



NEVADA LEGISLATURE NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

(Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS] 219A.130)

SUMMARY MINUTES

The fourth meeting of the Nevada Youth Legislature (NYL) for the 2017–2019 Term was held on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at 2 p.m. in Room 4401, Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 2135, Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

The agenda, minutes, meeting materials, and audio or video recording of the meeting are available on the NYL [meeting page](#). The audio or video recording may also be found at <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Granicus/>. Copies of the audio or video record can be obtained through the Publications Office of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) (publications@lcb.state.nv.us or 775/684-6835).

YOUTH LEGISLATORS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Youth Legislator Olivia Yamamoto, Chair
Youth Legislator Colyn Abron
Youth Legislator Naomi Atnafu
Youth Legislator Elliandra Bemoll
Youth Legislator Sierra Bille
Youth Legislator Jacob Birdsong
Youth Legislator Jesse Cruz
Youth Legislator Tyler Fournier
Youth Legislator Mariana Gonzalez
Youth Legislator Jakai Hood
Youth Legislator Leaf Kaboli
Youth Legislator Kyle Kerns
Youth Legislator Salomee Levy
Youth Legislator Caramia Phillips

YOUTH LEGISLATORS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Youth Legislator Jamie Harrison
Youth Legislator Savannah Smith
Youth Legislator Nathan Tea
Youth Legislator Vivek Yanamadula
Youth Legislator Gianna Zaccheo

YOUTH LEGISLATORS ABSENT:

Youth Legislator Rachel Rush, Vice Chair (Excused)
Youth Legislator Morgan Adamson

LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Al Kramer, Assembly District 40
Assemblyman Jim Wheeler, Assembly District 39

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT TO
ADMINISTER THE NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE MEMBER PRESENT:**

Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Chair

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Tina Ashdown, Research Assistant/Program Facilitator, Constituent Services Unit (CSU),
Research Division
Beverly E. Mobley, Manager of Constituent Services, CSU, Research Division
Jessica Dummer, Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Maria de la Luz Aguayo, Research Policy Assistant, Research Division

Items taken out of sequence during the meeting have been placed in agenda order.

AGENDA ITEM I—CALL TO ORDER

Chair Yamamoto called the meeting of the NYL to order, welcomed the public, and reviewed meeting protocol.

AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Yamamoto called for public comment; however, no testimony was presented.

AGENDA ITEM III—OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR

Chair Yamamoto stated the primary focus of the meeting would be to begin the selection process for the bill draft request (BDR) that the NYL will present to the Legislature during the 2019 Legislative Session. Further, she shared her experience of participating in the development of the NYL BDR during the 2017 Legislative Session.

Kyle Kerns was sworn in as a Youth Legislator by Senator Wiener.

AGENDA ITEM IV—APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 12, 2018

MOTION: Youth Legislator Phillips moved to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2018, meeting. The motion was seconded by Youth Legislator Levy and passed.

AGENDA ITEM V—SELECTION OF SEVEN YOUTH LEGISLATOR BILL DRAFT REQUESTS TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE AT THE OCTOBER 16, 2018, MEETING

Chair Yamamoto provided information about the 19 BDRs submitted for the NYL's consideration (Agenda Item V A).

Youth Legislator Abron gave an overview of [BDR 1](#). He said that according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 90 percent of people who committed suicide could have been treated for a mental health disorder. He added that Nevada ranks among the top five states with the most suicides. He stressed the importance of implementing mental health education. Lastly, he stated BDR 1 would:

- Destigmatize mental health and provide courage to reach out;
- Help students understand the signs and symptoms of mental disorders; and
- Provide students with mental health resources.

Discussion ensued among youth legislators regarding: (1) how the mental health topic would be taught and how long it would take; (2) instructor qualifications; and (3) whether teaching mental health would replace a course or be integrated into one.

Youth Legislator Atnafu provided a short presentation on [BDR 2](#) relating to the prevention of human trafficking (Agenda Item V B).

Discussion ensued among youth legislators regarding: (1) how prevalent human or sex trafficking is in Nevada; (2) the resources that would be made available to students; and (3) whether teaching prevention of human trafficking would replace a course or be integrated into one.

Youth Legislator Bemoll gave an overview on [BDR 3](#), which would require school counselors to take an annual course on mental health before the school year begins.

In response to a question from Youth Legislator Gonzalez, Youth Legislator Bemoll stated training for teachers could be included as an amendment to BDR 3.

Further discussion ensued among the youth legislators regarding: (1) how the course would be funded; (2) how often counselors address their students; and (3) why BDR 3 is specifically catered towards advanced placement and magnet program students.

Youth Legislator Bille provided an overview of [BDR 4](#). She stated the goal of the BDR is to include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals and their issues concerning health education throughout the sex education curriculum. She explained the BDR would: (1) help include conversations of sexual orientation and gender identity throughout the sex education curriculum; and (2) provide non-LGBTQ youth with the opportunity to gain a clear and knowledgeable perception regarding issues of sexual orientation and gender and broaden their understanding of LGBTQ individuals and their communities.

Discussion ensued among youth legislators regarding parental permission and whether other states have implemented anything similar to BDR 4.

Youth Legislator Birdsong provided an overview of [BDR 5](#). He explained that in the event a minor is in legal trouble or is involved in an accident, the BDR allows parents who have an arrest warrant for noncriminal charges to accompany their child without the fear of being arrested. Instead, the parent would get a notice to appear in court.

Discussion ensued among youth legislators regarding: (1) how BDR 5 would directly affect youth; and (2) to whom BDR 5 would specifically apply.

Youth Legislator Cruz gave a brief overview on [BDR 6](#). He acknowledged that, though not on purpose, his BDR was identical to BDR 4. He agreed with Youth Legislator Bille's comments. He stated Seattle, Washington, has already started to teach fifth grade students about different sexual orientations and gender identity as part of its family life and sexual health curriculum, and he would like to implement something similar in Nevada.

Discussion ensued among youth legislators regarding how the course would be integrated into the sexual education curriculum and opt-in choices.

Youth Legislator Fournier gave an overview on [BDR 7](#), which would make it mandatory statewide for schools to have metal detectors at all entrances and increase police presence at school campuses. He said currently, Texas is also looking into implementing something similar.

Discussion ensued among youth legislators regarding: (1) how this would be funded; (2) maximum and minimum student-to-police officer ratio; (3) the school-to-prison pipeline; and (4) whether the process would be similar to airport security.

Youth Legislator Gonzalez went over [BDR 8](#). She stated the BDR would mandate high school students to participate in at least one extracurricular activity per year, which would keep students off the streets and improve their college transcripts.

There was discussion among youth legislators regarding the required number of hours and how to accommodate students who cannot stay after school, have physical disabilities, or are not interested in participating in extracurricular activities.

Youth Legislator Harrison provided an overview of [BDR 9](#). He explained that, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, drivers 16 through 19 years of age are four times more likely to end up in a collision than older, more experienced drivers. He described a system in which learner drivers would be required to display an “L” placard and new drivers would be required to display a “P” placard on the vehicle they are operating. He stated this system, modeled after successful systems in Great Britain and Australia, would clearly identify inexperienced drivers and would promote greater safety and caution on the road.

Discussion ensued among youth legislators regarding: (1) the funding and placement of the placards; and (2) whether this system could be implemented and mandated through the Department of Motor Vehicles.

In response to a question from Youth Legislator Abron, Youth Legislator Harrison stated Oregon and Washington have introduced similar concepts but they have not mandated them.

Youth Legislator Hood provided an overview of [BDR 10](#). She stated 70 percent of college freshmen drop out because they are not prepared. She said BDR 10 would help students with their college applications and save in tuition costs. She explained that, through funding, the school would pay for students to attend a college class of their choosing.

There was discussion among youth legislators regarding: (1) the difference between BDR 10 and advanced placement classes; (2) how the classes would be funded; (3) nontransferable credits; (4) how to accommodate schools that are distant from college or university campuses or students who do not wish to attend college or university; and (5) whether the course would be required for high school graduation.

Youth Legislator Kaboli reviewed [BDR 11](#). He addressed the shortage of teachers in Nevada and said teachers who move from other states would have more of an incentive if their experience transferred across state lines.

There was discussion among youth legislators regarding funding and whether other states have a policy similar to the one proposed in BDR 11.

Youth Legislator Kerns gave an overview of [BDR 12](#). He stated mandating career and technical education (CTE) classes as criteria for a high school diploma is a topic of growing importance. He said CTE classes would aid a student in college or employment.

There was discussion among youth legislators regarding: (1) how the classes would be funded; (2) the process of choosing CTE courses; (3) whether there would be a required number of CTE courses per school; and (4) whether these provisions apply to magnet programs.

Youth Legislator Levy provided an overview of [BDR 13](#), which would mandate schools in Nevada to provide contraceptive services, including condoms for all genders and birth control pills to reduce the risk of teen pregnancy and HIV rates among the LGBTQ population. She shared statistics of births in women 15 through 19 years of age, and stated similar provisions have been tested in Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, and Texas and implemented in California, Colorado, and New York.

Discussion ensued among youth legislators regarding: (1) how the services would be funded; (2) the number of teenage mothers in relation to student population in the state; and (3) whether parents would be notified in the event their child accessed the contraceptives.

Youth Legislator Phillips reviewed [BDR 14](#) regarding school organization teams (SOT), described in [NRS 388G.700](#). She requested an allocation of money be distributed to the SOT. The nonvoting student member of the team would have the authority to determine the use of the funds for educational purposes.

There was discussion among youth legislators regarding: (1) how the SOT would be funded; (2) how the nonvoting student member would be chosen; and (3) whether BDR 14 only applies to Clark County School District.

Youth Legislator Smith provided an overview of [BDR 15](#), which aims towards establishing a student-to-bus ratio as well as decreasing the length of school bus walk zones.

Discussion ensued among youth legislators regarding: (1) fiscal impact; (2) impact to traffic; (3) the limit of students who may be transported on a single school bus; and (4) whether this matter could be addressed at the county level.

Youth Legislator Tea gave a brief overview of [BDR 16](#), which mandates a defensive driving course for people 20 years of age or younger to be eligible for a driver license, and shared recent stories of teen car crashes.

Discussion ensued among youth legislators regarding: (1) the Driver's Edge program; (2) funding of the program; and (3) how to accommodate students who do not live near a defensive driving course.

Chair Yamamoto briefly went over [BDR 17](#). She explained the gay and trans panic defense is used in the court of law to justify violent crimes against members of the LGBTQ community. She said the American Bar Association has called for the banning of the defense; however, only California and Illinois have officially banned it.

There was discussion among youth legislators regarding: (1) examples of the defense being used in other states; (2) how it has worked in California and Illinois; (3) whether the defense has been used in Nevada; and (4) why other states have not yet banned the defense.

Youth Legislator Yanamadula provided an overview of [BDR 18](#), which offers three solutions to teacher shortages in Nevada.

Discussion ensued among youth legislators regarding: (1) the amount of time a teacher should stay in Nevada before they are able to purchase a retirement credit; (2) the fact that Nevada is ranked low in education in America; and (3) other states, besides Florida, where something similar has been done.

Youth Legislator Zaccheo provided an overview of [BDR 19](#). She explained that a student would receive full amnesty for approaching one of the listed individuals on BDR 19 and agreeing to receive treatment. She shared the purpose of drug testing is to prevent future drug use, not to punish students. Additionally, she disclosed that under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the *United States Constitution*, there are limits as to what type of drug testing can be conducted in public schools. Lastly, she listed a few benefits of the amnesty provision.

Discussion ensued among youth legislators regarding: (1) fiscal impact; (2) the Fourth Amendment of the *U.S. Constitution*; (3) whether it would encourage student drug use; and (4) whether parents would be notified.

Youth Legislator Kaboli withdrew BDR 11 to combine with and joint sponsor BDR 18.

Youth Legislator Cruz withdrew BDR 6 to combine with and joint sponsor BDR 4.

Youth Legislator Harrison withdrew BDR 9 to combine with and joint sponsor BDR 16.

After a roll call vote, cosponsors were determined for the following BDRS:

- BDR 1—Youth Legislator Bemoll;
- BDR 3—Youth Legislators Fournier, Gonzalez, and Levy;
- BDR 4—Youth Legislators Abron and Yamamoto;

- BDR 17—Youth Legislators Atnafu and Bille; and
- BDR 18—Youth Legislators Kerns and Phillips.

Youth Legislators Smith, Tea, and Yanamadula abstained from cosponsoring another BDR. Youth Legislators Birdsong, Hood, and Zaccheo were absent for the vote.

After a roll call vote was taken, it was determined BDRs 1, 3, 4, 14, 16, 17, and 18 would be discussed at the October 16, 2018, meeting. Youth Legislators Birdsong, Hood, and Zaccheo were absent for the vote.

AGENDA ITEM VI—PRESENTATION REGARDING THE NEVADA STUDENT MOCK ELECTION AND THE HELEN J. STEWART AWARD

Gail J. Anderson, Deputy for Southern Nevada, Office of the Secretary of State, provided information regarding the Nevada Student Mock Election (Agenda Item VI A) and the Helen J. Stewart Award (Agenda Item VI B).

AGENDA ITEM VII—SURVEY OF YOUTH LEGISLATORS REGARDING FIRST YEAR OF 2017–2019 NYL TERM

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not addressed.

AGENDA ITEM VIII—REVIEW OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES INCLUDING DISCUSSION OF ACTIVITY DEADLINES AND CONSENT FORMS FOR THE NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE IN MARCH 2019

Senator Wiener, previously identified, shared that information regarding public testimony before a decision-making body (Agenda Item VIII A) (Agenda Item VIII B) will be further addressed at the next meeting. She gave a brief overview of upcoming NYL activities (Agenda Item VIII C).

AGENDA ITEM IX—PUBLIC COMMENT

Mateo Portelli, Representative for Senate District 9, District Youth Advisory Council, shared how impressed he was with the proceedings during the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM X—ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the NYL, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria de la Luz Aguayo
Research Policy Assistant

Tina Ashdown
Research Assistant/Program Facilitator

APPROVED BY:

Youth Legislator Olivia Yamamoto, Chair

Date: _____

MEETING MATERIALS

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
Agenda Item V A	Legal Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau	<i>Bill Draft Requests for the Nevada Youth Legislature 2018</i>
Agenda Item V B	Youth Legislator Naomi Atnafu, Nevada Youth Legislature	Presentation
Agenda Item VI A	Gail J. Anderson, Deputy for Southern Nevada, Office of the Secretary of State	Informational handout
Agenda Item VI B	Gail J. Anderson, Deputy for Southern Nevada, Office of the Secretary of State	Application for Nevada Secretary of State's Helen J. Stewart Award
Agenda Item VIII A	Tina Ashdown, Research Assistant/Program Facilitator, Constituent Services Unit (CSU), Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB)	Informational handout
Agenda Item VIII B	Tina Ashdown, Research Assistant/Program Facilitator, CSU, Research Division, LCB	Informational handout
Agenda Item VIII C	Tina Ashdown, Research Assistant/Program Facilitator, CSU, Research Division, LCB	Updated summary calendar

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