

Amendment adopted.

Bill ordered reprinted, engrossed and to third reading.

Senate Bill No. 168.

Bill read second time.

The following amendment was proposed by the Committee on Government Affairs:

Amendment No. 110.

AN ACT relating to local governments; revising provisions relating to the reopening of a collective bargaining agreement during a period of fiscal emergency; excluding certain money from collective bargaining negotiations and from consideration in determining the ability of a local government to pay compensation and monetary benefits; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law establishes certain mandatory subjects of bargaining in the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement between a local government employer and a recognized employee organization. Among these mandatory subjects is a requirement that the parties bargain over procedures and requirements for the reopening and renegotiation of the agreement during periods of fiscal emergency. Currently, the existence of such an emergency is
determined on the basis of revenue shortfalls or other criteria agreed to by the parties. (NRS 288.150) Section 1 of this bill authorizes a local government to reopen a collective bargaining agreement during a fiscal emergency and sets forth the circumstances under which such an emergency shall be deemed to exist. The procedural requirements relating to the reopening of the agreement remain a mandatory subject of bargaining.

Existing law provides for the resolution of an impasse in collective bargaining through fact-finding, arbitration or both, but imposes limitations on the money that a fact finder or arbitrator may consider in determining the financial ability of a local government employer to pay compensation or monetary benefits. (NRS 288.200, 288.215, 288.217, 354.6241) Section 2 of this bill provides, for certain governmental funds, that a budgeted ending fund balance of not more than 25 percent of the total budgeted expenditures, less capital outlay, is not subject to negotiation and cannot be considered by a fact finder or arbitrator in determining ability to pay.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 288.150 is hereby amended to read as follows:

288.150 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 and NRS 354.6241, every local government employer shall negotiate in good faith through one or more representatives of its own choosing concerning the mandatory subjects of bargaining set forth in subsection 2 with the designated representatives of the recognized employee organization, if any, for each appropriate bargaining unit among its employees. If either party so requests, agreements reached must be reduced to writing.

2. The scope of mandatory bargaining is limited to:
(a) Salary or wage rates or other forms of direct monetary compensation.
(b) Sick leave.
(c) Vacation leave.
(d) Holidays.
(e) Other paid or nonpaid leaves of absence.
(f) Insurance benefits.
(g) Total hours of work required of an employee on each workday or workweek.
(h) Total number of days’ work required of an employee in a work year.
(i) Discharge and disciplinary procedures.
(j) Recognition clause.
(k) The method used to classify employees in the bargaining unit.
(l) Deduction of dues for the recognized employee organization.
(m) Protection of employees in the bargaining unit from discrimination because of participation in recognized employee organizations consistent with the provisions of this chapter.
(n) No-strike provisions consistent with the provisions of this chapter.
(o) Grievance and arbitration procedures for resolution of disputes relating to interpretation or application of collective bargaining agreements.
(p) General savings clauses.
(q) Duration of collective bargaining agreements.
(r) Safety of the employee.
(s) Teacher preparation time.
(t) Materials and supplies for classrooms.
(u) The policies for the transfer and reassignment of teachers.
(v) Procedures for reduction in workforce consistent with the provisions of this chapter.
(w) Procedures consistent with the provisions of subsection 4 for the reopening of collective bargaining agreements for additional, further, new or supplementary negotiations during periods of fiscal emergency. [The requirements for the reopening of a collective bargaining agreement must include, without limitation, measures of revenue shortfalls or reductions relative to economic indicators such as the Consumer Price Index, as agreed upon by both parties.]

3. Those subject matters which are not within the scope of mandatory bargaining and which are reserved to the local government employer without negotiation include:

(a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (u) of subsection 2, the right to hire, direct, assign or transfer an employee, but excluding the right to assign or transfer an employee as a form of discipline.
(b) The right to reduce in force or lay off any employee because of lack of work or lack of money, subject to paragraph (v) of subsection 2.
(c) The right to determine:

(1) Appropriate staffing levels and work performance standards, except for safety considerations;
(2) The content of the workday, including without limitation workload factors, except for safety considerations;
(3) The quality and quantity of services to be offered to the public; and
(4) The means and methods of offering those services.
(d) Safety of the public.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of any collective bargaining agreement negotiated pursuant to this chapter, a local government employer is entitled to:

(a) Reopen a collective bargaining agreement for additional, further, new or supplementary negotiations relating to compensation or monetary benefits during a period of fiscal emergency. Negotiations must begin not later than 21 days after the local government employer notifies the employee organization that a fiscal emergency exists. For the purposes of this section, a fiscal emergency shall be deemed to exist:

(1) If the amount of revenue received by the general fund of the local government employer during the last preceding fiscal year from all sources, except any nonrecurring source, declined by 5 percent or more from the amount of revenue received by the general fund from all sources, except any nonrecurring source, during the next preceding fiscal year, as reflected in
the reports of the annual audits conducted for those fiscal years for the local
government employer pursuant to NRS 354.624; or

(2) If the local government employer has budgeted an unreserved
ending fund balance in its general fund for the current fiscal year in an
amount equal to 4 percent or less of the actual expenditures from the general
fund for the last preceding fiscal year, and the local government employer
has provided a written explanation of the budgeted ending fund balance to
the Department of Taxation that includes the reason for the ending fund
balance and the manner in which the local government employer plans to
increase the ending fund balance.

(b) Take whatever actions may be necessary to carry out its
responsibilities in situations of emergency such as a riot, military action,
natural disaster or civil disorder. Those actions may include the suspension of
any collective bargaining agreement for the duration of the emergency.

Any action taken under the provisions of this subsection must not be
construed as a failure to negotiate in good faith.

5. The provisions of this chapter, including without limitation the
provisions of this section, recognize and declare the ultimate right and
responsibility of the local government employer to manage its operation in
the most efficient manner consistent with the best interests of all its citizens,
its taxpayers and its employees.

6. This section does not preclude, but this chapter does not require, the
local government employer to negotiate subject matters enumerated in
subsection 3 which are outside the scope of mandatory bargaining. The local
government employer shall discuss subject matters outside the scope of
mandatory bargaining but it is not required to negotiate those matters.

7. Contract provisions presently existing in signed and ratified
agreements as of May 15, 1975, at 12 p.m. remain negotiable.

Sec. 2. NRS 354.6241 is hereby amended to read as follows:

354.6241 1. The statement required by paragraph (a) of subsection 5 of
NRS 354.624 must indicate for each fund set forth in that paragraph:

(a) Whether the fund is being used in accordance with the provisions of
this chapter.

(b) Whether the fund is being administered in accordance with generally
accepted accounting procedures.

(c) Whether the reserve in the fund is limited to an amount that is
reasonable and necessary to carry out the purposes of the fund.

(d) The sources of revenues available for the fund during the fiscal year,
including transfers from any other funds.

(e) The statutory and regulatory requirements applicable to the fund.

(f) The balance and retained earnings of the fund.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3 and NRS 354.59891 and
354.613, to the extent that the reserve in any fund set forth in paragraph (a)
of subsection 5 of NRS 354.624 exceeds the amount that is reasonable and
necessary to carry out the purposes for which the fund was created, the
reserve may be expended by the local government pursuant to the provisions of chapter 288 of NRS.

3. For the purposes of chapter 288 of NRS, a budgeted ending fund balance of not more than 25 percent of the total budgeted expenditures, less capital outlay, for a general or special revenue fund that receives revenue from property taxes or the Local Government Tax Distribution Account:

(a) Is not subject to negotiations with an employee organization; and

(b) Must not be considered by a fact finder or arbitrator in determining the financial ability of the local government to pay compensation or monetary benefits.

Sec. 3. The amendatory provisions of this act do not apply during the current term of any collective bargaining agreement entered into before July 1, 2015, the effective date of this act, but do apply to any extension or renewal of such an agreement and to any such agreement entered into on or after July 1, 2015, the effective date of this act.

Sec. 4. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015, upon passage and approval.

Senator Settelmeyer moved the adoption of the amendment.

Remarks by Senator Settelmeyer.

Amendment No. 100 Requires negotiations to begin no later than 21 days after the local government employer notifies the employee organization that a fiscal emergency exists; Revises which governmental funds may be considered by a fact finder or arbitrator in determining ability to pay compensation or monetary benefits; and Makes the bill effective upon passage and approval.

Amendment adopted.

Senate Bill No. 168.

The following amendment was proposed by Senator Settelmeyer:

Amendment No. 179.

AN ACT relating to local governments; revising provisions relating to the reopening of a collective bargaining agreement during a period of fiscal emergency; excluding certain money from collective bargaining negotiations and from consideration in determining the ability of local governments, other than school districts, to pay compensation and monetary benefits; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law establishes certain mandatory subjects of bargaining in the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement between a local government employer and a recognized employee organization. Among these mandatory
subjects is a requirement that the parties bargain over procedures and requirements for the reopening and renegotiation of the agreement during periods of fiscal emergency. Currently, the existence of such an emergency is determined on the basis of revenue shortfalls or other criteria agreed to by the parties. (NRS 288.150) Section 1 of this bill authorizes a local government to reopen a collective bargaining agreement during a fiscal emergency and sets forth the circumstances under which such an emergency shall be deemed to exist. The procedural requirements relating to the reopening of the agreement remain a mandatory subject of bargaining.

Existing law provides for the resolution of an impasse in collective bargaining through fact-finding, arbitration or both, but imposes limitations on the money that a fact finder or arbitrator may consider in determining the financial ability of a local government employer to pay compensation or monetary benefits. (NRS 288.200, 288.215, 288.217, 354.6241) Section 2 of this bill provides, for certain governmental funds of a local government other than a school district, that a budgeted ending fund balance of not more than 25 percent of the total budgeted expenditures, less capital outlay, is not subject to negotiation and cannot be considered by a fact finder or arbitrator in determining ability to pay.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 288.150 is hereby amended to read as follows:

288.150 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 and NRS 354.6241, every local government employer shall negotiate in good faith through one or more representatives of its own choosing concerning the mandatory subjects of bargaining set forth in subsection 2 with the designated representatives of the recognized employee organization, if any, for each appropriate bargaining unit among its employees. If either party so requests, agreements reached must be reduced to writing.

2. The scope of mandatory bargaining is limited to:

(a) Salary or wage rates or other forms of direct monetary compensation.
(b) Sick leave.
(c) Vacation leave.
(d) Holidays.
(e) Other paid or nonpaid leaves of absence.
(f) Insurance benefits.
(g) Total hours of work required of an employee on each workday or workweek.
(h) Total number of days’ work required of an employee in a work year.
(i) Discharge and disciplinary procedures.
(j) Recognition clause.
(k) The method used to classify employees in the bargaining unit.
(l) Deduction of dues for the recognized employee organization.
(m) Protection of employees in the bargaining unit from discrimination because of participation in recognized employee organizations consistent with the provisions of this chapter.
(n) No-strike provisions consistent with the provisions of this chapter.
(o) Grievance and arbitration procedures for resolution of disputes relating to interpretation or application of collective bargaining agreements.
(p) General savings clauses.
(q) Duration of collective bargaining agreements.
(r) Safety of the employee.
(s) Teacher preparation time.
(t) Materials and supplies for classrooms.
(u) The policies for the transfer and reassignment of teachers.
(v) Procedures for reduction in workforce consistent with the provisions of this chapter.
(w) Procedures consistent with the provisions of subsection 4 for the reopening of collective bargaining agreements that exceed 1 year in duration for additional, further, new or supplementary negotiations during periods of fiscal emergency. The requirements for the reopening of a collective bargaining agreement must include, without limitation, measures of revenue shortfalls or reductions relative to economic indicators such as the Consumer Price Index, as agreed upon by both parties.

3. Those subject matters which are not within the scope of mandatory bargaining and which are reserved to the local government employer without negotiation include:

(a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (u) of subsection 2, the right to hire, direct, assign or transfer an employee, but excluding the right to assign or transfer an employee as a form of discipline.
(b) The right to reduce in force or lay off any employee because of lack of work or lack of money, subject to paragraph (v) of subsection 2.
(c) The right to determine:
   (1) Appropriate staffing levels and work performance standards, except for safety considerations;
   (2) The content of the workday, including without limitation workload factors, except for safety considerations;
   (3) The quality and quantity of services to be offered to the public; and
   (4) The means and methods of offering those services.
(d) Safety of the public.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of any collective bargaining agreement negotiated pursuant to this chapter, a local government employer is entitled to:
(a) Reopen a collective bargaining agreement for additional, further, new or supplementary negotiations relating to compensation or monetary benefits during a period of fiscal emergency. For the purposes of this section, a fiscal emergency shall be deemed to exist:

(1) If the amount of revenue received by the general fund of the local government employer during the last preceding fiscal year from all sources, except any nonrecurring source, declined by 5 percent or more from the amount of revenue received by the general fund from all sources, except any nonrecurring source, during the next preceding fiscal year, as reflected in the reports of the annual audits conducted for those fiscal years for the local government employer pursuant to NRS 354.624; or

(2) If the local government employer has budgeted an unreserved ending fund balance in its general fund for the current fiscal year in an amount equal to 4 percent or less of the actual expenditures from the general fund for the last preceding fiscal year, and the local government employer has provided a written explanation of the budgeted ending fund balance to the Department of Taxation that includes the reason for the ending fund balance and the manner in which the local government employer plans to increase the ending fund balance.

(b) Take whatever actions may be necessary to carry out its responsibilities in situations of emergency such as a riot, military action, natural disaster or civil disorder. Those actions may include the suspension of any collective bargaining agreement for the duration of the emergency.

Any action taken under the provisions of this subsection must not be construed as a failure to negotiate in good faith.

5. The provisions of this chapter, including without limitation the provisions of this section, recognize and declare the ultimate right and responsibility of the local government employer to manage its operation in the most efficient manner consistent with the best interests of all its citizens, its taxpayers and its employees.

6. This section does not preclude, but this chapter does not require, the local government employer to negotiate subject matters enumerated in subsection 3 which are outside the scope of mandatory bargaining. The local government employer shall discuss subject matters outside the scope of mandatory bargaining but it is not required to negotiate those matters.

7. Contract provisions presently existing in signed and ratified agreements as of May 15, 1975, at 12 p.m. remain negotiable.

Sec. 2. NRS 354.6241 is hereby amended to read as follows:

354.6241  1. The statement required by paragraph (a) of subsection 5 of NRS 354.624 must indicate for each fund set forth in that paragraph:

(a) Whether the fund is being used in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(b) Whether the fund is being administered in accordance with generally accepted accounting procedures.
(c) Whether the reserve in the fund is limited to an amount that is reasonable and necessary to carry out the purposes of the fund.

(d) The sources of revenues available for the fund during the fiscal year, including transfers from any other funds.

(e) The statutory and regulatory requirements applicable to the fund.

(f) The balance and retained earnings of the fund.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3 and NRS 354.59891 and 354.613, to the extent that the reserve in any fund set forth in paragraph (a) of subsection 5 of NRS 354.624 exceeds the amount that is reasonable and necessary to carry out the purposes for which the fund was created, the reserve may be expended by the local government pursuant to the provisions of chapter 288 of NRS.

3. For any local government other than a school district, for the purposes of chapter 288 of NRS, a budgeted ending fund balance of not more than 25 percent of the total budgeted expenditures, less capital outlay, for a general or special revenue fund that receives revenue from property taxes or the Local Government Tax Distribution Account:

   (a) Is not subject to negotiations with an employee organization; and
   (b) Must not be considered by a fact finder or arbitrator in determining the financial ability of the local government to pay compensation or monetary benefits.

Sec. 3. The amendatory provisions of this act do not apply during the current term of any collective bargaining agreement entered into before July 1, 2015, but do apply to any extension or renewal of such an agreement and to any such agreement entered into on or after July 1, 2015.

Sec. 4. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

Senator Settelmeyer moved the adoption of the amendment.

Remarks by Senator Settelmeyer.

Amendment No. 179 in was the original one from Government Affairs, changing the definition of “financial emergency” and the discussion of the reserve amount.

Amendment adopted.

Bill ordered reprinted, engrossed and to third reading.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There being no objections, the President and Secretary signed Assembly Bill No. 265.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF SENATE FLOOR

On request of Senator Harris, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Jesus Marquez.

On request of Senator Kieckhefer, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to students of Echo Loder Elementary: Montserrat Acuna, Edil Ayala, Marisol Acosta, Mario Alarcon, Millie Casteneda, Raul Castillo, Christian Castillo, Nayeli Flores, Angelica Castro, Emily Delgado, Maria Guerrero, Lisset Garcia, Luis Garcia, Angel Chavez, Ramiro Guerrero, Alexis Gonzalez, Jasmine Lobos, Joel Hernandez,
Senator Roberson moved that the Senate adjourn until Monday, March 30, 2015, at 11:00 a.m.
Motion carried.

Senate adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Approved:          JOSEPH P. HARDY
                  President Pro Tempore of the Senate

Attest:     CLAIRE J. CLIFT
            Secretary of the Senate

UNION LABEL