



NEVADA LEGISLATURE NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

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

SUMMARY MINUTES

The sixth meeting of the Nevada Youth Legislature (NYL) for the 2017–2019 Term was held on Wednesday, November 14, 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's [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 Rachel Rush, Vice Chair
Youth Legislator Colyn Abron
Youth Legislator Elliandra Bemoll
Youth Legislator Sierra Bille
Youth Legislator Jesse Cruz
Youth Legislator Jakai Hood
Youth Legislator Leaf Kaboli
Youth Legislator Sebastian Siegmund

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 Naomi Atnafu (Excused)
Youth Legislator Jacob Birdsong (Excused)
Youth Legislator Tyler Fournier (Excused)
Youth Legislator Mariana Gonzalez
Youth Legislator Kyle Kerns
Youth Legislator Salomee Levy (Excused)
Youth Legislator Caramia Phillips (Excused)

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

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
Brenda J. Erdoes, Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Risa B. Lang, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel
Jessica Dummer, Deputy Legislative Counsel
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 and reviewed meeting protocol.

AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT

Senator Wiener, previously identified, shared that she met with the Speaker of the Queensland Parliament on November 9, 2018, to discuss the NYL and the possibility of integrating a similar program in Australia.

AGENDA ITEM III—OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR

Chair Yamamoto stated the NYL would be discussing, in detail, the two proposed bill draft requests (BDRs) chosen at the October 16, 2018, meeting.

AGENDA ITEM IV—APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 16, 2018

MOTION: Youth Legislator Abron moved to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2018, meeting. The motion was seconded by Youth Legislator Tea and passed.

AGENDA ITEM V—DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BILL DRAFT REQUESTS SELECTED AT THE OCTOBER 16, 2018, MEETING AND SELECTION OF BILL DRAFT REQUEST FOR PRESENTATION TO THE 2019 LEGISLATURE

Chair Yamamoto called attention to the two selected BDRs submitted for the NYL's consideration (Agenda Item V A).

A. Bill Draft Request 17: This bill would provide that a nonviolent sexual advance or a perception or belief, even if inaccurate, of the gender, gender identity or expression or sexual orientation of an individual does not mitigate or serve as a defense to a criminal act.

Olivia Yamamoto, Senate District 20, gave a brief overview of BDR 17, which she stated pertains to Nevada, as it has one of the highest rates of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) citizens, at 4.3 percent.

Additionally, she called attention to the written testimony of Briana Escamilla, Nevada State Director, Human Rights Campaign (Agenda Item V B).

In response to Youth Legislator Tea's question, Youth Legislator Yamamoto shared that the instance mentioned in Ms. Escamilla's written testimony occurred in Texas in April 2018 and was handled by the Austin Police Department.

AJ Holly Huth, Youth Programs Manager and PREP coordinator, The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada, provided statistics of transgender people who were murdered in 2017 and 2018 and shared stories of hate crimes. She asked the NYL to consider BDR 17 for the 2019 Legislative Session.

A.J. Delap, Police Officer, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, testified in neutral on BDR 17 and shared that in his 21 years of service, he has not come across an instance in which a gay or transgender panic defense was used.

B. Bill Draft Request 18: This bill would require:

- 1. That Nevada's alternative route to licensure program be revised to require a waiver of required coursework for participants who achieve certain scores on tests.***
- 2. That a school district give a licensed teacher who was employed by a school district in a state other than Nevada the same credit for previous teaching service as the teacher was receiving from his or her former employer when determining the salary for that teacher.***
- 3. That a licensed teacher who was employed by a school district in a state other than Nevada have the option to purchase a retirement services credit equal to the number of years of teaching experience the teacher accumulated with his or her previous employer of that such a teacher be given such a credit if he or she remains a teacher in this state for a prescribed period of time.***

Vivek Yanamadula, Senate District 13, provided a brief summary of BDR 18. He stated the purpose of the BDR is to: (1) fix the teacher shortage; (2) incentivize teachers from other states to come to Nevada; and (3) provide an incentive that is not as costly as simply raising all teacher salaries.

Kabrina Feser, Administrative Analyst, Public Employees' Retirement System, reviewed details of [Chapter 286](#) of the NRS and [NRS 286.486](#). She expressed concerns over some of the proposed changes of BDR 18.

Michael Arakawa, Licensure Program Officer III, Division of Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement, Department of Education, explained that the Department of Education and its Commission on Professional Standards in Education are in favor of a measure that might help eliminate barriers and help mitigate teacher shortages. However, he stated that testing in lieu of coursework, as proposed in Section 1 of BDR 18, already exists. Finally, he said the Department and the Commission are neutral on the rest of BDR 18.

Andre Long, Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources, Clark County School District, provided information regarding the alternative route to licensure program and salaries.

There was discussion among youth legislators and Mr. Long regarding cost of living, salaries, and what other states are doing in terms of teacher shortages.

Alex Marks, Political Coordinator, Nevada State Education Association (NSEA), reviewed some of the NSEA's concerns with BDR 18.

Leaf Kaboli, Senate District 12, shared the story of what his parents, who are educators, faced when they first moved to Nevada.

Discussion ensued among youth legislators regarding: (1) the difference between the alternative licensure programs in Florida and Nevada; (2) funding; and (3) retaining current teachers in Nevada.

There was a roll call vote to determine whether the NYL would present BDR 17 or BDR 18 to the 2019 Legislature; however, both BDRs received the same amount of votes.

Further discussion ensued among the youth legislators regarding details of BDR 17 and BDR 18.

Bill Draft Request 18 was revised by Youth Legislator Yanamadula and Youth Legislator Kaboli to remove Section 3.

The following was discussed among the youth legislators:

- Current Nevada graduation rates;
- Education pertaining to the majority of the state;
- How BDR 17 would affect court proceedings;
- How BDR 17 would protect LGBTQ persons;
- Number of hate crimes reported as of 2016; and
- Poor student involvement due to inadequate educators.

A few youth legislators called attention to the presentations heard which mentioned that some of the requirements of Section 1 and 2 of BDR 18 are already in effect.

Regarding BDR 18, Youth Legislator Bille suggested focusing on working conditions of educators instead of matching salaries.

Chair Yamamoto stated hate crimes are on the rise and called attention to the fact that BDR 17 does not have any foreseen fiscal impact.

Youth Legislator Yanamadula stated not enough evidence was presented of the gay or transgender panic defense being used in Nevada.

Another roll call vote was taken to determine whether BDR 17 or BDR 18 would be presented to the 2019 Legislature; however, once again, both BDRs received the same number of votes.

After a brief recess, Chair Yamamoto urged youth legislators to discuss possible revisions to BDR 17 or BDR 18.

Risa Lang, previously identified, explained that another roll call vote would be taken; however, she informed the youth legislators that if neither BDR 17 nor BDR 18 received a majority vote, no BDR would be presented to the 2019 Legislature.

Revisions to BDR 17 and BDR 18 were discussed among youth legislators and Legal Division staff; however, no revisions were made to BDR 17 and no further revisions were made to BDR 18.

There was another roll call vote between BDR 17 and BDR 18, in which BDR 17 received the majority of votes.

Chair Yamamoto announced BDR 17 was selected as the NYL BDR to be presented to the 2019 Legislature.

AGENDA ITEM VI—REVIEW OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Senator Wiener thanked the youth legislators and legislative staff.

Tina Ashdown, previously identified, called attention to the:

- Example recruitment letters (Agenda Item VI A);
- List of NYL district legislators (Agenda Item VI B);
- Public testimony report (Agenda Item VI C);
- Public testimony tips (Agenda Item VI D); and
- Updated summary calendar (Agenda Item VI E);

AGENDA ITEM VII—PUBLIC COMMENT

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

AGENDA ITEM VII—ADJOURNMENT

Chair Yamamoto thanked the youth legislators and staff and reminded the youth legislators to reach out to their legislators regarding their BDRs.

There being no further business to come before the NYL, the meeting was adjourned at 4:59 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 (LCB)	Final two bill draft requests for the Nevada Youth Legislature (NYL)
Agenda Item V B	Briana Escamilla, Nevada State Director, Human Rights Campaign	Written testimony
Agenda Item VI A	Tina Ashdown, Research Assistant/Program Facilitator, Constituent Services Unit (CSU), Research Division, LCB	Example recruitment letters
Agenda Item VI B	Tina Ashdown, Research Assistant/Program Facilitator, CSU, Research Division, LCB	NYL district legislators
Agenda Item VI C	Tina Ashdown, Research Assistant/Program Facilitator, CSU, Research Division, LCB	Public testimony report
Agenda Item VI D	Tina Ashdown, Research Assistant/Program Facilitator, CSU, Research Division, LCB	Public testimony tips
Agenda Item VI E	Tina Ashdown, Research Assistant/Program Facilitator, CSU, Research Division, LCB	Updated summary calendar

The Summary Minutes are supplied as an informational service. All meeting materials are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. For copies, contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Library/About/Contact/feedbackmail.cfm>.