

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 22, 2021
MEETING OF THE
INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair Chris Brooks called a regular meeting of the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) to order at 9:09 a.m. on June 22, 2021, in Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Chris Brooks, Chair
Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Vice Chair
Senator Moises Denis
Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop
Senator Pete Goicoechea
Senator Scott Hammond
Senator Dallas Harris for Senator Nicole Cannizzaro
Senator Ben Kieckhefer
Senator Julia Ratti
Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson
Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow
Assemblyman Gregory Hafen
Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui
Assemblyman Glen Leavitt
Assemblywoman Brittney Miller
Assemblyman C.H. Miller for Assemblyman Howard Watts
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno
Assemblywoman Sarah Peters
Assemblyman Tom Roberts
Assemblywoman Robin Titus
Assemblywoman Jill Tolles
Assemblyman Steve Yeager for Assemblyman Jason Frierson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Senator Nicole Cannizzaro
Assemblyman Jason Frierson
Assemblyman Howard Watts

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Brenda Erdoes, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau
Wayne Thorley, Senate Fiscal Analyst
Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Brody Leiser, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Bryan Fernley, Legislative Counsel
Eileen O'Grady, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel
Carla Ulrych, Fiscal Analysis Division Secretary

EXHIBITS:

[Exhibit A:](#) [Meeting](#) Packet - Volume I

[Exhibit B:](#) Meeting Packet - Volume II

[Exhibit C:](#) Meeting Packet - Volume III

[Exhibit D:](#) Meeting Packet - Volume IV

[Exhibit E:](#) Public Comment - Doug Unger, Nevada Faculty Alliance; UNLV Employee Benefits Advisory Committee

[Exhibit F:](#) Public Comment - Kent Ervin, Nevada Faculty Alliance

[Exhibit G:](#) Public Comment - Lorayn Walsert

[Exhibit H:](#) Public Comment - Kristina Cote

[Exhibit I:](#) Public Comment - Sonja Whitten

[Exhibit J:](#) Public Comment - Stephanie Parker

[Exhibit K:](#) Public Comment - Stephanie Dube

[Exhibit L:](#) Public Comment - Ted Chodock

A. ROLL CALL.

Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), called the roll; all members were present except Senator Cannizzaro, Assemblyman Frierson and Assemblyman Watts, who were excused.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT.

DOUG UNGER (Nevada Faculty Alliance; UNLV Employee Benefits Advisory Committee): I am grateful that our state is recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. I represent a part of the 44,000 active State of Nevada employees and approximately 70,000 covered lives affected by the cuts made to the Nevada Public Employees' Benefits Program (PEBP) during the 2021 Legislative Session. These cuts will be felt deeply, particularly after July 1, 2021. During the closing of Senate Bill (S.B.) 451 (2021 Legislative Session) on the floor of the Nevada Assembly, Assemblywoman Carlton indicated there might be a conversation regarding the restoration of PEBP benefits.

Higher maximum out-of-pocket costs are going to affect the 12% of state employees with chronic health conditions who are forced to pay high prescription costs and the 40% to 50% of state employees who have reached the deductible of their high-deductible health insurance plans; these deductibles have increased further during the COVID-19 pandemic. Other cuts made to PEBP benefits related to the COVID-19 pandemic include the reduction of basic life insurance by 40% and the elimination of long-term disability (LTD) insurance. The elimination of LTD insurance will affect a few of my colleagues.

Regarding Agenda Item L-5, Office of the Governor, I presume this Committee is going to approve the Office of the Governor's request to accept \$2,738,837,229 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 funds. The Nevada Faculty Alliance hopes this Committee will use some of the ARPA funds to restore cuts made to PEBP. The Nevada Faculty Alliance has checked the U.S. Department of the Treasury guidelines, and after conversations with congressional delegates and several attorneys, the Nevada Faculty Alliance believes the guidelines allow for the restoration of PEBP in

a permissible and prioritized manner. The PEBP budget can partly be restored through reimbursements of the \$25 million that Assembly Bill 3 (31st Special Session) took from PEBP; this equates to 0.91% of the ARPA funding. Restoring PEBP completely would require 1.8% of the overall ARPA funds and would allow PEBP to keep up with the 4.6% annual medical inflation.

Mr. Unger provided public comment for the record ([Exhibit E](#)).

PRISCILLA MALONEY (Nevada Retirees Chapter 4041, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees [AFSCME]):

I second the opinions of the Nevada Faculty Alliance regarding the restoration of PEBP, and request that the Committee reference [Exhibit E](#), which contains the excellent recommendations of the PEBP advocates. I want to thank the Committee for its extraordinary service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Office of the Governor is requesting to accept an enormous amount of ARPA funds, but there are specific roadmaps detailing how this funding should be spent in S.B. 461(1)(2)(g)(1) (2021 Legislative Session). The AFSCME recognizes the enormous administrative tasks ahead but would like the ARPA funding to be used to restore PEBP as soon as practicable.

At the PEBP Board meeting on June 11, 2020, PEBP advocates were concerned that PEBP had not yet formulated a plan to make specific requests for the ARPA funds. The AFSCME has urged PEBP to have this plan available by its next board meeting on July 29, 2021.

VICTOR SALCIDO (Charter School Association of Nevada):

During the 2021 Legislative Session, much effort and time spent was spent developing legislative intent and ensuring the transition to the new funding formula for public education in Nevada would not cause any harm to any student in the state. Unfortunately, as schools and school districts build their budgets for the upcoming school year, many schools will experience a decrease in their per pupil funding amount when compared to Fiscal Year (FY) 2020; many of these schools will see decreases of hundreds of dollars per pupil. Senate Bill 463 (2021 Legislative Session) was passed because 12 charter schools received less per pupil funding through the Nevada Department of Education's Pupil-Centered Funding Plan; the intent of S.B. 463 was to make the budgets of these charter schools whole again. Many more charter schools not identified in the bill are in a similar situation.

Schools and children are being harmed in the transition to the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan. Although this was not the intent, it is happening. The Charter School Association of Nevada looks forward to working with this Committee to find solutions to this situation.

JANELL WOODWARD (Division of Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety; Chapter 4041, AFSCME):

I appreciate all that this Committee has done regarding PEBP and the Public Employee's Retirement System of Nevada over the past year. However, the recent cuts and changes to PEBP health benefits have been disheartening. As a cancer survivor, in addition to

people with serious health conditions, the changes being made to PEBP are having a serious impact on my ability to maintain my health. Transferring costs to employees creates tremendous financial hardship, as having cancer results in a lifelong fight. The past year and a half has been very difficult due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is disappointing to hear cuts are being made to PEBP despite a surplus of funding and the state's receipt of ARPA funds. The ARPA funds are meant to recoup budget shortfalls, yet the Legislature only approved a one-month employer premium holiday; this is a pittance compared to the damage done to PEBP health benefits.

State employees work for much lower wages than their city and county counterparts, with the tradeoff being made through the benefits state employees receive. State employees are happy to work for less because we love our jobs. However, to lose benefits for no good reason, shows that the state does not appreciate the work performed by state employees. Even though it has never been done before, I ask that each member of this Committee seriously consider reinstating employee benefits. The state is in a unique position to be able to do this for its employees. Now that ARPA funding is available, please repay Nevada's state employees for the six furlough days they were unnecessarily required to take. This will go a long way in helping the state's employees and it is the right thing to do.

BENJAMIN CHALLINOR (Policy Director, Faith in Action Nevada):

The ARPA funds this Committee will hopefully be approving and accepting will go towards supporting disadvantaged communities such as Nevada's black, brown, indigenous, immigrant, communities-of-color, and low-income communities. These communities were disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This Committee must do whatever it can to make these communities whole again and provide them more help than they received previously. Faith in Action Nevada is encouraged by the state's Every Nevadan Recovery Framework's plan for expending ARPA funding. Faith in Action Nevada hopes that it, along with every other stakeholder working directly with disadvantaged communities in Nevada, are part of the conversation regarding how the funding should be spent.

CARTER BUNDY (AFSCME):

When the state received funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020, it was known then that additional funding would be needed to make up for the devastating loss of revenue that Nevada suffered; Nevada suffered worse than other states. The AFSCME has been heavily involved in trying to pass state and local aid to in-need communities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevada's state employees have taken hits at multiple levels, in addition to the cuts to PEBP benefits. The AFSCME believes that one of the express purposes of the ARPA funding is to make up for budget cuts that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. The AFSCME thanks the Legislature for the work it has done to ease these cuts via an employer premium holiday, but AFSCME hopes the Committee will use some the ARPA funds to restore cuts made to PEBP during the midyear or before FY 2023.

DAPHNE DELEON (Chapter 4041, AFSCME):

I agree with Mr. Unger and my fellow AFSCME members, and I hope that the cuts made to PEBP can be restored with ARPA funding. I originally moved to Nevada and accepted

a job here due to the benefits my family and I received through PEBP. If the cuts being made to PEBP and its health maintenance organization plans during FY 2022 had existed when I first moved here, it would have been extremely difficult for me to start my career with the state. I urge the Committee to support the state's employees and recognize that when state workers and their families are taken care of, they provide better service to Nevadans, help citizens of the state get back to work, and are better able to support communities.

CEDRIC WILLIAMS (President, Sierra Range Chapter, AFSCME):

As an employee with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, my colleagues and I often wonder how the clients we evaluate for benefits repeatedly receive better benefits than state employees; this is especially evident regarding benefits provided through DHHS, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, Medicaid Services. The AFSCME union fought hard for ARPA funding to be provided to the state and local governments because public services are important in the collective recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am grateful for the hard work that the Legislature does for Nevada. However, in the ten years that I have been working for the state, it appears that after every legislative session the Legislature attempts to increase the PEBP premiums while decreasing PEBP benefits. It appears the voices of state employees are falling on deaf ears. I respectfully request you listen to our concerns.

CARI HERINGTON (Executive Director, Nevada Cancer Coalition):

The Nevada Cancer Coalition (NCC) supports Agenda Item L-5, the Office of the Governor's request for approval to accept ARPA funds. The NCC's partners across the state are working with the DHHS Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) to address the needs of Nevadans disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The cancer screening rates of Nevadans have dropped drastically, and many treatments have been postponed, leaving many of our communities in a difficult situation. The NCC's partners are diligently working to help communities across the state recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARPA funding is critical to the work of the NCC and its public health partners in aiding the needs of disadvantaged communities.

QUENTIN SAVWOIR (Deputy Director, Make it Work Nevada):

Make it Work Nevada seeks to build power alongside black women and black families. I support Agenda Item L-5, the Office of the Governor's request for approval to accept \$2,738,837,229 in ARPA funds. Communities of color are disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic fallout. Rent prices are increasing and child care is continuing to become more unaffordable and unattainable for many families that Make it Work Nevada seeks to help. Please consider using the ARPA funds to rebuild and expand infrastructure in the state. Families, affordable child care, and paid sick days should be considered infrastructure. If the state invests in Nevada families now, communities will not feel as much of a negative impact when the next pandemic hits the state.

PEGGY BOHN (Chapter 4041, AFSCME):

I have worked for the State of Nevada for over 27 years, and I am a U.S. Army veteran. This is not the first time that I have come to the Legislature asking for benefits to be restored. Out of consideration and respect to state employees, please restore whatever benefits you can for those state employees who have worked on the frontlines before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. The health benefits offered through PEBP should cover mental health services, as many State of Nevada employees may suffer from long-term mental health issues resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

MARLENE LOCKARD (Retired Public Employees of Nevada):

Please restore the cuts made to the health benefits offered through PEBP. I know this Committee will be faced with many difficult decisions moving forward, and I appreciate the restorations made to PEBP during the 2021 Legislative Session.

STEPHEN J. CLOOBECK (Chairman, Nevada State Athletic Commission):

I was previously the founding chairman of Brand USA, which serves as the head of tourism for the nation. I am also the founding chairman and CEO of Diamond Resorts and have acquired a wealth of knowledge in this role. I would like to commend the actions of the management team of the Nevada State Athletic Commission (Commission) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Moving forward, the Commission will add a tremendous amount of revenue to the state.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 14, 2020, MEETING.

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

D. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 29, 2020, MEETING.

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

E. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 20, 2020, MEETING.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 14, 2020, JULY 29, 2020, AND AUGUST 20, 2020, MEETINGS.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. WORK PROGRAM REVISIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NRS 353.220(5)(b) - INFORMATIONAL ONLY - REQUIRED EXPEDITIOUS ACTION WITHIN 15 DAYS.

WAYNE THORLEY (Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB):

There are three work programs requiring expeditious action within 15 days detailed under Agenda Item F. None of the work programs on Agenda Item F have been identified by staff for further discussion.

1. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Women, Infants and Children Food Supplement - FY 2021

Addition of \$4,581,097 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to increase the cash value benefit for fruit and vegetable purchases for certain approved Women, Infants and Children food packages. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA-COVID category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54658. RECEIVED 5-11-21.**

There was no discussion on this item.

2. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Children, Youth and Family Administration - FY 2021

Addition of \$636,278 in federal John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood grant funds to provide support to foster youth in transitioning from the foster care system through the pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Chafee Division X category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54425. RECEIVED 4-22-21.**

There was no discussion on this item.

3. Department of Corrections - Correctional Programs - FY 2021

Addition of \$7,890 in Transfer from Public Safety, \$5,246 in Transfer from Inmate Welfare, and transfer of \$46,458 from the Personnel Services category to the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) category to fund the continuing operation of the RSAT program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the RSAT category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53452. RECEIVED 4-7-21.**

There was no discussion on this item.

G. APPROVAL OF GIFTS, GRANTS, WORK PROGRAM REVISIONS AND POSITION CHANGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 353 OF NRS.

WAYNE THORLEY (Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB):

The following items have been identified for additional discussion: Agenda Items G-14, Nevada Department of Education (NDE); G-16, NDE; G-17, NDE; G-24, Department of Business and Industry (B&I), Housing Division; G-25, B&I, Housing Division; G-39, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Director's Office; G-48, DHHS, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD); G-49, DHHS, ADSD; G-60, DHHS, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH); G-65, DHHS, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services; and G-126, DHHS, DPBH.

The State Public Charter School Authority has requested a second revision to Agenda Item G-18. The first revision reduced the transfer from the Reserve category to the Charter School Loan category from \$327,500 to \$246,500. The second revision will reduce the transfer from the Reserve category to the Charter School Loan category to \$162,500. This is being done because the Sage Collegiate Public Charter School will not

be opening in FY 2022, therefore, there will only be one loan from the loan program for the TEACH Las Vegas Charter School.

Regarding Agenda Item G-105, Department of Public Safety (DPS), Division of Parole and Probation, the DPS has requested a revision that is not reflected on the agenda. The work program currently requests the transfer of \$60,000 from the Personnel Services category to the Psychosexual Evaluations category. The revised request would add \$55,000 to the transfer request for a total transfer amount of \$115,000 from the Personnel Services category to the Psychosexual Evaluations category.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I would like Agenda Item G-98, Department of Corrections, Ely Conservation Camp to be pulled for additional discussion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE REMAINING
WORK PROGRAM REVISIONS AND POSITION RECLASSIFICATIONS
UNDER AGENDA ITEM G.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

1. Office of the Governor - FY 2021

Addition of \$119,499 in Federal Emergency Management Agency grant funds transferred from the Department of Emergency Management to support a COVID-19 Director, COVID-19 Administrator, and associated costs in mitigating and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Service category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #21FEMA1000**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

2. Office of the Governor - Office of Workforce Innovation - FY 2021

Addition of \$100,000 in National Governors Association (NGA) Workforce Innovation Network grant funds to support Nevada's response to COVID-19 impacts on the labor market and improve employment and workforce outcomes. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the NGA Workforce Innovation Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54526**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

3. Athletic Commission - FY 2021

Transfer of \$98,840 from the Reserve category to the Personnel Services category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54585**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

4. **Office of the Lieutenant Governor - Lieutenant Governor - FY 2021**
Transfer of \$2,467 from the Personnel Services category to the Operating category and a transfer of \$932 from the Personnel Services category to the Operating category to fund a projected shortfall through the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred from the Personnel category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54624**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

5. **Office of the Attorney General - Administrative Budget Account - FY 2021**
Transfer of \$278,290 from the Personnel Services category to the Operating category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Operating category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54556**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

6. **Office of the Attorney General - Tort Claims Fund - FY 2021**
Transfer of \$738,530 from the Reserve category to the General/Fleet Tort Claims category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the General/Fleet Tort Claims category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54155**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

7. **Office of the Secretary of State - Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Reform - FY 2021**
Addition of \$71,492 in Treasurer's Interest Distribution funds for a projected shortfall in the Personnel Services category for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54706**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

8. **Office of the Treasurer - Unclaimed Property - FY 2021**
Addition of \$50,000 in transfer from Abandoned Property funds to cover a shortfall in the Operating category due to an unprecedented increase in the number of unclaimed property claims being processed. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the Operating category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54453**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

9. **Department of Administration - Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records - State Library - FY 2021**
Addition of \$130,822 in federal Library Title I grant funds and transfer of \$238,527 from the Personnel Services category to the Library Development Title I category to support state and local public libraries. Requires Interim Finance approval since

the amount added to the Library Development Title I category exceeds \$75,000.
Work Program #C54261

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

10. Department of Administration - Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records - Archives and Public Records - FY 2021

Transfer of \$1,061 from the Out-of-State Travel category, \$1,992 from the In-State Travel category, \$6,905 from the Operating category, and \$6,422 from the Raw Materials category to the Information Services category to cover a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred to the Information Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54509**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

11. Department of Administration - Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records - Mail Services - FY 2021

Transfer of \$33,911 from the Reserve category to the Operating category to cover a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred to the Operating category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54524. WITHDRAWN 5-12-21.**

12. Department of Education - New Nevada Education Funding Plan - FY 2021

Addition of \$126,326 in Prior Year Refunds and \$7,469 in Treasurer's Interest to align anticipated revenue and expenditure authority. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the K-12 Weighted Funding category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54683**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

13. Department of Education - Other State Education Programs - FY 2021

Transfer of \$283,980 from the Reserve category to the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) category to support the equivalent match of funds pursuant to Senate Bill 555(19)(7)(f) (2019 Legislative Session) and continue supporting JAG programs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the JAG category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54442**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

14. Department of Education - Office of the Superintendent - FY 2022

Addition of \$431,497 in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds transferred from the Department of Education COVID-19 Funding budget account to support an Education Programs Supervisor to oversee the programmatic and evaluation initiatives that will develop with the receipt of these funds. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.16. Work Program #C54702**

Agenda Items G-14 and G-16 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item G-16.

15. Department of Education - Student and School Support - FY 2021

Addition of \$440,000 in federal Supporting and Advancing Nevada's Dislocated Individuals Project grant funds transferred from the Office of Workforce Innovation to fund a contract for a virtual work-based learning environment. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Expanding Opportunities OWINN category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54441**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

16. Department of Education - COVID-19 Funding - FY 2022

Transfer of ~~Addition of \$15,383,633 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds~~ ***\$3,689,435 from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Reserve category to the ARP ESSER III SEA Admin category and \$15,256,193 from the ARP Reserve category to the ESSER III SEA Reserve Funds category*** to support contracted staff, one Education Program Supervisor position and contracts to carry out the provisions of the ARPA Grant. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA ESSER III SEA Reserves category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.14. Work Program #C54643. REVISED 6-3-21.**

Agenda Items G-14 and G-16 were discussed jointly.

HEIDI HAARTZ (Deputy Superintendent for the Student Investment Division, Nevada Department of Education):

Agenda Item G-14 requests expenditure authority for \$431,497 in the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) Office of the Superintendent budget. These funds are intended to support costs associated with a new state position the NDE would like to establish and utilize for the duration of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding periods. The NDE is requesting an Education Programs Supervisor position. This position would be responsible for overseeing the programmatic and evaluation initiatives that will be developed in conjunction with the receipt of federal ARPA ESSER funding.

This work program obligates all the funds associated with the cost of the Education Programs Supervisor position through the end of January 2025. The funds for FY 2022 are reflected in the expense categories and the balance would be placed into the reserve category until the next fiscal year. The NDE recognizes this position would end when the federal funds end, which is consistent with existing budget policy for the state regarding all federally funded positions.

SENATOR DENIS:

The NDE is requesting an audit contract with an external audit firm for \$10 million. How would the use of an external audit firm assist the NDE with its administration of ARPA funding?

MS. HAARTZ:

Agenda Item G-16 requests expenditure authority for additional funds to come from ARPA ESSER funding. The NDE is requesting funding to enter into a contractual agreement with an external auditing firm to conduct audits of the NDE's subgrantees and contractors on an independent basis to assist the NDE. The NDE does not currently have the capacity to conduct audits of ARPA ESSER funding, and the department wants to do everything possible to ensure the funds are appropriately expended and reimbursed. This will help the NDE meet federal requirements pertaining to ARPA ESSER funding in addition to the funding requirements within the State of Nevada. The department believes the use of an independent audit firm will allow the NDE to fulfil this purpose.

SENATOR DENIS:

How was the \$10 million calculated? Is the amount based on past expenditures?

MS. HAARTZ:

The NDE reached out to several audit firms to collect high-level information. The department did not want to be too specific with the calculated amount to avoid jeopardizing the solicitation process moving forward. Based on the information the NDE received from three audit firms, it seemed reasonable to estimate that the contract would be approximately \$5 million per year. This is based on the understanding that the ARPA ESSER funding is available for more than just the two fiscal years that the NDE has currently budgeted for. If the NDE can go through the solicitation process and a contract can be secured for a lesser amount, the department would consider reinvesting any unobligated funds into other projects and priorities across the state.

CHAIR BROOKS:

The NDE has not received an estimate from a vendor on the cost of the audit. In the event the audit costs less than the identified \$10 million, the NDE will use remaining funds toward other projects that may be unrelated to audits. Is that correct?

MS. HAARTZ:

Correct. The NDE is unable to initiate the solicitation process through the Department of Administration's Purchasing Division (State Purchasing) until the department has budgetary authority to move forward with the solicitation. While the NDE is awaiting approval from the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) to receive and expend the ARPA ESSER funding for this purpose, the department has attempted to gather preliminary information from audit firms regarding the potential costs associated with an audit of this scope for this amount of time. If the NDE can contract with an audit firm to perform the audits that it envisions for an amount less than \$10 million, the NDE would reinvest any leftover funding into other projects. If this happened, the NDE would notify the IFC through the LCB Fiscal Analysis Division of any changes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Without soliciting a bid, it can be difficult for the NDE to identify potential vendor costs. The LCB Audit Division will also examine the audits conducted by the NDE's vendors, so this process will undergo multiple reviews. Considering that the NDE is unsure if it can spend the entire \$10 million, the IFC can allocate the first \$5 million during year one. After contracts are awarded and determined, the NDE could return to the IFC to discuss the different components, workloads, and amounts of the project before additional funding is allocated. The request for proposal (RFP) needs to be sent out and time will be spent fulfilling it, meaning the project will not start on July 1, 2021; the project will instead start later in FY 2022.

Was any consideration given to a process that would allow the NDE to first spend money on an RFP before being authorized to spend additional federal funding? I am concerned the Legislature will be giving the NDE a lump sum of money and allowing it to freely spend any unused funds. This is not typically how the IFC approves work programs. Additional discussions are normally held to decide where any additional funding should be reallocated.

MS. HAARTZ:

The NDE's intent in putting forward its request to contract with an outside audit firm is something that it has invested a great deal of time in and considers it the best approach. The NDE's preference was to offer a multiyear contract so that the department could be as efficient as possible with the contracting process and potentially broaden the number of vendors that would respond to a multiyear contract. The NDE is looking for expenditure authority so it can start the solicitation process. The NDE has been working with all its vendors regarding federal funds being used to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, and the department's goal is to invest wisely and strategically and to be as conservative as possible with its investments. If the contract were to be negotiated for an amount less than what is available, and the NDE did not obligate the full \$10 million, the department would be happy to return to the IFC with a new proposal so that the Legislature could vet that as well. The NDE appreciates the Legislature's interest regarding how these federal funds are invested and the department looks forward to the ongoing partnership.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Typically, these processes are vetted by the State Board of Examiners before coming to the IFC. However, in this instance, the Committee understands the uniqueness of this work program and the current situation. My inclination would be to approve the first round of funding, have the bidding go out so contracts can be secured, and then have the department return to the IFC to discuss utilizing any unused funds toward other important NDE programs that need funding. The IFC meets every six to eight weeks, possibly more depending on how the federal funding sifts through the state budgets.

CHAIR BROOKS:

The NDE is looking to enter a multiyear contract with an external audit firm. Is there a restriction on entering into a multiyear contract? Does multiyear funding need to be in place to enter the contract?

MS. HAARTZ:

I believe that if the IFC were to approve funding for the first year of a contract only, the NDE could work with State Purchasing through the solicitation and contracting process to indicate that the contract could be extended for additional years should additional funding become available. This would notify prospective vendors that there is an opportunity for the contract to be extended.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

Is the IFC considering allocating money for the first year of the project and requiring the NDE to come back before the IFC for discussion before reallocating money for the second year? Did the NDE confirm it could acquire a vendor with this type of proposal? Would this depend on if the vendor would commit to a second year or work if funding was available?

MS. HAARTZ:

If the NDE were to work with State Purchasing to begin the solicitation process, it would indicate to vendors that this is a one-year contract for the funding amount that the IFC authorizes the NDE to obligate. The contract solicitation could include language indicating it is possible that the contract could be extended for additional years with additional funding. The NDE currently has contracts in place that include similar language, so this is not outside of the department's customary business practices.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON:

Regarding the timeline for audits the NDE would like to complete, has the NDE already submitted reports to the federal government regarding programs that use funding acquired through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act? Will the audits look back on reports that have previously been submitted and reports to be completed, or will the audits only be conducted on reports that have not yet been done to ensure the audits are supporting information that the NDE plans to make public moving forward? Will the NDE's internal audits of how CARES Act funding is being spent help to inform the reports that the NDE plans to make public?

MS. HAARTZ:

The intent is for the external auditors to audit all NDE subgrantees and contractors to confirm that the expenses processed through ARPA ESSER funding is reasonable, appropriate, and in alignment with federal and state laws and regulations. The auditors would be limited to projects and activities funded through the ARPA ESSER grants. The audit results would be utilized to benefit and protect the NDE and the State of Nevada by ensuring that the NDE is not reimbursing its subgrantees or contractors for disallowed expenses. This would be separate from the reports that the NDE already provides to the federal government.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON:

The audit contract will have nothing to do with the reports that come to the Legislature, as the audits will be conducted on the NDE's subgrantees. Is any of this work currently being done by internal NDE staff? How will the audits be conducted with an external auditor? Auditors are usually hired to retrospectively analyze spending from a previous year or quarter. It sounds like the external auditor that the NDE plans to contract with will do a prospective analysis of how federal funding will be spent. Before the NDE makes payments to subgrantees, will the use of any federal funding involved be audited? Will the funding need to be verified before subgrantees can be paid?

MS. HAARTZ:

Currently, the NDE reimburses its subgrantees for services or expenditures incurred. Potential audit firms would then go back and confirm in more detail that the expenditures submitted for reimbursement adhere to state and federal laws and regulations specific to this funding. The NDE has an internal audit team which audits selected state and federal grants during each fiscal year. The internal audit team also audits the NDE's enrollment records to confirm that the department has accurate enrollment data when payments are made through the NDE Distributive School Account. Because the ARPA ESSER funding represents \$1.5 billion in new federal funds, the NDE does not have the capacity to audit those grants adequately and thoroughly in addition to the work that it already has in place. The NDE appreciates the opportunity to have an external audit firm conduct this process, as this will help the department better inform the processes used when working with subgrantees and vendors. The NDE strives to be proactive when reviewing requests for reimbursement to ensure future audits do not find anything that does not meet grant requirements and regulations.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

The NDE indicates it has \$1.5 billion in federal ARPA ESSER funding available for obligation. The NDE has lost several positions over the last five or six years. I do not have a problem with the federal funding for audits using two steps as has been discussed. Considering the amount of funding coming into the state, and for transparency purposes, it is important that the NDE hires a new Education Programs Supervisor.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MILLER:

I would like more clarification regarding the positions that the NDE is asking for as I want to determine how these positions will assist with auditing. Will the funding for the Education Programs Supervisor expire in January 2024, on September 30, 2024, or sometime in 2025? Will this position work with vendors, contractors, and school districts in addition to working alongside the external auditor? Because the Education Programs Supervisor position is due to be eliminated when the ARPA ESSER grant funds expire, will this be a contractual or state position?

MS. HAARTZ:

Through Agenda Items G-14 and G-16, the NDE is requesting an Education Programs Supervisor position, which will be a state position. This position would provide oversight regarding the implementation and monitoring of ARPA ESSER funding. Much collaboration is required to meet reporting requirements. This collaboration needs to happen within the NDE and across NDE stakeholder groups, contractors, subgrantees, and vendors. Additionally, the NDE is requesting funding to hire up to 12 temporary contract positions which will be located within the NDE Student Investment Division. These positions will help the NDE manage the subgrants and contracts it anticipates will be in place to expend ARPA ESSER funding over the course of that grant period. These positions, whether they are state positions or contracted temporary positions, will expire along with the federal funding. Based on information that the NDE has received from the federal government regarding when the funding period would expire, it is anticipated the grant activities would end in December 2024.

The NDE is experiencing a great deal of difficulty in hiring temporary contract employees, as it is finding that many temporary staff are leaving to move into state positions. If the temporary contract employees keep leaving, at some point the NDE may return to the IFC to determine if these temporary positions can be converted to state positions. The department wants to ensure it has the resources necessary to best meet the needs associated with the administration of the ARPA ESSER grant and to ensure the school districts, charter schools, and other NDE partners are not impacted because the department does not have the capacity to support their needs.

ASSEMBLYMAN LEAVITT:

It appears that one auditor is being used to audit another auditor. Is there a need for this redundancy? If the LCB is going to act as an outside auditor by reviewing the NDE's use of ARPA ESSER funding, why is an additional auditor necessary?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

This is the point of discussion I was making earlier. Through the LCB Audit Division, information regarding the NDE's use of ARPA ESSER funding may eventually be brought before the Legislature. I do not believe this will result in redundancy, as the NDE is requesting a separate audit and compliance component through these work programs.

CHAIR BROOKS:

The NDE's request to contract with an external audit firm deals more with compliance regarding federal grant requirements than it does with auditing. I think that the NDE's hiring of an external audit firm is a necessary measure to ensure the large amount of money made available in Nevada through the ARPA ESSER funds is used in the most efficient manner.

SENATOR DENIS:

When discussing a one-year or two-year contract, the NDE stated that accounting firms are more attracted to bidding on two-year contracts than one-year contracts. Could the NDE save money if it solicited a two-year contract?

MS. HAARTZ:

It is hard to predict how the solicitation process and contract negotiations will go. The NDE has experienced success in negotiating better pricing with vendors when it had multiyear agreements in place.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

When the NDE enters conversations with a contractor or vendor, does it let them know upfront how much funding is available to be spent on the contract?

MS. HAARTZ:

The NDE uses State Purchasing for the solicitation process, which is especially helpful when dealing with a contract containing a large amount of money. I do not know if State Purchasing would prefer that the amount of funding available should be disclosed to a potential vendor or if it prefers that costs should be requested. The advantage of disclosing the initial amount of funding available is that a vendor could tailor its proposed scope of work to address the needs of the state based on the amount of funding available. If a maximum amount of funding is not identified, a vendor could put forward a proposal that far exceeds the resources available for the project. The NDE does not want to put vendors into a position where they are doing extra work on a project that cannot be funded.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

My experience with contract negotiations has been that if a vendor is aware of how much funding is available, a vendor may be dishonest and try to use all of it. If the NDE was to enter negotiations with the \$5 million and state that it is striving for a multiyear contract, it would not be paying for the full multiyear contract upfront. The NDE could pay for the first year of the contract and let the vendor know that additional funding is available for payment during the second year of the contract. This would allow the NDE to negotiate for a multiyear contract without having the full amount of money upfront. Is this correct?

MS. HAARTZ:

The solicitation and negotiation process will be facilitated by State Purchasing. I appreciate that if vendors do not know the maximum dollar value of the contract upfront, a better price could potentially be agreed upon. The NDE believes the work involved may cost up to \$10 million and this has been indicated during this public meeting. However, the IFC appears to be suggesting that the contract may cost \$5 million or less. Considering this is a public meeting, possible vendors can know what the targeted available funding level might be. The NDE has been working aggressively with all its vendors during the COVID-19 pandemic to maximize the services it requires while saving costs with the funding that is available. The department is trying to maximize every dollar received to support the education of Nevada's students.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

We are in a public meeting, and I appreciate you putting this on the record. Any potential vendor could listen to this recording and know that even if \$5 million is available for the first year, a multiyear contract may be funded.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON:

We are not discussing whether the IFC supports the NDE's conducting of an audit. I am instead asking what the final product will look like. The external audit firm will not be conducting an audit of the NDE's activities, it will be auditing the NDE's subgrantees. The NDE is still determining if these audits will take place annually or semiannually. Is this correct?

Ms. HAARTZ:

That is correct. The intent of this project is to have an external auditor analyze the NDE's subgrantees, not to audit the NDE itself. The auditor may choose to look at the NDE's internal controls and current documentation that the NDE provides to its subgrantees. This may result in the audit firm providing recommendations to the NDE regarding how it can strengthen these documents to better articulate grant requirements to the subgrantees. The NDE is asking potential audit firms to propose the frequency for which these audits should be completed. The frequency of audits may vary based on the number of projects funded for each subgrantee and the amount of funding a subgrantee receives.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

The Committee appreciates how the audit will function. The ARPA ESSER funding needs to be monitored to ensure that funding is spent appropriately. Ultimately, the NDE, the Legislature, and State Purchasing will be held accountable regarding how this funding is spent. In the past, there have been problems with state agencies being granted the full amount of funding to begin with, only to find out in the end that the respective projects failed; this resulted in lawsuits and reallocation of funding. Times are changing due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Legislature wants to ensure that the vendor who receives the funding can be monitored to ensure transparency and enable ongoing communication.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS G-14 AND G-16; HOWEVER, ONLY APPROVE \$5 MILLION TO ENABLE THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AN EXTERNAL AUDITING FIRM TO AUDIT RECIPIENTS OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT, ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDING. THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MAY RETURN TO THE INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT BEFORE POSSIBLY RECEIVING AN ADDITIONAL \$5 MILLION TO CONTINUE THE PROJECT IF A MULTIYEAR CONTRACT IS NEGOTIATED.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR DENIS:

Is the Committee approving \$5 million for the NDE to begin negotiations for a two-year contract and requiring the department to return to the IFC for additional discussions before approving the additional \$5 million?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Yes, that is correct.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

17. Department of Education - COVID-19 Funding - FY 2022

Addition of \$1,755,540 in federal American Rescue Plan Act, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, Homeless I funding to provide support for homeless children and youth. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ESSER III LEA Homeless I category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54686**

CHAIR BROOKS:

The Committee does not have any concerns with Agenda Item G-17; however, I have a question for informational purposes only. Agenda Item G-17 discusses \$1.3 million in funding to be distributed to school districts and charter schools through the ARPA ESSER Fund, Homeless I (Homeless I) grant. Of this funding, Clark County School District (CCSD) will receive \$342,417 and Washoe County School District (WCSD) will receive \$232,929. These amounts equate to less than half of the \$1.3 million that is available, but the CCSD and WCSD educate approximately 80% of the children in the state. Clark County and Washoe County are also the areas of the state most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding appears to be competitively awarded, but it does not seem to align with the needs of the state. What are the criteria by which this funding was awarded to schools and school districts?

HEIDI HAARTZ (Deputy Superintendent for the Student Investment Division, NDE):
The funds represented in this work program come from the Homeless I grant. The federal government has indicated that states should be allocating Homeless I funds using a similar methodology used to distribute funds through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance (McKinney-Vento) Act. For comparison, this is similar to other NDE funding which was allocated using the methodology for distributing Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act funds. The Director of the NDE Office of Student and School Supports is available to provide more detailed information on the application process for receiving funds from the McKinney-Vento Act if needed.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Does this have anything to do with the fact that direct allocations were given to school districts such as CCSD and WCSD and not necessarily to smaller school districts in Nevada? Carson City School District does not have the same number of homeless students as the WCSD, and the funding being provided through the

Homeless I grant does not seem to be distributed equally. Can you provide more clarification on the matter?

SENG-DAO YANG KEO (Director, Office of Student and School Supports, NDE):

Ms. Haartz is correct. The methodology for distributing funding through the Homeless I grant is based off a similar grant. Therefore, the percentages are allocated in a method and fashion that will be comparable to the distribution under the McKinney-Vento Act funding.

CHAIR BROOKS:

This may be correct, but it does not help with my understanding of the issue. Why is Carson City, which has a population of approximately 55,000 people, receiving \$171,209, while Clark County, with a population of approximately 2 million, is receiving only \$342,417?

MS. YANG KEO:

Funding through the Homeless I grant is being awarded proportionally. At this point, a methodology has been provided by the federal government which accounts for the number and percentage of homeless youth in Nevada. However, there are also other indicators across the state that go into a formula which will help the NDE determine the amount of funding to be allocated to help homeless students in each school district across the state. This funding is awarded competitively, and the awards are based on the quality of the application and whether the proposed plans are in alignment with the support systems of school districts and the needs of homeless youth. As school districts are submitting competitive grant applications to the NDE, the department is reviewing the school district's capacity to respond to the needs of the homeless youth within that school district. This is why the Homeless I funding may appear to be disproportionately awarded.

CHAIR BROOKS:

I am glad that the distribution of this funding is based on the quality of the application and plans of the school district, not just the needs of homeless youth within the district.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

The quality of a school district's application concerns me. Carson City School District has approximately 7,500 students, the CCSD has approximately 320,000 students, and the WCSD has approximately 63,000 students. Proportionally, it can be assumed that the CCSD has approximately 7,000 homeless students, which is the total amount of students within the Carson City School District. This is also the total amount of students within both Churchill County School District and Elko County School District. Is it the NDE's responsibility to help school districts with the quality of their applications?

MS. YANG KEO:

The NDE is responsible for providing support to Nevada's local education agencies, helping each school district submit competitive grant applications, and helping school districts build their capacity for serving and meeting the needs of

Nevada's homeless youth. This population has historically been underserved in Nevada and across the nation. The NDE prioritizes the state's homeless youth population by meeting regularly with school district leaders to discuss the supports they provide to homeless youth. The NDE also provides technical assistance to school districts in collaboration with national and state partners and builds and expands the services and supports it provides to school district leaders. These are traditional mechanisms the NDE has leveraged to build and strengthen the capacity of school district leaders so they can submit applications which accurately represent, align, and address the needs of the state's homeless youth. The NDE is excited to receive this funding because there is a need to strengthen the capacity of school district leaders across the state. Much of the Homeless I funding will go directly to school districts so they can implement additional services.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MILLER:

Regarding the disbursement of the Homeless I funding, Pinecrest Academy is receiving the same amount of funding as Pershing County School District (PCSD). Is Pinecrest Academy the only charter school that applied for this funding? Why is this funding not going to the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) for disbursement? How does the homeless youth population of Pinecrest Academy compare to other charter schools and that of the PCSD?

MS. YANG KEO:

I will have to touch base with my team to confirm the latest data regarding the homeless youth population within charter schools and how that information compares to school districts. The NDE is excited to receive the Homeless I funding as the money will help ensure that the department is collecting accurate data regarding homeless youth populations. There is a need for the NDE to strengthen the capacity of its data systems. Additionally, the SPCSA does not have authority to receive Homeless I funding.

The methodology of the ARPA ESSER Fund, Homeless II grant funding results in this funding not needing to be competitively awarded. Regarding competitive grant applications from school districts and charter schools, the NDE reviews, judges using a rubric, and assesses whether the applicants have the capacity to meet the needs of homeless youth. This way, the NDE can strengthen, and build supports across the state so that school districts submit competitive grant applications and meet the needs of homeless youth. I recognize this Committee's desire to provide support to school districts that have large numbers of homeless youth; this is something the NDE can redirect attention to moving forward.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MILLER:

Nevada is not capturing the needs of all homeless youth in the state and there is not enough funding to support homeless youth being made available to school districts. For example, Esmeralda County is struggling, yet it is receiving very little Homeless I funding. It is not clear whether funding is competitively awarded or how the grants are processed. The NDE already recognizes that school districts need assistance in applying for funding and submitting high-quality applications, but it seems like the

needs of all the programs and students are not being met; this is especially true regarding charter schools.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM G-17.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

18. State Public Charter School Authority - Public Charter School Loan Program - FY 2021

Transfer of ~~\$327,500~~ **\$246,500** from the Reserve category to the Charter School Loan category to fund ~~three~~ **two** loans to assist with start-up costs for ~~three~~ **two** newly sponsored charter schools: ~~Las Vegas Collegiate~~, Sage Collegiate, and TEACH Las Vegas. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Charter School Loan category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54577. REVISED 5-21-21.**

CHAIR BROOKS:

While Agenda Item G-18 was not pulled for discussion, a modification has been made to this work program. This item was not approved with the other items within Agenda Item G in the consent agenda.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEM G-18 AS REVISED.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

19. Nevada System of Higher Education - University of Nevada, Reno - FY 2021
Transfer of \$10,605 from the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Operations category to the Reserve for Reversion to General Fund category for expenditures that will be offset with Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred from the NSHE Operations category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #21CA2980A**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

20. Nevada System of Higher Education - Great Basin College - FY 2021
Transfer of \$2,113 from the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Operations category to the Reserve for Reversion to General Fund category for expenditures that will be offset with Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred from the NSHE Operations category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #21CA2994A**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

21. Department of Agriculture - Nutrition Education Programs - FY 2021

Addition of \$19,197,319 in federal Summer Food Service Program grant funds and addition of \$310,657 in federal Summer Food Program Administration grant funds to conduct special projects to improve the overall administration of the grant. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Summer Food category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54432**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

22. Department of Agriculture - Commodity Foods Distribution Program - FY 2021

Addition of \$228,968 in federal Emergency Food Assistance Program grant funds to continue providing support to food banks for administrative costs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Emergency Food Assistance Program-TEFAP category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54158**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

23. Department of Agriculture - Commodity Foods Distribution Program - FY 2021

Addition of \$150,000 in Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act - Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) funds to continue providing support to food banks for food storage, distribution and administrative costs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the TEFAP COVID-19 Supplemental category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54188**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

24. Department of Business and Industry - Housing - Account for Low-Income Housing - FY 2021

Addition of \$12,091,726 in federal Homeowner Assistance Funds as established under Section 3206 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to mitigate financial hardships for homeowners associated with the coronavirus pandemic by providing funds for eligible entities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Homeowner Assistance Fund category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54700**

STEVE AICHROTH (Administrator, Housing Division, Department of Business and Industry):

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's (Treasury) Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) was established to mitigate financial hardships associated with the COVID-19 pandemic by providing funds for the purpose of preventing homeowner mortgage delinquencies, foreclosures, defaults, loss of utilities or home energy services, and displacements of homeowners experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020, through qualified expenses related to mortgages

and housing. The State of Nevada's total HAF allocation is \$120.9 million. This work program requests the initial allocation of 10% of this funding. The first round of funding is specifically designed to accomplish three things:

- Begin the procurement of infrastructure needed to administer the HAF program.
- Begin to hire staff to administer the HAF program.
- Begin to create, reinstate, or continue existing programs to assist homeowners.

The remaining 90% of HAF allocations will be provided to homeowners once a plan is submitted by the Department of Business and Industry, Housing Division to the Treasury. The division must submit a completed plan to the Treasury, or request an extension, by June 30, 2021. Recent communications with the Treasury indicate it will be extending the June 30, 2021, deadline as the templates and communications the division needs to submit its plans have not yet been established.

Unlike the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program grant funds that the division divides between local jurisdictions and the state, HAF allocations are provided solely to the state. If this work program is approved, the division will ask the Nevada Affordable Housing Assistance Corporation (NAHAC) to disburse the funding. The NAHAC leadership team, led by Verise V. Campbell, has had great experience dealing with the Treasury homeowner assistance programs, and can implement the program, including reinstating some previously existing programs.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

The Treasury has extended the June 30, 2021, deadline, but has the division received a new date by which its plan must be submitted to the Treasury?

MR. AICHROTH:

The Treasury has not yet extended the June 30, 2021, deadline. The Treasury has indicated that it will be extending the deadline. I will keep the Committee informed regarding the new date.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

The first 10% of the HAF allocation will be used to set up the HAF program so that money can be distributed to help homeowners. Who will be managing the money?

MR. AICHROTH:

The initial 10% of the HAF allocation will be provided to the division, which will then enter into an agreement with the NAHAC to disburse the funding.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

I work with homeowners in addition to my work with the Legislature. Many homeowners in Nevada have been asking for assistance because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, most assistance was only available to renters because the federal government knew that through the foreclosure process and

forbearances, the Legislature could work with homeowners to keep them stable; evictions to renters was more common. It is gratifying to see a program brought forward for homeowners as two large homeowner groups in Southern Nevada are probably going to ask for this assistance. Will the NAHAC subgrant the HAF allocation to other entities so that they can reach out to groups in need of assistance, or will all the funding be funneled through the NAHAC?

MR. AICHROTH:

The initial funding that the division receives will go to the NAHAC.

VERISE V. CAMPBELL (Chief Executive Officer, NAHAC):

The NAHAC currently serves as the administrator of the Treasury's Hardest Hit Fund in Nevada; the NAHAC is in the process of winding down the \$200 million program. When starting the Hardest Hit Fund program, the NAHAC experienced troubles during the first five years. I was brought in approximately five years ago to revamp the program, disburse the funds into the community and ensure that the needs of homeowners were addressed. The NAHAC was able to distribute even more funding than what was provided by the Treasury through the Hardest Hit Fund, as the NAHAC received lien recoveries and was able to reuse the money.

The NAHAC was able to provide funding to over 8,000 households, with some applicants receiving assistance twice; the NAHAC has assisted over 9,000 households when counting applicants who received assistance twice. The use of HAF allocations is another opportunity for the NAHAC to assist homeowners in Nevada. The COVID-19 pandemic hit Nevada hard, and as the Hardest Hit Fund started winding down, the NAHAC maintained a list of homeowners seeking additional assistance. Approximately \$12.1 million will be utilized to create the infrastructure for administering HAF allocations. New technology and systems need to be acquired and additional staff needs to be hired. Because the NAHAC has experience administering these types of programs, it has existing frameworks that it can rollout. Initially, the NAHAC will roll out its successful Unemployment Mortgage Assistance (UMA) program. The NAHAC is adding an additional key component to the UMA program by adding reinstatement, which will allow the NAHAC to bring homeowners current on their mortgage payments so that they can get ahead financially. Even though the NAHAC could pay for homeowners' mortgages during the pandemic, homeowners were often still behind on payments.

The NAHAC also plans on starting a Mortgage Reinstatement Assistance Program (MRAP) for homeowners who are back to work but need to become current on their mortgage payments. I would like to aggressively rollout these programs. The \$12.1 million will not just be used on infrastructure, as the NAHAC is looking to rollout additional programs as well.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Will the NAHAC be the sole administrator of HAF allocations, or will this funding be subgranted to other programs for use by their client bases?

MS. CAMPBELL:

The NAHAC partners with housing-counseling agencies. The Treasury's guidelines call for up to 5% of the total amount of HAF allocations to go toward aiding housing-counseling agencies and providing legal aid. The NAHAC is budgeting to partner with housing-counseling agencies, as these agencies were instrumental in helping the NAHAC administer the Hardest Hit Fund allocations. The NAHAC also partners with approximately 100 loan servicers to coordinate mailers which are sent to their client bases; this is the best way for the NAHAC to reach homeowners. The NAHAC also plans to conduct targeted media campaigns and blitzes that will target the hardest hit neighborhoods; the NAHAC can target these neighborhoods by zip code. Certain nuances are built into the Treasury guidelines which require the NAHAC to target socially disadvantaged homeowner groups.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

I have constituents from two large homeowner groups that contact me regularly regarding assistance. These homeowners made a very good living prior to the COVID-19 pandemic but might have been out of work for a long time; many of these people are on the verge of losing their homes. I am not very familiar with the Hardest Hit Fund, so I did not know to refer homeowners to that program. I want to ensure that those who need assistance are not overlooked because of the HAF allocations being administered through loan servicers rather than through constituents. I hope the NAHAC will partner with Nevada 2-1-1, as many of my constituents are referred to that program. Some of my constituents may not be on the list of homeowners identified by the NAHAC as needing additional assistance, and Nevada 2-1-1 can then refer them to the NAHAC. I want the HAF allocations to reach as many people as possible.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI:

I am very familiar with the Hardest Hit Fund and the NAHAC, as I worked for a financial guidance center that helped deal with the backlog of Hardest Hit Fund allocations. The NAHAC already has infrastructure in place for distributing HAF allocations, which will make it easier to disburse funds into the community. Regarding the first tranche of HAF allocations, the Treasury recommended that only 50% of this funding be used for setting up the HAF program and for administrative costs. Regarding the pilot program, how much of the HAF will go towards assistance, and how much will be spent on administering the funding?

MS. CAMPBELL:

Please have constituents who need assistance call the NAHAC immediately or visit <https://nahac.org> to submit their information. The majority of the first tranche of HAF allocations will go toward building infrastructure, but the NAHAC will also be rolling out the HAF program during this time. Approximately 20-25% of the funds will be used on administering the HAF allocations. The NAHAC currently has limited staff but plans to ramp up staff quickly to start the HAF program immediately. The NAHAC has become very effective with remote working due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During some months, the NAHAC's remote workers received approximately 3,000 calls per month from people in need of assistance.

The NAHAC is looking to expand policies and processes instituted during the COVID-19 pandemic to get the HAF program operating quickly.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI:

I would like more information regarding how many people will be helped through the HAF program. The Treasury awarded HAF allocations to states based on the state's unemployment rate, the total number of mortgagors with payments more than 30 days past due, and the number of mortgages in foreclosure. Can the NAHAC provide that information to the Committee?

MS. CAMPBELL:

I can provide the information at a later date. With the state's total HAF allocation of \$120.9 million, the NAHAC projects to assist approximately 6,800 households. That number will fluctuate, as there will be households that will seek assistance multiple times. Even if a household seeks assistance multiple times, the NAHAC only counts them as having received assistance once. Regarding the Hardest Hit Fund, the NAHAC counted approximately 1,000 homeowners that utilized the program multiple times. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, homeowners will be behind on mortgage payments longer than they were when receiving assistance through the Hardest Hit Fund, so the NAHAC anticipates assisting more people.

The NAHAC is looking to place spending caps on each of the programs that it offers. Regarding the UMA program, the NAHAC is looking to cap the maximum lifetime assistance that a homeowner can receive at \$54,000; for the MRAP, the cap will be \$35,000. Additionally, the NAHAC will place a total spending cap of approximately \$100,000 per homeowner on all its programs. The use of NAHAC programs fluctuates based on need. Currently, there may be a need for the UMA program and the MRAP, but the NAHAC might soon begin seeing a need for a principal reduction program like what was offered through the Hardest Hit Fund. Three years from now, if the economy turns around and people are back to work, the NAHAC may want to implement a down payment assistance program. The NAHAC wants to be flexible with the use of HAF allocations.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI:

The data provided by the NAHAC can help the Committee determine how many additional homeowners can be assisted with HAF allocations. A portal for homeowners to apply for assistance is available on <https://nahac.org>. If this work program is approved, how soon can people start applying for the first round of HAF assistance? The first round of funding will equate to approximately 25% of the \$12.1 million in HAF allocations that the division will receive.

MS. CAMPBELL:

The NAHAC does not yet have a portal available on the website because it needs to acquire a new system of record, which requires an RFP. People should be able to start applying for assistance in approximately 90 days.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI:

I thought the portal was currently available. Even though the NAHAC is placing spending caps on its programs, certain programs need to be prioritized so that money can be disbursed into communities. The HAF allocations can be used for utility assistance, homeowner's association fees, and property taxes, but there are also other organizations that offer those services. However, many of those organizations do not offer mortgage assistance programs. The NAHAC should prioritize mortgage assistance, mortgage payments, forbearance assistance, and delinquency assistance, and then partner with organizations that can help with utility needs and broadband connection issues.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

Regarding overhead costs, you stated that approximately 25% of the first \$12.1 million awarded to the division could be allocated to those in need of assistance. To receive the other 90% of HAF allocations, the division must submit a plan describing the needs of homeowners to the Treasury by June 30, 2021. Who is preparing this plan and is it ready? The plan will be necessary to receive the rest of the funding. If the state is awarded its full HAF allocation of \$120.9 million, how much will it cost to administer the funding?

MS. CAMPBELL:

The NAHAC has made a draft plan and budget, with the NAHAC planning on approximately 82% of the funding being disseminated to homeowners through various programs. Approximately 15% of the draft budget will go towards administrative costs over the lifetime of the HAF program, and approximately 3% of funding will be used by NAHAC counselors to relay information regarding its programs. The housing-counseling agencies the NAHAC partners with not only spread awareness of available assistance options, but they also become an extension of the NAHAC and assist with processing applications. The number of applications can be maximized by partnering with other agencies.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

Dedicating the remaining 18% of the NAHAC's draft budget towards administrative costs seems high. Does the NAHAC submit its funding plan to the division or to the IFC? It is important to disburse as much funding as possible into the community while keeping administrative costs down. It is good that the NAHAC's partners will spread awareness regarding the HAF.

MS. CAMPBELL:

Per Treasury guidance, up to 5% of the HAF allocations can be used by housing-counseling agencies to relay information regarding housing assistance programs; the NAHAC is only allocating 3% to housing-counseling agencies. While the NAHAC is budgeting for 15% administrative costs, the organization is striving for only 12.5% or 13% of its budget for administrative costs.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

Does the division approve the NAHAC's plan before it can move forward? The NAHAC is under a tight timeline for developing a plan and submitting it to the Treasury to receive HAF allocations. 11:04:22

MR. AICHROTH:

The division's plan for using HAF allocations must be approved by the Treasury, which will also determine when funding is awarded and when it can be used. The work program before the Committee today requests authority for the division to receive 10% of the state's total HAF allocation (\$12.1 million); the division's request for authority to receive the remaining 90%, or whichever amount the Treasury approves, will come before the Committee later.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I thought that the division had to submit its plan to the Treasury by June 30, 2021, to receive HAF allocations beyond the initial 10%. Is this correct?

MR. AICHROTH:

The division is requesting to use the initial 10% in HAF allocations to establish the infrastructure for administering the program and getting money into the community; this needs to be done within the Treasury's guidelines, but it does require the division to submit a plan for the Treasury's approval. The division needs to submit a plan, or request an extension to create a plan, for this use of HAF allocations beyond the initial 10% by June 30, 2021. The Treasury has indicated that this deadline may be extended, as it has not yet established a portal for submitting plans.

SENATOR RATTI:

Per Treasury guidance, homeowners are eligible to receive assistance under the HAF if their income is equal to or less than 150% of the median income of the area in which they live. Can applicants apply for assistance if they experienced a reduction in income this year, or is their application based on the prior year's tax returns?

MR. AICHROTH:

Homeowners can receive assistance if they have experienced financial hardship any time after January 21, 2020. An applicant's eligibility can be determined through tax returns, paycheck stubs, etc.

SENATOR RATTI:

The COVID-19 pandemic started in January 2020, with many people losing their jobs and becoming behind on their mortgages; then they became eligible to receive assistance from the division. If these people get their jobs back and move above 150% of the area median income, but they are still behind on mortgage payments, will they still be eligible for assistance? This has been an issue for other rental assistance programs. I hope the Treasury provides further guidance on the matter. Please share this information with the Committee when it becomes available.

MR. AICHROTH:

The division will provide this information to the Committee when it is received from the Treasury. When the division comes back before the Committee to request approval to accept the remaining 90% of the state's HAF allocation, the plan for using the funding will be more complete and the division will be able to address more of the Committee's concerns.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON:

Please provide more information regarding the application process and how homeowners can receive assistance. Will there be an attestation process? If so, will the application involve a narrative attestation process, or will there be a form for homeowners to indicate if they have experienced job loss, reduction of income, or an increased cost-of-living?

MS. CAMPBELL:

The application process used by the NAHAC for the Hardest Hit Fund involves having homeowners call in to speak with a live agent, with the agent completing the application. This process involves a series of questions. After the questions are answered, an application package is sent to the homeowner; the homeowner then reviews their application packet. This process involves attestation and includes questions regarding income. There is also an underwriting process to gather additional information needed by the NAHAC. The Treasury's guidelines involve a large amount of compliance, but NAHAC has done well regarding its compliance reviews. The Treasury does not want the application process to be so arduous that it would take an exorbitant amount of time to get HAF allocations into the hands of homeowners.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON:

An application process can often be difficult for families to navigate, especially when considering different familial structures and backgrounds. Considering this process deals with homeowner assistance, it is reasonable to assume that families applying for assistance already own homes and may have a good idea of what financial questions will be asked. After an applicant calls the NAHAC, live agents will first screen applicants by asking questions related to income to determine if an applicant's income is less than or equal to 150% of the area median income. Will the NAHAC's agents be trained to understand nuances regarding applicants who are above the median income but may have been below the threshold for a significant amount of time beforehand? Should applicants be prepared to provide a lot of financial information when they contact the NAHAC?

MS. CAMPBELL:

Before a homeowner calls in for assistance, the NAHAC will have informed them what information they will need to have available. The NAHAC also employs a pre-screening option. The agents are trained to accept applications as soon as one is submitted. On average, the application process can take 15 to 20 minutes; more time may be needed if a homeowner does not have all their paperwork ready. If a homeowner is missing certain documents, this portion of the application can

be skipped, and a system-generated letter will be emailed to the applicant asking them to provide the missing documents.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON:

As a licensed social worker, I am familiar with guiding families towards resources and preparing them to become self-advocates when filling out applications. Therefore, I would like to know what types of questions the NAHAC will be asking homeowners and how its agents will help applicants complete their applications. There was a high level of attrition regarding the ERA program, with the application process needing to be revamped so that qualified applicants received assistance equally, not just because they could navigate the application process. I am grateful the NAHAC will utilize an efficient application process.

ASSEMBLYMAN LEAVITT:

I would like more information regarding how much money a household will receive under the HAF program, the administrative costs for administering HAF allocations, and the cost of counseling the applicants. Over the life of this program, there will be approximately \$15 to \$17 million in administrative costs (if 12% to 15% of funding is used for administrative fees) and approximately \$4 million in counseling fees, leaving about \$100 million to be disbursed to households. This equates to roughly \$14,700 per household when averaged amongst 6,800 households. Approximately \$2,100 to \$2,500 will be used to administer \$14,700. That seems inefficient.

MS. CAMPBELL:

Every household does not receive the same amount of assistance under the HAF; certain households may only need \$4,000 in assistance while others may need \$100,000. Under one of its principal reduction programs, the NAHAC provided \$100,000 in funding to an unemployed applicant in Northern Nevada with a fixed income. When administering allocations to qualified applicants, the NAHAC uses a complex formula developed for the Hardest Hit Fund; there is a large workbook associated with this formula that can be provided to the Committee. Certain Treasury guidelines are very strict and must be followed by the NAHAC, with compliance being very arduous. For example, the Treasury requires the NAHAC to utilize housing-counseling agencies. When it comes to administering funding from the Treasury, the NAHAC must ensure it is operating efficiently by setting a cap on administrative costs.

ASSEMBLYMAN LEAVITT:

Regardless of how much funding each household is granted, the entity distributing the funding is still spending \$2,500 on administrative costs per household. This is a large amount of money, and the process seems inefficient. I do not know by what time the division must use the entire HAF allocation of \$120.9 million, but \$17 million in administrative costs and approximately \$4 million in housing-counseling fees seems high; this money could otherwise be allocated to homeowners in need of assistance. Please provide information to the Committee regarding how these allocations are provided.

MS. CAMPBELL:

The \$120.9 million HAF allocation must be spent by the division over a duration of five years. This funding will be allocated aggressively, as it is helping homeowners respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Administrative costs will be needed to ramp up and create a system that can handle these large distributions of funding and associated costs. The NAHAC will provide the Committee with a detailed outline of the draft budget.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GORELOW:

What safeguards does the NAHAC have to protect itself from fraud experienced by similar programs?

MS. CAMPBELL:

To comply with the Treasury guidelines, the NAHAC must be prepared to mitigate fraud. The Office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP) has an audit and investigatory department to regulate agencies providing housing assistance funds. Currently, the NAHAC is part of two audits that are investigating fraud; the audits are being done on homeowners and not the NAHAC. These audits are being conducted due to the high level of fraud related to COVID-19 relief funds. The NAHAC has been successful in preventing potential fraud and has blocked certain homeowners whose applications were flagged as fraudulent from receiving assistance funds. In its latest report, the SIGTARP commended the NAHAC for the measures it has taken to prevent fraud. The NAHAC is continually looking to improve fraud protection activities and meet regularly with other states receiving an HAF allocation to discuss best practices.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA
ITEM G-24.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

25. Department of Business and Industry - Housing - Account for Low-Income Housing - FY 2021

Addition of \$39,516,361 in federal Emergency Rental Assistance 2 grant funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to support Nevadan's who have demonstrated financial need for residential rental support resulting directly from the coronavirus pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Emergency Rental Assist 2 category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54754**

STEVE AICHROTH (Administrator, Housing Division, Department of Business and Industry):

The work program seeks to accept Emergency Rental Assistance 2 (ERA 2) program grant funds provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, with the State of Nevada receiving \$185.5 million in ERA 2 funds. Approximately

\$86 million of the \$185.5 million will be provided to local jurisdictions and \$98.8 million will be provided to the state. The ARPA requires the Treasury to disburse 40% of the funding to each grantee within 60 days of the enactment of the ARPA; this equates to the \$39.5 million being requested today. As determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, the remaining funding is to be released in tranches when 75% of the funds previously provided by the Treasury have been obligated.

The Department of Business and Industry, Housing Division plans to utilize the ERA 2 funding similar to how it utilized ERA 1 funding, which was provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. The ERA 1 funding was previously approved to be used for rental assistance, rental arrears, utilities, and home energy costs for people at 80% or less of the area median income who also experienced unemployment or financial difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for those at-risk of becoming homeless. Certain benchmarks need to be met with the ERA 1 funds to prevent recapture of the funding. The primary source of rental assistance offered by the division will continue to be ERA 1 funding. Initial ERA 2 funds will be provided to renters based on eligibility differences, as the allocation of ERA 2 funding is more flexible. For example, ERA 1 funds need to be tied to financial hardship experienced directly from the COVID-19 pandemic, while ERA 2 funds can be tied to any financial hardship that occurred during the pandemic.

If an applicant does not tie their financial hardship back to the COVID-19 pandemic but the hardship occurred during the past 16 months, they will be eligible for ERA 2 funding instead of ERA 1 funding. The division has continued to work with its subgrantees, the Clark County Social Services Department, the Reno Housing Authority, and the Nevada Rural Housing Authority (NRHA) in dispensing ERA funding. In conjunction, the division will continue to hold regular meetings with the Office of the Governor, the Office of the State Treasurer, the Nevada Supreme Court, the Eviction Mediation Program Opportunity Alliance Nevada, and Home Means Nevada, Inc. to ensure funding is spent appropriately.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI:

Assembly Bill (A.B.) 486 (2021 Legislative Session) helped establish rental assistance for landlords. When A.B. 486 was heard, it was mentioned that \$360 million was available for the state to use on rental assistance programs. Is the \$185.5 million in ERA 2 allocations part of the \$360 million, or will it be in addition to those funds?

MR. AICHROTH:

The \$360 million is inclusive of the \$185.5 million. Because Clark County is considered a high-need area, it is receiving an additional \$20 million. Through these two ERA programs, the total amount of funding allocated to Nevada for use by rental assistance programs will be \$380 million.

ASSEMBLYMAN MILLER:

The goal was for ERA 1 funding to go directly to landlords and to help with payment of utilities. Considering that ERA 2 funding can be given directly to tenants, how will the division ensure recipients use these funds as intended?

MR. AICHROTH:

To accept ERA 2 funding, the division is required to provide direct assistance to tenants. Regarding fraud prevention, the division relies on written documentation of attestation, and its subgrantees filter through the documents looking for eligibility documentation and lease information. The division will continue to work with and hold discussions with its subgrantees to ensure that this process will continue. However, there is not currently a plan in place to ensure the funding is only used for allowable expenses. As it continues the fraud-detection process, the division will verify that the landlord identified by the tenant in their application is in fact the owner of the property where the tenant resides.

ASSEMBLYMAN MILLER:

Certain landlords do not want to accept direct payment from the emergency rental assistance programs. Is the goal of the ERA 2 funding to allow tenants to rectify their financial hardships without landlords having to help them apply for rental assistance? Will landlords be required to know how their tenants acquired the money to pay their rent, and will landlords be required to help the division confirm that the ERA 2 funding was used as intended? Even though the division does not currently have a plan to address this issue, it is important to ensure that the funding is used as intended to prevent fraud and wasteful spending.

MR. AICHROTH:

The division is still developing its plan, but it should be able to ensure recipients use funding for allowable expenses without the involvement of landlords. Per the Treasury guidelines, tenants will be required to attest that they will be using the ERA 2 funding specifically to pay their rent.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS:

Can you provide the Committee with a status update on the ERA 1 program, including how many households have been provided rent or utility assistance to date?

MR. AICHROTH:

Due to the disparate reporting between local jurisdictions and the state, I cannot answer this question specifically, but I can provide an overview of all rental assistance recently provided by the division. Regarding the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) allocations initially provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) of 2020, the division provided \$30 million in state funding to Reno, Washoe County, Las Vegas, and Clark County; this was in addition to funding provided in these areas by local jurisdictions. Clark County provided approximately \$97.8 million in rental assistance, which included rental assistance and administrative costs. Because there was more flexibility regarding the use of CRF allocations, Clark County was able to provide payments directly to landlords; I do not have specific information regarding the number of households funded. Clark County receives rental assistance funding from both local jurisdictions and the state, but it has not yet provided state funding to its residents.

In addition to the \$97.8 million, Clark County has also received \$30 million from the division, bringing the total amount of rental assistance the county has provided to its residents to approximately \$130 million. Through CARES Act and ERA funding, the Reno Housing Authority has provided \$9.6 million and the NRHA has provided \$4.9 million in rental assistance funds. As of May 31, 2021, the total amount of rental assistance disbursed statewide is over \$145 million.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS:

When it is available, please provide information to the Committee regarding the total number of households that have received rental assistance. This will help the Committee understand how successful the state's rental assistance programs have been and enable the Committee to continue aiding households in the future.

MR. AICHROTH:

I will acquire this information for the Committee.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Even though this is an analytical discussion, rental assistance provided by the state has changed the lives of Nevadans. My constituents are constantly telling me how grateful they are to receive assistance that helps them keep their place of residence. The provision of ERA funding has helped families throughout Nevada become more stable over the past year.

Organizations that I work with had to initiate a safeguard with banks to ensure that assistance checks sent to tenants were eventually received by landlords, as it was evident that certain allocations were not being used as intended calling for the situation to be rectified. Accountability should be built into the division's protocols. Even though it can be beneficial to provide assistance directly to tenants, the tenants may need help navigating the system and making sure they are using the funds appropriately. I appreciate the division's work and Clark County's work, and I look forward to receiving information on the total number of households that have received rental assistance in Nevada.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

How was the distribution of allocations between Clark and Washoe Counties determined? Clark County received an additional \$20.8 million in allocations because it is designated as a high-need area. Combined, Clark County and the Cities of Henderson, Las Vegas, and North Las Vegas received approximately 41% of the state's entire ERA 2 allocation. The City of Reno received 3.3% and Washoe County received 2.8%, equaling only 6.1%.

MR. AICHROTH:

The Treasury determined the amount of ERA 2 allocations that local jurisdictions in Nevada received as well as the state's total allocation of \$98 million; the division was not involved in determining the allocations. The ERA 1 and ERA 2 allocations are provided directly to Clark and Washoe Counties, which in turn provide rental assistance to their residents. The division has not yet determined how it will divide the \$98 million, as the division is first ensuring that

ERA 1 benchmarks are met. The division also plans to provide households that are ineligible to receive ERA 1 funding with some ERA 2 funding; the allocations will mostly be administered by the NRHA because the NRHA only receives ERA 2 allocations from the state, while other jurisdictions can use local ERA 1 funding.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

A report on the total number of households that have received rental assistance in Nevada will provide the Committee more clarity on the program's status.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON:

There are differences between the ERA 1 and ERA 2 programs, including to whom payments can be disbursed and how much of the funding can be used for administrative costs. Is the application process for receiving ERA 2 funds different than what is used to receive ERA 1 funds? The application process changed with the ERA 1 funds once additional guidance was provided by the Treasury in January 2021.

MR. AICHROTH:

The application process between the two funding streams will remain the same, but certain questions on the application may be different, with questions changing further into the application process. The Treasury designed ERA 2 funding to mirror ERA 1 funding, but there are subtle differences. Providing ERA 1 funds to applicants is the division's priority. However, if an applicant is also eligible for ERA 2 funds, additional questions may be asked to confirm eligibility so the applicant may receive ERA 2 funding instead of ERA 1 funding.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA
ITEM G-25.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

26. Governor's Office of Economic Development - FY 2021

Addition of \$23,120 in State Trade Expansion Program federal funds to continue to provide financial assistance awards for entry or expansion into export markets. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the State Trade & Export (STEP) category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54480**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

27. Governor's Office of Economic Development - FY 2021

Transfer \$40,000 from the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Program category to the Grants to Development Authorities category to meet contractual obligations to regional development partners. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount deducted from the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Program category

exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved level for that category. **Work Program #C54584**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

28. Governor's Office of Economic Development - FY 2021

Transfer of \$11,469 from the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Program category to the Information Services category to support the replacement of network and phone equipment. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred from the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Program category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C54482**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

29. Governor's Office of Economic Development - Nevada Film Office - FY 2021

Deletion of \$346,571 in transfer from Commission on Tourism and deletion of \$36,025 in miscellaneous revenue due to reduced receipts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deducted from the Advertising category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.30. Work Program #C54623**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

30. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Tourism Development Fund - FY 2021

Deletion of \$16,657,020 in Lodging Tax due to pandemic-related reduction in receipts. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deducted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEMS G.29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 116. Work Program #C54486**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

31. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Nevada Magazine - FY 2021

Deletion of \$66,666 in Transfer from Commission on Tourism due to reduced Lodging Tax receipts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deducted from the Operating Expenses category exceeds \$30,000 and 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **RELATES TO ITEM G.30. Work Program #C54612**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

32. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Museums and History - FY 2021

Deletion of \$89,000 in Transfer from Commission on Tourism due to reduced Lodging Tax receipts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deducted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.30. Work Program #C54599**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

33. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Museums and History - Nevada Historical Society - FY 2021

Deletion of \$100,255 in Transfer from Commission on Tourism due to reduced Lodging Tax receipts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deducted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.30. Work Program #C54580**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

34. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Museums and History - Nevada State Museum, Carson City - FY 2021

Deletion of \$187,416 in Transfer from Commission on Tourism due to reduced Lodging Tax receipts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deducted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.30. Work Program #C54607**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

35. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Museums and History - Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas - FY 2021

Deletion of \$219,728 in Transfer from Commission on Tourism due to reduced Lodging Tax receipts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deducted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.30. Work Program #C54598**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

36. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Museums and History - Nevada State Railroad Museums - FY 2021

Deletion of \$119,143 in Transfer from Commission on Tourism due to reduced Lodging Tax receipts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deducted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.30. Work Program #C54610**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

37. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Nevada Arts Council - FY 2021

Deletion of \$489,426 in transfer from Commission on Tourism due to reduced Lodging Tax receipts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deducted from the Arts Grant Awards category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.30. Work Program #C54617**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

38. Department of Health and Human Services - Director's Office - Upper Payment Limit Holding Account - FY 2021

Transfer of \$400,000 from the Transfers to Other State Agency category to the Transfer Tobacco to BA 1090 category to fund a projected shortfall for the

remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Transfer Tobacco to BA 1090 category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54557**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

39. Department of Health and Human Services - Director's Office - Grants Management Unit - FY 2022

Addition of \$2,529,412 in federal National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved Populations grant funds transferred from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health Chronic Disease budget to provide guidance in addressing health disparities, facilitate equitable recovery in communities from the COVID-19 pandemic and improve systems to better address future public emergencies. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Health Disparity Minority Health category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.60. Work Program #C54656**

Agenda Items G-39 and G-60 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item G-60.

40. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2021

Addition of \$35,030 in federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRSSA) of 2021: Grants to Enhance Capacity of Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) Programs to Respond to Complaints of Abuse and Neglect of Residents in Long-Term Care Facilities During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency grant funds to resolve resident complaints about abuse and neglect. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the LTCO COVID-19 (CRSSA) category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C54355**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

41. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2021

Addition of \$103,469 in federal State Health Insurance Assistance Program grant funds and transfer of \$74,646 from the Personnel Services category to the State Health Insurance Assistance Program category to continue providing information and counseling to Medicare beneficiaries. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the State Health Insurance Assistance Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54393**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

42. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2021

Transfer of \$51,944 from the Personnel Services category to the Senior Medicare Patrol Project Grants (SMP) category to align state authority with the current

federal SMP grant award. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the SMP grant category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C54400**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

43. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2021

Addition of \$14,493 in federal Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act grant funds to continue providing outreach and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries with limited incomes, including people with disabilities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C54401**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

44. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2021

Addition of \$251,606 in federal Assistive Technology Act grant funds to continue to provide assistive technology to individuals with disabilities of all ages. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Technology Related Assist category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54496**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

45. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2021

Addition of \$437,869 in federal Expanding Access to COVID-19 Vaccines via the Aging Network Award grant funds to provide services to ensure that older adults and their caregivers are able to overcome barriers preventing them from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Aging Network COVID-19 category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54489**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

46. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2021

Addition of \$1,471,240 in federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA) grant funds to provide services to ensure that older adults and their caregivers who are self-isolating due to the high risk of contracting COVID-19 are able to access essential nutrition services. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Title III-C2 (CAA) category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54502**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

47. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Communication Access Services - FY 2021

Transfer of \$59,434 from the Reserve category to the Aging and Disability Services (ADSD) Cost Allocation category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ADSD Cost Allocation category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for the category. **Work Program #C54369**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

48. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Autism Treatment Assistance Program - FY 2021

Deletion of \$1,531,703 in Medical Services Charge funds and \$809,645 in Medical Services State funds to align budget authority in accordance with Senate Bill 553(8) (2019 Legislative Session). Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deleted from the Autism category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54192**

Agenda Items G-48 and G-49 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item G-49.

49. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Autism Treatment Assistance Program - FY 2021

Addition of \$390,744 in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant funds transferred from the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Autism category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54380**

Agenda Items G-48 and G-49 were discussed jointly.

DENA SCHMIDT (Administrator, Aging and Disability Services Division, DHHS):

Agenda Item G-48 requests a reduction in federal Title XIX Medicaid revenue authority for the DHHS Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD), Autism Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP). This reduction is related to the ADSD no longer billing on behalf of its service providers, as all of its providers now bill Medicaid directly for reimbursement of services. Agenda Item G-49 requests additional authority for category 16, with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding used for direct services in the ATAP; this work program will align authority with the revised projections. A previous work program reduced authority in the ATAP budget due to downward projections. There has been a slight change in projections, and Agenda Item G-49 seeks to realign authority to use TANF funding to provide services in the ATAP.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON:

The caseload trends for ATAP were frequently discussed during the 2021 Legislative Session. The ADSD currently projects an average monthly caseload of approximately 906 children and an average monthly cost per child of

\$304, which are lower than the projections that were used to determine the budget reduction in the 31st Special Session. Please discuss recent caseload trends for ATAP.

MS. SCHMIDT:

The ADSD experienced a downward trend in caseloads during the 31st Special Session, but the division noted during the 2021 Legislative Session that it believed much of the caseload reduction was related to the COVID-19 pandemic and underutilization of services. I do not have current caseload projections, but the projections provided during the 2021 Legislative Session showed an uptick in services and an expected increase in utilization. Since the ADSD's last caseload projections, there have not been any noticeable deviations from the projections. I can provide the Committee with updated caseload projections for ATAP at a later date.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON:

Much work was done at the end of the 2021 Legislative Session to ensure the projected caseloads were funded; fiscal notes were also submitted to help align caseload funding. Although the FY 2021 TANF subgrant to ATAP from the DHHS Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) was approved for \$4.2 million, only \$2.1 million was budgeted. An additional \$1.7 million will remain in TANF reserve for later use. Will additional funding be needed to support ATAP if there is an increase in caseload?

MS. SCHMIDT:

The \$4.2 million in TANF funding was what the division anticipated using in FY 2021, with any unutilized funding reverting to the TANF reserve. For the 2021-23 biennium, the division believes its budget will cover the projected increase in caseload. However, if this results in the creation of a waitlist, the division will return to the Committee for discussion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS G-48 AND G-49.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

50. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Desert Regional Center - FY 2021

Transfer of \$17,179 from the Jobs and Day Training category to the Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds category and \$337,689 from the Jobs and Day Training category to the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) Cost Allocation category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ADSD Cost Allocation category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54394**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

51. Department of Health and Human Services - Health Care Financing and Policy - Nevada Medicaid, Title XIX - FY 2021

Addition of \$4,537,278 in federal Title XXI funds and \$325,180,933 in federal Title XIX funds to align with current projections due to caseload increases and additional federal funding associated with increased Federal Medical Assistance Percentage rates authorized in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Newly Eligible category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54552**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

52. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Radiation Control Program - FY 2021

Addition of \$60,000 in American Registry of Technologists fees, transfer of \$81,591 from the Reserve category to the Personnel Services category, \$3,625 from the Reserve category to the Operating category, \$2,888 from the Reserve category to the Information System category, and \$49,312 from the Reserve category to the Indirect Cost Allocation category to continue to support positions established in support of Senate Bill 130 (2019 Legislative Session). Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C51671**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

53. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Communicable Diseases - FY 2021

Addition of \$127,448 in federal Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) grant funding to continue to provide housing assistance to individuals with AIDS. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the HOPWA category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54386**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

54. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Communicable Diseases - FY 2021

Addition of \$3,984,762 in AIDS Drug Assistance Program pharmaceutical rebates to continue to provide health insurance premiums, deductible and copay assistance, and dental insurance to clients under Ryan White Part B. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Comprehensive Care category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54722**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

55. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Health Care Facilities Regulation - FY 2021

Addition of \$347,669 in Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases (ELC) COVID funds from budget account (BA) 3219, Biostatistics and Epidemiology, and transfer of \$190,805 from the COVID-19 category to the

Transfer from BA 3219 ELC COVID category to fund current staff and contractors performing activities related to COVID-19 and allow the program to retain fees in the reserve category. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount being transferred to the Transfer from BA 3219 ELC COVID category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54469**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

56. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Public Health Preparedness Program - FY 2021

Addition of \$42,491 in Radiation Control fees transferred from the Radiation Control program to align employee costs and remain compliant with federal regulations. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Transfer from Radiation Control category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C52930**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

57. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Public Health Preparedness Program - FY 2021

Addition of \$199,313 in federal BioWatch grant funds and a transfer of \$873 from the cost allocation category to the BioWatch category to continue to provide biotreat monitoring activities through the end of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the BioWatch category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54639**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

58. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Biostatistics and Epidemiology - FY 2021

Addition of \$116,105 in federal Strengthening Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Prevention and Control for Health Departments grant funds to continue to provide STD surveillance, prevention and control. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the STD Prevention and Control category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54497**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

59. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Chronic Disease - FY 2021

Addition of \$373,145 in federal Diabetes and Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention grant funds and transfer of \$3,629 from the Information Services category to the Diabetes, Heart and Stroke Prevention category to provide prevention and management of cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Diabetes, Heart and Stroke Prevention category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53954**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

60. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Chronic Disease - FY 2022

Addition of \$32,003,788 in federal National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved Populations grant funds to provide guidance in addressing health disparities, facilitate equitable recovery in communities from the COVID-19 pandemic and improve systems to better address future public emergencies. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Health Disparity category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.39. Work Program #C54646**

Agenda Items G-39 and G-60 were discussed jointly.

JULIA PEEK (Deputy Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, DHHS): Through this work program, the DHHS, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) is requesting authority to receive a new grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities (Health Disparities) to serve high-risk and underserved populations, including racial and ethnic minority populations and rural communities. This grant is funded by the CDC through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021. The funding represents the CDC's largest investment to date and focuses specifically on reducing health disparities related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will provide much needed support to directly address these issues in Nevada communities. Nevada received over \$32 million for this award, which runs from June 1, 2021, to May 31, 2023.

The purpose of this work program is to address health disparities related to the COVID-19 pandemic and to advance health equity by expanding state, local, U.S. territorial, and the capacity of other state health departments. Intended outcomes include reducing health disparities related to the COVID-19 pandemic and improving and increasing testing and contact tracing among populations at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19 who are also underserved. Additional outcomes include improving state health department capacity and services to prevent and control infection or transmission of COVID-19 among high-risk populations that are underserved, including racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in Nevada's rural communities. These funds come with mandatory program strategies, which include expanding existing and/or developing new mitigation and prevention resources and services to reduce health disparities related to COVID-19 among high-risk and underserved populations; increasing or improving data collection and reporting for populations experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 infection, severe illness, or death to guide responses to the COVID-19 pandemic; building, leveraging, and expanding infrastructure support for COVID-19 prevention and control among high-risk and underserved populations; and mobilizing partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinates of health as they relate to health disparities associated with COVID-19 among high-risk and underserved populations.

This is a large grant with multiple pieces. To implement this program successfully, the division has many partners including the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR),

School of Medicine, Office of Statewide Initiatives, Nevada State Office of Rural Health. The Office of Rural Health will conduct monthly online Enriching Communication Skills for Health Professionals in Oncofertility (ECHO) training for rural and local health professionals, which will cover a variety of topics related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The division will also work with the Office of Rural Health and UNR School of Medicine's Nevada State Public Health Laboratory and Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine to partner with rural organizations and entities supporting Nevada's underserved populations including Nevada Rural Hospital Partners Foundation, Inc., federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics and rural hospitals. The division is also working with the DHHS Division of Child and Family Services to advance technology and infrastructure, coordinate communities for vaccine administration and to partake in other activities aimed at reducing health disparities.

Through the grant, the division will also work with the Healthy Communities Coalition, which supports the Nevada Community Health Worker Association, to expand community health workers throughout the state; this program successfully helps bring people into the public health workforce by hiring employees to serve the communities in which they are from. The division will also work with the Nevada Cancer Coalition on cancer prevention, a known comorbidity related to COVID-19. The division will also be working with the Nevada Tobacco Prevention Coalition and the Office of Minority Health and Equity and Grants Management Unit in the DHHS Director's Office to work with family resource centers throughout the state to expand existing mitigation resources. Family resource centers provide social services supports and connect economically vulnerable families with support and food assistance, provide employment and family activity kits, and offer health care services; partnering with family resource centers helps expand public health efforts.

The DPBH will also be working with its Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention to address health disparities in high-risk and medically underserved populations as it relates to behavioral health services. The division will provide multicultural training for the behavioral health workforce, expanding workforce development to include behavioral health activities, and mobilizing partners to advance health equity by providing training and technical assistance. Nevada 2-1-1 will be used to direct people to social services for better health outcomes. Nevada 2-1-1 needs to be promoted more so people know it is available; therefore, promoting Nevada 2-1-1 will be a deliverable of this work program. The DPBH will also be working with the Nevada Broadcasters Association to target high-risk populations and will be partnering with mobile medical units.

SENATOR RATTI:

Please describe how the DPBH will provide oversight and coordination over the various state entities involved with the grant.

MS. PEEK:

Public health activities commonly involve the coordination of various partners and utilize a variety of services in the community to address social determinants and help

people navigate the health care system. Additional staff will be hired to oversee the grant, and the division is seeking an additional grant in a subsequent work program to expand workforce capacities, which will help the division manage the Health Disparities grant. Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic has involved an unprecedented coordination of various state agencies, which has prepared the DPBH to meet the objectives of the work program. As entities submit their applications to receive grant funding, the DPBH has been partnering with them to review their application. Sheila Lambert from the DHHS Director's Office worked with the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) and other DPBH partners in Clark County that received a similar grant. The DPBH has spent significant time ensuring that activities are coordinated, do not overlap, and are not duplicated or supplanted.

SENATOR RATTI:

The SNHD directly receives similar funding. How will the division coordinate with the agency to avoid overlap and duplication of activities?

MS. PEEK:

Sheila Lambert was reviewing the SNHD's application as she was helping the DPBH apply for this award. As a result, the division is aware of what was included in the SNHD application and can ensure the division's activities are complementary and not duplicative. As things change over the course of the grant's implementation, ongoing communication with the various state entities involved in the grant will ensure activities are not duplicative.

SHEILA LAMBERT (Project Manager, Grants Management Unit, Director's Office, DHHS):

Part of the deliverables in the grant are to work with community providers throughout the state, which includes the SNHD. Moving forward, the division will work collaboratively with the SNHD so that all the entities involved are aware of the variants and intricacies of each program.

SENATOR RATTI:

The DPBH has done well in collaborating with community partners and ensuring a comprehensive response to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the DPBH has not always been successful regarding disparate impact and reaching out to communities that do not traditionally participate in stakeholder groups. While it is important to build on prior success, a better job should be done regarding health equity relating to disparate impact. Please describe how the DPBH will address and focus on health equity, disparate impact and hard to reach communities, all of which are goals of this grant.

MS. PEEK:

The DPBH does need to improve on addressing disparate impact. Based on past experiences, the division will continue to fund the Office of Minority Health and Equity, support the Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition, and utilize community health workers to respond to disparate impact.

TINA DORTCH (Manager, Office of Minority Health and Equity, Director's Office, DHHS):

The DHHS has been training for this moment throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2018, the Office of Minority Health and Equity has been cultivating relationships with community partners to establish a strong track record. The DHHS has strong relationships that can be activated to provide additional support staff to focus on implementing the next phases of this large grant, which has many moving pieces.

SENATOR RATTI:

The Office of Minority Health and Equity is being called upon to address activities related to this grant and legislation from the 2021 Legislative Session. What is the plan to scale up and meet all the required tasks?

MS. DORTCH:

The Office of Minority Health and Equity began planning activities related to the Health Disparities grant at the beginning of the 2021 Legislative Session. The advisory committee is led by Senator Pat Spearman, who gave us forewarning that more efforts need to be concentrated on to ensure health equity. Much coordination is needed, and the Office of Minority Health and Equity is comprehensively examining legislation to ensure that the different pieces work in tandem without supplanting resources to achieve infrastructure aimed at reducing health disparities. Regarding S.B. 424 (2021 Legislative Session) that was initiated by the Governor's Office of Finance, a new office for public health resources will be created, and the Office of Minority Health and Equity will gain a new staff position funded by the General Fund. The new office and staff position are designed to assess the big picture and ensure the agencies work in tandem to address health disparities.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

I appreciate the work being done, but I have noticed that food insecurity is not being adequately addressed in the DPBH's plans to combat underlying determinants of health disparities for at-risk and underserved communities. Food insecurity has had a large impact on Nevada, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and food deserts have been an ongoing problem in the state, especially in Southern Nevada. I appreciate addressing cancer prevention and chronic disease, but food insecurity, diet and diabetes also need to be considered. Food pantries in Nevada spend a lot of money providing healthy food to Nevadans, but I do not see a plan for addressing food disparities in the DPBH's strategies for spending this grant funding.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA
ITEMS G-39 AND G-60.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

61. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Behavioral Health Prevention and Treatment - FY 2021

Addition of \$621,419 in federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnership for Success (SPF-PFS) grant funds to continue to provide activities to reduce the use of alcohol, marijuana, and methamphetamine use in youth ages 9 to 20. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the SPF-PFS category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54474**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

62. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services - FY 2021

Deletion of \$749,708 in budgetary transfers to fund a projected salary shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Assembly Bill 543(49) (2019 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.64. Work Program #C54358**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

63. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services - FY 2021

Addition of \$89,364 in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act funds as a 2% reimbursement to Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services based on all Medicare fees for service charges. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Reserve for Reversion category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53939**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

64. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Facility for the Mental Offender - FY 2021

Addition of \$749,708 in budgetary transfers to fund a projected salary shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Assembly Bill 543(49) (2019 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.62. Work Program #C54244**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

65. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Administration - FY 2021

Addition of ~~\$1,819,662~~ **\$4,888,015** in federal Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021: Food and Nutrition Services, Supplemental Nutrition Services Program (SNAP) Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (PEBT) grant funds for the continuation of PEBT issuance to eligible school-aged children. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the SNAP PEBT category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54456. REVISED 5-18-21.**

STEVE FISHER (Administrator, DWSS, DHHS):

Agenda Item G-65 requests \$4,888,015 in federal Continuing Appropriations Act of 2021, Food and Nutrition Services, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (PEBT) grant funds to continue the PEBT program through the 2020-2021 school year for eligible children. The PEBT program provides temporary emergency nutrition benefits to children who otherwise would have received free- or reduced-priced meals through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service's National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Children are eligible to receive a refund for the cost of the school's free- and reduced-price meals that they missed due to school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. The PEBT program is 100% funded through the USDA Food and Nutrition Service's PEBT program that is offered to states.

The Continuing Appropriations Act made significant changes by expanding the PEBT program to also cover children ages 0 to 6 years in the months they were receiving SNAP benefits during the time of October 2020 through June 2021. The Continuing Appropriations Act also provides full administrative funding. The DWSS is currently requesting authority for \$4,888,015 to cover administrative costs. The division estimates it will issue over \$523 million in SNAP benefits to approximately 395,000 children in Nevada during the 2020-2021 school year. The administrative funds built into this request will be used to cover vendor costs and system enhancements and changes. The division's systems need to be modified to distribute the PEBT benefits. The division also plans to establish a call center for call specifically related to the PEBT. Some of these costs were estimated in early 2020, so the DWSS will be returning to the Committee to request any additional authority necessary to cover actual costs.

It is also important to note that the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 added a summer PEBT program, which will require the DWSS to request additional authority that may be necessary to cover administrative costs related to issuing summer PEBT benefits. Regarding the issuance of PEBT benefits, the DWSS is currently working on system enhancements which will be completed in August 2021. The first set of PEBT benefits will be issued September 10, 2021, and will cover the months of August 2020 through November 2020. Another issuance of PEBT benefits will occur on October 10, 2021, to cover the months of December 2020 through February 2021. On November 10, 2021, the remaining PEBT benefits will be issued, covering the months of March 2021 through June 2021.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

The dates you stated are the eligibility windows related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Is it correct that PEBT benefits will be paid out based on previous eligibility windows?

MR. FISHER:

Yes, the PEBT benefits will be paid retrospectively with the information coming from the Nevada Department of Education (NDE). The information provided by the NDE will allow the division to determine which children will receive benefits during which month.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Are the additional summer PEBT benefits designed to fund the summer of 2021 or the summer of 2020?

MR. FISHER:

The summer PEBT benefits are going to be paid out for the summer of 2021.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

When will the summer PEBT benefits for the summer of 2021 be paid out?

MR. FISHER:

For the summer of 2021, the summer PEBT benefits will be paid out in December 2021. However, the PEBT benefits for school year 2020-2021 will be paid out first, which will occur in September, October, and November 2021.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

How will information about the PEBT program be relayed to parents? The first round of funding through the PEBT program was issued in the summer of 2020. The PEBT cards were sent to many people, which resulted in questions regarding why cards were sent for children living in non-SNAP households. There was pushback from families that did not want to receive a benefit card because their children were not enrolled in SNAP and were not enrolled in a Title I school under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Some families wanted to return their PEBT cards, while others bought food and donated it.

The first round of funding through the PEBT program needed to be made available quickly due to school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. Are safeguards being built in to ensure that PEBT cards are distributed to the correct families and not to families residing in non-SNAP households? If families do not use the PEBT cards, what happens to the unused funding? Is Nevada penalized for having unused SNAP dollars? I want to ensure that the problem experienced with the first round of PEBT funding does not happen again.

SHERI GALLUCCI (Social Services Program Specialist, DWSS, DHHS):

The non-SNAP households that received PEBT cards had children enrolled in USDA Food and Nutrition Service's Community Eligibility Provision schools. Although the DWSS released a flyer stating that individuals enrolled in community eligibility provision schools would be eligible for the PEBT program, I do not believe the flyers reached all recipients, which may have led to the misunderstanding. The DWSS is currently preparing another set of commonly asked questions and answers by engaging schools and school districts over the past six months to explain the processes of the PEBT program. Children attending community eligibility provision schools are automatically eligible for the National School Lunch Program; this means that all families that received PEBT cards are eligible for these services. The DWSS is going to establish a vendor call center that will be targeted to answer PEBT-related questions. I will be assisting with the script used by the call center, and the DWSS will be addressing all the concerns from last year.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Regarding families that received PEBT cards during the first round of funding and families that may receive cards in the upcoming round, if they do not want to use the funding, what happens to the money? I know the funds are not placed in the Office of the Treasurer's Unclaimed Property Division. Is Nevada penalized for not accessing all the SNAP dollars made available to the state? SNAP money is very important for families, and I do not want to cause any problems in receiving this funding down the road.

ROBERT THOMPSON (Deputy Administrator, DWSS, DHHS):

There is not a negative impact to Nevada if PEBT cards go unused. SNAP recipients can stop using their cards at any time. After nine months of inactivity, the funding reverts to the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

I appreciate the summer PEBT program and the many safeguards that will be included in the next round of PEBT funding. While I understand that the first round of funding had to be made available to families as quickly as possible, I am grateful there will now be a call center to help answer PEBT-related questions. I am also glad the PEBT benefits will be issued on the tenth day of the month, as this is the last day that SNAP benefits are disbursed for the month; it can often be difficult to go grocery shopping in the beginning of the month as this is when SNAP benefits are made available.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA
ITEM G-65.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

66. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Administration - FY 2021

Addition of \$79,569 transferred from Department of Employment Training and Rehabilitation to reimburse assistance to the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation in processing unemployment insurance claims, adjudication and fraud. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Reserve for Reversion Federal category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54457**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

67. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Administration - FY 2021

Addition of \$1,317,012 in federal United States Department of Agriculture Food Stamp Nutrition Education grant funds to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Nutrition Education Network category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54463**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

68. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Administration - FY 2021

Addition of \$1,087,501 in federal Food and Nutrition Services Division, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Mass Change grant and deletion of \$543,751 in federal United States Department of Agriculture Food Stamp Program grant funds since the SNAP Mass Change grant provides 100% of funding for SNAP administration costs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Reserve for Reversion category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54455**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

69. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families - FY 2021

Addition of \$249,930 in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant funds to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to NEON Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54488**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

70. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Assistance to Aged and Blind - FY 2021

Deletion of \$430,000 in budgetary transfers to fund a projected salary shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Assembly Bill 543(51) (2019 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.71. Work Program #C54465**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

71. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Welfare Field Services - FY 2021

Addition of \$430,000 in budgetary transfers to fund a projected salary shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval pursuant to Assembly Bill 543(51) (2019 Legislative Session). **RELATES TO ITEM G.70. Work Program #C54460**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

72. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Energy Assistance Program - FY 2021

Addition of \$6,000,000 in Universal Energy Charge funds and \$1,128,322 in federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEA) grant funds to provide energy assistance benefits for needy households. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the LIHEA Payments category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54466**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

73. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Children, Youth and Family Administration - FY 2021

Addition of \$531,815 in federal Chafee Education and Training Vouchers Program (ETV) grant funds to provide assistance to former and current foster youth, up to age 26, with postsecondary training and education due to challenges amplified by the pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Chafee ETV Division X category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54387**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

74. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Children, Youth and Family Administration - FY 2021

Addition of \$746,384 in federal Title IV-B II Division X grant funds to provide community-based family support, family preservation, family reunification, and adoption promotion and support services to foster youth and families through the pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Title IV-B II Division X category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54388**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

75. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Washoe County Child Welfare - FY 2021

Addition of \$2,466,236 in federal Title IV-E grant funds to continue to provide adoption assistance and related services to children and families. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Subsidized Adoptions category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54423**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

76. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Rural Child Welfare - FY 2021

Transfer of \$40,000 from the Personnel Services category to the Information Services category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Information Services category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C54354**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

77. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Rural Child Welfare - FY 2021

Transfer of \$105,878 from the Personnel Services category to the Non-XIX Medical category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Non-XIX Medical category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54366**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

78. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Rural Child Welfare - FY 2021

Transfer of \$71,455 from the Personnel Services category to the Adoption Subsidy category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54383**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

79. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services - FY 2021

Transfer of \$165,367 from the Operating category to the Mental Health Placements category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Mental Health Placements category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54272**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

80. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Summit View Youth Center - FY 2021

Addition of \$32,800 in National School Lunch, Special Milk, and School Breakfast Programs grant funds transferred from the Department of Agriculture to receive greater than expected revenue. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the Reserve for Reversion category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54357**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

81. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Caliente Youth Center - FY 2021

Transfer of ~~\$64,993~~ **\$110,810** from the Operating category to the Personnel Services category and \$29,647 from the Reserve for Reversion category to the Personnel Services category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54359. REVISED 6-3-21.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

82. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Unemployment Insurance - FY 2021

Addition of \$2,824,903 in federal Unemployment Insurance Above Base funding to continue funding unemployment insurance administrative costs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54216**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

83. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Unemployment Insurance - FY 2021

Addition of \$5,612,135 in federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) funds and \$1,447,000 in federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance funds to continue supporting the unemployment insurance program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Pandemic Emergency UI - PEUC category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54468**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

84. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Equal Rights Commission - FY 2021

Addition of \$60,999 in federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Contract funds to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year and to replace furniture. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the Reserve for Reversion General Fund category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C53705**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

85. Department of Corrections - Director's Office - FY 2021

Deletion of \$820,018 in budgetary transfers to fund a projected shortfall within the department for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deleted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C53770**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

86. Department of Corrections - Prison Medical Care - FY 2021

Deletion of \$500,000 in budgetary transfers to fund projected shortfalls within the department, transfer of \$181,217 from the Personnel Services category to the Professional Services to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54720**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

87. Department of Corrections - Correctional Programs - FY 2021

Deletion of \$225,000 in budgetary transfers to fund projected shortfalls within the department for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deleted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54540**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

88. Department of Corrections - Ely State Prison - FY 2021

Deletion of \$961,497 in budgetary transfers to fund projected shortfalls within the department, transfer of \$63,534 from the Inmate Drivens category to the Operating category, transfer of \$1,184 from the Utilities category to the Operating category, and transfer of \$6,715 from the Utilities category to the Maintenance Contracts category to fund projected shortfalls for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deleted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54544**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

89. Department of Corrections - High Desert State Prison - FY 2021

Addition of \$2,525,127 in budgetary transfers, and transfer of \$89,865 from the Utilities category to the Inmate Drivens category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54134**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

90. Department of Corrections - Northern Nevada Correctional Center - FY 2021

Deletion of \$598,466 in budgetary transfers to fund projected shortfalls within the department, transfer of \$603,422 from the Personnel Services category to the Inmate Drivens category, transfer of \$50,488 from the Utilities category to the Inmate Drivens category, transfer \$1,353 from the Utilities category to the Maintenance Contracts category, transfer of \$737 from the Agency Issue Uniform category to Maintenance Contract category, and transfer of \$4,909 from the Agency Issue Uniform category to the Operating category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54533**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

91. Department of Corrections - Southern Desert Correctional Center - FY 2021

Deletion of \$500,000 in budgetary transfers to fund projected shortfalls within the department, transfer of \$86,524 from the Utilities category to the Operating category and transfer of \$38,066 from the Utilities category to the Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54515**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

92. Department of Corrections - Lovelock Correctional Center - FY 2021

Addition of \$234,667 in budgetary transfers, transfer of \$44,258 from the Personnel Services category to the Inmate Drivens category, transfer of \$8,327 from the Personnel Services category to the Operating category, and transfer of \$39,239

from the Personnel Services category to the Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54529**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

93. Department of Corrections - Warm Springs Correctional Center - FY 2021

Transfer of \$4,295 from the Personnel Services category to the Operating category, transfer of \$2,440 from the Personnel Services category to the Maintenance Contract category, and transfer of \$19,748 from the Personnel Services category to the Utilities category to cover a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C50624**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

94. Department of Corrections - Florence McClure Womens Correctional Center – FY 2021

Addition of \$57,461 in budgetary transfers, transfer of \$81,852 from the Utilities category to the Inmate Drivens category, transfers of \$4,845 from the Personnel Services category to the Inmate Drivens category, \$10,476 from the Personnel Services category to the Operating category, and \$20,017 from the Personnel Services category to the Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Inmate Drivens category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54522**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

95. Department of Corrections - Casa Grande Transitional Housing - FY 2021

Addition of \$1,078,062 in budgetary transfers, transfer of \$80,688 from the Operating category to the Inmate Drivens category, transfer of \$2,492 from the Boot Camp category to the Inmate Drivens category, and transfer of \$23,367 from the Utilities category to the Inmate Drivens category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Inmate Drivens category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54521**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

96. Department of Corrections - Stewart Conservation Camp - FY 2021

Addition of \$321,961 in budgetary transfers to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Inmate Drivens category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54534**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

97. Department of Corrections - Wells Conservation Camp - FY 2021

Deletion of \$100,000 in budgetary transfers to fund projected shortfalls within the department, transfer of \$1,066 from the Personnel Services category to the Uniform category, and transfer of \$38,593 from the Personnel Services category to the Inmate Drivens category to fund projected shortfalls for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54543**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

98. Department of Corrections - Ely Conservation Camp - FY 2021

Deletion of \$412,297 in budgetary transfers to fund a projected shortfall within the department for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54558**

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

The funding for the Ely Conservation Camp should not be continued, as this camp has been closed for over a year. Is it anticipated that the camp will reopen soon?

ADRIENNE MONROE (Administrative Services Officer, Nevada Department of Corrections [NDOC]):

The NDOC intends to reopen the camp, but I cannot provide an exact date on when that will happen. Reopening the Ely Conservation Camp is one of the department's top priorities. The NDOC is grateful for the ongoing patience of the Legislature. The department understands the commitment to this project and the expectation that the camp will reopen during the first quarter of FY 2022. The NDOC is working with Workforce Connections and the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation to post NDOC vacancies.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I am glad the camp will reopen in the first quarter of FY 2022. Construction on the Pioche Conservation Camp and the Wells Conservation Camp is delayed due to meeting the requirements of the fuel reduction contracts that the Nevada Division of Forestry has in place. Nevada is moving into the heart of the fire season and while the state continues to budget for it, the Ely Conservation Camp remains closed.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA
ITEM G-98.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

99. Department of Corrections - Carlin Conservation Camp - FY 2021

Deletion of \$100,000 in budgetary transfers to fund projected shortfalls within the department and transfer of \$3,722 from the Inmate Drivens category to the Operating category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deleted from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54514**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

100. Department of Motor Vehicles - Administrative Services Division - FY 2021

Transfer of \$77,000 from the Personnel Services category to the Operating category to fund a projected shortfall through the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Operating category exceeds \$75,000 **Work Program #C54644**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

101. Department of Motor Vehicles - Central Services - FY 2021

Transfer of \$191,600 from the Personnel Services category to the Operating category to fund a projected shortfall through the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Operating category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54642**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

102. Department of Motor Vehicles - Field Services - FY 2021

Transfer of \$409,500 from the Personnel Services category to the Operating category to fund a projected shortfall through the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Operating category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54645**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

103. Department of Motor Vehicles - Motor Carrier Division - FY 2021

Transfer of \$20,900 from the Personnel Services category to the Information Services category to fund a projected shortfall through the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Information Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54545**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

104. Department of Public Safety - Nevada Highway Patrol Division - FY 2021

Addition of \$8,349 in federal Treasury Forfeiture funds to cover projected overtime and task-force-related costs to aid in the deterrence and disruption of human trafficking. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Homeland Security Investigations Task Force category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C54537**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

105. Department of Public Safety - Division of Parole and Probation - FY 2021

Transfer of \$60,000 from the Personnel Services category to the Psychosexual Evaluations category to cover a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Psychosexual Evaluation category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C54397**

CHAIR BROOKS:

The amount contained in Agenda Item G-105 has been revised from \$60,000 to \$115,000.

There was no further discussion on this item.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM G-105.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

106. Department of Public Safety - Division of Parole and Probation - FY 2021

Transfer of \$68,600 from the Personnel Services category to the Operating category to cover a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred to the Operating category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54404**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

107. Department of Public Safety - Division of Parole and Probation - FY 2021

Transfer of \$20,445 from the Personnel Services category to the NDOT 800 MHZ Radios Statewide Cost Allocation category to cover a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54491**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

108. Department of Public Safety - Investigation Division - FY 2021

Transfer of \$21,855 from the Personnel Services category to the NDOT 800 MHZ Radios Statewide Cost Allocation category to cover a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred to the NDOT 800 MHZ Radio category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C54477**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

- 109. Department of Public Safety - Division of Emergency Management - FY 2021**
Addition of \$67,027 in federal Emergency Management Performance Grant funds to cover a projected shortfall in the Operating category for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the Operating category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C54113**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

- 110. Department of Public Safety - Division of Emergency Management - FY 2021**
Addition of \$30,276 in Waste Isolation Pilot Plant funding transferred from the Governor's Office of Nuclear Projects and transfer of \$3,000 from the Personnel Services category to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Program category to fund expenditures associated with the oversight of transuranic waste shipments within Nevada. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Program category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C54195**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

- 111. Department of Public Safety - Records, Communications, and Compliance - Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History - FY 2021**
Addition of \$93,184 in federal Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) grant funds to provide support to the Brady Point-of-Contact Unit and fund the ongoing need for four temporary staff to assist in answering phones and conducting background checks for firearms transfers. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the CESF Federal Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54570**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

- 112. Department of Public Safety - Records, Communications, and Compliance - Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History - FY 2021**
Transfer \$61,000 from the Reserve category to the NCJIS Modernization category to cover a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the NCJIS Modernization category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54586**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

- 113. Department of Public Safety - Records, Communications and Compliance - FY 2021**
Transfer of ~~\$5,278~~ **\$10,500** from the Information Services category to the Telephone Circuit Charges category to fund a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred to the Telephone Circuit Charges category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C54573. REVISED 5-18-21.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

- 114. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Administration - FY 2021**
Addition of \$12,746 in Cost Allocation and \$50 in Transfer of Bond Proceeds revenue to fund a projected shortfall in the Personnel Services category. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative change to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.119. Work Program #C54409**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

- 115. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - State Parks - FY 2021**
Transfer of \$4,486 from the Out-of-State Travel category, \$22,135 from the In-State Travel category and \$10,348 from the Training category to the Operating category to cover a projected shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred to the Operating category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C54492**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

- 116. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - State Parks - FY 2021**
Deletion of \$479,423 in Transfer from Commission on Tourism funding due to a reduction in room tax to fund personnel expenditures. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deleted from the Personnel Service category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.30. Work Program #C54602**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

- 117. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Forestry - FY 2021**
Addition of \$237,290 in Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds transferred from the Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) to fund the Lyon County Community Wildfire Protection Plan project. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the NDEM Transfer HMGP Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54420**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

- 118. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Forestry - Conservation Camps - FY 2021**
Transfer of \$9,996 from the Physicals category to the Equipment category to fund the purchase of chainsaws. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred to the Equipment category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C54567**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

- 119. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - State Lands - FY 2021**
Transfer of \$108 from the DOE Staff Costs category to the DCNR Cost Allocation category to fund a projected shortfall in the Personnel Services category in the DCNR Administration account. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred from the DOE Staff Costs category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **RELATES TO ITEM G.114. Work Program #C54419**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

- 120. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Environmental Protection - Industrial Site Cleanup - FY 2021**
Addition of \$240,000 in Transfer from Management of Hazardous Waste funds to support a contract for regulatory oversight at the Three Kids Mine Site. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the BMI Companies category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.121. Work Program #C54200**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

- 121. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Environmental Protection - Industrial Site Cleanup - FY 2022**
Addition of \$240,000 in Transfer from Management of Hazardous Waste funds to support a contract for regulatory oversight at the Three Kids Mine Site. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the BMI Companies category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM G.120. Work Program #C54655**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

- 122. Department of Wildlife - Data and Technology Services - FY 2021**
Addition of \$662,340 in Transfer of Application Fees to fund a projected shortfall in the Application Hunt System category due to an increase in usage. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Application Hunt System category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54331**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

- 123. Department of Veterans Services - Southern Nevada Veterans Home Account - FY 2021**
Addition of \$656,417 in one-time Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds and \$390,476 transferred from the Northern Nevada Veterans Home for CARES Act funds to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Veterans Administration One-Time COVID-19 category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54613**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

124. Department of Veterans Services - Southern Nevada Veterans Home Account - FY 2021

Addition of \$2,135,376 in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Program funds to reimburse the agency for supplies, administrative leave and staff overtime due to COVID-19. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the FEMA COVID-19 category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54569**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

125. Department of Veterans Services - Northern Nevada Veterans Home Account - FY 2021

Addition of \$460,644 in one-time Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Veterans Administration One-Time COVID-19 category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54614**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

126. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Public Health Preparedness Program - FY 2022

Addition of \$19,014,644 in federal Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Response: Public Health Crisis Response grant funds to establish, expand, train, and sustain the state, tribal, local, and territorial public health workforce and school-based health programs to support prevention, preparedness, response and recovery initiatives. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Centers for Disease Control Workforce Development category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54827. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 6-2-21.**

JULIA PEEK (Deputy Administrator, DPBH, DHHS):

Through this work program, the DHHS, DPBH requests the addition of \$19 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act, CDC, Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Response: Public Health Crisis Response funds to the Public Health Preparedness Program budget. The DPBH refers to this grant as its workforce grant, as it is one of the most flexible federal funding sources received by the division to meet staffing needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The duration of the grant is two years, beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023. Grant allowable costs include charging for expenses incurred on or after May 14, 2021, but the division currently does not plan to backfill any expenses.

The division is awaiting more detailed guidance in reporting templates from the CDC, but based on information received to date, this funding is directed to accomplish three things:

- Hire additional staff to directly respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Provide for gaps in staffing identified due to the division's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Support the division's public health pipeline, staffing and support efforts.

The detailed workplan and final budget for this award are due in 60 days and the division is still working with its partners to finalize these components. In the past, the division has been awarded several categorical grants that have met the staffing needs related to epidemiology, laboratory services, diversity, and immunizations. Most of the staffing in this grant will be focused on the gaps identified as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the division's public health pipeline efforts; not a direct service per se, as public health pipeline grants already address this. The CDC expects that at least 25% of the funds be used to support school-based health programs and at least 40% be used to hire staff at local health departments, communities, and community-based organizations. The remaining funding will be used to meet the division's staffing needs.

This grant allows for administrative staff, which is not often the case with many of the grants the division receives or looks for in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I cannot underscore the need for enough positions, as the division has identified staffing gaps in its fiscal and grant management units, human resources department, policy staff and communications staff. The division is required to report on several matrices including:

- The division's progress toward meeting its hiring goals over the duration of the grant from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2023, including details on the specific roles of the positions.
- The division must provide details regarding the diversity of staff hired and the equity and inclusion activities of this staff.

This award allows for the hiring of staff that are permanent, full-time, temporary, part of a fellowship or internship, and contractors. The division plans to use a variety of staffing solutions to meet the various needs of its agencies and partner organizations. The division has specifically structured the funding in this grant to address the following:

- State staffing to ensure timely and accurate fiscal management and compliance for the grant deliverables.
- State staffing to ensure timely and accurate health data and epidemiology.
- State and university staffing to support human resources and pipeline efforts.
- Policy staffing to support the division in accomplishing accreditation and adequately analyzing public health policy. The policy staff should also offer suggestions for improvement as it specifically relates to public health administration and authority.
- State staffing to support communication efforts specifically focused on the division's website and public information portals.

The division has also included funding for the Nevada System of Higher Education to focus on academic health departments. The DPBH will also be working with the Nevada Association of Counties health officials to provide technical assistance and support for county health boards and county commissioners as they develop local public health strategies. For health authorities in Washoe and Clark Counties, the division has included funding for these entities to focus on pipeline staffing efforts and school-based partnerships. For the remaining counties falling under the authority of the division's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ihsan Azzam, the division is requesting approximately \$2.6 million to fund the development of three regional county health departments. The division is working closely with Churchill County, which will partner with Mineral, Pershing, and Eureka Counties to develop a public health strategy for these counties that is reflective of regional public health efforts; this will be a great step forward in the state.

The division is also working with Elko County to assess a county/city public health department; this option is allowed for under the *Nevada Revised Statutes* and the *Nevada Administrative Code*. This funding will primarily go towards infrastructure and planning staff to support the growth of the county/city public health department. The division plans to work with the CDC Foundation to help with recruitment and oversight of the newly hired staff. The division was introduced to the CDC Foundation during its early response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the CDC Foundation has helped the division recruit a variety of staff, including staff for the DHHS Office of Minority Health and Equity as well as a DPBH senior epidemiologist and medical staff. It can be difficult to implement a workforce grant that is two years in scope, but the division is hopeful the CDC will extend this grant for years to come. The model that the division is using for this workforce grant is temporary and the DPBH will not obligate the state to continue funding these positions should the funding be terminated.

ASSEMBLYMAN ROBERTS:

Regarding the \$2.6 million that has not yet been identified for allocation, please explain how these funds will be allocated and the timeline in which the division expects to determine the allocations.

MS. PEEK:

The division is currently negotiating the funding amounts that will be awarded to each entity, as the final grant and workplan are due to the CDC within 60 days; the division hopes to have the plan finalized in the new few weeks to distribute the subawards. The division will be funding the counties that fall under its chief medical officer, because Nevada has a decentralized public health system, meaning the bulk of the state's population are served by Clark and Washoe Counties; every other county in Nevada falls under the state public health program, which is under the jurisdiction of the chief medical officer. The DPBH has learned that this is not always the best model, and the division is grateful that rural communities and counties have ramped up their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As stated earlier, the division is working with Churchill County, which will partner with Mineral, Pershing, and Eureka Counties to develop a quad-county model. A quad-county model is used by Carson City Health and Human Services

Department. Within NRS, a county and city in Nevada are allowed to combine forces into a single health department. The division is also hoping to work with Elko County to establish a county/city public health department. The DPBH would like to begin spending the grant funds by July 1, 2021, to begin hiring the workforce that will address these diverse activities.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Do the various state, tribal, local, and territorial jurisdictions anticipate having difficulties in filling the proposed contracted positions?

MS. PEEK:

Yes, hiring a workforce in these areas has been a challenge. However, the division's partnership with the CDC Foundation has been very fruitful, as the CDC Foundation has a more efficient method for finding and recruiting staff. The CDC Foundation also provides benefits and many peer-learning opportunities, and the division is hopeful that by partnering with this organization, the recruitment and retainment of the division's workforce will be much easier. Through another grant that the division was awarded, the CDC Foundation assisted the DPBH in the recruitment of a tribal liaison. The division is confident that partnering with the CDC Foundation is the best opportunity to find the necessary workforce. Workforce grants are hard to negotiate and enact, and the DPBH remains flexible in filling certain positions and adjusting the budget and scope of work to figure out where a gap in staffing may remain and where additional funding can be used.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA
ITEM G-126.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

127. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Administration - FY 2022

Addition of \$2,740,362 in federal United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Services, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds to improve client access to SNAP benefits by investing in technology infrastructure, employee training, improved reporting systems, and service delivery. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the SNAP ARPA Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54887. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 6-2-21.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

128. Office of the Governor - Governor's Office of Finance - Budget Division – FY 2022

Addition of \$527,169 in federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to support four positions, one contracted position and associated costs to administer, monitor and provide reporting for the ARP program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54745. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 6-3-21.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

129. Office of the Governor - FY 2022

Addition of \$103,540 in federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to support the administration and implementation of ARP funding throughout the state. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54756. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 6-3-21.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

130. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Nevada Arts Council - FY 2021

Addition of \$786,400 in federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funds under the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant to support arts organizations impacted by the pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the NEA ARP category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54629. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 6-4-21.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

131. Office of the Lieutenant Governor - Office of Small Business Advocacy - FY 2022

Addition of \$213,245 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds transferred from the CARES Act 2020 and the addition of \$103,261 in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to support the creation of the Office of Small Business Advocacy pursuant to Assembly Bill 184 (2021 Legislative Session). Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C54933. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 6-4-21.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

132. Coronavirus Relief Funds Work Programs - FY 2021

#	FY	WP#	Agency	Budget	Budget Account Description
1	2021	211CRF1000	010	1000	Office of the Governor
2	2021	211CRF1340	015	1340	Governor's Office of Finance – Budget Division
3	2021	211CRF1002	030	1002	AG – Extradition Coordinator
4	2021	211CRF1030	030	1030	AG – Administrative Budget Account
5	2021	211CRF1045	030	1045	AG – National Settlement Administration
6	2021	211CRF1050	040	1050	Secretary of State
7	2021	21CBL1050	040	1050	Secretary of State
8	2021	21CBL1130	060	1130	Controller's Office REVISED 6-8-21
9	2021	211CRF1371	086	1371	Administration – Administrative Services
10	2021	211CRF1373	180	1373	Administration – EITS – Office of the CIO
11	2021	211CRF1365	180	1365	Administration – EITS – Agency IT Services
12	2021	211CRF1385	180	1385	Administration – EITS – Computer Facility
13	2021	211CRF1341	088	1341	Office of Grant Procurement Coord
14	2021	211CRF1363	070	1363	Administration – HRM – Human Resource Management
15	2021	211CRF1346	332	1346	Administration – NSLA – Mail Services
16	2021	21CBL1346	332	1346	Administration – NSLA – Mail Services
17	2021	211CRF1349	082	1349	Administration – SPWD – Buildings & Grounds
18	2021	211CBL1349	082	1349	Administration – SPWD – Buildings & Grounds
19	2021	211CRF2361	130	2361	Department of Taxation
20	2021	211CRF2719	300	2719	NDE – District Support Services
21	2021	211CRF2712	300	2712	NDE – Student and School Support
22	2021	211CRF4551	550	4551	Agriculture – Consumer Equitability
23	2021	212CBL4551	550	4551	Agriculture – Consumer Equitability
24	2021	211CRF4061	611	4061	Gaming Control Board
25	2021	211CRF4681	740	4681	B&I – Business and Industry Administration
26	2021	211CRF4680	742	4680	B&I – Division of Industrial Relations
27	2021	211CRF3823	748	3823	B&I – Real Estate Administration
28	2021	211CRF3922	751	3922	B&I – Nevada Transportation Authority
29	2021	211CRF3900	752	3900	B&I – Labor Commissioner
30	2021	211CRF1013	753	1013	B&I – NV Attorney for Injured Workers
31	2021	211CRF3835	755	3835	B&I – Division of Financial Institutions
32	2021	211CRF1526	102	1526	Governor's Office of Economic Development
33	2021	211CRF3208	402	3208	DHHS – Aging and Disability Services - Early Intervention Services
34	2021	211CRF3216	406	3216	DHHS – Division of Public and Behavioral Health - Health Care Facilities Reg
35	2021	211CRF3218	406	3218	DHHS – Division of Public and Behavioral Health - Public Health Preparedness Program

36	2021	211CRF3219	406	3219	DHHS – Division of Public and Behavioral Health - Biostatistics and Epidemiology
37	2021	211CRF3223	406	3223	DHHS – Division of Public and Behavioral Health - Office of Health Administration
38	2021	211CRF3224	406	3224	DHHS – Division of Public and Behavioral Health - Community Health Services
39	2021	211CRF3648	406	3648	DHHS – Division of Public and Behavioral Health - Rural Clinics
40	2021	211CRF3162	406	3162	DHHS – Division of Public and Behavioral Health - No NV Adult Mental Health Svcs
41	2021	211CRF3161	406	3161	DHHS – Division of Public and Behavioral Health - So NV Adult Mental Health Services
42	2021	211CRF3645	406	3645	DHHS – Division of Public and Behavioral Health - Facility for the Mental Offender
43	2021	211CRF3228	407	3228	DHHS – Division of Welfare and Supportive Services – Administration
44	2021	211CRF3233	407	3233	DHHS – Division of Welfare and Supportive Services – Welfare Field Services
45	2021	21CBL3145	409	3145	DHHS – Division of Child and Family Services - Children, Youth & Family Administration
46	2021	211CRF3148	409	3148	DHHS – Division of Child and Family Services - Summit View Youth Center
47	2021	21CR3269	901	3269	DETR – Disability Adjudication
48	2021	21CR4772	902	4772	DETR – Unemployment Insurance
49	2021	21CBL4772	902	4772	DETR – Unemployment Insurance
50	2021	211CRF3710	440	3710	NDOC – Director's Office
51	2021	211CRF3706	440	3706	NDOC – Prison Medical Care
52	2021	211CRF3711	440	3711	NDOC – Correctional Programs
53	2021	211CRF3751	440	3751	NDOC – Ely State Prison
54	2021	211CRF3762	440	3762	NDOC – High Desert State Prison
55	2021	211CRF3717	440	3717	NDOC – Northern Nevada Correctional Center
56	2021	211CRF3738	440	3738	NDOC – Southern Desert Correctional Center
57	2021	211CRF3759	440	3759	NDOC – Lovelock Correctional Center
58	2021	211CRF3716	440	3716	NDOC – Warm Springs Correctional Center
59	2021	211CRF3761	440	3761	NDOC – Florence McClure Womens Correctional Center
60	2021	211CRF3760	440	3760	NDOC – Casa Grande Transitional Housing
61	2021	211CRF3722	440	3722	NDOC – Stewart Conservation Camp
62	2021	211CRF3723	440	3723	NDOC – Pioche Conservation Camp
63	2021	211CRF3725	440	3725	NDOC – Three Lakes Valley Conservation Camp
64	2021	211CRF3747	440	3747	NDOC – Ely Conservation Camp
65	2021	211CRF3748	440	3748	NDOC – Jean Conservation Camp
66	2021	211CRF3752	440	3752	NDOC – Carlin Conservation Camp
67	2021	212CRF3708	440	3708	NDOC – Offenders' Store Fund

68	2021	211CRF3719	440	3719	NDOC – Prison Industry
69	2021	211CRF3743	653	3743	DPS – Investigation Division
70	2021	21CBL4709	655	4709	DPS – Central Rep for NV Records of Criminal History
71	2021	211CRF4709	655	4709	DPS – Central Rep for NV Records of Criminal History
72	2021	211CRF3816	656	3816	DPS – Fire Marshal
73	2021	211CRF4162	704	4162	DCNR – State Parks
74	2021	211CRF4195	706	4195	DCNR – Forestry
75	2021	211CRF4198	706	4198	DCNR – Forestry – Conservation Camps
76	2021	211CRF2560	240	2560	Office of Veterans Services
77	2021	21CBL2560	240	2560	Office of Veterans Services
78	2021	211CRF2569	240	2569	Northern Nevada Veterans Home Account

133. Coronavirus Relief Funds Work Programs – FY 2022

#	FY	WP#	Agency	Budget	Budget Account Description
1	2022	C54755	015	1340	Governor's Ofc of Finance - Budget Division
2	2022	22CBL3274	908	3274	DETR - Information Development and Processing

WAYNE THORLEY (Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB):

Agenda Item G-132, Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Work Programs and Agenda Item G-133, CRF Work Programs contain various work programs allocating CRFs; both items will be held for additional discussion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Through the 80 work programs which comprise Agenda Items G-132 and G-133, CRFs are requested for reimbursement of contract staff salaries, personal protective equipment, second order effects and software to facilitate teleworking. Please provide more information on the second order effects. I would like to understand how the CRF allocations are being used to supplement state funding. Also, please elaborate on how the reimbursement amount for software to facilitate teleworking was determined. The amount seems small, especially considering that more workers are telecommuting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

LESLEY MOHLENKAMP (Coronavirus Relief Fund Coordinator, Governor's Finance Office [GFO]):

In line with CDC guidance and the state's emergency directives, state agencies were asked to provide, advise, and prepare plans for a transition from a pandemic environment to the resumption of normal activities. This included identifying operational tools that a state agency may need to carry forward through the transition. The plans required agencies to budget for supplies, equipment, and personnel costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to any resources required to address adverse operational effects due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These resources include temporary staff or contracted positions that are essential for addressing any backlog or productivity issues that may have occurred. This information was initially gathered with a survey, which was then vetted to identify the most essential resources needed to move forward.

The GFO was originally looking at approximately 190 budget accounts with close to \$190 million in requests. The items shown in Agenda Items G-132 and G-133 are the most essential requests necessary to move forward. A total of 156 budget accounts were approved for a total of approximately \$21.7 million. Any resources related to addressing backlogs may be different from what is normally seen; these resources may not be needed to provide supplies and equipment, but they may be necessary to provide contracted staff to address backlogs.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Under second order effects, the Office of the Attorney General's extradition coordinator line item shows a request of approximately \$284,000. Based on your explanation, I am assuming this request was to cover the backlog of work that occurred when extraditions were not permitted. Is this correct?

Ms. MOHLENKAMP:

Correct. This is one of the few items that required its own category.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS G-132 AND G-133.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RECLASSIFICATIONS

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item G.

Agency	Agency/ Account Number	Position Number	Present Class, Code, Grade and Salary	Proposed Class, Code, Grade and Salary
Office of the Military	431/3650	0312	Communications Systems Specialist II Code: 6.977 Grade: 35/01 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement \$51,281.28	IT Professional III Code: 7.925 Grade: 40/01 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement \$63,746.64
Office of the Military	431/3650	0320	Electronics Technician II Code: 6.981 Grade: 31/01 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement \$43,346.88	IT Professional III Code: 7.925 Grade: 40/01 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement \$63,746.64

Chair Brooks called a recess at 12:45 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:23 p.m.

H. STATEMENT OF CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT BALANCE.

WAYNE THORLEY (Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB):

Assembly Bill (A.B.) 464 (2021 Legislative Session) involved a one-shot appropriation to restore various fund balances, including a \$13.7 million appropriation from the General Fund to the IFC Contingency Account; this appropriation involved FY 2021 funding and was completed upon passage and approval of A.B. 464. The \$13.7 million is accounted for in the IFC Contingency Account balance. There is a small error regarding the FY 2021 pending allocations from the June 22, 2021, IFC meeting and the unrestricted General Fund column on page 359 in Volume III of the meeting packet ([Exhibit C](#)). The \$31,500 pending allocation relates to Agenda Item I; however, this is not a new allocation, as Agenda Item I requests a reallocation of funding that was already allocated to the agency. The amount shown should not be an addition of \$31,500, it should be \$0. After this is accounted for, there are no pending unrestricted allocations from the Contingency Account; the balance is \$20 million.

There are two pending allocations from the restricted portion of the Contingency Account totaling \$493,875. With these pending allocations included, the restricted portion of the Contingency Account will be \$17.2 million.

- I. **REQUEST FOR REVISION TO PREVIOUS ALLOCATION FROM THE IFC CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT (GENERAL FUND) PURSUANT TO NRS 353.268 (Note: IFC may approve a different amount for an allocation than the amount requested) - Department of Indigent Defense Services** - Request to revise the purpose of \$31,500 of the allocation approved on April 30, 2020, to authorize the use of the allocation for expenses related to the *Davis v. Nevada* court-ordered monitor during FY 2021.

JASON KOLENUT (Management Analyst, Department of Indigent Defense Services):

Agenda Item I contains an appropriation from the IFC Contingency Account that the Department of Indigent Defense Services (DIDS) requested one year ago. One of the categories in this request pertains to a contract for a weighted-caseload study costing \$295,000. After the request for proposal process, this contract was awarded at \$176,600. At the same time this amount was appropriated from the Contingency Account, the DIDS received the stipulating consent check through which a court monitor must be paid; this will cost the DIDS an estimated \$31,500 through the end of FY 2021. The department is requesting to use unused funding from the weighted-caseload study to pay for the court monitor.

ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER:

I am glad that the contract for the weighted-caseload study was less than the allocated amount. The Committee must decide whether to reallocate \$31,500. During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Legislature approved \$75,000 in each year of the 2021-23 biennium to cover the court monitor. Will the \$31,500 be used to cover costs that pre-date FY 2021, or will this amount be used to supplement funding in FY 2022?

MR. KOLENUT:

The DIDS was awarded \$75,000 in each year of the 2021-23 biennium to comply with the consent judgment, but the work of the court monitor started in September 2020. The \$31,500 will be used to cover the costs of work done in FY 2021 and is in addition to the \$75,000.

ASSEMBLYMAN LEAVITT:

If \$295,000 was allocated by the Committee but only \$176,600 was spent, what became of the remaining balance? Can the remaining balance be reallocated?

MR. KOLENUT:

The \$295,000 was requested before any contract was bid on. The \$176,600 was the winning bid, with the remaining balance not being fully expended; the balance is currently sitting in budget account 101-1008. At the end of FY 2021, any unused funding will be reverted. The DIDS is currently requesting to use some of this funding to pay for the court monitor instead of asking for an additional \$31,500 on top of the \$295,000.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Regarding the use of \$31,500 to pay for the court monitor, would the services that the DIDS receives help comply with the requirements of the consent judgement?

MR. KOLENUT:

The consent judgement was not handed down until August 11, 2020, which was after the DIDS requested the \$295,000. The consent judgement states that once an agreement is made, the court monitor would have to pay the plaintiffs up to \$75,000 per year.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Please describe the services that would be provided by the court monitor that will help the DIDS comply with the consent judgement.

MR. KOLENUT:

The DIDS has had a few meetings with the court monitor, who ensures that the DIDS is complying with the consent judgment by hiring employers and that the department is not creating an economic disincentive for lawyers to take on cases. The consent judgement was 89 pages long and details the work the court monitor needs to complete; the court monitor has a couple years' worth of work to complete for the department. I will provide the consent judgement to the Committee.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA
ITEM I.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Due to the way this funding was originally allocated through a resolution, that resolution will now have to be changed. This motion allows the resolution to be changed to allocate \$31,500. Is this correct?

CHAIR BROOKS:
That is correct.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- J. REQUEST FOR ALLOCATION FROM THE IFC CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT (GENERAL FUND) PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL 501(1) (2019 Legislative Session) (Note: IFC may approve a different amount for an allocation than the amount requested) - Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation** - Request for an allocation of \$213,028 for relocation planning and site selection expenses for the National Atomic Testing Museum.

LINDA RAKOW (Vice Chair, Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation):

The Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation is a nonprofit organization. On behalf of the foundation's Board of Trustees, I thank you for your support as outlined in Senate Bill (S.B.) 501 (2019 Legislative Session), which has allowed the foundation to make substantial progress in its plans for relocating the National Atomic Testing Museum from its present location on Flamingo Road to downtown Las Vegas. During the current reporting period, the foundation has raised \$218,014, and exceeded the match requirements regarding the \$1 million in funding appropriated by S.B. 501. The foundation is requesting \$213,028, which is the balance of the allocated funds. The funds will be used to continue the foundation's planning and site evaluation activities, which are on schedule.

The foundation is making great progress in meeting its goals and has acquired the services of Grand Canyon Development Partners and other exhibit design firms to provide more detailed planning and cost estimates. The foundation has met most of the deliverables required in the contract with the City of Las Vegas and has completed a detailed project schedule to guide the foundation through the remaining requirements. Despite the significant challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic presented, the foundation has continued with its fundraising activities and was able to exceed the matching funds required by S.B. 501. The foundation has enlisted the help of local and national fundraising organizations and plans to strengthen internal staff by adding a Development Expert position. The foundation looks forward to future opportunities and continuing to tell the vital story of Nevada's atomic testing history, while becoming one of the premier science education centers in the State of Nevada. The museum's relocation to downtown Las Vegas will significantly benefit the cultural corridor in that area.

BRIAN MCANALLEN (Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation):

Thank you for appropriating \$1 million to the museum pursuant to S.B. 501. The foundation is exploring all options, including the reuse of an existing site within the City of Las Vegas, which would benefit and revitalize the area. The foundation is currently discussing lease options with the city so that the museum can reopen as quickly as possible. This will provide more opportunities for students, residents, and visitors to visit the museum. The foundation will provide its final report to the Committee in September 2021 and may return to the Committee to discuss relocating the museum to an existing site.

CHAIR BROOKS:

I appreciate the foundation looking into relocating the museum to an existing site and I look forward to working with the foundation in the future on this endeavor. Certain federal funding and guidance has been released regarding the tourism and cultural affairs aspect of Nevada's economy relating to this project. I hope the foundation is pursuing this opportunity as well.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA
ITEM J.
SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (Senator Ratti was not
present for the vote).

- K. REQUEST FOR ALLOCATION FROM THE IFC CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT
(HIGHWAY FUND) PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 468(9.5)
(2021 Legislative Session) (Note: IFC may approve a different amount for an
allocation than the amount requested) - Department of Motor Vehicles -
Request for an allocation of \$483,644 ~~\$280,847~~ for computer programming costs.
RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 6-3-21. REVISED 6-16-21.**

JULIE BUTLER (Director, Department of Motor Vehicles):

Pursuant to Assembly Bill (A.B.) 468 (2021 Legislative Session), the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) requests to transfer \$280,847 from the IFC Contingency Account to DMV Automation budget account 201-4715 to hire contracted computer programmers to implement A.B. 116, A.B. 123, A.B. 427, Senate Bill (S.B.) 163, S.B. 219, S.B. 289 [Corrected: S.B. 389], and S.B. 371, all from the 2021 Legislative Session. This legislation results in a total hour request of \$2,562 [Corrected: results in 2,562 programming hours] at \$109.62 per hour for a total request of \$280,847.

CHAIR BROOKS:

The Legislature and the DMV collaborated on several bills to arrive at the DMV's total request to cover costs. Those figures have since been refined.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM K.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (Senator Ratti was not present
for the vote).

- L. REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL TO ACCEPT GIFTS AND GRANTS PURSUANT
TO NRS 353.335.**

1. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - Division of Museums and History - Request for approval to accept \$372,800 from the Vera Silberstein Trust for the Nevada State Railroad Museum.

MITCH VARNER (Administrative Services Officer, Division of Museums and History, Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs):

The Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Division of Museums and History is requesting approval to accept \$372,800 from the Vera Silberstein Gift Trust for the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City. This funding is intended to help support the museum and preserve the rich history of railroads in Nevada. The funding will also help tell the story of the impact of railroads upon immigration and settlements in Northern Nevada and the Sierra Nevada mountains through a sustaining collection of equipment, memorabilia, public access, and interpretive education programs.

ASSEMBLYMAN LEAVITT:

The Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City seems to be underfunded while also appearing to be the most visited railroad museum in the state. Will any of the funding that the division receives go toward funding the Boulder City Museum?

MR. VARNER:

The Vera Silberstein Gift Trust is specific to the Carson City Museum.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEM L-1.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (Senator Ratti was
not present for the vote).

2. Department of Public Safety - Division of Emergency Management - Request for approval to accept and expend \$20,435,012 in Federal Emergency Management Agency grant funds to reimburse state agencies, local jurisdictions, and tribes for eligible COVID-19 related expenditures.

JUSTIN LUNA (Administrative Services Officer, Division of Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety):

The Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management is the administrative agency responsible for coordinating disaster assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As part of Nevada's major disaster declaration for the COVID-19 pandemic, the division is requesting additional FEMA grant authority to pass-through reimbursement payments for jurisdictions impacted by the pandemic.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Regarding the distribution of funding, there were \$43,818,761 in requests that came from local and tribal jurisdictions. It appears that requests from Clark County, Southern Nevada Health District, Las Vegas, Boulder City, Clark County School District, Henderson, North Las Vegas, Mesquite, and the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District total \$20,009,860, which is less than

half of the total funding amount requested of \$43,818,761. The populations and services associated with these areas reflects that more funding should be made available in these jurisdictions. Were there other streams of aid and reimbursement through FEMA that went to these areas, or did they not request as much funding? Is there another reason why these areas would not be eligible for more funding?

MR. LUNA:

The areas in Clark County did not request as much FEMA assistance for a variety of reasons, including their receipt of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 funding; these areas may have decided to use CARES Act funding instead of requesting reimbursement funds through FEMA. Determining eligibility and providing backup documentation can be a difficult process, and these jurisdictions may have decided to use other funding sources for some projects. Certain jurisdictions may have already had funding available at the local level to cover emergency expenses. The FEMA reimbursements are based on which projects jurisdictions are requesting reimbursement for. The division works with agencies and provides technical assistance to guide them through the application process.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Renown Regional Medical Center is requesting \$13.6 million in FEMA assistance, which is over one-third of the overall statewide requests for reimbursement. Why is this facility eligible for such a high amount of FEMA assistance?

MR. LUNA:

Renown Regional Medical Center in Washoe County requested FEMA assistance to help with the buildout of its alternate care facility. This center set up an alternate care facility in the parking garage and is requesting FEMA funding to reimburse for this project. The division is currently working with local and tribal jurisdictions and state agencies to help them work through their projects and the amount of FEMA assistance that they are requesting will eventually increase. The additional \$20.4 million that is being requested on top of the \$17.7 million in authority is what was obligated at the time the division submitted the work program. The \$38.1 million was obligated by FEMA at the time, but there are additional project worksheets being submitted for review and approval that will exceed the \$38.1 million. The division will return to the Committee in FY 2022 to request an increase in FEMA reimbursement authority to continue paying out project worksheets.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

With reimbursement requests from local and tribal jurisdictions totaling \$5.7 million more than the authority that would be available if this item were approved, how will the division determine where to allocate the FEMA funds that are passed through to local and tribal jurisdictions for existing requests? Will additional funding be requested to backfill any requests?

MR. LUNA:

The division based its request on the associated work program that shows \$38.1 million of federal-share obligated funds. These projects go through a lengthy review process conducted by both the state and FEMA, and I anticipate that the division will have enough authority to true up its budgets at the beginning of FY 2022 to best determine next steps. The division will also be able to determine if an increase in authority will be needed. I am confident that the projects up for approval over the next few months will have reimbursements paid out in a timely manner.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

If an increase in authority is needed, will the division return to the Committee to discuss backfilling requests?

MR. LUNA:

Yes. The division will probably need to have additional discussions with the Committee to request additional FEMA authority to continue to pay out reimbursements.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

This funding will be coming from FEMA and not the General Fund, as the Committee is discussing authorizations which would enable the division to use money already available to the state to deal with these issues.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEM L-2.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (Senator Ratti was not present for the vote).

3. State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Division of State Parks
 - a. Request for approval to accept \$300,000 from the Tahoe Fund to support a new visitors center and amphitheater at Spooner Lake.
 - b. Request for approval to accept \$47,000 from the Protectors of Tule Springs for the completion of Monumental Mammoth Plaza.

JENNIFER IDEMA (Administrative Services Officer, Division of State Parks, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources):

Agenda Item L-3 contains two donations, the first being a donation for \$300,000 from the Tahoe Fund for an ongoing project at Spooner Lake State Park. The vendor, Group West Construction, Inc., is ready to construct a new visitors center; the \$300,000 will supplement this contract. The second donation is for \$47,000 from the Protectors of Tule Springs to support a Monumental Mammoth Plaza at Ice Age Fossils State Park in Las Vegas.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Because the donation from the Tahoe Fund is intended to supplement an ongoing contract, does this mean that the donation is an enhancement of the project's scope?

Ms. IDEMA:

The donation is already included in the ongoing costs of the project that has been started at Spooner Lake.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Was the project fully funded by the Division of State Parks prior to the receipt of the \$300,000, or was the donation incorporated into the initial budget?

Ms. IDEMA:

The donation was incorporated into the initial budget.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS:

Does the agency anticipate having sufficient funding in the division's operating budget to support any ongoing operating costs associated with the new visitors center and amphitheater at Spooner Lake in the upcoming biennium?

Ms. IDEMA:

The division has a specific budget for Spooner Lake. There are existing restroom facilities at Spooner Lake and the funding that was previously requested to build the restroom facilities will now be used to support the new visitors center. The division also has other funding sources it can draw from if this is not enough funding.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS:

I am looking forward to hearing about the anticipated operations and the usage rates of the visitors center and amphitheater facility.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEMS L-3a AND L-3b.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (Senator Ratti was not present for the vote).

4. Office of the State Treasurer - Request for approval to accept \$110,000 from Goldman Sachs Philanthropy to support the Achieving a Better Life Experience Savings program. **RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 5-19-21. WITHDRAWN 6-3-21.**

5. Office of the Governor - Request for approval to accept \$2,738,837,229 in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to increase access to health care and community-based services; strengthen public education; support disadvantaged communities; strengthen Nevada's workforce; support small businesses; revitalize the state's economy; invest in infrastructure; and modernize and enhance state government services. **RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 6-4-21.**

SUSAN BROWN (Director, GFO, Office of the Governor):

Agenda Item L-5 requests approval for the GFO to accept \$2,738,837,229 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The ARPA was signed into law March 11, 2021. The ARPA's interim rules and frequently asked questions (FAQ) were issued on May 10, 2021, and as of June 17, 2021, the GFO has seen five updates to the FAQ; things are moving forward quickly regarding this funding. The ARPA Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) are intended to provide support to state, local, and tribal governments in responding to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. States that experienced a net increase of more than 2 percentage points in their unemployment rates after February 2020 received full allocation of the state funds in a single payment. Other states will receive funds in two equal tranches. Nevada received its state portion of the CSLFRF allocation in one tranche, which is the amount before the Committee today.

Funding for local governments is paid separately by the Treasury, with counties and large metropolitan cities receiving their payments directly from the Treasury based on the size of their populations. Large metropolitan cities in Nevada include Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson, Reno, Sparks, and Carson City. Cities with smaller populations are to be paid from a separate portion of the CSLFRF that is provided to the state. All local governments received their CSLFRF allocations in two tranches, with the first tranche of \$75.3 million made available on June 16, 2021. Based on Treasury guidance, Nevada has 30 days to distribute this funding to its smaller local jurisdictions; however, an extension can be requested if necessary. In many ways, the CSLFRF is similar to the CARES Act, Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), as the CSLFRF is directly tied to responding or mitigating the COVID-19 public health emergency and the resulting negative economic impacts. However, the CSLFRF is different from the CRFs in that Nevada has more time to use the CSLFRF allocations. This is beneficial to the state as it will have more time to plan out how the CSLFRF allocations will be used. Nevada has until December 31, 2024, to obligate its CSLFRF allocation, while the CRFs had to be used within approximately seven months.

The Office of the Governor seeks to work together in a collaborative manner and seeks input from the Nevada Legislature during the 2021-22 Interim on how to best spend the state portion of the CSLFRF allocation. This is the purpose of the Every Nevadan Recovery Framework, which was rolled out with legislative leadership to provide a mechanism for input from all branches of government, businesses, educational institutions, and citizens. The GFO

hopes to hear from all Nevadans regarding the best ways to use the CSLFRF and the agency intends for the requests to be organized and prioritized in a collaborative manner. Nevada is continually responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and its secondary effects and needs to ensure that funding is provided for programs critical to controlling the pandemic.

Included within the request in Agenda Item L-5 is \$5.1 million for the Vax Nevada Days incentive program, which is intended to increase vaccination rates to achieve a state of normalcy, which will also help Nevada's economy. There are more COVID-19 vaccination clinics across the state than ever before, many of which do not require an appointment. However, vaccination rates have decreased since their peak in mid-April 2021. As of today, approximately 51% of eligible Nevadans have initiated their COVID-19 vaccinations. Supplies were limited when vaccination efforts began, but supplies have increased; therefore, it is time to increase the vaccination rates of Nevadans. This effort has regained urgency with news from around the world that variants of the COVID-19 virus are spreading more rapidly than previously seen. This serves as a reminder that Nevada is still fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. The GFO believes that the CSLFRF allocations will help the state's efforts in this regard.

The \$5 million being requested for the Vax Nevada Days program is a worthwhile investment in incentivizing Nevada's citizens to become vaccinated. The program is funded under the authority in S.B. 461(1)(2)(b) (2021 Legislative Session), which approves the disbursement of CSLFRF allocations to address the public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Actions have been instigated and processes are in place to move forward as quickly as possible regarding the required distributions contained in S.B. 461. The GFO will prepare work programs to use ARPA funding included in A.B. 495 (2021 Legislative Session) and A.B. 484 (2021 Legislative Session). The Legislature has the Office of the Governor's commitment that this funding will be used to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

CHAIR BROOKS:

I agree that the COVID-19 pandemic is a public health emergency, as infection rates are slowly increasing while vaccination rates are decreasing. With new variants emerging, it is urgent for the health of Nevada's economy and for the health of its citizens that as many people as possible get vaccinated. Incentive programs have proven successful in other states for increasing vaccination rates. I am thankful the Vax Nevada Days program will begin immediately. The funding methods for vaccination incentive programs in other states provide examples of successes and failures. Did the Office of the Governor confirm with the Treasury that the Vax Nevada Days program is an allowable use of CSLFRF allocations?

MS. BROWN:

The creation of the Vax Nevada Days program is an allowable expense under Treasury guidelines. In guidance released by the Treasury on May 25, 2021,

item 49 of the CSLFRF Interim Final Rule specifically allows for incentive programs to be used by states to increase vaccination rates. The guidance states that recipients can use funds to pay for vaccine incentive programs by providing cash or in-kind transfers, lottery programs, or other incentives to get people vaccinated. Under the Interim Final Rule, recipients may use CSLFRF allocations to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency by being reimbursed for expenses related to COVID-19 vaccination programs. The Interim Final Rule states that programs providing incentives reasonably expected to increase the number of people who choose to get vaccinated or that motivate people to get vaccinated sooner than they otherwise would have are an allowable use of the funds.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Senate Bill 461 (2021 Legislative Session) established funding priorities for the CSLFRF during the 2021-22 Interim. Discussions were had concerning funding activities requiring CSLFRF in a consecutive and concurrent manner, and it was stated that certain activities should not eliminate others. It appears that the Vax Nevada Days program is being prioritized over other programs. I want to ensure concurrent work is being done on all the different components of S.B. 461; I do not want one activity to exclude another. Please elaborate on the components of S.B. 461 relating to lost revenue, the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), and other components of this bill, as it was agreed on that various CSLFRF disbursements would be simultaneously made to support many activities.

MS. BROWN:

Economists from the GFO and the LCB Fiscal Analysis Division have been working on the lost revenue portion of the CSLFRF allocation for a few weeks. The GFO has submitted questions to the Treasury and the Office of the State Controller to receive clarification regarding certain items so that the economists can continue moving forward on the process. Regarding allocations to DETR, the Nevada Department of Education, and the State Public Charter School Authority through A.B. 484 and A.B. 495, the GFO is compiling work programs so that funding can be distributed. These work programs include a request for \$335 million to repay loans from the federal government to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. The GFO is working on all these pieces simultaneously to move the process along quickly.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Has a timeline been developed for the disbursements of CSLFRF allocations that are required pursuant to S.B. 461? Will the GFO have begun dispersing CSLFRF allocations by the August 18, 2021, IFC meeting, or will additional discussions with the Committee be required before funding can be dispersed?

MS. BROWN:

The GFO will be discussing CSLFRF allocations with the IFC at its August 2021 meeting. Depending on the timing of the components, the GFO may request a special IFC meeting earlier than the August 18 meeting to address issues.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

How does the \$5.1 million for the Vax Nevada Days program fall within the CSLFRF disbursement priorities found in S.B. 461? There were conversations regarding how the process would move forward according to certain dates and times. Have the dates for disbursement of CSLFRF allocations been decided upon? I want to ensure that Nevada is complying with the different components of the Treasury's guidelines and that everything is completed within the appropriate timeframe.

Ms. BROWN:

The GFO has not pinpointed the exact dates of payments as there are still moving pieces being worked on.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

I know not much could have changed in the short amount of time since we last spoke. I am aware that the first drawing for the program will occur on Thursday, July 8, 2021.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

The Every Nevadan Recovery Framework was rolled out in April 2021. How many applications have been received and how much money does this equate to?

Ms. BROWN:

I will provide the information to the Committee at a later date.

CHAIR BROOKS:

During the last discussion with the GFO, the agency indicated that over 1,000 applications had been received and the number was growing. I am sure this equates to a lot of funding and look forward to hearing more about the progress of this project.

SENATOR RATTI:

Has the GFO proposed a date for closing the solicitation process for the submission of ideas regarding the Every Nevadan Recovery Framework?

Ms. BROWN:

A closing date is not yet available.

CHAIR BROOKS:

The GFO received \$75.3 million for direct disbursement to small cities, towns, and counties. Is this \$75.3 million included in the \$2,738,837,229, or is it in addition to this amount? How many similar payments will be made?

Ms. BROWN:

The \$75.3 million is in addition to the \$2,738,837,229. The \$75.3 million was the first payment the state received that was earmarked for local governments.

The GFO is expecting to receive the second payment of \$75.3 million, but I am uncertain when that will occur.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Is the disbursement of the \$75.3 million formulaic or does an application need to be submitted to receive the funding?

MS. BROWN:

It will be a formulaic payment.

CHAIR BROOKS:

When will the local governments receive the funding?

MS. BROWN:

I do not currently have this information, as there is a work program that needs to be processed before the CSLFRF allocations can be transferred. The GFO must receive budgets from each entity, with the process going into effect on January 27, 2020. There is an additional calculation regarding the process that the GFO must examine before funding can be distributed, but the agency is currently working on the process.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

Whenever the Committee discusses the issuance of funding, agencies typically reach out to inquire when they can apply for the funds. For clarification, the Committee is discussing an action item in which funding will be transferred to an operating account. On July 1, 2021, the CSLFRF money will be transferred to an account within The Executive Budget and all expenditure authority will be placed in a reserve category. Work programs will come before the IFC to provide CSLFRF allocations to state agencies. Hopefully these work programs will come forward with input from stakeholders and constituents, and there will be plenty of opportunities to gather ideas and examine gaps in the state's budgets. Lost revenue must be addressed first, but moving forward, input from citizens should be incorporated into the work programs before these items come before the IFC. The CSLFRF allocations are not currently available, and it will take time to get this funding to constituents.

SENATOR RATTI:

There will be opportunities to apply for certain funding sources as they are rolled out. Nonprofit agencies and other stakeholder organizations should be participating in the current feedback process and should not wait for a formal process to become available before applying for funding. If agencies have ideas or projects that appropriately fit within the framework of the CSLFRF, these ideas should be submitted through the GFO's portal. Is that correct?

MS. BROWN:

Yes, that is correct.

CHAIR BROOKS:

In addition to the \$2,738,837,229 that will go through the process of stakeholder engagement, there is close to \$7 billion in federal aid coming to the State of Nevada; the \$2,738,837,229 was just a portion. Some of the additional funding will go directly to school districts, counties, cities, and state agencies. The work involved will require much coordination, so I am glad additional staff will be hired to ensure compliance. None of the funding should be wasted and it should be spent in the most efficient manner possible. I have had conversations with county and city representatives in Senate District 3 regarding this funding and I want to ensure that efforts are not duplicated. I look forward to working with the GFO over the 2021-22 Interim in making this money available to all Nevadans. Please provide the website for the Every Nevadan Recovery Framework.

Ms. BROWN:

The website is <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov>.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEM L-5.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

M. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE FROM THE ACCOUNT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION PURSUANT TO NRS 701.585(3) - Office of the Governor - Governor's Office of Energy - Request for approval to award \$250,000 to the Moapa Band of Paiutes and \$200,000 to the Walker River Paiute Tribe for projects supporting energy resiliency. **WITHDRAWN 6-15-21.**

N. DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION - State Public Works Division

1. Request to modify the scope of CIP Project 19-S09, Statewide Building Official Program to increase project authority to receive and expend an additional \$197,186 to complete additional building permits for state agencies pursuant to NRS 341.145(1)(f).

WARD PATRICK (Administrator, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration):

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project 19-S09 was originally funded at approximately \$1 million. A work program was submitted at the end of FY 2020 to make a correction and request additional funding of approximately \$720,000. Agenda Item N-2 requests \$197,186 in additional funding, bringing the total amount of funding for the project to approximately \$2 million. During the 2021-23 biennium, CIP Project 21-S09 for the Statewide Building Official Program will begin, as this project was recently approved through A.B. 492 (2021 Legislative Session) at \$2,275,000. The division believes the recent approval of CIP Project 21-S09 will be adequate to fund the Statewide Building

Official Program and would appreciate authority to receive and expend an additional \$197,186 to complete additional building permits.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MILLER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM N-1.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Information regarding the Project Status Exception Report pursuant to NRS 341.100(8)(g).

WARD PATRICK (Administrator, State Public Works Division [SPWD], Department of Administration):

There are three CIP projects on the Department of Administration, SPWD, Project Status Exception Report. The first project is CIP Project 19-C03, Cemetery Expansion at the Nevada Department of Veterans Services, Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery. During the 2021 Legislative Session, CIP Project 19-C03 was approved in A.B. 492 as CIP Project 21-C11. This approval afforded additional grant funding and the state matching funds necessary for the project. This project will be removed from the Project Status Exception Report soon.

The second project on the Project Status Exception Report is CIP Project 19-C08, Marlette Lake Dam Rehabilitation (Marlette Lake Water System). This project has been selected for further review by the federal government to potentially receive Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funding of approximately \$10 million. The design process for this project has been ongoing for the past year, with the project moving forward in the FEMA Environmental and Historic Preservation review process. Funding for CIP Project 19-C08 has not been officially awarded, but the project has been selected for further review and the division is certain the project will be approved to receive FEMA grant funding. After the approval of funding, the SPWD will finalize the design of the project, offer permits, and begin construction.

The third project on the Project Status Exception Report is CIP Project 19-M07, Emergency Generator and Service Entrance Upgrade, in Reno. This project also relies on FEMA funding. The SPWD has completed the design phase of this project and is currently in the permitting process. After bidding, the SPWD will ask the Committee for authority to accept additional FEMA funds if necessary.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM N-2.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

O. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES FROM THE ACCOUNT FOR MAINTENANCE OF STATE PARKS PURSUANT TO NRS 407.0762(4)(b) - State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Division of State Parks

1. Request for approval to spend \$37,075 from the Account for Maintenance of State Parks for a communications system analyzer. **WITHDRAWN 6-8-21.**
2. Request for approval to spend \$46,354 from the Account for Maintenance of State Parks for improvements at Washoe South Wetlands Trails.

TIM HUNT (Supervisor; Professional Engineer, Division of State Parks, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources):

Agenda Item O-2 contains a request to replace old, worn-out, and vandalized interpretive signage and panels as well as trail-delineating fencing.

There was no further discussion on this item.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEM O-2.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

P. REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF REVERSION DATE FOR PREVIOUS ALLOCATIONS FROM THE IFC CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT (GENERAL FUND) PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL 508 (2019 Legislative Session) - State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

1. Request for an extension of the reversion date of the IFC Contingency Account allocation approved on April 30, 2020, to match federal U.S. Forest Service Ruby Lake Estates Wildland Urban Interface Hazardous Fuel Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project funding to support wildfire protection and prevention activities.

Agenda Items P-1 and P-2 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item P-2.

2. Request for an extension of the reversion date of the IFC Contingency Account allocation approved on June 25, 2020, to match Nevada Power Company and Sierra Pacific Power Company funding to reduce the risk of catastrophic loss to communities and NV Energy's infrastructure in moderate to extreme wildfire risk priority area.

Agenda Items P-1 and P-2 were discussed jointly.

KACEY KC (Administrator, Division of Forestry, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources):

Agenda Item P requests an extension for the reversion of the S.B. 508 (2019 Legislative Session) funds that were provided to the Nevada Division of Forestry for fuel reduction projects. These funds were provided in conjunction with a U.S. Forestry Department grant that the division has received, and a matching fund agreement between the division and NV Energy. Senate Bill 508 did not originally include reversionary language, so if approved, the request in Agenda Item P would give the division until June 30, 2025, to complete planned projects. This request would also provide the division with a reversion date if it has not completed the projects by this time.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

If the extension is approved, will the agency have all work completed and all funds committed for expenditure by June 30, 2023, or June 30, 2025?

Ms. KC:

I think S.B. 508 stated that the date was June 30, 2025, but I will confirm and provide the Committee with the information.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Many of the division's projects have not yet been started. I am concerned the division will not meet its anticipated completion date for all the projects. June 30, 2023, will be four years into the project's process. I would like the funding to be spent prior to that time. Nevada needs the hazardous fuel reduction equipment in place as quickly as possible to protect citizens from extreme wildfires.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Senate Bill 508 does state that all the division's fuel reduction projects need to be completed by June 30, 2025, but the Committee would like to amend the resolution and change the date to June 30, 2023, to better mitigate the extreme wildfire risk in Nevada.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

I agree that these projects need to be completed as soon as possible; this would be the most beneficial option for the state and the federal government in case the division needs more funding. The federal government does not like it when it takes a long time for funding to be spent. This item was discussed at great length during the April 30, 2020, IFC meeting. I would like to change the date on the resolution to June 30, 2023, but if the division's projects have still not been completed by this time, there are multiple IFC meetings during which the date on the resolution can be changed.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE
AGENDA ITEMS P-1 AND P-2 AND MODIFY THE
EXPENDITURE COMMITMENT DATE TO JUNE 30, 2023.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Q. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

WAYNE THORLEY (Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB):

No items from Agenda Item Q will be held for additional discussion.

1. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR - Governor's Office of Finance - Budget Division - Report of the agency activity relating to contracting with current or former employees of the state for the period January 1, 2021, through March 31, 2021, pursuant to NRS 333.705(5).

There was no discussion on this item.

2. OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE - Progress report on implementation of the Automatic Voter Registration initiative petition approved by the voters during the November 2018 General Election for the period February 1, 2021, through March 31, 2021 (letter of intent, 2019 Legislature).

There was no discussion on this item.

3. DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION - State Public Works Division - Quarterly report on the division's process on construction cost containment efforts, the tracking of budgeted inflationary costs compared to actual inflationary costs, and the tracking of other construction cost escalations compared to budgeted costs that are impacting legislatively approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects for the period January 1, 2021, to March 31, 2021 (letter of intent, 2019 Legislature).

There was no discussion on this item.

4. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Quarterly report on Class-Size Reduction variances pursuant to NRS 388.700(5) for the period ending September 30, 2020, of the 2020-21 school year.

There was no discussion on this item.

5. NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION
 - a) Quarterly report on the progress made by the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine in obtaining federal approval for the research program on the medical use of marijuana, as well as the status of activities and information received through the program, for the period ending December 31, 2020, pursuant to NRS 453A.600.
 - b) Quarterly report on the progress made by the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine in obtaining federal approval for the research program on

the medical use of marijuana, as well as the status of activities and information received through the program, for the period ending March 31, 2021, pursuant to NRS 453A.600.

There was no discussion on these items.

6. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - Quarterly report on travel and training expenses for the period ending March 31, 2021 (letter of intent, 2019 Legislature).

There was no discussion on this item.

7. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
 - a) Aging and Disability Services Division - Quarterly report for the Senior Rx and Disability Rx Prescription program for the period ending March 31, 2021, pursuant to NRS 439.630(1)(c).
 - b) Division of Health Care Financing and Policy - Quarterly report on the Disproportionate Share Hospital Supplemental Payment Program for the period January 1, 2021, through March 31, 2021, pursuant to NRS 422.390(2).
 - c) Division of Welfare and Supportive Services - Annual report concerning the FY 2020 evaluation of programs of energy assistance required pursuant to NRS 702.280(2)c.

There was no discussion on these items.

8. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
 - a) Division of Emergency Management - Quarterly report on expenditures made from the Emergency Assistance Account for the period ending March 31, 2021, pursuant to NRS 414.135(5).
 - b) Records, Communications and Compliance Division
 1. Quarterly report on the implementation progress and status of the Nevada Criminal Justice Information System (NCJIS) modernization project for the period ending December 31, 2020 (letter of intent, 2019 Legislature). **RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 5-19-21.**
 2. Quarterly report on the implementation progress and status of the NCJIS modernization project for the period ending March 31, 2021 (letter of intent, 2019 Legislature). **RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 5-19-21.**

There was no discussion on these items.

9. DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
 - a) Division of Water Resources - Semiannual report on the progress of work performed at the South Fork Dam for the period ending December 31, 2020 (letter of intent, 2019 Legislature).
 - b) Division of Forestry - Semiannual report on the active program participants, the costs incurred, and the amount of fee revenue collected from the Wildland Fire Protection Program for the period ending December 31, 2020 (letter of intent, 2019 Legislature).

There was no discussion on these items.

10. Clark County Sales and Use Tax Act of 2005 - Report regarding a governing body that has approved expenditures pursuant to Section 13 of this act shall submit the periodic reports required pursuant to this section and such other information pursuant to 13.3 of this act.
 - a) Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

There was no discussion on these items.

11. LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR - Six-month reports on agencies' implementation of recommendations made by the Legislative Auditor pursuant to NRS 218G.270.
 - a) Department of Agriculture - Division of Consumer Equitability
 - b) Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
 - c) Department of Health and Human Services - Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
 - d) Public Employees' Benefits Program
 - e) Department of Administration - Fleet Services Division

There was no discussion on these items.

R. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL PROGRAMS - NRS 209.4817. WITHDRAWN 6-4-21.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Agenda Item R was withdrawn because the statute creating the Committee on Industrial Programs was repealed with the passage of A.B. 443 (2021 Legislative Session), which modified the interim committee structure of the Legislature.

S. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kent Ervin (Nevada Faculty Alliance) public comment for the record ([Exhibit F](#)).

Lorayn Walsert submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit G](#)).

Kristina Cote submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit H](#)).

Sonja Whitten submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit I](#)).

Stephanie Parker submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit J](#)).

Stephanie Dube submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit K](#)).

Ted Chodock submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit L](#)).

T. ADJOURNMENT.

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

Senator Chris Brooks, Chair
Interim Finance Committee

Brenda Erdoes, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau,
and Secretary, Interim Finance Committee