

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2021  
MEETING OF THE  
INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair Chris Brooks called a regular meeting of the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) to order at 9:36 a.m. on December 9, 2021, online, and in Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Vice Chair  
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson  
Assemblyman Jason Frierson

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:**

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

## **EXHIBITS:**

- [Exhibit A:](#) Meeting Packet - Volume I
- [Exhibit B:](#) Meeting Packet - Volume II - Work Programs 45-79
- [Exhibit C:](#) Meeting Packet - Volume II - Work Programs 80-109
- [Exhibit D:](#) Meeting Packet - Volume III
- [Exhibit E:](#) Agenda Item J-14 - Economic Forum - General Fund Revenues - May 4, 2021, Forecast
- [Exhibit F:](#) Agenda Item J-14 - Economic Forum - FY 2021 General Fund Revenue Actual Versus Forecast Comparison
- [Exhibit G:](#) Agenda Item J-14 - Economic Forum Report - State General Fund Revenues FY 2021 Actual and FY 2022 Forecast Before Tax Credits
- [Exhibit H:](#) Public Comment - Kent Ervin, Nevada Faculty Alliance
- [Exhibit I:](#) Public Comment - Kendall Lyons, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- [Exhibit J:](#) Public Comment - Trisha Lozano, Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders
- [Exhibit K:](#) Public Comment - Lilith Baran, ACLU of Nevada

## **A. ROLL CALL.**

Tom Weber, Secretary, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), called the roll; all members were present except Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson, and Assemblyman Jason Frierson, who were excused.

## **B. PUBLIC COMMENT.**

MATTHEW HAWN (President, Graduate Student Association, University of Nevada, Reno): As President of the University of Nevada, Reno's (UNR) Graduate Student Association (GSA), I represent the 3,671 graduate students at UNR. I am also President of the Nevada Student Alliance (NSA), an organized board of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) consisting of all presidents of student government organizations within NSHE, which represents the approximately 110,000 students within NSHE. At the end of October 2021, UNR, in partnership with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), submitted a proposal to the Nevada Recovers program, to establish additional graduate student housing on the UNR and UNLV campuses. The GSA and NSA support funding this proposal, and I ask that the members of the Committee speak on our behalf to Governor Steve Sisolak in support of the proposal.

On November 30, 2021, the GSA unanimously supported a resolution on behalf of the graduate students it represents titled *A Resolution in Support of Affordable and Quality Graduate Student Housing*. This resolution describes the effects of the affordable housing crisis in the Reno/Sparks area and its impacts on graduate students. To enhance the resolution, the NSA unanimously approved a similar resolution titled *A Resolution in Support of Providing Funds from the American Recovery Plan to Individual NSHE Institutions for Affordable Student Housing*. The creation of the funding proposal and resolutions stem from rising housing costs for students attending NSHE institutions. Housing costs should not become a barrier to entry for those students who desire to obtain a higher degree within the NSHE system. For instance, Nevada's

average rental cost is 10.9% higher than the national average. These high rental costs, with the limited state stipends provided to graduate students, leads to graduate students being financially squeezed across the state and to a less successful graduate education. I will send the Committee an electronic copy of the resolutions from the GSA and NSA.

DELANEY HOWARD (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees): I am calling on behalf of state employees regarding cuts made to the Public Employees' Benefits Program (PEBP) related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including cuts made to long-term disability and life insurance. Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 is meant to be used to restore pandemic-related costs and to expand health care, and as such, ARPA funds may be used throughout the next few years to restore cuts made to PEBP. Although ARPA funds are not meant to be used for recurring costs, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) requests that cuts made to PEBP be restored so far as ARPA allows; AFSCME will work on any difficulties regarding the continuation of funding as they arise. It is better for state employees to have better benefits now than not at all. If it is a priority of the Nevada Legislature to expand health care for all Nevadans, then restoring benefits for public employees is a great way to start.

DANNY THOMPSON:

I want to provide comment on two proposals submitted by Vegas PBS regarding potential ARPA investment. First, Vegas PBS and PBS Reno are jointly requesting a one-time \$3.5 million investment in hardware infrastructure for statewide broadband broadcast transmission. Emerging next-generation television technology will allow over-the-air signals to transmit broadband levels of data. This means that every household can receive these signals, as well as potentially every car, school, hospital, and government building. Previous state investments have helped build the foundation for this infrastructure, and the investment of ARPA funds will solely update next-generation equipment on existing towers and station infrastructure. The goal is for any state and community-based agency to be able to tap into this resource for everything from new and innovative public safety and telemedicine applications to redundant backup systems. The educational, emergency response, and public safety applications for this technology are endless. It provides the opportunity to design and pilot applications today and be one step ahead as new technology emerges tomorrow.

Regarding the second proposal for ARPA investment, Vegas PBS is requesting a reinclusion of funding for the statewide *Outdoor Nevada* television program. *Outdoor Nevada* increases visitation, particularly to rural locations and underutilized urban spaces, translating to economic growth in rural areas and increased equitable access within urban communities. Thus, *Outdoor Nevada* addresses many of the economic, community and quality of life priorities listed in the Governor's Every Nevadan Recovery Framework. *Outdoor Nevada* will be nationally distributed this year on 244 public television stations in "Top 10" travel markets like Phoenix, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. ARPA funds in the amount of \$900,000, which will be used for continued production, will present an opportunity to feature and bring awareness to Nevada's hardest hit communities.

**C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2021, MEETING.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item D.

**D. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2021, MEETING.**

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2021, AND FEBRUARY 8, 2021, MEETINGS.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS PRESENT.

**E. 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 E-10, Office of the Secretary of State, Help America Vote Act Election Reform; E-24, Nevada Department of Education (NDE), COVID-19 Funding; E-25, NDE, COVID-19 Funding; E-29, Department of Agriculture, Livestock Inspection; E-53, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Health Care Financing and Policy; E-54, DHHS, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH); E-57, DHHS, DPBH; E-75, Department of Motor Vehicles, Automation; E-77, Department of Public Safety (DPS), Director's Office; E-78, DPS, Nevada Highway Patrol Division; E-85, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry; E-114, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation; E-116, Department of Business and Industry, Labor Commissioner; and E-123, Office of the Governor, COVID-19 Relief Programs.

Agenda Item E-53 has been revised, amending the amount transferred from \$6,512,452 to \$5,674,028, with the transfer now coming from the Medical Assistance for the Aged, Blind and Disabled category instead of the Offline category.

Agenda Item E-51, DHHS, Aging and Disability Services Division, Desert Regional Center was withdrawn on December 1, 2021, after the agenda for this meeting was posted.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I would like Agenda Item E-80, DPS, Nevada Highway Patrol Division to be held for additional discussion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

I would like Agenda Item E-113, PEBP to be pulled for additional discussion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

I would like Agenda Items E-26, NDE, Other State Education Programs and E-28, NDE, Safe and Respectful Learning to be pulled for additional discussion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE THE REMAINING WORK PROGRAM REVISIONS AND POSITION RECLASSIFICATIONS UNDER AGENDA ITEM E.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS PRESENT.

**1. Office of the Governor - FY 2022**

Addition of \$117,520 in the American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF) transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to support two positions and associated expenses under the CSFRF guidelines. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.122. Work Program #22FRF10001**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**2. Office of the Governor - Office for New Americans - FY 2022**

Addition of \$75,000 in Skilled Immigrant Integration private grant funds to support the implementation of the Skilled Immigrant Integration program to enhance immigrant and refugee workforce integration. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Skilled Immigrant Integration Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57430**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**3. Office of the Governor - State Energy Office - Office of Energy - FY 2022**

Addition of \$22,940 in federal State Energy Program (SEP) Formula grant funds and deletion of \$55,915 in Real Property Taxes transferred from the Renewable Energy Account to continue renewable energy and energy conservation activities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deleted from the SEP Formula Grant category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C57219**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**4. Office of the Governor - State Energy Office - Renewable Energy Account - FY 2022**

Addition of \$652,496 in Volkswagen Clean Air Act Settlement funds and transfer of \$368,058 from the Reserve category to the Electric Highway Program category to provide financial support for the expansion and completion of the Nevada Electric

Highway project. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Electric Highway Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57331**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

5. **Office of the Governor - Office of Science, Innovation and Technology - FY 2022**  
Addition of \$339,243 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund to fund temporary contract staff and operating costs to administer funds of approximately \$135 million for broadband infrastructure grants in the next five years. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Federal Grants - ARPA category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #22AR100301**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

6. **Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2022**  
Transfer of \$33,980 from the Local Government category to the State Government category to allow unused Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds to be used by state agencies. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred to the State Government category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #22CRF1327**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

7. **Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2022**  
Transfer of \$1,401,701 from the **Loss Revenue** Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Contracts **Administration** category to fund a contract for the creation of a roadmap to establish a statewide plan for expending ARPA funds. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Contracts **Administration** category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #22FR132701. REVISED 11-18-21.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

8. **Office of the Governor - Governor's Office of Finance - Budget Division - FY 2022**  
Addition of \$51,377 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund personnel, contract staff, and furnishings costs to continue administering and monitoring CRF dollars for state agencies and local governments. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the Contractor Support category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #222CRF1340**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

9. **Office of the Attorney General - Forfeiture - FY 2022**  
Addition of \$81,988 from Fines/Forfeitures/Penalties revenue and transfer of \$578 from the Reserve category to the U.S. Department of the Treasury (DOT) Equitable Distribution Expenditures category for travel, training, equipment purchases, and

officer safety items for law enforcement activities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the DOT Equitable Distribution Expenditures category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57287**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**10. Office of the Secretary of State - Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Reform - FY 2022**

Transfer of \$846,389 from the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Title I Reserve category to the Administration of Elections category and a transfer of \$131,328 from the HAVA Title I Reserve category to the Personnel Services category to continue meeting the requirements of HAVA. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Administration of Elections category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57165**

MARK WLASCHIN (Deputy for Elections, Office of the Secretary of State [SOS]):  
This work program involves a transfer of funds related to the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 to cover expenses related to top-down registration and personnel costs.

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS:

Please provide an update on the progress of the Gartner assessment of the future centralized, top-down election database.

MR. WLASCHIN:

The contract that has gone to Gartner for its assessment and development of a state solution for a top-down election database began in September 2021 and will conclude in mid- to late-January 2022. The assessment is going well, and Gartner, with its excellent professional reputation, has proven it deserves the contract. Gartner began this process with a discussion regarding project management and the overall planning process. The SOS has discussed and worked through the assessment approach and Gartner has now completed the operational needs assessment. The existing processes in place across the 17 Nevada counties and the SOS Elections Division are being assessed. The SOS is contemplating how the future election database will work as it analyzes the high-level requirements needed to ensure that elections in Nevada continue to meet high standards. The SOS has also begun working on the project's last stage, the solution assessment stage.

The Gartner assessment and project are extremely detailed, as the number of large information technology (IT) projects taking place across the country have much risk associated with them. Approximately one-third of large IT projects with a budget over \$1 million tend to fail if not managed properly. As a result, the SOS is being extremely methodical, documenting everything appropriately, and making sure that it includes appropriate stakeholders from across Nevada and county clerk offices to ensure the requirements of the project are captured. This will ensure that the state is prepared for future elections and that conditions are set for the SOS's transition to a top-down database pursuant to Assembly Bill 422 (2021 Legislative Session).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI:

How will input from stakeholders, including county election clerks, be solicited, and included in the Gartner assessment?

MR. WLASCHIN:

The Gartner assessment and project should not be completed in a silo, as more is needed than just interviews and discussions within the SOS, its Elections Division, and my team. The SOS holds multiple weekly meetings with county clerks focusing on gathering IT-specific requirements and business processes. There are many discussions regarding how things work at the county level to ensure that the requirements of counties across the state are met; every county clerk office in Nevada has been involved in this process. The discussions with the county clerks will ensure this project is completed properly and will eliminate unvalidated and unrefuted assumptions. Gartner has an extensive history of completing similar assessments in other states and brings its expertise to the project.

Nevada county clerks and registrars are working intently on preparing for the 2022 election cycle and future elections. Gartner has helped this process by asking specific questions and expanding the aperture to ensure all requirements of the project are met. The SOS is approaching this project methodically and not rushing things, recognizing that staff will be taking time off during the holidays. The office has adjusted the project's schedule appropriately to ensure that the correct information from the right stakeholders is gathered.

CHAIR BROOKS:

The Committee continues to see state projects fail. I agree that project management is important in keeping these types of technology projects on track.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE  
AGENDA ITEM E-10.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS  
PRESENT.

**11. Office of the State Treasurer - College Savings Trust - Nevada College Savings Trust - FY 2022**

Addition of \$75,000 in transfer from the Endowment Account to fund a study concerning the effectiveness of publicly funded scholarship and grant programs in Nevada pursuant to Senate Bill 128 (2021 Legislative Session). Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Operating category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **RELATES TO ITEM E.12. Work Program #C57412**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.



**12. Office of the State Treasurer - College Savings Trust - Endowment Account - FY 2022**

Transfer of \$75,000 from the Reserve category to the Transfer to BA 1092 College Savings Trust category to fund a study concerning the effectiveness of publicly funded scholarship and grant programs in Nevada pursuant to Senate Bill 128 (2021 Legislative Session). Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Transfer to BA 1092 College Savings Trust category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.11. Work Program #C57415**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**13. Office of the State Controller - FY 2022**

Addition of \$33,682 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to reimburse eligible costs for staff whose job duties were repurposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and CARES Act funds. This request also funds the cost of a temporary contract employee to complete bank account reconciliation tasks. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #22CBL11303**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**14. Department of Administration - Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records - State Library - FY 2022**

Addition of \$471,689 in federal Institute of Museum and Library Services Title I funds to support state and local public libraries' goals which reflect the purposes and priorities of the Library Services and Technology Act. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Library Development Title I category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57148**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**15. ~~Department of Administration - Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records~~ - ~~Department of Mail Services Division~~ - FY 2022**

Addition of \$1,956,644 in Postage Fees to align revenue and expenditure authority with the appropriate billing process for the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Postage category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.16. Work Program #C57170. REVISED 12-1-21.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**16. ~~Department of Administration - Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records~~ - ~~Department of Mail Services Division~~ - FY 2023**

Addition of \$1,956,644 in Postage Fees to align revenue and expenditure authority with the appropriate billing process for the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount

added to the Postage category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.15. Work Program #C57314. REVISED 12-1-21.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**17. Department of Administration - Purchasing - FY 2022**

Transfer of \$75,685 from the Reserve category to the Operating category to fund the temporary relocation of state surplus property from the state-owned warehouse to leased space in Las Vegas. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Operating category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.18. Work Program #C57318**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**18. Department of Administration - Purchasing - FY 2023**

Transfer of \$70,062 from the Reserve category to the Operating category to fund the relocation of state surplus property from the state-owned warehouse to leased space in Las Vegas. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Operating category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **RELATES TO ITEM E.17. Work Program #C57319**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**19. Department of Administration - Purchasing - FY 2022**

Addition of \$403,135 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund the lease for storage of personal protective equipment. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEMS E.20, E.122. Work Program #22FR135801**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**20. Department of Administration - Purchasing - FY 2023**

Addition of \$403,135 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to fund the lease for storage of personal protective equipment. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.19. Work Program #23FR135801**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**21. Department of Taxation - FY 2022**

Transfer of \$396,925 from the Personnel Services category to the Compliance Audit Investigations category to fund expenditures for seizures of noncompliant tobacco and vapor products and comply with the required destruction. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Compliance Audit Investigations category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57261**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**22. Department of Education - COVID-19 Funding - FY 2022**

Addition of \$1,500,000 in federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II (ESSER II) grant funds to ensure the continuation of the myON Digital Library project to support reading and writing instruction at all Nevada public schools and to correct federal ESSER II grant authority between FY 2022 and FY 2023. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ESSER II SEA Reserve Fund category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.23. Work Program #C57372**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**23. Department of Education - COVID-19 Funding - FY 2023**

Deletion of \$1,500,000 in federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II (ESSER II) grant funds to correct federal authority between FY 2023 with FY 2022 to ensure the continuation of the myON Digital Library project to support reading and writing instruction at all Nevada public schools. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deleted from the ESSER II SEA Reserve Funds category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.22. Work Program #C57373**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**24. Department of Education - COVID-19 Funding - FY 2022**

Addition of \$1,431,325 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to provide additional funding to support the safe reopening of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan Supplemental Funding category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #22CRF2710**

HEIDI HAARTZ (Deputy Superintendent, Student Investment Division, Nevada Department of Education [NDE]):

Through Agenda Item E-24, the NDE is requesting Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act of 2020, Coronavirus Relief Funds totaling approximately \$1.4 million. These funds will be used to correct an error that has been identified in the NDE's Pupil-Centered Funding Plan (PCFP). During the 2021 Legislative Session, revisions were made to the PCFP specifically relating to the amount of funding received by each school district and charter school, resulting in an error regarding the amount of funding received from the NDE in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. The NDE mistakenly provided both the total hold harmless amounts plus additional adjustment amounts to school districts that the department provided through the true up payments under the NDE's Nevada Plan. Under this true up, some school districts received additional funding from the state; certain schools provided a refund back to the state. These adjustments were counted twice within the PCFP, and negatively impacted four school districts that are funded based on their FY 2020 funding amounts and not the new funding formula. The additional funds requested through this work program would allow the NDE to correct this mistake and maintain funding for the school districts impacted by the miscalculation.

The school districts impacted by the NDE's miscalculation include the Carson City School District, Esmeralda County School District, Humboldt County School District, and Lincoln County School District. If this work program is approved, the NDE will begin making payments to the impacted school districts to bring them up to the financial amount that they would be entitled to for FY 2022. The NDE intends to correct this error within the PCFP prior to the development of the agency requested budget for the 2023-25 biennium.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

Since this work program would only provide funding to address the miscalculation of hold harmless amounts in FY 2022, how does the NDE plan to address this issue in FY 2023?

MS. HAARTZ:

Since this work program only addresses the funding discrepancy for FY 2022, the NDE will continue working with the Office of the Governor and the Governor's Office of Finance to identify options for remediating this problem in FY 2023.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

Please explain what impact, if any, the FY 2020 hold harmless miscalculation will have on the NDE's preparation of the PCFP model going forward and how any such impact would be addressed.

MS. HAARTZ:

The NDE is currently working with the model that will serve as the baseline for the biennial budget request for the 2023-25 biennium to ensure the miscalculation is corrected, so when the Legislature reviews the budget during the 2023 Legislative Session the error will have been resolved.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MILLER:

Will additional funding be requested for individual charter schools that may have also been underfunded by the miscalculation of the hold harmless amounts?

MS. HAARTZ:

Based on the approval of the biennial budget following the 2021 Legislative Session, all of Nevada's charter schools are currently funded through the PCFP. When the NDE conducted an analysis of the miscalculation and looked at the impact on each school district and charter school, it appeared that charter schools that could have potentially been impacted if they had been funded at their FY 2020 levels had received additional funding through Senate Bill (S.B.) 463 (2021 Legislative Session) that was intended to ease the financial transition from the Nevada Plan to the PCFP for charter schools.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Does this mean that additional funding will not be requested by individual charter schools that may have been underfunded by the miscalculation?

MS. HAARTZ:

At this point, the NDE has not been contacted by either the State Public Charter School Authority or any individual charter school regarding this discrepancy in the PCFP.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

I am glad that the NDE has taken charter schools into account in addition to school districts. While no charter schools have yet reached out to the NDE regarding the miscalculation, is the department proactively conducting the same calculations used for school districts on charter schools to identify if they were affected by a discrepancy or miscalculation? Is the Committee considering rectifying this occurrence?

MS. HAARTZ:

The negative impact of the NDE's calculation error is experienced by those entities not funded through the PCFP model. The four districts previously identified were negatively impacted by the miscalculation because they were funded at their FY 2020 baseline funding amount, not through the PCFP. Many people have referred to the FY 2020 baseline funding amount as the hold harmless provision of the PCFP. Since charter schools were collectively funded through the PCFP, the NDE does not believe any charter schools will indicate that the miscalculation resulted in a negative financial impact to their operations.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

Certain charter schools are sponsored by school districts and not the state. What is happening with these charter schools regarding their FY 2020 baseline funding amounts? Regarding the hold harmless amounts, will certain charter schools receive more funding based on the NDE's adjustment? Is the NDE performing this calculation for charter schools placed on the hold harmless provisions of the PCFP?

MS. HAARTZ:

The PCFP is designed to ensure that no school district or collective group of charter schools receives less funding through the new funding formula than they received in FY 2020. With the approval of the legislatively approved budget, all charter schools were determined to have collectively been funded through the PCFP. Based on the completed analysis, this indicated that charter schools would receive more funding through the PCFP than they received in FY 2020. Senate Bill 463 provided additional funding for many of the charter schools to ease the financial transition experienced while transitioning from the Nevada Plan to the PCFP. These funds are being dispersed to charter schools as required by S.B. 463 and the NDE will true up payments at the end of FY 2022 to ensure that all charter schools received the funds that they were due based on their enrollment numbers over the course of FY 2022.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

How were the charter schools that are not state-sponsored affected by the miscalculation? Will they be included in the NDE's true up of payments? The

charter schools that are state-sponsored are part of the collective group of charter schools that have already been accounted for by the NDE.

MS. HAARTZ:

All school districts and charter schools in Nevada are part of the annual true up process completed by the NDE, including charter schools that are not state-sponsored; any public school in Nevada is part of the NDE's true up process.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I am glad the NDE will true up its payments to all charter schools in Nevada regardless of whether the charter school was sponsored by the state or a school district.

SENATOR TATRO:

Does the NDE true up its payments to schools individually or collectively?

MS. HAARTZ:

At the close of each fiscal year, the NDE conducts its true-up process by comparing the audited average daily enrollment in each quarter for each school district and charter school versus the amount of funding that was paid to each school district and charter school. The NDE will correct any underpayments or overpayments that occurred as it closes out the fiscal year. Each charter school is evaluated individually.

SENATOR DENIS:

Part of the NDE's miscalculation can be attributed to the switch to the new funding formula, as certain adjustments need to take place when the new funding model is used. Moving forward, will the NDE be able to catch and adjust any miscalculations as soon as they occur?

MS. HAARTZ:

This miscalculation should not occur again in the future because only FY 2020 funds that were received by school districts and charter schools were used as the baseline (established in statute) for the comparison of the financial benefit to school districts funded through the PCFP versus what they received in FY 2020. The department believes that once this error is corrected, the miscalculation will not occur again in any future biennium. As the NDE moves forward with the PCFP and notices that revisions are needed, it will incorporate these revisions into the transition process.

SENATOR DENIS:

The funding calculations for charter schools were adjusted during the 2021 Legislative Session to ease the transition of moving into the PCFP. Moving forward, will those issues be caught as they occur?

MS. HAARTZ:

The supplemental funding made available to charter schools was a one-time occurrence. It will be up to the Governor and the Legislature to determine if they believe future funding will be needed for charter schools to ease their transition into the PCFP.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE  
AGENDA ITEM E-24.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS  
PRESENT.

**25. Department of Education - COVID-19 Funding - FY 2022**

Transfer of \$150,000 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III State Education Agency (SEA) Reserves category and transfer of \$300,000 from ESSER II Reserve category to the ESSER II SEA Reserve Funds category to fund a contract to implement the Youth Career Pathways Platform initiative. Requires Interim Finance Approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA ESSER III SEA Reserves category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #22AR2710**

HEIDI HAARTZ (Deputy Superintendent, Student Investment Division, NDE):

Through Agenda Item E-25, the NDE is requesting authority to transfer \$450,000 from its ARPA Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II and ESSER III reserve categories to support the implementation of the Pathway2Careers platform initiative. This initiative was previously presented to the Legislature by the NDE in a budget amendment. At the time this project was initially presented, several legislators raised questions regarding the process that the NDE had anticipated would be needed to initiate this work. Based on input received from the Legislature, the department has determined that it will contract directly with the Pathway2Careers vendor to develop this platform and provide services to educators, students, and members of the community.

SENATOR DENIS:

Please explain the Pathway2Careers labor market data dashboard and how it would assist the state's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

JESSICA TODTMAN (Deputy Superintendent for Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement, NDE):

The Pathway2Careers platform is a labor market data dashboard that will display statistics relevant to education for hundreds of occupations including annual job openings, median wages, growth rates, educational requirements and more for various regions in the State of Nevada. This data source can be used by educators, students, and families to identify careers that are projected to be in demand within the metropolitan statistical areas and other regional locations in the state. Educational institutions will be able to use the platform to identify high-value jobs, which is essential to ensuring educational goals and strategies are aligned with current labor market needs, especially in response to critical labor shortages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the state.

SENATOR DENIS:

Who will help those who are interested to understand the Pathway2Careers labor market data dashboard? Will efforts be made to ensure that people know this dashboard exists and what programs are available through the dashboard? Will educators be trained on how to use it?

MS. TODTMAN:

The dashboard will be combined with an online professional development tool for teachers which will help them understand and identify high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand occupations. In addition, teachers will be trained on how to create and develop business partnerships that will be helpful to students participating in work-based learning. The professional development tool is designed explicitly for educators and focuses on presenting basic content and strategies for the use of this data in educational settings. This will help the NDE continue ongoing stakeholder engagement with its career readiness, adult learning, and education options teams that work consistently with school districts and families across the state to ensure needs are being communicated to help students and families access information.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

I like the NDE's workforce development pipeline, as it goes from kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) all the way through to higher education and other trades to diversify Nevada's economy. I have been passionate about these activities for a long time, and I want to ensure efforts are not duplicated. Is the NDE working with NSHE and the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) to develop its workforce development pipeline to get students prepared to enter the workforce? Do the efforts of NSHE and GOED duplicate, replace, or complement the activities of the NDE regarding professional development?

JHONE EBERT (Superintendent of Public Instruction, NDE):

The NDE has worked with the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation, GOED, and NSHE over the last few years to ensure there are no gaps in professional development moving forward. Professional development training is extremely important for educators in Nevada, and I am thankful for the NDE's partnership with NSHE and its Chancellor, Melody Rose, in working collaboratively with entities across the state to build a workforce development pipeline although there is more work to be done with these entities in the future. Craig Statucki, Director of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Education Options at the NDE, also sits on many professional development councils to ensure there are no gaps in the future. I cannot speak to all the work that my colleagues are doing, but I can say that silos are being broken down every day to ensure collaboration on these workforce development efforts.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

I would like someone from NSHE or GOED to speak on this further before the Committee approves \$450,000 through this work program. NSHE can provide a lot of data concerning career and technical education pathways. I support the efforts and goals that the NDE has regarding the Pathway2Careers labor market data dashboard and breaking down silos, but I am unsure that a new dashboard is necessary considering that NSHE already has much of this data at its disposal.



MS. EBERT:

The NDE made sure that NSHE's existing database does not already provide these resources and supports to K-12 educators, students, and families and those efforts are not being duplicated.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

Just to confirm this request, the NDE is tracking professional development data and constructing a workforce development pipeline to bring K-12 students into a diversified economy and share this data with teachers, students, and families to connect them more effectively with career pathways for a cost of \$450,000?

MS. EBERT:

I agree with your statement.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE  
AGENDA ITEM E-25.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS  
PRESENT.

**26. Department of Education - Other State Education Programs - FY 2022**

Transfer of \$252,098 from the Reserve category to the Jobs for America's Graduates category to support students in tutoring, mentoring, career readiness, workplace skills training, and multi-year support. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Jobs for America's Graduates category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57120**

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

Agenda Items E-25 and E-26 appear to be related, as the NDE had originally indicated it would subgrant funding to the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) organization to implement its Pathway2Careers labor market data dashboard. The Committee did not approve of this at that time, and the NDE instead decided to contract with the Pathways2Careers vendor to develop the dashboard. Does Agenda Item E-26 involve a separate use of funds going to JAG in support of other programs not involved in the development of the data dashboard?

HEIDI HAARTZ (Deputy Superintendent, Student Investment Division, NDE):

Senate Bill 458 (2019 Legislative Session<sup>1</sup>) included a provision indicating that the NDE could not release approximately \$252,000 from its legislatively approved budget to JAG until that organization could demonstrate it had acquired the required matching funds. The NDE submitted a work program for IFC approval to provide this funding to JAG, and Agenda Item E-26 continues these activities and is not related to Agenda Item E-25.

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<sup>1</sup> Bill is in fact the K-12 public education funding bill for the 2021-2023 biennium: S.B. 458 (2021 Legislative Session).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE  
AGENDA ITEM E-26.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS  
PRESENT.

**27. Department of Education - Educator Effectiveness - FY 2022**

Addition of \$16,742,242 in federal Title II, Part A, Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting grant funds to continue attracting, preparing, training, recruiting, developing, and retaining high quality teachers, principals, and other school leaders throughout Nevada. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Teacher Quality Admin category exceed \$75,000. **Work Program #C57175**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**28. Department of Education - Safe and Respectful Learning - FY 2022**

Addition of \$67,382 in federal System of Care Grant funds transferred from the Division of Child and Family Services and Methamphetamine Education Prevention Maintenance of Effort funds transferred from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health for the implementation and evaluation of the Nevada School Wellness Policy for improving mental health and wellness in the student population. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Health Partnership category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C56984**

HEIDI HAARTZ (Deputy Superintendent, Student Investment Division, NDE):

Through Agenda Item E-28, the NDE is requesting permission to receive revenues from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) totaling \$67,382, which will allow the NDE to fulfill a commitment it made in an interlocal agreement with the DHHS that allows the NDE to provide education and behavioral health supports to children across the state.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

Indicators are showing that many students are experiencing mental health issues across the state due to the COVID-19 pandemic. What is the Nevada School Wellness Policy and what will the \$67,382 be used for? Can anything else be done to continue supporting the mental health of students?

MS. HAARTZ:

This funding would be used to support a contracted Nevada statewide school, behavioral health, and wellness coordinator position. The position will be housed in the NDE and would provide support to local education agencies statewide. The position will also participate in the coordination of activities between the NDE, DHHS, and other state and local agencies to continue improving the wellness of Nevada's youth through school-based initiatives with a focus on supporting the NDE's work related to the implementation of multi-tiered systems of support. The position will be responsible for coordinating the improvement of behavioral health and

mental health services available to youth across the state and will create and assist with the implementation of evidence-based programs to address primary substance abuse that may occur in Nevada's youth. This is an opportunity for the NDE to support the important work done by the DHHS by ensuring collaboration across these two state agencies as well as other state and local partners to ensure that a pathway exists for providing this information and services to Nevada's school districts.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

The activities of the coordinator position are needed in the state. Will \$67,382 be enough to pay for the position, or will this amount be used to supplement payments? The position has a large job description for all its activities to only receive \$67,382.

Ms. HAARTZ:

The coordinator position will handle a tremendous amount of work for the NDE, and the department will receive \$67,382 in both FY 2022 and FY 2023 to pay for the position. The department also has other staff who will aid and support the position to ensure that all work is completed. The position is designated to be the catalyst and coordinator in bringing all stakeholders together to allow the department to move forward with activities in the most productive manner possible.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

Will the coordinator position be paid \$67,382 over the course of the 2021-23 biennium?

Ms. HAARTZ:

The position will be paid \$67,382 in each fiscal year.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE  
AGENDA ITEM E-28.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS  
PRESENT.

**29. Department of Agriculture - Livestock Inspection - FY 2022**

Transfer of \$173,896 from the Reserve category to the Personnel Services category, \$4,368 from the Reserve category to the In-State Travel category, \$56,904 from the Operating Expenses category to the In-State Travel category, \$2,998 from the Operating Expenses category to the Equipment category, \$93,958 from the Operating Expenses category to the Information Services category, and \$4,264 from the Operating Expenses category to the Uniforms category to fund the restructuring of the Livestock Program to address the program's insolvency issues. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C56209**

DOUG FARRIS (Administrator, Animal Industry Division, Department of Agriculture):

This work program is a culmination of work beginning with the letter of intent that the Department of Agriculture received during the 2019 Legislative Session to address program insolvency issues and declining reserve funding. In June 2020, the department provided a comprehensive business plan for rebuilding its Livestock Inspection program to the Legislature. This business plan addressed statutory and regulatory changes to revenue, staffing, and equipment necessary for the program to move forward. The business plan was presented during the 2021 Legislative Session when the department closed its budgets. Ultimately, the Legislature did not approve the plan and instead directed the department to approach the IFC for approval after statutory and regulatory changes were addressed.

Senate Bill 454 (2021 Legislative Session) increased the brand re-recording fees of the Livestock Inspection program and extended the existing fee collection cycle. The department has progressed through the regulatory language and fee-revision process regarding *Nevada Administrative Code* (NAC) 564 and 565 and has completed this process up to holding the most recent adoption hearing for revising the NAC at the State Board of Agriculture meeting on December 8, 2021. The new language has been adopted and the department is currently scheduled to go before the Legislative Commission at its December 21, 2021, meeting for final approval of these regulatory changes.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

The agriculture industry supports the increase in brand re-recording fees, but I am concerned about who will be performing the inspections. I am confused by some of the numbers you have provided to the Committee. Are at least four of the department's agricultural police officer positions also paid from brand re-recording fees?

MR. FARRIS:

The department's five agricultural police officer positions are 50% funded by the General Fund. The remaining 50% of four of these positions are funded through the Livestock Inspection program. The remaining 50% of the fifth position's salary is funded through the department's Division of Plant Health and Compliance.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I am concerned that four agricultural police officers will not be conducting brand inspections while still being paid from brand re-recording fees; this is equivalent to two full-time positions being paid \$75,000 annually from brand re-recording fees. I do not see how the proposed fee increases will help the department address the declining reserves in the Livestock Inspection budget, especially when the revenue from the increased brand re-recording fees will not be collected until January 1, 2023. I do not think that the increase in brand re-recording fees will generate as much revenue as the department anticipates. If the department's agriculture police officers are going to be paid from brand re-recording fees, then they need to complete livestock inspections. This will lighten the workload for the three new permanent, full-time brand inspectors.

Regardless of whether the department refers to its personnel as contracted brand inspectors, seasonal brand inspectors, or fee inspectors, these positions are performing the same duties. I understand the livestock industry is somewhat seasonal, but as long as Nevada requires brand inspections to move livestock into and out of the state, brand inspectors need to be available to do the work. The agriculture industry is suffering from the lack of brand inspectors and the industry wants the state to make this process more efficient. Cattle trucks are often forced to wait half a day for a brand inspector to conduct an inspection.

MR. FARRIS:

The operating changes proposed by this work program include the hiring of 5 full-time brand inspector positions and 30 part-time seasonal brand inspectors. Through working with the Governor's Office of Finance (GFO), the department has authority to add more brand inspectors if the need arises when the department begins collecting the increased brand re-recording fees authorized in *Nevada Revised Statutes* 564.120 and other regulations.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

The numbers that the department has provided to the Committee show a reduction in operating expenditures of \$158,124 with the removal of authority for the contracted brand inspectors, but these positions are still working for the department under a different job title.

KATIE JAMIESON (Fiscal Administrator, Department of Agriculture):

The reduction of \$158,124 to the department's operating expenditures was accounted for as the department will still have to employ contracted staff as it transitions operations. Not all the costs associated with contract staff were removed from the Livestock Inspection budget. Through working with the GFO, the department left enough operating expenditures in the budget to ensure it had enough funding to transition the contracted brand inspector positions to seasonal brand inspector positions. The department will still need to use contracted employees as it transitions this staff in FY 2022 and FY 2023. Contracted staff will remain employed for as long as it takes to transition the contracted positions to seasonal positions.

The department has ensured that the Livestock Inspection budget is solvent and can absorb costs while the department works toward gaining revenue and making changes to its fee structures. First, to reflect the current state of operations, the department ran its revenue projections as if the revenue would not be changing. It then incorporated growth-over-time regarding transitioning contracted staff to seasonal staff and ran year-over-year growth projections and was still able to retain over 200 days of its required 45-day optimal reserve level. The department has demonstrated that the Livestock Inspection budget can remain solvent even without a change in fee structure. After it gains additional revenue from the increased inspection fees, the department will build up its reserve levels over time.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Why are certain agricultural police officers being funded by brand re-recording fees if they do not perform brand inspections?

MR. FARRIS:

The department's agricultural police officers serve the entire department, with 50% of their salaries coming from the General Fund. Part of these positions' time is spent conducting livestock investigations, theft investigations, finding missing livestock, and responding to criminal activity occurring within the Livestock Inspection program. These positions will occasionally conduct brand inspections because they are partially funded from the Livestock Inspection budget; however, conducting law enforcement activities is their primary purpose.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Before I can support the department's plans, I would like to see the agricultural police officers that are paid from brand inspections conduct more inspections. I do not know why three new permanent, full-time brand inspectors are going to be hired while the department is still paying for two other positions that are technically conducting enforcement activities. When is the last time that the department actively prosecuted a cow theft? Only one position is needed to investigate criminal activities occurring within the Livestock Inspection program.

CHAIR BROOKS:

The department's agricultural police officers conduct intermittent brand inspections. Would you like further clarification on how often these inspections are occurring?

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

More cattle theft is investigated through the Livestock Inspection program than anywhere else. I would like the department to commit to having its agricultural police officers conduct more than just intermittent brand inspections. Conducting brand inspections should be their primary job duty, because as they conduct inspections, they will uncover more irregularities than they will driving around. The agriculture industry believes more livestock inspections should be occurring.

MR. FARRIS:

The agricultural police officers have been conducting quite a few brand inspections, and the department was hoping to lessen the workload of these positions by adding five full-time brand inspector positions. This would allow the agricultural police officers to better perform their respective job duties. The agricultural police officers will still be performing brand inspections and assisting and overseeing the brand inspection processes of brand inspectors throughout the state. Many livestock are found and returned through the Livestock Inspection program. Even if criminal activity involving livestock is uncovered by a brand inspector, the agricultural police officers are still involved in retrieving the livestock and investigating the issue to determine why the livestock went missing. The agricultural police officers will then ensure the livestock are returned to their owner, and these positions are still involved in the entire restraint process.

The department is not trying to remove the agricultural police officers from the Livestock Inspection program as they are 50% funded from that program's budget. If the salaries of the agricultural police officers ever become 100% funded by the General Fund, I could see spreading their duties across the entire department.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I do not think the department will be able to cover its workload with the fees it is proposing to generate. The agricultural police officers should not be funded from the Livestock Inspection program until they conduct more brand inspections. More brand inspectors should not be hired if the department already has agricultural police officers conducting intermittent work. There will not be enough revenue to hire the new positions, especially when the increased brand re-recording fees will not be collected until January 1, 2023. I do not see how the department's plans will help it address its solvency issue, and I cannot support the approval of this work program at this time.

CHAIR BROOKS:

If the Committee does not approve this item today, funding will not be made available to restructure the Livestock Inspection program. I am not sure what the solution is, and I have heard the concerns of Senator Goicoechea regarding the department's plans. Beyond approving this work program and potentially revamping the department's funding formulas during the 2023 Legislative Session, I am uncertain that denying this work program will solve any problems.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I recognize that this funding is necessary for the department to move forward, but I do not think the department's plans will work. I would like to see a commitment from the department to cover some of the brand inspection duties with staff that are being paid from the Livestock Inspection budget. The department needs to be more efficient regarding its Livestock Inspection program.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE  
AGENDA ITEM E-29.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Senator Goicoechea, Senator Hammond,  
Senator Seevers Gansert, Assemblyman Leavitt and  
Assemblywoman Titus opposed the motion).

**30. Department of Agriculture - Nutrition Education Programs - FY 2022**

Addition of \$923,793 in federal Child Nutrition (CN) Technology Innovation grant funds to upgrade the technology used to process and track meal claims and provide training to school operators and staff. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the CN Technology Improvement Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57296**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**31. Commission on Mineral Resources - Division of Minerals - FY 2022**

Transfer of \$87,299 from the Reserve category to the Special Projects category to support a geological study, map and report for Railroad Valley and creation of an interactive geology and mineral exhibit at the Reno Discovery Museum. Requires

Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Special Projects category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57121**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**32. Commission on Mineral Resources - Division of Minerals FY 2022**

Addition of \$200,000 in federal Environmental Quality and Protection cooperative agreement funds to support the Nevada Abandoned Mine Lands and Orphan Well Project. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Abandoned Mine Land Enhancements category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57139.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**33. Department of Business and Industry - Insurance Division - Insurance Regulation - FY 2022**

Addition of \$96,000 in Insurance Fraud Assessments to reflect projected revenue through the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Transfer to Attorney General Fraud category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C56251**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**34. Department of Business and Industry - Insurance Division - Insurance Regulation - FY 2022**

Addition of \$157,677 in federal State Flexibility to Stabilize the Market Cycle II Grant Program funds to support contracted consultant and temporary staff costs to perform review activities relating to health care access to Nevadans. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the State Flexibility Grant II category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C56983**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**35. Department of Business and Industry - Insurance Division - Self-Insured - Workers' Compensation - FY 2022**

Addition of \$270,809 in Examination Fees to fund a projected shortfall in Self-Insured Company Exams for the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Self-Insured Company Exams category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57270**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**36. Department of Business and Industry - Division of Industrial Relations - Occupational Safety and Health Enforcement - FY 2022**

Addition of \$27,624 in American Rescue Plan Act funds through a U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration grant. Transfer of \$10,260 from the Personnel category to the Operating category and \$17,364 from the Personnel category to the Equipment category to fund activities aimed at protecting



workers during the pandemic and post-pandemic recovery. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Equipment category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C56293**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

37. **Department of Business and Industry - Division of Mortgage Lending - FY 2023**  
Transfer of \$61,514 from the Reserve category to the Department Cost Allocation category to support one Administrative Assistant position to facilitate the increased Mortgage Lending Division licensing needs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Department Cost Allocation category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C57118**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

38. **Governor's Office of Economic Development - FY 2022**  
Addition of \$226,539 in federal State Trade Expansion Program grant funds to continue providing financial assistance to enable small businesses to enter or expand into export markets. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the State Trade & Export Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57151**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

39. **Governor's Office of Economic Development - FY 2022**  
Addition of \$1,000,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the United States Economic Development Administration to fund statewide assessments and response plans for targeted project areas to respond to economic injury and assist in economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARP Act Economic Development Administration Award category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #22AR152601**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

40. **Governor's Office of Economic Development - Nevada State Small Business Credit Initiative Program - FY 2022**  
Transfer of \$3,301,970 from the Reserve category to the Battle Born Venture Capital Program category to fund the State Small Business Credit Initiative's operational activities for strengthening small businesses and small manufacturers. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Battle Born Venture Capital Program exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57197**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

41. **Department of Health and Human Services - Fund for Resilient Nevada - FY 2022**  
Transfer of \$352,795 from the Reserve category to the Personnel category, \$14,082 from the Reserve category to the Operations category, \$17,532 from the Reserve category to the Equipment category, and \$15,089 from the Reserve category

to the Information Services category to fund administrative costs including six new full-time positions and operating costs in support of the Fund for a Resilient Nevada. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57307**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**42. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Federal Programs and Administration - FY 2022**

Addition of \$83,268 in cost allocation funding to support a Management Analyst position that was transferred to the Office of Data Analytics in the 2021 Legislative Session. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the Transfer to Data Analytics category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.43. Work Program #C57133**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**43. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Federal Programs and Administration - FY 2023**

Addition of \$87,264 in cost allocation funding to support a Management Analyst position that was transferred to the Office of Data Analytics in the 2021 Legislative Session. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the Transfer to Data Analytics category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.42. Work Program #C57408**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**44. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2022**

Addition of \$278,987 in federal Assistive Technology Act grant funds to continue providing assistive technology for individuals with disabilities of all ages. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Assistive Technology category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57086**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**45. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2022**

Addition of \$162,327 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 amount added to the Medicaid Information Patient Protection Act category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57087**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**46. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2022**

Addition of \$297,265 in federal Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III-B Supportive Services grant funds, \$1,044,286 in federal OAA Title III-C Nutrition grant funds, \$74,888 in federal OAA Title III-D Preventive Health grant funds and \$353,504 in federal OAA Title III-E National Family Caregiver Support Program grant funds to continue services to senior citizens to maintain health, independence and quality of life. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Title III-C Nutrition category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57089**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**47. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2022**

Addition of \$161,263 in federal Lifespan Respite Care Integration and Sustainability grant funds to support contractor and operating costs to enhance the Division's efforts within Lifespan Respite program activities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Lifespan Respite Recruitment category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57187**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**48. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2022**

Addition of \$137,731 in federal Elder Abuse Prevention Interventions grant funds to support the Adult Protective Services program for outreach, education, and collaboration regarding opioid misuse in older adults. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Elder Abuse Prevention Interventions category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57194**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**49. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2022**

Addition of \$150,000 in federal Nevada Immunization and Vaccines for Children grant funds transferred from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to continue providing vaccine outreach and assistance to individuals with disabilities and older adults who are homebound. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the CDC COVID-19 DPBH IZ category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57389**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**50. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Home and Community-Based Services - FY 2022**

Addition of \$87,136 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for Ombudsman grant funds to train, educate, purchase personal protection equipment, and help combat poor care in long-term care communities. Requires Interim Finance approval

since the amount added to Title VII-OM COVID-19 ARPA category exceeds \$75,000.  
**Work Program #22ARP32661**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**51. Department of Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services - Desert Regional Center - FY 2022**

Addition of \$2,407,768 in federal Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant funds transferred from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to support design and construct perimeter security fencing and a shade structure at Desert Regional Center. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the ELC Fence Project category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.57. Work Program #C55952.**

Agenda Item E-51 was withdrawn December 1, 2021.

**52. Department of Health and Human Services - Health Care Financing and Policy - Health Care Financing and Policy Administration - FY 2022**

Transfer of \$25,000 from the Personnel Services category to the Operating category to fund a consultant contract to review, analyze, and make recommendations regarding budgeting, federal reporting, staff training, and fiscal processes. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57199**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**53. Department of Health and Human Services - Health Care Financing and Policy - Nevada Medicaid, Title XIX - FY 2022**

Addition of \$23,292,820 in federal Title XXI funds and transfer of \$6,512,452 from the Offline category to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to Medicaid category to fund an anticipated shortfall due to increased caseload. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the CHIP to Medicaid category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57162**

SUZANNE BIERMAN (Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy [DHCFP], Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS]):

This work program is a result of increased caseload in the DHCFP, Nevada Medicaid, Title XIX (Medicaid) program. Nevada Medicaid is now providing health insurance to more Nevadans than in the history of the program. As of October 2021, the total Medicaid caseload for November 2021 reached 852,673 Nevadans; this is an increase of approximately 33% since the start of the public health emergency in February 2020. The average month-over-month change since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic has increased by approximately 10,450 Nevadans per month. For context, in the years leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic, the total enrollment numbers of the Medicaid program were generally steady and remained around 650,000 enrollees, but there has been an increase of approximately 200,000 enrollees since the start of the pandemic. Like the 2021 Legislative Session and the 33<sup>rd</sup> Special Session (2021), several factors remain in effect due to the

COVID-19 pandemic that cause uncertainty in the Medicaid program and make projections difficult.

Uncertainties still facing the Medicaid program include when the public health emergency brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic will end. The DHCFP talked about this issue in detail throughout the 2021 Legislative Session and based on a letter from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the division has been given assurances that the public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will last at least through calendar year (CY) 2021, with this projection being revised again with a current end date of January 15, 2022. In its letter, HHS also said that states would be given 60 days advance notice before the public health emergency ends. I think another HHS authorization is likely to occur and that the January 15, 2022, date will probably be extended, but this is hard to predict.

Throughout the course of the public health emergency, the state is receiving an enhancement in federal funds that comes with requirements. One of these requirements involves continuous coverage, which limits disenrollment from the Medicaid program except under limited circumstances. The enhanced federal funding is currently set to end at the end of the quarter in which the public health emergency ends. However, this may change based on another uncertainty currently facing the Medicaid program involving potential federal legislative changes. The enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rate end date could potentially be altered based on what happens with the federal Build Back Better bill that is currently being discussed by Congress; this also has implications regarding how redeterminations will be handled once the public health emergency ends. Predicting what will happen to the Medicaid caseload once eligibility redeterminations are acted upon once the public health emergency ends is difficult. The division does not know how many Nevadans will lose their Medicaid coverage, what the turn rate will be, and how many Nevadans will transition to the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange. The DHCFP also does not know how many of the approximately 200,000 new enrollees, who were previously eligible for Medicaid but unenrolled (this has always made up a large part of Nevada's historical uninsured population), will remain on Medicaid.

PHIL BURRELL (Deputy Administrator, DHCFP, DHHS):

This work program requests to transfer funds from the DHCFP Medical Assistance to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (MAABD) category to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to Medicaid category within budget account 101-3243 and requests the addition of federal Title XXI funds to meet a shortfall in revenue in the CHIP to Medicaid category due to an increased caseload. The division has been working with the DHHS, GFO, and LCB Fiscal Division staff on the provisions for this work program. The work program is requesting an increase in federal Title XXI funds of \$23,292,820, increasing authority from \$14,225,168 to \$37,517,988. Category 11 expenditures will then be adjusted to \$28,966,848, and there will be a decrease in category 14 (MAABD category) expenditures by \$5,674,028. This work program requires IFC approval as it exceeds the \$75,000 cumulative expenditure category.

CHAIR BROOKS:

I appreciate the work that the DHCFP is doing to help Nevadans during this uncertain time in the state's history.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GORELOW:

I also appreciate the work of the DHCFP during these unprecedented times. Why is the FY 2022 monthly average for the DHCFP Nevada Check Up to Medicaid caseload 87.5% higher than budgeted?

BILL FARRAR (Administrative Services Officer, DHCFP, DHHS):

The increase in this caseload is mostly due to the public health emergency and the fact that the DHCFP has not been able to reevaluate this situation based on criteria from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the division not being able to disenroll individuals from the Medicaid program during the emergency.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GORELOW:

Considering that the Medicaid caseload is currently below the legislatively approved level, why is this caseload projected to increase above the legislatively approved level beginning in January 2022?

MR. FARRAR:

The reason that the Medicaid caseload is projected to increase in January 2022 is also related to the public health emergency and having to continually provide coverage due to an increased number of enrollees and not being able to reevaluate their eligibility at this time.

SENATOR HARRIS:

When does the agency anticipate that FY 2023 projections for the Medicaid budget will be prepared?

MR. BURRELL:

The division is currently working through the FY 2023 projections and anticipate having them completed over the next month and a half to provide updates beginning in 2022.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Is the agency considering implementing any programmatic changes in the 2021-23 biennium to mitigate the projected shortfall?

MR. BURRELL:

Yes, the division will continue to monitor the increased caseload to mitigate the shortfall. The division has a few risk-mitigation strategies that it is continuing to work through including certain items it was able to implement for CY 2020. The division is employing a risk corridor strategy with the division's managed care organizations (MCOs) and the health plans they offer to ensure that the MCOs are providing appropriate care and enough care utilization. If the risk corridor strategy determines that not enough care was provided regarding utilization rates for the calendar year, a payment will be made to the state. In addition to the risk corridor strategy, the division

is holding continuous meetings with the DHHS Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) to identify redetermination processes to take place after the public health emergency ends. These meetings will help the division consider best strategies for the redetermination process to allow it to address populations with income levels above the Medicaid thresholds and evaluate the number of people who have moved to other states; this will allow the division to remove these individuals from the Medicaid recipients list. The division is working on several items to continue monitoring its budgets and categories to ensure it is staying on track regarding caseload.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I would like additional clarification regarding the division's justification for projecting a budget shortfall. The division has stated it has more people enrolled in the Medicaid program, but has there been an increase in services? Someone can be enrolled in Medicaid without receiving an increase in care. Has the division increased payments to providers? The division has also stated that its FMAP rate increased. If this were true, the division would have more funding than what it has listed. How long does the division anticipate the FMAP rates will stay elevated?

MR. BURRELL:

The division can provide its monthly Medicaid utilization reports to the Committee, which will showcase the increase in utilization rates. Overall, the division has seen utilization rates increase since last year, especially among certain provider types related to inpatient services.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I thought there was a decrease in Medicaid utilization rates due to people not being able to be seen by their provider. After previous meetings, the division told the Committee that it would provide data regarding this issue. The Committee was told it would take six to nine months before this information was assimilated and submitted because the division had to wait for providers to submit their bills. The division should now be able to describe how much care Medicaid recipients are receiving. Even though more people have been sick due to the COVID-19 pandemic, additional funding is available to pay for care related to the pandemic. This is different from people going in for routine checkups and procedures, as these things have been delayed by the pandemic and have resulted in a decreased caseload for the Medicaid program.

MR. BURRELL:

It can take a while for the division to fully understand utilization rates by flagging claims. The division identifies the amount of federal funding it will receive by category type as certain expenditures are paid from federal funding versus state funding. The division can also provide information surrounding these payments to the Committee to ensure it is capturing what the Committee is looking for specific to FMAP rates related to certain populations.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

This is not only about signing someone up for Medicaid, because certain people also need additional care. There is limited access to health care in both rural and urban areas, and I would like the Medicaid caseload and the number of providers available to increase so that people with insurance can see a provider. Even though Medicaid caseloads are projected to increase, I want to ensure Nevadans have access to care.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

Redetermination of Medicaid eligibility traditionally involves income examination, but it can also involve where someone lives. Can the division remove people from the Medicaid program if they have moved out of state? If someone moves and enrolls in another state's Medicaid program, is Nevada still spending money on a per-patient, per-month contract with a provider network, or is the division only making payments for use of services? Is the division paying for services that someone receives in another state because a continuous coverage agreement exists, and people cannot be removed from the Medicaid program even when they move out of the state?

MS. BIERMAN:

The DWSS conducts eligibility determination for the Medicaid program, and there are certain circumstances in which cases can be closed during the public health emergency; however, these circumstances are limited. The DWSS can close cases in the Medicaid program when an enrollee dies, moves out of state, voluntarily withdraws from the program, is convicted of fraud, or if it was determined that a person was enrolled due to agency error regarding approval. Even under the continuous coverage requirement of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, if an enrollee moves out of state, their case can still be closed.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

If the monthly average Medicaid caseload during the COVID-19 pandemic is approximately 852,000 enrollees with an increase of 10,000 enrollees per month, what is the percentage of people who are eligible but not enrolled?

MS. BIERMAN:

I do not believe that the number of people who are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid can be determined based on the percentage of people who are currently enrolled. I will continue to seek out this information, as it requires sophisticated data matching and analysis of census data. The division may need to wait until the pandemic ends before redeterminations can be conducted, as it is still in the planning phase regarding this process. Once the public health emergency ends, the division can look at how many people remain uninsured, are disenrolled, are receiving insurance from the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange or are losing coverage for administrative reasons before reenrolling in Medicaid.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

The limits of the Medicaid program have been pushed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the state needs to ensure that people are not only enrolled in the program but that they also have access to care. I appreciate the work that the division has been doing to increase access to care.



ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM E-53 AS REVISED, AMENDING THE AMOUNT TRANSFERRED FROM \$6,512,452 TO \$5,674,028, WITH THE TRANSFER COMING FROM THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE AGED, BLIND AND DISABLED CATEGORY INSTEAD OF THE OFFLINE CATEGORY.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS PRESENT.

**54. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Immunization Program - FY 2022**

Addition of \$38,490,253 in federal Immunization Cooperative Agreement grant funds to support Nevada's COVID-19 vaccination efforts across the state. Requires Interim Finance approval since amounts added to the COVID-19 Vaccine Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C55833**

JULIA PEEK (Deputy Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health [DPBH], DHHS):

This work program seeks additional federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Immunization and Vaccines for Children Cooperative Agreement funding to allow the DHHS, DPBH, Immunization Program to support Nevada's COVID-19 vaccination efforts across the state and in every county working to vaccinate its population. Activities are funded through various supplemental awards. However, many populations in Nevada are difficult to reach, and the division is setting up health clinics and temporary satellite offsite clinics to increase vaccination services in these areas. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on certain racial and ethnic groups, and many of the division's activities are specifically focused on addressing the needs of these groups. Additional strategies for Immunization and Vaccines for Children Cooperative Agreement funding include increasing COVID-19 capacity across jurisdictions to ensure high-quality and safe administration of COVID-19 vaccinations; ensuring vaccination competence through education, outreach, and partnerships; and developing and implementing community engagement strategies. The funds would have to be expended by June 30, 2024. Per the Immunization Program's dashboard, the division has provided over 3.7 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Nevada's residents.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS:

I would like an update on the activities of the division regarding the vaccination of children 5 to 11 years of age.

SHANNON BENNETT (Health Program Manager, Immunization Program, DPBH, DHHS): The division is conducting many activities to reach this age group, including working with a mobile vendor to host popup COVID-19 vaccine clinics. The division is also working with federally qualified health centers to establish vaccine clinics adjacent to schools to increase vaccination rates for children 5 to 18 years of age. All the

division's local health authorities and funded partners are hosting events for children 5 to 11 years of age across Nevada communities, and there has been an uptick in vaccination rates as the holidays approach. The CDC recently launched a survey allowing school districts to opt in to being matched with a pharmacy partner to host vaccination clinics at schools, and the division has partnered with the Nevada Department of Education to ensure that school districts are aware of these opportunities and have appropriate educational materials to disseminate to parents.

The division has also been working with the Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities and the University of Nevada, Reno's Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities on messaging activities to increase access to COVID-19 vaccines for children with developmental disabilities and special health conditions; the messages will be tailored to the parents of these children so they can receive proper education and resources regarding vaccinations.

MS. PEEK:

Any Nevadan trying to identify a location to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, regardless of age, can call the division's call center to determine the best location for vaccinations.

CHAIR BROOKS:

What is the phone number for the call center?

MS. PEEK:

The phone number for the call center is 1-800-401-0946, and it is open Monday through Sunday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The [www.nvcovidfighter.org](http://www.nvcovidfighter.org) website also has a live chat feature that is staffed by the division's call center.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS:

Please describe the activities of the division aimed at increasing vaccination rates among underserved and vaccine-hesitant population groups.

MS. BENNETT:

To address equity regarding COVID-19 vaccination rates, the division has launched the Nevada Vaccine Equity Collaborative with Immunize Nevada and the Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition based out of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The Nevada Vaccine Equity Collaborative meets monthly, and compiles and analyzes data to help determine which zip codes and communities efforts should be focused on while determining specific messaging that can work in each population to best serve their needs. The division has also worked with Immunize Nevada to fund community health workers across the State of Nevada to work directly with the division's mobile vendor to host pop-up vaccination clinics in specific communities with specific material tailored to these populations. I do not currently have data regarding the breakdown of activities, but I can provide a report to the Committee at a later date.

MS. PEEK:

The division previously presented a work program to the Committee regarding a grant it received from the CDC focusing on diversity and equity, and activities from that grant

complement the division's immunization project. The division is utilizing community health workers to provide vaccinations in the communities they represent to increase vaccination rates in these communities. This includes working with faith-based and community-based organizations in vaccination and testing efforts.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS:

I am glad that the division is focusing on vaccine equity among Nevada's underserved populations as there is vaccine hesitancy among these groups that is often caused by misinformation. Is the division working to combat vaccine misinformation?

MS. BENNETT:

The division is working with Immunize Nevada and Estefania Group on campaign material to get the correct and appropriate information into communities to combat vaccine hesitancy.

MS. PEEK:

Different options are available on the Immunization Program's dashboard to research vaccination status by race ethnicity and county, which are updated daily. If you would like additional information, I can provide it to the Committee at a later date.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Nevada has been notoriously behind regarding vaccination rates, as is evident with the influenza vaccine. What were the vaccination rates for Nevada in an average flu year before the COVID-19 pandemic? Vaccine hesitancy is evident in both rural and urban areas of the state that are in high need of care. A comparison of vaccination rates can help us tailor activities. COVID vaccination programs can be used to spread awareness of other vaccines.

MS. PEEK:

Nevada has struggled with vaccination rates for a long time, with the state having the lowest vaccination rates for the flu among adults when compared to the national average; Nevada ranks last in many health care metrics. The division has data related to general vaccination rates that it can provide to the Committee.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Nevada has ranked last in many health care metrics, including vaccination rates for influenza, for a long time. This is not a new issue for Nevada, and the state needs to do better. I appreciate the division's work in combating these issues.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE  
AGENDA ITEM E-54.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS  
PRESENT.

**55. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Communicable Diseases - FY 2022**

Addition of \$1,256,227 in federal Health Resources and Services Administration Ryan White Part B Supplemental grant funds to provide recipients with assistance and access to health insurance and medication. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Ryan White Supplemental category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C56972**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**56. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Biostatistics and Epidemiology - FY 2022**

Addition of \$63,652 in federal Integrated Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Prevention funding to provide viral hepatitis surveillance, prevention, and control. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention and Control category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C56975**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**57. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Biostatistics and Epidemiology - FY 2022**

Addition of \$113,155,543 in federal Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases (ELC) grant funds to continue to provide support for state and local authorities to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ELC COVID-19 Component category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.51. Work Program #C56942**

JULIA PEEK (Deputy Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health [DPBH], DHHS):

This work program requests funding to support several supplemental grant awards the DPBH received from the CDC, Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) for Infectious Diseases cooperative agreement. This supplemental funding provides necessary services related to disease surveillance and mitigation by supporting public health laboratories, local health authorities, counties, and school districts, including rural and private schools. The division's community health services also fund activities in its sister programs including community health nursing and health care quality and compliance programs. The supplemental grant awards include funding for data modernization, detection and mitigation in consignment facilities, homeless services, and travelers' health. Through this work program, the division is seeking to have its grant authority increased to match these different funding sources.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

The division has done well in expanding outreach activities and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. What performance measures will the agency track to evaluate the success of the activities requested to be funded by this grant?

MS. PEEK:

The hiring of additional staff has been necessary to follow up on the reporting of the performance measures, which is expensive for each award. The division currently has 13 supplemental awards, each with 15 to 20 performance measures that must be reported. These measures include follow up after case investigations and maintaining contacts. The school-based grant contains the largest grant award among the grants in this work program and requires weekly reports to the division's federal partners regarding the number of COVID-19 tests provided in school districts and the amount of follow up provided regarding disease outbreaks and cases. I can provide additional information regarding the numerous performance measures to the Committee at a later date.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Did the division hire additional staff to track performance measures and activities?

MS. PEEK:

This work program includes a couple positions, with the ELC grant being one of the division's largest grants, even before the pandemic. The ELC grant funds water-testing activities, influenza surveillance, general epidemiology, and laboratory testing; the administration of this grant is complex. Adding approximately \$400 million worth of activities through 13 supplemental grants, each with unique performance indicators, required additional staff. Evaluation is important with such a large investment, with additional staff being hired in the division's central fiscal office and informational technology department to ensure the division could manage and implement the deliverables expected by federal partners that will be used to benefit Nevadans.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE  
AGENDA ITEM E-57.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS  
PRESENT.

Chair Brooks called a recess at 11:48:00. The meeting reconvened at 12:06 p.m.

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

Addition of \$174,682 in federal National and State Tobacco Control program grant funds to provide tobacco prevention and control activities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Tobacco Grant category exceeds \$75,000.

**Work Program #C56955**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**59. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Services - FY 2022**

Addition of \$38,017 in federal Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Information System Surveillance Program grant funds and transfer of \$40,712 from the Newborn Hearing Screening category to the Nevada Early Hearing Detection category to provide all children in Nevada screening for hearing loss at birth and those identified with hearing loss receive timely and appropriate audiological, educational, and medical intervention. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Nevada Early Hearing Detection category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C56842**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**60. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Services - FY 2022**

Addition of \$311,466 in federal Health Disparities grant funds transferred from the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion program to fund two full-time contract staff positions and operating costs to reduce disparities in maternal and infant mortality and to expand the Crib for Kids Safe Sleep program to reduce disparities in unsafe sleep-related deaths and infant mortality. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Maternal Mortality category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57020**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**61. Department of Health and Human Services - Public and Behavioral Health - Community Health Services - FY 2022**

Addition of \$141,358 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Prevention and Control program grant funds transferred from the Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology account to fund one full-time contract position and operating costs to provide disease investigation, prevention and treatment, case management activities, and oversight response of infectious diseases. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA STD category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57060**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

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

Addition of \$1,510,650 in federal Title XIX grant funds to implement system changes and create training materials relating to presumptive eligibility for pregnant women to comply with Senate Bill 420 (2021 Legislative Session). Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the One Shot SB420 Presumptive Eligibility Pregnant Women category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57049**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

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

Addition of \$749,168 in federal Food and Nutrition Services, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (PEBT) Administrative Cost grant funds to continue PEBT issuance to Nevada's school aged eligible children. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the SNAP PEBT Federal category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57458**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

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

Addition of \$1,963,619 in federal Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) Longitudinal Data Project (LDP) grant funds to expand research capabilities to target federal policies more effectively, to meet the needs of SNAP participants and improve the administration of the SNAP program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the SNAP LDP Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57155**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**65. Department of Health and Human Services - Welfare and Supportive Services - Energy Assistance Program - FY 2022**

Addition of \$5,696,009 in federal Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) grant funds to provide energy and water assistance benefits for low-income households. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the LIHWAP Payments category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57160**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**66. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Children, Youth and Family Administration - FY 2022**

Addition of \$109,880 in federal Children's Justice grant funds to continue to improve the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling for cases of child abuse and neglect. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Children's Justice Act Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C56940**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**67. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Children, Youth and Family Administration - FY 2022**

Addition of \$632,510 in federal John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program grant funds to provide services to current and former foster youth to achieve self-sufficiency. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Independent Living category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C56787**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**68. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Children, Youth and Family Administration - FY 2022**

Addition of \$1,969,970 in federal Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, Title IV-B, Subpart II grant funds to provide support services that address family support, family preservation, time-limited family reunification, and adoption promotion and support. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Title IV-B Subpart II category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57022**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**69. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Children, Youth and Family Administration - FY 2022**

Addition of \$312,896 in federal Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grant funds to develop, expand and enhance community-based prevention-focused programs and activities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the CTF Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57037**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**70. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Rural Child Welfare - FY 2022**

Transfer of \$323,460 from the Personnel Services category to the Temporary Contract Staffing category to provide temporary contract staff due to a critical shortfall in licensed social workers, family service workers, and case management specialist candidates statewide. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Temporary Contract Staffing category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57005**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**71. Department of Corrections - Prison Medical Care - FY 2022**

Addition of \$1,198,565 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to reimburse eligible expenditures and overtime costs for staff who have been substantially redirected to respond to COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the CARES Act category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #22CRF3706**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**72. Department of Corrections - Ely State Prison - FY 2022**

Addition of \$194,197 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to reimburse overtime costs for staff who have been substantially redirected to respond to COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #22CRF3751**



Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**73. Department of Corrections - Northern Nevada Correctional Center - FY 2022**

Addition of \$1,343,584 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to reimburse overtime costs for staff who have been substantially redirected to respond to COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #22CRF3717**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**74. Department of Corrections - Lovelock Correctional Center - FY 2022**

Transfer of \$52,645 from the Personnel Services category to the Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds category to cover a projected shortfall through the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C57292**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**75. Department of Motor Vehicles - Automation - FY 2022**

Transfer of \$436,000 from the Personnel Services category to the Information Services category to meet programming needs for the Combined Automotive Revenue and Registration System. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Information Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C56949**

Suzie Block (Information Technology [IT] Division Administrator, Department of Motor Vehicles [DMV]):

This work program transfers expenditure authority from the Personnel Services category to the Information Services category to meet programming needs within the department's internal IT systems.

SENATOR DENIS:

The transfer will fund four contract positions to assist with maintaining the department's existing computer system by programming in Common Business Oriented Language (COBOL). These contract positions would be funded by holding nine department IT Professional positions vacant. Is this correct?

MS. BLOCK:

That is correct.

SENATOR DENIS:

What will the department do with its existing positions once the DMV's system transformation effort is complete? Will the contract positions performing COBOL programming be eliminated?

MS. BLOCK:

The DMV is currently conducting a technology roadmap along with its transformation project to be completed in the spring of 2022. The project and roadmap will include position alignment for a new system and options for retiring the existing system. After analyzing timelines regarding the retirement of the legacy system, implementation of the new system, and when functions within the new system will become available, the department will be able to better determine the best use of the nine IT Professional positions, which may include a restructure. The department's plans are to include these items in the appropriate budget building processes.

SENATOR DENIS:

Will the anticipated timeline for reviewing existing IT positions be completed in the spring of 2022?

MS. BLOCK:

Yes, that is correct.

SENATOR DENIS:

Will the review determine if the nine IT positions are still needed to maintain the new system?

MS. BLOCK:

Yes, part of the project roadmap includes a position alignment and needs assessment. Once the department reviews the project roadmap, it will have a comprehensive plan of what IT positions will be needed to support the transformation effort and the legacy system until it is retired.

SENATOR DENIS:

Is the department anticipating any delays in the review or implementation of the project?

MS. BLOCK:

The staffing alignment phase has already been conducted and the department is moving through the discovery phase of the project. These milestones are on track with the overall transformation effort.

SENATOR DENIS:

The department is using contract positions to program in COBOL. Will these contract positions also be used by the department to maintain the current system and to assist in the development of the new system?

MS. BLOCK:

Yes, the department has an existing team of 24 positions which continue to support the operations of the legacy system. The four contract positions that the department is requesting to hire by maintaining the nine position vacancies normally needed to keep the DMV systems operational will have their duties shifted to address backlogs and assist with implementing programming changes to repair issues related to the operation of the current system. Having the contract positions work in these areas will

free up existing state positions so that these positions can learn and assist with building the new system.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM E-75.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS PRESENT.

**76. Department of Public Safety - Director's Office - Forfeitures - Law Enforcement - FY 2022**

Transfer of \$46,000 from the Reserve category to the Northwestern Training category to cover travel and tuition costs for three sworn employees to attend the Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Northwestern Training category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C57281**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**77. Department of Public Safety - Director's Office - Forfeitures - Law Enforcement - FY 2022**

Transfer of ~~\$171,747~~ **\$281,940** from the Reserve category to the Land and Building Improvements category for the purpose of constructing two firearm ranges to be located at the Nevada Joint Training Facility in Las Vegas. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the Land and Building Improvements category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.78. Work Program #C57472. REVISED 11-19-21.**

Agenda Items E-77 and E-78 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item E-78.

**78. Department of Public Safety - Nevada Highway Patrol Division - FY 2022**

Transfer of ~~\$543,769~~ **\$433,545** from the Personnel Services category to the Land and Building Improvements category for the purpose of constructing two firearm ranges to be located at the Nevada Joint Training Facility in Las Vegas. Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount transferred from the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.77. Work Program #C54518. REVISED 11-19-21.**

Agenda Items E-77 and E-78 were discussed jointly.

SHERI BRUEGGEMANN (Deputy Director, Department of Public Safety [DPS]):

The two work programs described in Agenda Items E-77 and E-78 work together to help the DPS construct two shooting ranges in the Las Vegas area at an estimated cost of \$715,485. The ranges are part of a larger cooperative partnership with the

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Metro) and other participating law enforcement agencies such as the FBI, as well as the City of North Las Vegas and the College of Southern Nevada to create the best law enforcement training center in the region. The Southern Nevada Joint Emergency Training Institute facility will continue to be largely funded by local donations. The DPS plans to participate in the Nevada Joint Training Facility by constructing two firearm ranges and paying the ongoing maintenance costs associated with the ranges of approximately \$57,000 per year, which entitles the DPS to primary use of the ranges and use of all related classroom buildings in the area of the ranges, including bathroom facilities, electrical facilities, and other common use areas.

The DPS also plans to pay maintenance costs estimated between \$240 to \$250 per DPS officer utilizing the Nevada Joint Training Facility in each fiscal year. These will be annual costs and are expected to begin in July 2022. The costs will go towards the construction of specialized training rooms for multi-assault, counter terrorism action capabilities (MACTAC) training and other activities of the DPS Training Division. The training rooms will be housed in a full-size building large enough to handle fire engines for tactical training.

The DPS will also pay for the construction of classroom buildings that will house academies and possible dormitories. This would eliminate the department's need to rent a facility for academies in Southern Nevada, as the DPS could move its academy to the Nevada Joint Training Facility and better train new cadets. This is a significant opportunity for the department, given that most costs to build the Nevada Joint Training Facility are covered by private donations. This will be a valuable joint opportunity between public and private organizations. The costs of constructing the classroom building are currently unknown, but the DPS anticipates budgeting for these activities in FY 2024 and FY 2025.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Private donations will be used in conjunction with public funds to build the Nevada Joint Training Facility. Will the parties making the private donations also have access to the facility?

RICH HOGAN (Chief Financial Officer, Metro):

The private donors are not individuals who would be interested in using the facility. The donors understand they are contributing to the betterment of the community and will not be able to use the facility.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

What are the repercussions if an officer does not range-certify with their firearm in a timely manner?

JOSHUA MOSES (Statewide Firearms Coordinator, DPS):

The repercussions would impact the department's Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) certifications, as the standards and training requirements of police officers in Nevada require them to range-certify their firearms twice per calendar year to maintain their POST certification. Additionally, certain certifications need to be

completed annually per NRS.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

Does the DPS have a backlog of officers who have not yet been range-certified?

MR. MOSES:

There is not currently a backlog. The DPS has been completing extra time on firearm ranges to get all officers in Southern Nevada caught up on certifications. One officer is qualifying for range certification next week, which is limited to when the department can book firearm ranges. Booking ranges can be limited toward the end of the year, especially when the DPS Training Division needs the entire month of December to compile data from all DPS officers to ensure they are POST certified.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

It is important for DPS officers to be range certified.

ASSEMBLYMAN ROBERTS:

How many firing points does each firearm range have and do these contain lead-entrapment systems, or will regular berms be used?

ANDREW LOCHER (Project Manager, Joint Emergency Training Institute, Metro):

Every range being built at the Nevada Joint Training Facility has 15 firing points that are 100 yards away in alignment. The facility uses a sand-entrapment system versus a steel-entrapment system that captures every casing. Long-term, sand-entrapment systems have lower operating costs and encapsulate lead in the same manner as steel-entrapment systems; a sand-entrapment system is one-tenth the cost of a steel-entrapment system.

ASSEMBLYMAN ROBERTS:

Remediating berms can be expensive. Is the construction of the firing ranges contingent upon DPS partnership with other parties using the facility? If the DPS does not pay for the construction of the firing ranges, is it prohibited from using the rest of the facility?

MR. LOCHER:

The DPS can still use other areas of the facility if it is not approved funding to construct the firing ranges. The DPS has used existing firearm ranges free-of-charge for approximately four years. If the DPS funds some of the ongoing maintenance costs associated with two new firearm ranges, it will be provided with the access it needs to complete qualifications on its own time and schedule; the DPS is currently subject to Metro's schedules. The construction of the MACTAC and other training facilities is a separate project. The department will be required to pay annual fees for water and power to keep the Nevada Joint Training Facility in operation.

ASSEMBLYMAN ROBERTS:

I support the construction of the Nevada Joint Training Facility, as the DPS has always struggled in scheduling firearm range time for officers.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I frequently hear that there is a large void in hiring DPS Nevada Highway Patrol officers, which can impact the safety of current officers and the public. The DPS has 265 sworn Highway Patrol officers in Southern Nevada. How many openings does the department have? Will the percentages in the funding split proposal change if the department were able to hire additional Highway Patrol Officers?

MS. BRUEGGEMANN:

The funding split proposal is strictly based on the number of DPS officers in Southern Nevada, and not the number of officers in the entire department. The funding split proposal is based on the amount of time certain officers will need to use the Nevada Joint Training Facility for range certification, with officers coming from DPS Parole and Probation (P&P), the DPS State Fire Marshal Division, the DPS Investigation Division, the DPS Capitol Police Division, etc.

KRISTI DEFER (Administrative Services Officer 3, Highway Patrol, DPS):

The positions included on the funding split proposal are budgeted at full-time position control numbers.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

The DPS has budgeted for 265 Highway Patrol officers in Southern Nevada. I am concerned that the viability of DPS officers is in jeopardy due to a lack of personnel. Is this the case? If the DPS budgeted for 265 Highway Patrol officers in Southern Nevada, how many of these positions are currently filled and how many are waiting to be filled? At the last POST graduation in Northern Nevada, there was not a single Highway Patrol candidate present as there were no applicants for Highway Patrol.

MS. BRUEGGEMANN:

The DPS is desperately short on law enforcement officers. The department is looking to fill 150 more Highway Patrol positions. Hiring officers has been extremely difficult as there are few applications. The department is employing new strategies to increase the number of its officers, including using job posting boards and taking two Highway Patrol officers off the roads to become recruiters.

GEORGE TOGLIATTI (Director, DPS):

The department can provide data to the Committee regarding the number of open positions in all its divisions across the state. Information regarding caseload ratios within the P&P can also be provided so that caseload trends can be examined. The number of investigators in the Investigation Division has decreased sharply, with these positions being difficult to backfill as they require much training and experience.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Are appropriations from the Highway Fund or the General Fund being used to fund the department's activities at the Nevada Joint Training Facility?

MS. BRUEGGEMANN:

The funding will come from both the Highway Fund and the General Fund, with

Highway Fund appropriations only funding Highway Patrol activities; this can cause friction among the department's other divisions. General Fund appropriations fund the P&P activities (Highway Patrol and the P&P each house approximately half of the department's officers), most of the State Fire Marshal's activities are funded from fees, and the Investigation Division is mostly funded by General Fund appropriations, with the overtime hours of this division being funded by grants. The Capitol Police Division is funded mainly through transfers from the Department of Administration, Buildings and Grounds Division.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I assume that the public will not be allowed to use the Nevada Joint Training Facility. Who will be eligible to use the facility? If being able to use the facility will be an incentive for potential candidates to apply for Highway Patrol, and the facility will ensure that DPS officers are range certified, I support the project. I also support private/public partnerships funding these proposals, but I want to ensure that there are enough active Highway Patrol officers using the training facilities to justify costs. I would like the department to follow up with the Committee regarding how it plans to hire additional officers.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Certain state activities are largely underfunded and have decreasing expenditures and revenue. I would like to find more ways to effectively fund state police officers in Nevada.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

Approximately 61% of the funding split proposal comes from Highway Fund vacancy savings, with 39% coming from forfeiture. What will be the balances in these categories after funding is spent on the project? I want to ensure that the department is not inadvertently disincentivizing the filling of positions because it is using vacancy savings to build the firearm ranges.

MS. BRUEGGEMANN:

Savings in the Highway Patrol budget are not due to position vacancies, as the department is filling as many positions as it can. The last Highway Patrol academy for the year will occur in January for Southern Nevada, with 20 to 25 new candidates participating in that academy. Certain officers may laterally transfer from other local law enforcement agencies, but the department does not have high enough retirement and benefit rates to entice enough of these transfers. The department would never hold positions open to fund the ranges at the Nevada Joint Training Facility. The department is currently using forfeitures to fund the portion of the project funded by General Fund appropriations because at the time it ran its calculations, the department was unsure there would be enough General Fund savings in the P&P budget. Unfortunately, there will be enough vacancies in the department that it will be able to pay its maintenance fees from salary savings. It could take six months to a year from when a candidate enters the academy until they become a full-time operating officer.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

It can take a while for more officers to become available. Prior to the 2023 Legislative

Session, I would like the DPS to expand and broaden its pipelines for hiring new officers so that the Committee can consider some of these initiatives next session. Other municipalities offer better pay and benefits that DPS should try to match even though many of its officer are funded by Highway Fund appropriations. The pay of Highway Patrol officers has been increased in the past to increase the number of new candidates applying to become officers.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Unequal pay and benefits when compared to other municipalities has always been an issue related to hiring new Highway Patrol officers. I am grateful that state police still report for duty to protect Nevadans.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

Will officers from the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) be able to utilize the Nevada Joint Training Facility for training and range certification?

MR. LOCHER:

The department does not currently have any connections with the NDOC regarding the project, but it is possible that the NDOC could become a partner in the future. The department is actively seeking partners and would welcome the NDOC, as the goal is to have the Nevada Joint Training Facility serve all of Nevada's emergency response agencies.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

As a former law enforcement officer who has brought forward legislation to increase the pay of state police officers across the board, I am excited to hear about the support that the DPS will have during the 2023 Legislative Session to address the issue of not being able to hire enough officers; this will allow the department to be more competitive with local agencies.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Will the Nevada Legislative Police have access to the Nevada Joint Training Facility?

MS. BRUEGGEMANN:

The Legislative Police will have an opportunity to use the facility. The Legislative Police are different from the Capitol Police, with the latter being responsible for the security of Executive Branch buildings owned by the State of Nevada. Capitol Police positions are difficult to fill as officers can make more money in a local law enforcement agency or working for the Legislative Police. The department is at an impasse to get the Capitol Police paid at an amount they deserve, and any DPS officers listening in now will appreciate this conversation.

CHAIR BROOKS:

It has been a difficult year for state and legislative police officers in protecting state buildings, especially when the results of the 2020 presidential election were confirmed. I appreciate their service.



ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS E-77 AND E-78.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS PRESENT.

**79. Department of Public Safety - Nevada Highway Patrol Division - FY 2022**

Addition of \$40,000 in Highway Safety federal grant funds transferred from the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to fund an e-Warrant software platform. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the OTS e-Warrants Grant category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C57128**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**80. Department of Public Safety - Nevada Highway Patrol Division - FY 2022**

Addition of \$100,000 in federal Highway Safety Grant authority transferred from the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to support enhanced highway enforcement activities relating to driving under the influence. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the OTS DUI Saturation Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57238**

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I support enhancing highway enforcement activities related to preventing drivers from driving under the influence. If this work program is approved, will enough Highway Patrol officers be available to carry out the department's plans and activities? Will these activities be computerized, or will the department need to take an officer off the street to operate the system?

KRISTI DEFER (Administrative Services Officer 3, Highway Patrol, DPS):

The work program involves an ongoing grant that Highway Patrol has had for many years that is usually included in the department's legislatively approved budget. However, the DPS Office of Traffic Safety was concerned about ongoing funding, the source of funding, and securing funding, and this project was removed from the department's budget request to be brought before the IFC for further discussion. This work program requests authority to fund overtime related to preventing drivers from driving under the influence, with overtime being necessary due to limited Highway Patrol officer positions.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM E-80.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS PRESENT.

**81. Department of Public Safety - Records, Communications, and Compliance - Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History - FY 2022**

Transfer of \$30,040 from the COVID category to the Personnel Services category to cover costs related to overtime worked associated with the COVID-19 related backlog in administering the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred from the COVID category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #22CBL4709**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**82. Department of Public Safety - Fire Marshal - State Emergency Response Commission - FY 2022**

Transfer of \$110,000 from the Reserve category to the Transfer to State Fire Marshal category to fund the construction of a mobile live-fire training system. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Transfer to State Fire Marshal category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.83. Work Program #C57259**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**83. Department of Public Safety - Fire Marshal - FY 2022**

Addition of \$500,000 in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) funds, \$110,000 in Hazardous Waste Management fees transferred from the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, and \$110,000 in Hazardous Material Fees transferred from the State Emergency Response Commission to fund the construction of a mobile live-fire training system. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the FEMA - AFG Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.82. Work Program #C56899**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**84. Department of Public Safety - Justice Assistance Act - FY 2022**

Addition of \$675,736 in National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) grant authority to continue providing state and local government agencies support for various law enforcement activities and technology improvements. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the NCHIP Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57349**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**85. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Division of Forestry - Administration - FY 2023**

Addition of \$99,985 in federal U.S. Forest Service grant funds to support one new Management Analyst position to plan, coordinate and implement projects in moderate to high-risk areas of Nevada for wildfire prevention, mitigation, restoration, and long-term planning. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57417**

RYAN SHANE (Deputy Administrator, Division of Forestry, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources [DCNR]):

This work program is to authorize the expenditure of grant funding provided by the U.S. Forest Service for a position that had a portion of its salary for FY 2022 approved through a non-IFC work program. This position has not yet been filled, with funding for the position being provided to the division by the U.S. Forest Service to support Governor Sisolak's 2019 *Agreement for Shared Stewardship*. This agreement unites federal, state, and local land, fire and natural resource managers around a functional strategy focusing resources and efforts in high priority treatment areas to create fire-resilient natural landscapes, communities capable of fighting wildfires, and safe and effective fire response. The agreement and its processes have already resulted in a 47% annual increase in the treatment of land across the state by all stakeholders and member agencies.

The new Partnerships Coordinator position would be responsible for coordinating shared stewardship initiative efforts at the executive, technical, and field-implementation level. For stakeholders to remain aligned, organized, and effective, the position would lead partner agencies in meeting the goals of the agreement.

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS:

The U.S. Forest Service Consolidated Payments Grant extends to the end of June 2024. Will the position be terminated if additional funding is not secured by the time this grant expires?

MR. SHANE:

Yes, the division will terminate the Partnerships Coordinator position if additional funding is not secured by the time the grant expires.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE  
AGENDA ITEM E-85.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS  
PRESENT.

**86. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Division of Environmental Protection - Water Pollution Control - FY 2022**

Addition of \$200,000 in federal Environmental Protection Agency grant funds to support the development of a database for electronic submittal of environmental compliance data for the National Pollution Discharge Elimination permits. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency Exchange Network Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57215**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**87. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Division of Environmental Protection - Water Quality Planning - FY 2022**

Addition of \$26,195 in federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) multipurpose (MP) grant funds to align with state authority to continue development of water quality improvements. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Federal Nevada Department Environmental Protection EPA MP Grant category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C57293**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**88. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Division of Environmental Protection - Safe Drinking Water Program - FY 2022**

Addition of \$189,850 in federal Environmental Protection Agency funds and \$20,617 in transfer from Environmental Protection funds to support the development of the Nevada perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substance action plan. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Operating category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.89. Work Program #C57302**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**89. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Division of Environmental Protection - Safe Drinking Water Program - FY 2022**

Addition of \$66,250 in transfers from the Environmental Protection account to support the development of the Nevada perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substance action plan pursuant to Assembly Bill 97 (2021 Legislative session). Requires Interim Finance approval since the cumulative amount added to the Operating category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.88. Work Program #C57303**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**90. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Division of Environmental Protection - Safe Drinking Water Program - FY 2022**

Addition of \$36,854 in transfers from the Environmental Protection account to fund cubicle modifications to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Operating category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C57304**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**91. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Division of Environmental Protection - Industrial Site Cleanup - FY 2022**

Addition of \$323,335 in transfers from the Management of Hazardous Waste account to fund an increase in the Desert Research Institute contract to provide continued research at the Black Mountain Industrial (BMI) Complex. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the BMI Companies category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C55746**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**92. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Division of Environmental Protection - Industrial Site Cleanup - FY 2022**

Addition of \$626,989 in transfers from the Hazardous Waste Management account to support the Bureau of Industrial Site Cleanup program activities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Black Mountain Industry Companies category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C56427**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**93. Department of Wildlife - Director's Office - FY 2022**

Addition of \$544,644 in federal Boating Access grant funds to support boating access improvement projects. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Boating Access Improvement category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57285**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**94. Department of Wildlife - Data and Technology Services - FY 2022**

Addition of \$118,191 in Sportsmen Revenue funds transferred from the Wildlife Fund to support the Big Game Application book expenses. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Administration category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.95. Work Program #C57248**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**95. Department of Wildlife - Conservation Education - FY 2022**

Deletion of \$118,191 in Sportsmen Revenue funds transferred from the Wildlife Fund account to remove the Big Game Application Book expense which is being re-established in the Data and Technology Services account. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount deleted from the Publications category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.94. Work Program #C57249**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**96. Department of Wildlife - Conservation Education - FY 2022**

Addition of \$155,223 in License Plate Fees transferred from the Wildlife Fund to support wildlife education and volunteer activities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the License Plate Wildlife Education category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57286**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**97. Department of Wildlife - Game Management - FY 2022**

Addition of \$213,026 in Sportsmen Revenue funds transferred from the Wildlife Fund to support a projected shortfall in the Air Operations program through the remainder of the fiscal year. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the

Air Operations category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57246**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**98. Department of Wildlife - Fisheries Management - FY 2022**

Addition of \$274,093 in federal Bureau of Reclamation grant funds, \$23,218 in Sportsmen Revenue funds transferred from the Wildlife Fund account and \$102,689 in Aquatic Invasive Species Fees transferred from the Wildlife Fund to support the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery Water Delivery project and to realign federal small grant funds. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Fisheries Small Grants category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57301**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**99. Department of Wildlife - Diversity Division - FY 2022**

Addition of \$24,920 in federal United States Fish and Wildlife Service grant funds, \$210,000 in federal Bureau of Land Management grant funds, and a deletion of \$21,920 in Sportsmen Revenue funds transferred from the Wildlife Fund to realign the state authority and federal authority and continue funding wildlife programs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amounts added to the All-Small Grants category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57254**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**100. Department of Wildlife - Habitat - FY 2022**

Addition of \$1,870,000 in Sportsmen Revenue funds transferred from the Wildlife Fund account for the purchase of the Licking Ranch property. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the WMA System category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57290**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**101. Department of Wildlife - Habitat - FY 2022**

Addition of \$816,012 in various federal grant funds, \$150,000 in private National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant funds and \$258,195 in Sportsmen Revenue funds transferred from the Wildlife Fund account to support ongoing habitat restoration projects and to fund habitat conservation. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the NV Partners for Conservation and Development Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57336**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**102. Office of the Military - FY 2022**

Addition of \$195,318 in federal Department of Defense Electronic Security Program funds to align state and federal authority to continue the Electronic Security program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Electronic Security category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57368**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**103. Office of the Military - FY 2022**

Addition of \$375,652 in federal Department of Defense revenue authority to align state and federal authority to support the ongoing activities associated with Environmental Programs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Environment category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57370**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**104. Office of the Military - FY 2022**

Addition of \$640,716 in federal Department of Defense revenue authority to align state and federal authority to support ongoing activities associated with the STARBASE program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the STARBASE Program category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57371**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**105. Office of the Military - Division of Emergency Management - FY 2022**

Addition of \$129,507 in federal Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) supplemental funds to assist state, local, tribal, and territorial partners with the prevention, preparation, and response of the ongoing public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the EMPG Supplemental category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57028**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**106. Office of the Military - Division of Emergency Management - FY 2022**

Addition of \$36,496 in Office of the Governor Nuclear Projects Waste Isolation Pilot Plant funding to cover expenditures associated with the oversight of transuranic waste shipments within Nevada. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Program category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **Work Program #C57032**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**107. Office of the Military - Emergency Management Assistance Grants - FY 2022**

Addition of \$1,440,111 in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds for the FEMA Disaster Mitigation grant program to continue funding state, local and tribal partners for mitigation projects that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from the risk of future disasters. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Pre-Disaster Mitigation category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C56965**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**108. Office of the Military - Emergency Management Assistance Grants - FY 2022**

Addition of \$114,943 in federal Emergency Management Agency - High Hazard Potential Dams Rehabilitation grant funds for the rehabilitation of eligible high hazard dams. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the High Hazard Potential Dams Rehabilitation category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57031**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**109. Office of the Military - Emergency Management Assistance Grants - FY 2022**

Addition of \$64,900 in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program grant funds to continue work on the Nevada Earthquake Hazard Reduction Plan. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the FEMA Earthquake Hazard Reduction category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for the category. **Work Program #C57339**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**110. Department of Veterans Services - Office of Veterans Services - FY 2022**

Addition of \$5,182,845 in federal Department of Veterans Affairs grant funds to expand the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery (NNVMC). Funds the non-state share of Capital Improvement Project 19-C04 (2019 Legislative Session). Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the NNVMC Expansion Grant NV-19-15 category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57171**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**111. Department of Veterans Services - Southern Nevada Veterans Home Account - FY 2022**

Addition of \$588,144 in federal Veterans Affairs (VA) grant funds for the renovation of the nursing unit, HVAC, water treatment, bed replacement and anti-wander guard system at the Nevada State Veterans Home. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the VA Grant FAI 32-005 category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57337**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**112. Department of Veterans Services - Southern Nevada Veterans Home Account - FY 2022**

Addition of \$572,400 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to support staff who have been substantially redirected to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Personnel Services category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #22CRF2561**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.



**113. Public Employees' Benefits Program - FY 2022**

Addition of ~~\$3,603,854~~ **\$3,557,308** in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to reimburse unbudgeted eligible COVID-19 medical claims costs for testing, emergency, and non-emergency medical care. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the State Employee Insurance Cost category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #222CRF1338. REVISED 11-12-21.**

LAURA RICH (Executive Officer, Public Employees' Benefits Program [PEBP]):  
Through Agenda Item E-113, PEBP is requesting \$3,557,308 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding for reimbursement of medical and testing claims related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

If the workplace testing mandate is not implemented, will the need or amount of a surcharge be impacted?

Ms. RICH:

The federal workplace testing mandate is still tied up in the courts. The Office of the Governor indicated to PEBP that there is a desire to proceed with the workplace testing mandate for State of Nevada employees. The state mandate is already in place and will be continued regardless of what happens at the federal level.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

If the surcharge is not assessed and the costs related to COVID testing, hospitalization and treatment are spread amongst PEBP participants, has PEBP determined how much participant premiums would increase assuming that the 2023 plan year benefits approved by the PEBP Board were maintained? Can you provide information relating to an increase in premiums?

Ms. RICH:

The prices of PEBP's plans are typically calculated every March. PEBP has actuaries that review and analyze the trends of claims occurring throughout the year up until February. In February, PEBP actuaries review the trends and project costs for the following year based on what is happening in the plan. If surcharges were not imposed for the preceding plan year, then additional costs would be projected as part of the review and included in premiums. This would likely result in a significant increase in premiums, as PEBP has projected that the costs associated with COVID-19 testing will be approximately \$18 million per year. During the last round of budget cuts, PEBP had to cut approximately \$36 million from its budget, resulting in the reduction of life insurance and the loss of long-term disability benefits. PEBP made design adjustments to its plan, which resulted in higher out-of-pocket costs and deductibles for members. Not implementing a surcharge will likely impact the plan, as costs that the surcharge would have covered will then be passed along to members through higher premiums or a reduction in benefits.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Costs directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic are reimbursable through

CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds. I am concerned that these costs are being passed along to PEBP's members when the costs are reimbursable. How long does PEBP anticipate that the surcharge will continue, especially if there is less testing for COVID-19 as the state progresses through the pandemic? Does the agency predict that less COVID tests will be needed in the future?

Ms. RICH:

Agenda Item E-113 requests authority to use CARES Act funding to reimburse PEBP for costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, PEBP has received approximately \$17 million in CARES Act funding, including what is being considered today. Unfortunately, the CARES Act funding that PEBP received expires at the end of 2021. PEBP is moving forward with the work program knowing that there will be considerable costs specifically due to testing for COVID-19, in addition to existing costs related to hospitalization rates and treatment related to the pandemic. PEBP will not receive reimbursement for these costs moving forward and will have to rely on surcharges to recover the costs. The PEBP Board approved the use of surcharges for plan year 2023 which begins on July 1, 2022, and the PEBP Board will have to reconsider the use of surcharges at the beginning of each plan year moving forward.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE  
AGENDA ITEM E-113.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS  
PRESENT.

**114. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation - FY 2022**

Addition of \$1,003,647 in federal Accelerating Nevada Apprenticeships for All (ANAA) grant funds to create new and expand existing Registered Apprenticeship Programs to connect underrepresented individuals to career pathways in high-demand sectors, strengthen the skilled workforce pipeline, meet employers' needs, and align educational and economic security for Nevadans. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ANAA Grant category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEM E.116. Work Program #C56858. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 11-16-21.**

Agenda Items E-114 and E-116 were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item E-116.

**115. Department of Business and Industry - Labor Commissioner - Labor Commissioner - FY 2022**

Addition of \$49,071 in ***federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act grant funds transferred*** ~~Transfer~~ from the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation to support operational costs for the State Apprenticeship Program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the State Apprenticeship Program category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount

for that category. ~~Relates to Work Program #C57447.~~ **Work Program #C56986. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 11-16-21. REVISED 11-17-21.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**116. Department of Business and Industry - Labor Commissioner - Labor Commissioner - FY 2022**

Addition of \$28,196 in ***federal State Apprenticeship Expansion, Equity and Innovation grant funds transferred*** ~~Transfer in Apprenticeship Grants from the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation~~ to fund salary and operational costs for contracted positions in support of the State Apprenticeship Program. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the State Apprenticeship Program category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **RELATES TO ITEM E.114. #C56986. Work Program #C57447. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 11-16-21. REVISED 11-17-21.**

Agenda Items E-114 and E-116 were discussed jointly.

ELISA CAFFERATA (Director, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation [DETR]):

DETR shared a letter this week with Nevada legislators regarding the implementation of Assembly Bill (A.B.) 459 (2021 Legislative Session) which moved the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation (GOWINN) under DETR and returned the state apprenticeship program to the Department of Business and Industry's (B&I) Office of the Labor Commissioner. DETR has moved both funding and staff to B&I to support the state apprenticeship program. DETR, B&I, and the Labor Commissioner all agree that B&I will pursue any future apprenticeship grants. Agenda Item E-114 requests grant funds to support GOWINN's new Accelerating Nevada Apprenticeship for All (ANAA) grant. This work is transitional in nature, as the funding for the ANAA grant was initially applied for during the 2021 Legislative Session and awarded immediately after sine die. Some of the funds and staffing for the ANAA grant are also moving under B&I.

The ANAA grant brings together partners to develop and support non-trade apprenticeships. Work Program #C56858 has been adjusted to bring in \$1 million which is a year's worth of money to help DETR get started on contracts and partnership agreements. DETR will continue to work with B&I, the Labor Commissioner, and the State Apprenticeship Council and its Director to build capacity in the state for growing successful and sustainable non-trade apprenticeship programs. The apprenticeship programs to be designed under the ANAA grant must meet all the requirements of NRS 610, must be approved by the State Apprenticeship Council, and must meet registered apprenticeship program standards including wages, safety, instruction, and agreements with the state regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity plans.

Through Agenda Item E-116, DETR is requesting to transfer funding from the ANAA grant, should funding for the program be approved today, and funding from the

U.S. Department of Labor, State Apprenticeship Expansion, Equity and Innovation Grant to B&I to financially support the operations and staffing of the State Apprenticeship Director and State Apprenticeship Council, the administration of apprenticeships, and to conform to A.B. 459; some funding has already been transferred to B&I for these activities.

CHAIR BROOKS:

At the October 21, 2021, IFC meeting, the Committee clearly expressed concerns regarding how apprenticeships were being handled by GOWINN. DETR stated that the State Apprenticeship Expansion, Equity and Innovation grant funding was applied for during a transitional phase for the agency, but the Committee does not want to see any future applications for apprenticeship grants coming from GOWINN. The Committee wants the responsibility of expanding apprenticeship programs to be shifted to the Labor Commissioner and State Apprenticeship Council. Will this grant funding be lost if DETR does not move forward in the way that the funding was applied for?

MS. CAFFERATA:

DETR held a meeting with B&I, GOWINN, and a program officer from the U.S. Department of Labor to discuss adjustments that are being made to the grant. However, attempting to change the agency that is responsible for administering apprenticeship programs after an application has been submitted is not usually done, and if DETR attempts to do this, it would be at risk of losing the grant funds. The sooner that DETR can bring the funding into a grant category within its budget, the sooner it can begin working on the project. Anything that can be done to train displaced workers and underserved populations will help the program succeed, and DETR is going to expand the state apprenticeship program within B&I to work on non-trade apprenticeships in the future.

CHAIR BROOKS:

The Labor Commissioner is requesting the addition of \$28,196 in apprenticeship grant funding from GOWINN. In the future, can more of this grant funding be moved under the Labor Commissioner as its responsibilities regarding apprenticeships increase?

MS. CAFFERATA:

Work Program #C57447 only includes one year of apprenticeship grant funding. In total, over \$19,000 in State Apprenticeship Expansion, Equity and Innovation grant funds, and over \$77,000 from the ANAA grant would be moved into B&I over several years; more than just the \$28,196 in funding will be made available to the Labor Commissioner. Because there is so much funding dedicated to the partners and the intermediary working together to establish agreements under the ANAA grant, once DETR has budgetary authority, DETR will work with B&I to ensure that the intermediary spends time with the state apprenticeship program and provides training so that the capacity to build non-trade apprenticeship programs is not lost over time; this will be built into the request for proposal and contract.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Moving forward, if apprenticeship programs will be handled more by the

Labor Commissioner and State Apprenticeship Council, any way that these entities can be trained to handle the operations and funding of the apprenticeships will be helpful. The way in which DETR changed its request for authority provides more ways for stakeholders to evolve and I appreciate the work being done.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE  
AGENDA ITEMS E-114 AND E-116.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS  
PRESENT.

- 117. Department of Agriculture - Commodity Foods Distribution Program - FY 2022**  
Addition of \$7,600,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to support food insecurity programs pursuant to Senate Bill 461 (2021 Legislative Session). Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA SB 461 Funds category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #22FR136201. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 11-16-21.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

- 118. Department of Agriculture - Commodity Foods Distribution Program - FY 2022**  
Addition of \$74,503 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account to support two contracted positions to administer Senate Bill 461 (2021 Legislative Session) programs. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the ARPA Contract Staffing category exceeds 10% of the legislatively approved amount for that category. **RELATES TO ITEM E.122. Work Program #22FR136202. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 11-16-21.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

- 119. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation - Employment Security - Unemployment Insurance - FY 2022**  
Addition of \$17,733,608 in federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) grant funds, and transfer of \$4,441,290 from the Reserve category to the Pandemic UI Assist-PUA category to continue the agency's program operations. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Pandemic UI Assist-PUA category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #C57111. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 11-17-21.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**120. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services - FY 2022**

Addition of \$275,909 in federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account for staffing to support a surge in demand for the Mobile Crisis Response Team under ARPA guidelines. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Transfer from ARPA category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #22FRF32811. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 11-17-21.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**121. Department of Health and Human Services - Child and Family Services - Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services - FY 2022**

Addition of \$387,386 in federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the COVID-19 Relief Programs account for staffing to support a surge in demand for the Mobile Crisis Response Team under ARPA guidelines. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount added to the Transfer from ARPA category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #22FRF36461. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 11-17-21.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**122. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2022**

Transfer of \$595,158 from the Loss Revenue Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Administration category to fund contracted personnel for the Department of Agriculture, state personnel for the Governor's Office, and the southern Nevada personal protective equipment warehouse lease for the Purchasing Division. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Administration category exceeds \$75,000. **RELATES TO ITEMS E.1, E.19 and E.118. Work Program #22FR132702. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 11-17-21.**

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

**123. Office of the Governor - COVID-19 Relief Programs - FY 2022**

Transfer of \$30,000,000 from the Reserve category to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Community Services Grants category to increase access to programs and services in under-served communities. Requires Interim Finance approval since the amount transferred to the ARPA Community Services Grants category exceeds \$75,000. **Work Program #22FR132703. RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 11-22-21.**

BAILEY BORTOLIN (Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor):

The Office of the Governor is voluntarily withdrawing Work Program #22FR132703 as submitted. The office has identified a better route regarding establishing revenue and expenditure authority for grants for nonprofit entities and is requesting to move \$30 million into budget category 84 to launch a community recovery grant program using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding.

CHAIR BROOKS:

I appreciate the work that the office has done to move \$30 million around within budget 101-1327 and to set aside the funding to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

MS. BORTOLIN:

The office is launching a community recovery grant for nonprofit entities. Upon legislative approval, the office will be setting aside \$30 million of ARPA funding received by the state to push into communities to help with urgent needs exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the Governor's listening tour, Nevada communities have demonstrated a need for funding support, and the office wants to work providers that are best situated to have a meaningful impact on peoples' lives. The office will continue to use <https://nevadarecovers.com> to launch an application process for the hundreds of nonprofit entities that submitted ideas to the office regarding ways they can help communities. Applications will be analyzed based on the needs of communities and how the ARPA funding will best be spent per U.S. Department of the Treasury guidelines. The office received approximately 350 ideas from nonprofit organizations regarding how Nevada communities can be assisted, and it will conduct a data assessment to ensure that communities disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic are prioritized.

CHAIR BROOKS:

The office is requesting additional ARPA funding on top of the billions of dollars that have already been directed towards the immediate needs of Nevadans. The subset of ARPA funding that the office is currently requesting will be for nonprofit organizations to assist communities. Is that correct?

MS. BORTOLIN:

That is correct. Nevada has received significant COVID-related funding over the past two years that has been used to address the needs of communities. The ARPA funding currently being requested by the office will specifically be used to enhance the services and programs that nonprofit organizations provide to communities. This involves a targeted approach based on feedback from nonprofit agencies and communities.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Once the office identifies a nonprofit agency that meets the grant criteria and can potentially be awarded funding, will the agency return to the IFC with a work program associated with the award?

MS. BORTOLIN:

The office will launch <https://nevadarecovers.com> today and will accept applications until January 3, 2022. After assessing the applications, the office will submit requests to the IFC for approval. If everything goes according to plan, funding requests from the first round of applications will be ready for approval at the February 9, 2022, IFC meeting. These will be unique and individual applications, with some being brought forward by Executive Branch agencies to facilitate oversight of the grants and will be different from previous work programs that the office has brought before the Committee throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Because the office has identified these requests as urgently needed to assist nonprofit entities quickly, the Committee will make every effort to turn around these requests in an expeditious manner. If needed, a special IFC meeting can be called to approve some of these awards.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Will the office be able to allocate any of the \$30 million without legislative oversight from the Committee?

MS. BORTOLIN:

The office will be sending its requests for allocation of this funding to the IFC as work programs for the Committee's approval.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I want to ensure that the office is held accountable when allocating the funding to nonprofit entities. I am supportive of this program, but who will be conducting oversight to make sure that the nonprofits are using the funding as intended?

MS. BORTOLIN:

Oversight of these activities will be done collaboratively by state agencies. All the ARPA funding that the state receives is in the form of a grant, with the funds having extensive grant reporting requirements. The office will be working closely with the Governor's Office of Finance (GFO) and state agencies to ensure compliance across the board in case the state is audited in the future regarding ARPA funding.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

The office stated that the deadline for accepting applications through <https://nevadarecovers.com> will be January 3, 2022, with the goal of submitting these requests to the Committee for consideration at its February 9, 2022, meeting. Can the deadline be extended considering that the holiday season is approaching in addition to end-of-year deadlines? I am concerned that there will not be enough time to disseminate information regarding the program and that organizations will not have enough time to build the capacity needed to effectively use the ARPA funds. How was the deadline of January 3, 2022, chosen?

MS. BORTOLIN:

Nonprofit entities will still be able to submit applications to receive ARPA funding after the January 3, 2022, deadline, and ideas that organizations may have that do not fit under the guidelines of this specific program may still be considered if additional funding becomes available in the future. Work Program #22FR132703 is targeted to provide ARPA funding to address urgent needs in Nevada communities. Rather than critiquing applications on a first-come, first-serve basis, the office will triage the first round of applications based on what the data has identified the urgent needs of communities to be. If a second round of funding is needed to continue providing ARPA funding to nonprofit entities, the office will initiate conversations with the Committee to move forward in a collaborative manner.



ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

Can the January 3, 2022, deadline be extended to allow nonprofit agencies more time to expand their capacity for distributing the funding?

CHAIR BROOKS:

I am sure the deadline can be extended, but I do not think it is necessary. Communities across the state need assistance in recovering from the pandemic, with the goal being to make this funding available as soon as possible. There are other avenues for making this funding available, but the plan for distributing this specific tranche of funding has been formulated during the listening tour over the last six months.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

The funding is still set to be approved for allocation at the February 9, 2022, IFC meeting, so extending the January 3, 2022, application deadline will not affect when the funding will become available to nonprofit agencies. I am just concerned that there is not enough time to disseminate information regarding the funding. Will funding for this program be available before the February 9, 2022, IFC meeting?

CHAIR BROOKS:

Based on the grant award process, the Committee will need at least a couple of weeks to review the applications put forth through work programs by the office for these items to potentially be approved at the February 9, 2022, IFC meeting. The Committee will hold as many meetings as necessary to make this funding available to Nevada's communities.

MS. BORTOLIN:

The office will start conducting outreach activities today to direct the nonprofit agencies to the application portal. The application portal was built to ensure that Treasury guidelines are met while making it as easy as possible for the appropriate agencies to apply for funding. Translating the ideas of nonprofit agencies into applications will solidify what they are intending to do with the ARPA funding and aid in oversight.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

I appreciate the office bringing this information before the Committee today, and I am glad that many amazing ideas for how to spend this funding have been submitted. Over the past two years, the needs of Nevada's communities have been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. Federal funding has come to Nevada in a variety of forms, including through work programs and child care subsidies, with ARPA funding and support now being made available to valuable nonprofit organizations best situated to help Nevada communities. The Committee is responsible for determining how funding can mitigate the effects of the pandemic to help the state recover, and I support the activities outlined under this work program. Billions of dollars in federal funding have already been made available to the state to aid in its health care and child care needs to help Nevadans recover from the pandemic, and the current funding being requested will continue these activities.

SENATOR TATRO:

This funding is critical to help Nevada's communities. Who is the ideal candidate for receiving this funding? Certain needs of Nevada communities were outlined in the roadmap that the office presented during the Subcommittee to Advise on the Expenditure of Federal COVID-19 Relief Funding meeting on December 2, 2021. Is the office looking for additional nonprofit organizations to partner with, or will it be reaching out to the agencies that already submitted the 350 ideas to the office? Is the office able to keep the application deadline of January 3, 2022, because it knows which nonprofit agencies funding will be awarded to? How will this tranche of ARPA funding be dispersed across the state?

Ms. BORTOLIN:

The application process will be open and available to any nonprofit agency in Nevada, and conversations have already been had with nonprofit agencies regarding the funding and how it can best be spent during the listening tour. Additional information will soon be posted on <https://nevadarecovers.com>. An individual review will be conducted on each application that comes in to determine what needs are being addressed, which will enable the office to prioritize applications and equitably distribute funding throughout the state.

SENATOR TATRO:

Fundraising has been difficult for many nonprofit agencies, and I am glad this funding will be available to help these organizations provide necessary services to Nevada's communities.

CHAIR BROOKS:

I appreciate the creative approach used by the office, the GFO, and state agencies to make additional ARPA funding available to communities in Nevada through nonprofit organizations while still meeting Treasury guidelines. This has been a tremendous amount of work, but a lifesaver for Nevadans and the state's economy. As the Economic Forum demonstrated, ARPA funding is necessary to help Nevada recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

There will not be a motion regarding Agenda Item E-123 as the GFO voluntarily withdrew Work Program #22FR132703.

## RECLASSIFICATIONS

Refer to motion for approval under Agenda Item E.

Agency	Agency/ Account Number	Position Number	Present Class, Code, Grade & Salary	Proposed Class, Code, Grade & Salary
Department of Agriculture	550/4550	0015	Biologist III Code: 1.729 Grade: 35/01 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement: \$51,281.28	Microbiologist III Code: 10.715 Grade: 34/01 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement: \$49,151.52

Department of Health and Human Services	402/3208	0019	Accounting Assistant III Code: 2.301 Grade: 27/01 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement: \$36,790.56	Management Analyst IV Code: 7.612 Grade: 39/01 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement: \$61,011.36
Department of Motor Vehicles	810/4735	CC2019	Employee Development Manager Code: 7.513 Grade: 38/9 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement: \$83,394.72	DMV Services Manager II Code: 11.429 Grade: 37/7 Employee/Employer Paid Retirement: \$72,871.20

## F. STATEMENT OF CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT BALANCE.

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

The statement of the IFC Contingency Account balance is located on page 153 of Volume III of the meeting packet ([Exhibit D](#)). There are \$3.25 million worth of allocations from the Contingency Account before the Committee today. The allocations are contained in two requests from the restricted portion of the Contingency Account, one for \$750,000 and the other for \$2.5 million. The restricted portion of the Contingency Account is comprised of funds that the Legislature set aside during the 2021 Legislative Session for agencies to come before the IFC to request the funding for specific purposes.

There are no requests on the agenda today for allocations from the unrestricted General Fund and Highway Fund portions of the Contingency Account. The unrestricted portion of the Contingency Account covers unanticipated and unbudgeted expenditures that agencies funded by either the General Fund or Highway Fund may experience. If the two requests for allocations from the restricted portion of the Contingency Account are approved by the Committee, the restricted portion of the account will have a balance of \$9.1 million, the unrestricted Highway Fund portion of the account will have a balance of \$1.6 million, and the unrestricted General Fund portion of the account will have a balance of \$26.1 million, for a total balance of \$36.9 million in the account.

## G. REQUEST FOR ALLOCATION FROM THE IFC CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT (GENERAL FUND) PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 355, SECTION 1 (2021 Legislative Session) (Note: IFC may approve a different amount for an allocation than the amount requested) - NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION - University of Nevada, Las Vegas - Request for an allocation of \$750,000 to fund the "Expanding the Leaderverse" initiative to increase the diversity of leadership in the gaming industry.

SABRA NEWBY (Vice President of Government and Community Affairs, University of Nevada, Las Vegas [UNLV]):

Through Agenda Item G, UNLV is requesting funding for the Expanding the Leaderverse Initiative. Assembly Bill (A.B.) 355 (2021 Legislative Session) appropriated General Funds of \$750,000 to fund this initiative contingent upon the commitment of an equivalent amount of matching funds from non-General Fund sources. Private funding

and support for the initiative have been secured, and UNLV is now requesting that the matching \$750,000 be allocated from the IFC Contingency Account.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE  
AGENDA ITEM G.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS  
PRESENT.

- H. REQUEST FOR ALLOCATION FROM THE IFC CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT (GENERAL FUND) PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 464, SECTION 4.7 (2021 Legislative Session) (Note: IFC may approve a different amount for an allocation than the amount requested) - STATE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES - Division of Forestry - Request for an allocation of \$2,500,000 to cover emergency response expenses within the Forest Fire Suppression budget account.**

RYAN SHANE (Deputy Administrator, Division of Forestry, DCNR):

Pursuant to Section 4.7 of A.B. 464 (2021 Legislative Session), the DCNR Division of Forestry requests an allocation of \$2.5 million from the IFC Contingency Account to pay for emergency response costs in bills on hand for wildfires. Nevada's fire season was somewhat subdued in 2021, with approximately 550 fires burning around 123,000 acres; this was the second lowest number of fires in five years and represents one quarter of the ten-year annual average. The lower numbers of fires in 2021 can be attributed to a lack of lightning and human ignitions, fast and effective fire responses, the fact that Nevada's lower desert elevations have less fuels for fires due to the severe drought the state is experiencing, and cooperating agencies treating more acres than acreage burned in a decade; the last point being a large accomplishment. The fire risk in Nevada is still unseasonably elevated for this time of year due to limited moisture, especially in Southern Nevada. The state will need many soakings from storms to reverse the dryness trends it is currently experiencing. Nevada's neighboring states are experiencing more fires because they have more forests and woodlands and are also experiencing drought conditions.

The bills that the division has on hand are from fires that occurred in Nevada between FY 2021 and FY 2022. Bills are often issued following a lengthy cost-sharing adjudication process for administered jurisdiction fires, of which most are in Nevada. The bills also cover costs associated with the division's staff, the division's local wildland fire protection program, and the recent responses of cooperating agencies to out-of-state fires. The division will receive a reimbursement once incidents' cost share agreements are adjudicated, which mostly occurs in the fiscal year following the incident.

The division's staff and leadership have been working hard to improve and streamline the efficiency of how bills are processed even though the division is dealing with complicated and unpredictable situations. These improvements have resulted in less outstanding debt and faster processing of bills. The division's processing time for bills has been reduced

from five years to one-to-two years. Bills involving assistance that the division provides to other states are processed in one-to-two months. The bills of wildland program cooperating agencies that the division supports in out-of-state fire responses are usually paid within the following fiscal year. The division is currently up to date on all bills, with pending cost share agreements being no older than FY 2020. The division has received new bills for payment since submitting its request through Agenda Item H and expects to come back before the Committee to request more funding from the Contingency Account to meet fiscal obligations.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS:

Please provide an update on the reimbursement revenues that the division anticipates receiving during the remainder of the fiscal year and how it will address any budget shortfall in FY 2022.

MR. SHANE:

I do not have exact figures, but recent numbers indicate that the division's payables are approximately \$4.6 million, and its receivables are approximately \$2 million. These amounts fluctuate constantly because as incidents are adjudicated, the division can receive funds as fire management assistance grants are awarded and adjudicated on the federal level. The division is constantly balancing what it is paying and receiving to lessen the burden on the IFC Contingency Fund.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS:

Please provide more information regarding revenue projections so the Committee can be more informed when making decisions that deal with the division's Forest Fire Suppression account in the future.

MR. SHANE:

I will provide that information to the Committee.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

You stated that the fires that occurred in 2021 represent one quarter of the ten-year annual average due to less fuels among other things. However, the state experienced many fires in FY 2020. Does an increased response time decrease the number of fires, or does it just prevent fires from growing larger once they occur? If a spark caused by a lightning strike is extinguished right away, is it still considered a fire?

MR. SHANE:

The end-of-year results from 2020 showed that between 700 and 800 fires occurred in Nevada last year. There have been 550 fires in Nevada so far in 2021, and I doubt that there will be as many fires this year as there were in 2020. The state currently has lower fire ignitions, and how fast the fires are extinguished and how big the fires get does not affect the number of fires reported. The state is still experiencing many fires and being able to achieve an increased response time is due to the hard work of fire response agencies in the state and the work of the division.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I appreciate the hard work of the division to combat fires in the state.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GORELOW:

What levels were the fires that the state experienced in 2021, and what type of fire teams were sent to fight them?

MR. SHANE:

I can provide a list to the Committee. There was a very large fire (type 3 or greater) in Southern Nevada that remained entirely in the state, but I do not know the size of the response team. Many of the fires that crossed state lines from California into Northern Nevada were type 1, with more than just type 1 teams responding to certain fires, which is unprecedented.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GORELOW:

What is the difference between the types of fires?

MR. SHANE:

Fire type deals with how many resources are used to combat the fire. If combating a fire involves more than 1,000 firefighters, the capability of a type 3 team is starting to be breached. It is always an objective to keep firefighters safe, well-fed, mission-oriented, and effective. Type 1 fires may require 100 dozers and 5,000 or more crew members.

CHAIR BROOKS:

I witnessed the heroic efforts of the division and many other firefighting agencies in saving Lake Tahoe from fires earlier this year and the logistics of the operations were amazing.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

My brother was a firefighter. I appreciate the efforts of the division in combating fires in the state.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE  
AGENDA ITEM H.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS  
PRESENT.

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

1. STATE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES - Division of Water Resources - Request for approval to accept  
United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation Newlands  
Project Water Rights Mapping Maintenance grant funds in the amount of  
\$299,754 to maintain and update the digital tabular record and mapping  
application of water rights throughout the Newlands Project area.

STEPHANIE SNIDER (GIS Analyst, Division of Water Resources, DCNR):  
The United States Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Reclamation's  
Newlands Project was authorized by the DOI's Secretary in 1903 and has

been operated by the Truckee Carson Irrigation District under contract with the Bureau of Reclamation since 1926. Water is diverted from the Truckee River at the Derby Dam into the Truckee Canal where the water is then used for irrigation purposes. The DCNR Division of Water Resources is responsible for managing all water rights and water transfers in Nevada. An accurate database and mapping application that provides updatable records and maps of water-righted lands in the Newlands Project was developed by the division.

Funding to develop the database and application was provided through the DOI Bureau of Reclamation, Newlands Project, Water Rights Mapping Maintenance grant, which ended on September 30, 2020. The database and mapping application are used by water users and management entities to benefit the public. As places of water use and manners of water use within the Newlands Project area are constantly changing, the record and mapping application will need to be continuously updated to provide the most current information. Additional funding is needed to update and maintain the database to ensure that the accuracy of water-righted acreage can be verified, resulting in more accurate water user allocations to the Newlands Project.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

The Newlands Project exists within my district, and I appreciate the need for documenting and updating the record and mapping application. You stated that the funding requested through Agenda Item I-1 will enable the division to manage all water rights and water transfers in Nevada. The \$299,754 being requested is not enough to allow the division to manage all the water rights in Nevada, but the funding will help track the moving pieces within the Newlands Project. The division has additional funding available to assist it in managing all the water rights in Nevada, correct?

MS. SNIDER:

That is correct.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO APPROVE  
AGENDA ITEM I-1.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE MEMBERS  
PRESENT.

## 2. DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

- a) Request for approval to accept a donation from KG Mining Bald Mountain Inc. in the amount of \$31,050 to purchase global positioning-enabled (GPS) deer tracking collars.

Agenda Items I-2a, I-2b, I-2c, and I-2d were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item I-2d.

- b) Request for approval to accept a donation from Elko Bighorns Unlimited in the amount of \$40,000 for the purchase of seed for fire area restoration activities.

Agenda Items I-2a, I-2b, I-2c, and I-2d were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item I-2d.

- c) Request for approval to accept a donation from Nevada Bighorns Unlimited in the amount of \$150,000 for the purchase of seed for fire area restoration activities.

Agenda Items I-2a, I-2b, I-2c, and I-2d were discussed jointly. Refer to discussion and motion for approval under Agenda Item I-2d.

- d) Request for approval to accept a donation from Nevada Gold Mines, LLC in the amount of \$80,400 to purchase GPS collars and support capture costs for pronghorn antelope.

Agenda Items I-2a, I-2b, I-2c, and I-2d were discussed jointly.

JACK ROBB (Deputy Director, Department of Wildlife):

Through Agenda Item I-2a, the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) is requesting approval to accept a donation of \$31,050 from KG Mining Bald Mountain Inc. to continue a collaring program that started in 2012. KG Mining Bald Mountain Inc. has a large mine located in the Ruby Mountains that intersects one of the state's largest migrating mule deer herds. The collaring project enables NDOW to find where choke points may occur within the mine site, with the project needing regular maintenance as collars only last a few years before needing replacement.

Through Agenda Item I-2b, NDOW is requesting approval to accept a donation of \$40,000 from Elko Bighorns Unlimited for the purchase of seed for fire rehabilitation. Elko Bighorns Unlimited has been a contributor in the department's efforts to rehabilitate fire prone areas in Elko County.

Through Agenda Item I-2c, NDOW is requesting approval to accept a donation of \$150,000 from Nevada Bighorns Unlimited for the purchase of seed for fire rehabilitation. Contributions made from nonprofit agencies are vital to the department's ability to rehabilitate fire-prone areas near critical wildlife. The department plans to treat 53,000 acres this year, having treated over 475,000 acres for fire rehabilitation and wildlife since 2017.

Through Agenda Item I-2d, NDOW is requesting approval to accept a donation of \$80,400 for a pronghorn antelope collaring study. Nevada Gold Mines, LLC is going to construct a railroad over 50 miles in length from the Cortez Gold Mine to the Goldstrike Mine. The area in which the railroad is being constructed is in critical mule deer and antelope range. When snow is removed from the site of a railroad, animals often congregate on the



railroad resulting in animals being struck and killed by an oncoming train. The collaring study will help the department identify areas where wildlife is congregating on a railroad to mitigate the new proposed railroad from leading to animals being hit by trains.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Are any of the requests under Agenda Item I-2 part of a settlement, negotiated agreement, development plan, or mitigation plan?

MR. ROBB:

KG Mining Bald Mountain Inc. and Nevada Gold Mines, LLC are partners that have major mining projects in Nevada. These organizations have a cooperative agreement with NDOW to help mitigate the impact of their operations on the state's wildlife.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I value the cooperative agreement between the mining industry and NDOW.

CHAIR BROOKS:

I am grateful for the work that these organizations do in mitigating the impact of their operations on the state's wildlife and habitats.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO  
APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS I-2A, I-2B, I-2C, AND I-2D.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE  
MEMBERS PRESENT.

3. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Request for approval to accept a donation of \$110,000 from Governor Sisolak for educational supplies for Title I schools.

HEIDI HAARTZ (Deputy Superintendent, Student Investment Division, NDE):

Through Agenda Item I-3, the NDE is requesting approval to seek a donation from Governor Sisolak to continue providing funding to support individual schools across the State of Nevada. Governor Sisolak has graciously been providing this donation since he was sworn into office, with Nevada's school districts being very appreciative of his support.

CHAIR BROOKS:

What kind of educational supplies are schools funded through Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Title I) receiving with the donation of the Governor's salary?

MS. HAARTZ:

The schools have a great deal of flexibility in how they will spend their portion of the donation. In the past, schools have used the donation to purchase educational supplies and musical instruments for music programs, with the expenditure of these funds being determined based on the needs of individual schools.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Anything that can be done to help Title I schools is beneficial and I appreciate Governor Sisolak donating his salary for this cause.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO MOVED TO  
APPROVE AGENDA ITEM I-3.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE  
MEMBERS PRESENT.

## **J. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

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

Agenda Items J-8, DPS, Division of Parole and Probation and J-14, Economic Forum report will be held for additional discussion.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I would like Agenda Item J-7, Department of Corrections, Ely Conservation Camp held for additional discussion.

CHAIR BROOKS:

I would like Agenda Item J-13, Department of Motor Vehicles held for additional discussion.

1. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR - Office of Finance - Division of Internal Audits - Annual report for Fiscal Year 2021 pursuant to NRS 353A.065.

There was no discussion on this item.

2. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Quarterly report on the funding awarded through the DonorsChoose program for the fiscal year quarter ending September 30, 2021, as requested during the August 18, 2021, meeting of the Interim Finance Committee.

There was no discussion on this item.

3. NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION - Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) - Annual report on student slot reallocations and

student slot vacancies resulting from funding deficiencies (letter of intent, 2019 Legislative Session).

There was no discussion on this item.

4. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
  - a) Annual report regarding the Catalyst Account and transferable tax credits to promote economic development pursuant to NRS 231.0535.
  - b) Annual report regarding the Knowledge Account for the period of November 1, 2020, through October 31, 2021, pursuant to NRS 231.1595.
  - c) Annual report regarding the Local Emerging Small Business Program for the period ending June 30, 2021, pursuant to NRS 231.14075. **RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 11-19-21.**

There was no discussion on these items.

5. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
  - a) Aging and Disability Services Division - Quarterly report for the Senior Rx and Disability Rx Prescription programs for the period ending September 30, 2021, pursuant to NRS 439.630.
  - b) Division of Health Care Financing and Policy
    - 1) Annual report on the division's operations and activities pertaining to the cost of health care for calendar year 2020 pursuant to NRS 449.520. THE ANNUAL REPORT IS ON FILE IN THE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION AND IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW UPON REQUEST.
    - 2) Quarterly report on the Disproportionate Share Hospital Supplemental Payment Program for the period ending September 30, 2021, pursuant to NRS 422.390.
  - c) Division of Welfare and Supportive Services - Quarterly report on American Rescue Plan Act Child Care Stabilization grant funds approved during the August 18, 2021, meeting of the Interim Finance Committee for the period ending September 30, 2021.

There was no discussion on these items.

6. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND REHABILITATION - Rehabilitation Division - Quarterly report regarding the client services category for both the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation and Bureau of Services to the Blind or Visually Impaired budgets for the period ending September 30, 2021 (letter of intent, 2021 Legislative Session).

There was no discussion on this item.

7. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS - Ely Conservation Camp - Quarterly report on the operational status of the Ely Conservation Camp for the period ending September 30, 2021 (letter of intent, 2021 Legislative Session).

PHIL GITTERE (Deputy Director, Department of Corrections):

The Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC), Ely Conservation Camp is a 150-bed interim custody facility located approximately 30 miles south of the NDOC Ely State Prison (ESP) in White Pine County. The Ely Conservation Camp has been temporarily closed since July 10, 2020. The camp housed minimum-custody inmates who primarily supported the DCNR Division of Forestry wildland fire crews. The camp was closed because the safety and security of staff and inmates in both the ESP and the camp had become severely compromised. During the first week of July 2020, three crisis conditions converged which led to the temporary closure of the camp. The ESP had a severe staffing shortage that approached a critical level as a large wave of isolations and quarantines due to the COVID-19 pandemic affected the prison's staff. During this time, a near-fatal stabbing occurred in the camp while it was only minimally staffed. Going into July 2020, the ESP's roster had 90 fewer custody staff members than authorized. A second large wave of COVID-19 infections then hit the prison's staff, forcing an additional loss of 55 custody staff members. I believe the camp can safely be reopened when the ESP gets back to having at least 195 custody staff members employed on its roster.

Based on current mitigation measures and recent experiences, the NDOC expects any future waves of COVID-19 to be smaller and more manageable than the waves experienced in 2020. Updated data was recently provided by the ESP's acting warden William Reubart, showing that 83.1% of the ESP's staff are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, with more staff expected to become fully vaccinated in the coming weeks. Unfortunately, the ESP's personnel losses have continued to accumulate. As of today, the ESP's roster has 143 fewer custody staff members than it is authorized. This is 53 fewer staff than were present when the camp first closed in July 2020.

Organizations across the nation have been struggling with hiring new personnel throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The ESP is experiencing unequal benefits, working conditions, and living challenges in rural areas that are hard to overcome. Even so, the NDOC and ESP have seen modest successes with the rehiring of former officers. The NDOC is also concentrating on the hiring and relocation of veterans coming off active duty. Along with the nation, Nevada, the NDOC and the ESP will continue to recover from the pandemic as more people return to work. If operations remain as constant as expected, when the ESP reaches at least 195 custody staff members on its roster (53 more staff members than it has today), the NDOC plans to reopen the Ely Conservation Camp as soon as possible.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

The situation does not look good moving forward. The population of inmates in the ESP is currently down at least 30%, being at approximately 800 inmates, resulting in the prison needing fewer staff; the facility can house around 1,300 inmates. I was hoping that more staff could be hired at the ESP so that the Ely Conservation Camp can reopen.

There was no further discussion on this item.

8. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY - Division of Parole and Probation - Report on the status of the Offender Tracking Information System Update Project and associated vendor contracts for the period August 1, 2020, through October 31, 2021.

TOM LAWSON (Chief, Division of Parole and Probation, DPS):

The DPS Division of Parole and Probation's Offender Tracking Information System (OTIS) Update Project started in 2014. A couple of restarts that took place through internal development did not work out, but a few years back, the DPS was able to go through a request for proposal (RFP) process to find a customizable off-the-shelf solution with the approval of the Department of Administration. In August 2020, the Board of Examiners approved the division's entering a contract with Tyler Technologies. Since that time, the division has been working diligently with Tyler Technologies to clarify the scope of the OTIS Update Project and continue its development. Several milestones were missed in the project's development, and in November 2021 the division exercised its right to "Terminate with Cause for Breach" due to a lack of performance on the part of Tyler Technologies. A 30-day correction period was then initiated to resolve inefficiencies and allow the project to move forward. Unfortunately, the inefficiencies were not resolved within the 30-day period and the contract was terminated for cause.

The division is currently settling affairs with Tyler Technologies, and it has received permission from the Department of Administration's Purchasing Division to engage with another vendor that submitted a bid on the original RFP; this vendor is also under contract with the State of Utah for a National Association of State Procurement Officials contract for similar services. The division has reached out to the vendor, which has provided an updated bid proposal from its original RFP submission, and contract negotiations will begin moving forward shortly.

Unfortunately, the OTIS Update Project will need to be restarted again. The division had hoped Tyler Technologies would be able to complete the project's scope on time, but that was not achieved. The division's goal was to implement the project by June 31, 2022, to contain costs associated with the project's development within FY 2022. There is now not enough capacity to implement the project on time, as there are several items that are very large in scope that were not provided by Tyler Technologies.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

The OTIS Update Project has been in development for quite a while. What precautions will the division undertake to ensure the selection of a new vendor will lead to the successful implementation of the project and how will the new vendor be vetted?

MR. LAWSON:

Part of the updated RFP contains a more detailed project plan than what was outlined in the initial proposal. In the division's discussions with the potential new vendor, the vendor is reporting that many of the items that were previously

identified as requiring customization are now part of the base functionality contained in the new proposal; the vendor has advanced its own software since it submitted bids on the original RFP. This is good news, as less customization equals less costs and less time to deploy the project. The costs submitted by the potential vendor are now less than what was contained in the original proposal. Comparatively, the proposal of the vendor is close to the proposals submitted by other vendors that submitted bids on the original RFP. The department is now maintaining more oversight of the OTIS Update Project to ensure individual milestones are met and is requiring more visual demonstrations earlier in the project to ensure enough capacity exists to implement the project on time.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

When do you anticipate contracting with a new vendor, and what is the estimated and updated timeframe for completion of the project?

MR. LAWSON:

The division is currently open to negotiating the contract directly with vendors. Because a potential vendor has already executed a contract with the State of Utah, State Purchasing is allowing the division to negotiate a specific work order that is associated with that vendor's existing contract. I believe the work order will still have to be approved through the normal contract process that Nevada employs. The division needs clarification regarding certain aspects of the vendor's proposal and as soon as the division's questions are addressed, the division will begin holding earnest conversations regarding the cost, scope and timeline associated with the OTIS Update Project. The vendor originally estimated the project could be completed in approximately 16 months. I am hopeful that because not as much customization will be needed for the project, the project's timeline can be shortened. The division does not want to rush the project and deploy the new system before it is ready, which requires additional time.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

Is the division looking at working with a vendor that already has a contract with another state? How will the division ensure that the needs of Nevada are also prioritized and do not take a backseat to the needs of the other state?

MR. LAWSON:

Yes, the potential vendor already has a contract with the State of Utah. The requirements of the work order state that Nevada will have its own implementation team. The existing contract that the vendor is engaged in is not a new development contract, with the work that is being done in Utah already having moved from the development stage into the maintenance stage. Maintenance staff is different from development staff. As part of the division's bidding process, the potential vendor will have to provide the division with a list of the people, including their qualifications, who will be working on Nevada's portion of the contract. If it becomes apparent that the vendor does not have enough staff to meet Nevada's needs, the division will address these deficiencies immediately to ensure that the OTIS Update Project is completed on time.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MILLER:

Moving forward, what precautions will the division undertake to ensure the selection of a new vendor will lead to the successful implementation and modernization of OTIS?

MR. LAWSON:

To ensure sufficient progress, the division is taking a more milestone-driven approach in its current work orders and negotiations with vendors than what was contained in the original RFP. The division has learned a lot from this experience and is fortunate to have an engineer on staff with a lot of project management experience who can monitor the progress of the OTIS Update Project. This staff member has stated that he is impressed with the tentative scope and project plan that has been submitted by the potential new vendor. The division is confident that the vendor will be able to meet the project's deliverables, but the division will still monitor the project very closely to ensure that it is completed on time.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MILLER:

What is the anticipated cost of the OTIS modernization project if a new vendor is selected to continue the project? Will the division have sufficient funding authority to complete the project during the 2021-22 Interim?

MR. LAWSON:

The division has been keeping close tabs on the amount of funding needed for the OTIS Update Project. The division inadvertently made a mistake in a work program that it previously submitted for the Committee's approval which balanced forward funds from the 2019-21 biennium into the 2021-23 biennium. During the budget closing process in FY 2021, language was added to the division's budget proposal by LCB Fiscal staff that allowed money that had not been spent on the OTIS modernization project to be pushed forward into the 2021-23 biennium. At that time, the division was asked why it was not spending all the funding that was available for the project. However, the division was being a good steward of the state's money by not paying the vendor ahead of time, especially when considering that the work of the project was not being performed sufficiently and at the proper pace.

The division was able to reduce the billable costs from Tyler Technologies during the 2019-21 biennium, but unfortunately the work program was not completed as intended, and some funding was reverted to the General Fund. The division is looking into ways to recoup this funding so that it can be used on the project during the current biennium. When the division balanced its budgets at the end of FY 2021, it realized that it had enough money to complete the development of the OTIS Update Project and cover approximately \$1.3 million in software licensing costs that would have been applied to Tyler Technologies during FY 2022. The 2021 Legislature also approved General Fund appropriations of \$840,000 in FY 2023 to cover the costs associated with ongoing software licensing costs. Between the budgetary authority that the division has for the 2021-23 biennium and its efforts to recover the funding that reverted to the General Fund, based upon

preliminary figures, the division is in a good spot to have sufficient funding authority to complete the project during the 2021-22 Interim.

However, there will most likely be settlement costs with Tyler Technologies as the division's contract with the company calls for the payment of undisputed claims; the division is currently trying to determine which costs are considered disputed versus undisputed. Even when considering settlement costs, the division will still be able to cover the costs associated with the OTIS Update Project. The division is also suffering from staff vacancy problems, with 50 officer vacancies statewide out of approximately 307 positions. These vacancies can result in salary savings that can be used to fund the project.

ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER:

The OTIS Update Project has been in the works since 2013. I hope it will be completed and working as intended before the end of my legislative service. I believed that Tyler Technologies had a good reputation, so I am surprised it is unable to complete the project. Considering Tyler Technologies signed a contract saying it would complete the project, can the money owed to the company be voided? It seems unfair that the state must pay Tyler Technologies for work rendered when it is not performing the work stipulated in the contract. Maybe these types of contracts should be restructured, as other state projects of this type are also not having their deliverables met while money is still being spent on contracts.

MR. LAWSON:

Throughout this process, the division has been in close contact with its deputy attorney general and other representatives from DPS to ensure that the terms of the contract were followed regarding the division's right to Terminate with Cause for Breach, beginning the contractual "Time to Correct" period and holding ongoing discussions. There is a clause in the contract stating that the division is obligated to pay undisputed claims, but there may be different definitions of an undisputed claim. Once the work order and contract are finalized, the division will have a better understanding of what activities the funding provided to Tyler Technologies went toward.

ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER:

Even though the division is working with its deputy attorney general through the litigation process, I urge you to make sure any money that was spent on uncompleted portions of the OTIS Update Project is recovered so that the state can reinvest in a vendor that can complete the project.

MR. LAWSON:

I understand, and the division will look to make payments for meeting milestones rather than paying for the overall completion of the project upfront.

CHAIR BROOKS:

The Committee would like the division to submit an informational item at an upcoming IFC meeting detailing the progress of the OTIS Update Project once the



division solidifies an implementation timeline and the costs associated with a new vendor.

MR. LAWSON:

The division will provide that information to the Committee at a later date.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

How is the division tracking offenders considering that the software necessary to do so has not been implemented?

MR. LAWSON:

Even though OTIS needs to be modernized, the division has still been able to use the system to keep track of the state's approximately 21,000 active offenders since OTIS was developed about 20 years ago. OTIS has data limitations, and a few years ago the division was informed by the Department of Administration, Division of Enterprise Information Technology Services that the vendor that had provided the software that OTIS was based upon went out of business; this was a driving factor behind the division seeking to upgrade and modernize the software system. Ultimately, the vendor did not go out of business, but OTIS has not been updated for quite a while. Fortunately, the division has not experienced any data losses while still being able to collect fees associated with other agencies using OTIS and keeping track on intakes, discharges, violations, sanctions, and referrals to programs.

A new tracking system will enable the division to keep track of offenders on a more stable and secure platform and help it comply with the security rules of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. There are certain metrics of A.B. 236 (2019 Legislative Session) that the division is incapable of collecting and reporting to the Nevada Department of Sentencing Policy due to OTIS being outdated. Modernizing OTIS will allow the division to leverage technology and create a single point of data entry for multiple uses while connecting remotely with officers in the field. A long-term goal of the division is to have true mobility for staff in the field so that offenders can be supervised more efficiently.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I am glad that the division is trying to get the OTIS Update Project back on track as many state contracts relative to software programs often have delayed processes. Certain contracts do not even follow the processes of State Purchasing.

There was no further discussion on this item.

9. STATE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES - Division of State Lands - Semiannual report on the status of the state's Environmental Improvement Program Fund to Protect the Lake Tahoe Basin for the period ending June 30, 2021, pursuant to Chapter 514, Statutes of Nevada 1999.

There was no discussion on this item.

10. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES
  - a) Annual report detailing the expenditures made from gift funds for the Veterans Homes in Southern Nevada and Northern Nevada for Fiscal Year 2021 pursuant to NRS 417.145.
  - b) Annual report detailing the expenditures made from the Gift Account for Veterans for Fiscal Year 2021 pursuant to NRS 417.115.
  - c) Annual report detailing the expenditures made from the Gift Account for Veterans Who Have Suffered Sexual Trauma for Fiscal Year 2021 pursuant to NRS 417.119.

There was no discussion on these items.

11. CLARK COUNTY SALES AND USE TAX ACT OF 2005 - Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department - Report regarding a governing body that has approved expenditures pursuant to Section 13 of this act shall submit the periodic reports and such other information required pursuant to this section of the act for the period ending September 30, 2021.

There was no discussion on this item.

12. DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION - State Public Works Division - Capital Improvement Program - Quarterly report concerning the consolidated funding approach for Capital Improvement Program Project 21-M02, Deferred Maintenance, Department of Health and Human Services, for the period ending September 30, 2021 (letter of intent, 2021 Legislative Session). **RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 11-16-21.**

There was no discussion on this item.

13. DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES – Status report on the issuance of technology fee refunds as required by the stipulation agreement dated November 1, 2021. **RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DEADLINE, 12-6-21.**

JULIE BUTLER (Director, Department of Motor Vehicles [DMV]):

Agenda Item J-13 deals with the status report required by a recent court decision regarding the DMV technology fee refund project. The department is finalizing the business and technical requirements of the project, both internally and with Wells Fargo, and is developing an end-to-end testing plan and solution that incorporates the experiences of customers and DMV staff to assure a successful rollout of the project. Regarding the contract that the department has with the Abbi Agency (advertising agency), last month an amendment was approved by the Board of Examiners to allow the department to use advertising and social media when it is ready to go live with the project. The project will go live when the department has adequately tested the solution and can ensure successful rollout of the project.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

The department stated that it hopes to begin this project sometime in early calendar year 2022. What is the exact date?

MS. BUTLER:

The department is hoping to start the project in January 2022, but it does not yet have an exact date. This is a complex project, and much testing needs to occur, with DMV staff holding daily meetings regarding the project. The DMV is working expeditiously to begin the project in January. However, I do not want to announce that the project is ready too early, resulting in problems for customers and staff in DMV offices.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Will this be a two-tiered project? Commercial fleets and businesses will be issued a check, while the public will need to visit a DMV office to be issued a cash refund. Will the project be rolled out to businesses first?

MS. BUTLER:

From a public relations perspective, the department has decided to roll out both tiers simultaneously.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

The DMV is spending \$5,605,924 on the project's contract services. What activities will the contracted staff be responsible for?

MS. BUTLER:

The project's contract services were revised in the settlement agreement, with the department planning to hire temporary staff in its larger offices. Instead of the original \$7,840,974, the department is now projecting that the entire project will cost approximately \$2.8 million.

There was no further discussion on this item.

14. ECONOMIC FORUM - Report regarding the Economic Forum meeting conducted on December 7, 2021, pursuant to NRS 353.228.

RUSSELL GUINDON (Chief Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, [LCB]):

I am here in my role as staff to the Economic Forum. Provisions in NRS Chapter 353 relating to the Economic Forum require the body to meet on or before December 10 of odd-numbered years. At these meetings, the Economic Forum is not required to consider and/or approve revised General Fund revenue forecasts. Economic Forum meetings that occur in the interim between the December to May forecast cycle are meant to be informational in nature and to receive information regarding legislative actions from the preceding legislative session and how these actions will impact the economic forecast. These meetings also discuss how the actual collections from the preceding fiscal year, as well as those collected year-to-date, compare to what was forecasted.

Regarding informational items, at its December 7, 2021, meeting, the Economic Forum heard presentations on Nevada's employment and unemployment numbers by DETR's Chief Economist David Schmidt. It also heard presentations detailing the state's population outlook, and information on the census numbers released by the U.S. Census Bureau, that were presented by the Department of Taxation's State Demographer Matthew Lawton. Like information that has been provided to the IFC Subcommittee on the Expenditure of COVID-19 Relief Funding, the Economic Forum received information on the receipt, distribution, and expenditure of the federal stimulus funds that Nevada has received under the American Rescue Plan Act; this information was provided by Susan Brown, Lesley Mohlenkamp, and Shauna Tilley with the Governor's Office of Finance (GFO).

The table on page 1 of Agenda Item J-14 (Handout 1), Economic Forum - General Fund Revenues - May 4, 2021, Forecast ([Exhibit E](#)) contains the Economic Forum's General Fund revenue forecast table. The tables in ([Exhibit E](#)) include every unrestricted General Fund revenue source for which the Economic Forum considers and approves a forecast in December of even-numbered years that are then used by the Governor in producing The Executive Budget before being submitted to the Nevada Legislature for approval. The information in ([Exhibit E](#)) is also used to produce a revised forecast on or before May 1 of odd-numbered years for consideration by the Legislature in approving the legislatively approved budget.

Since the Economic Forum revises its forecast in early May while the Nevada Legislature is still conducting its business, LCB Fiscal Analysis Division staff, working with GFO staff, take account of legislative actions that could impact one of Nevada's General Fund revenue sources. Some of these revenue sources are being modified during a legislative session, and after sine die, staff work to estimate the necessary adjustments to the Economic Forum report based on approved legislative actions.

The tables in ([Exhibit E](#)) are available online through [www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us) and are included in the Appropriations Report compiled by Fiscal staff. Table 1 begins on page 10 of ([Exhibit E](#)) and shows the Economic Forum's forecast as approved under statute as it existed when the forecast was approved on May 4, 2021. Table 2 begins on page 14 of ([Exhibit E](#)) and documents the legislative actions that occurred during the 2021 Legislative Session and includes the adjustments made to the forecast by court decisions. Table 3 begins on page 21 of ([Exhibit E](#)) and combines Tables 1 and 2. The tables on pages 26 to 28 of ([Exhibit E](#)) detail the forecasts that were included in the Appropriations Report.

Table 1 on page 26 of ([Exhibit E](#)) details the General Fund revenue forecast made by the Economic Forum at its December 3, 2020, meeting. Under current law, this forecast was approved by the Economic Forum and used by Governor Sisolak in developing The Executive Budget for the 2021-23 biennium. This table also shows the May 4, 2021, forecast approved by the Economic Forum that has been adjusted by legislative actions approved during the 2021 Legislative Session and

by court decisions. When the Economic Forum completed its business on May 4, 2021, the forecast from this meeting was approximately \$909.7 million higher than what was forecasted on December 3, 2020; the difference ended up being \$873,428,805 after accounting for adjustments for legislative actions and court decisions.

Table 2 on page 27 of ([Exhibit E](#)) breaks down the approximate \$909.7 million difference between the May 2021 and December 2020 forecasts. This table describes the General Fund revenue forecast before and after tax credits were applied and itemizes the impacts from the legislatively approved changes versus court decisions. The 2021 Legislature approved adding \$4,745,000 in tax credits that are associated with the Educational Choice Scholarship Program. These tax credits were approved for FY 2022, but Fiscal staff did not think these credits could adequately be used in FY 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so the credit amount was completely allocated to FY 2023.

On May 13, 2021, the Nevada Supreme Court upheld the First Judicial District Court's September 21, 2020, decision that the provisions of Sections 2, 3, 37, and 39 of S.B. 551 (2019 Legislative Session) related to the Modified Business Tax (MBT) were unconstitutional due to not receiving a two-thirds majority vote from both houses of the Nevada Legislature. This resulted in the MBT being paid during FY 2020 and the first three quarters of FY 2021 at higher tax rates, entitling taxpayers who paid the higher MBT rate to receive refunds with interest; the Department of Taxation reduced the MBT tax rates effective April 1, 2021. Refunds including interest were then required to be issued for all four quarters of FY 2020 and the first three quarters of FY 2021, with the estimated impact of the rate reduction being done for the fourth quarter of FY 2021 and all quarters within FY 2022 and FY 2023.

When tax rates change at the end of a fiscal year, it becomes difficult to estimate the impact and its allocation between fiscal years. Due to the MBT refund and tax rate reduction, the Economic Forum's forecast for FY 2021 was \$87,703,000 lower in May 2021 than was projected in December 2020. Table 2 on page 27 of ([Exhibit E](#)) also details the effects of legislatively approved changes and the impact of the reduced MBT rate on the Economic Forum's forecast for FY 2022 and FY 2023. There was a negative net reduction of \$36.3 million in the General Fund forecasts for FY 2021, FY 2022, and FY 2023, adjusting the \$909.7 million difference between the May 2021 and December 2020 forecasts down to \$873.4 million due to the legislative actions and court decisions.

Table 3 on page 27 of ([Exhibit E](#)) itemizes the estimated impacts of the Nevada Supreme Court's decision as it relates to the portion of the MBT attributable to refunds and interest for FY 2020 and the first three quarters of FY 2021. The table also describes the estimated impact to the economic forecast based on the tax rate reduction for the fourth quarter of FY 2021 and all of FY 2022 and FY 2023.

Table 2 on page 14 of ([Exhibit E](#)) describes the legislative actions that occurred during the 2021 Legislative Session affecting unrestricted General Fund revenue sources and estimated outcomes. The Mining Gross Revenue Tax imposed on businesses extracting gold or silver in Nevada has an estimated impact of \$83,802,000 in FY 2022 and \$80,996,000 in FY 2023. Pursuant to A.B. 495 (2021 Legislative Session), the proceeds from the Mining Gross Revenue Tax are to be deposited in the General Fund in FY 2022 and FY 2023 but will be deposited in the State Education Fund beginning in FY 2024; the portion of the Net Proceeds of Minerals Tax dedicated to the General Fund will also be deposited in the State Education Fund beginning in FY 2024. The impact of the Mining Gross Revenue Tax will not be forecast by the Economic Forum for FY 2024 or FY 2025. The Fiscal Analysis Division could not complete the estimated impact from legislative actions for certain taxes listed on Table 2 because even though the anticipated direction of the economic impact could be determined, the impact would be minimal. Page 15 of ([Exhibit E](#)) describes the itemized impact of the MBT on unrestricted General Fund revenue.

Table 2 on page 1 of Agenda Item J-14 (Handout 2), Economic Forum - FY 2021 General Fund Revenue Actual Versus Forecast Comparison ([Exhibit F](#)) describes the adjustments made to the Economic Forum's December 3, 2020, and May 4, 2021, forecasts resulting from legislative actions and court decisions. The table also details the amount of actual collections that were reported by the Office of the State Controller versus what was forecasted. A positive number on the table indicates that an actual collection came in above what was forecasted. Actual collections were approximately \$226.2 million above the May 4, 2021, forecast.

Economic forecasting can be difficult, especially during a pandemic. In odd-numbered fiscal years, the Economic Forum produces two sets of forecasts, one for the current fiscal year and one for the last fiscal year of the biennium. When the Economic Forum was conducting its two-year forecast in December 2018 and May 2019, it did not foresee a pandemic impacting FY 2021. The forecasts concerning the 2% State Sales and Use Tax were significantly lower than what was collected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The tables in Agenda Item J-14 (Handout 3), Economic Forum Report - State General Fund Revenues FY 2021 Actual and FY 2022 Forecast Before Tax Credits ([Exhibit G](#)) are generally updated once information on the quarterly revenue for a given fiscal year becomes available. Table 1 on page 1 of ([Exhibit G](#)) describes the FY 2021 actual collections versus actual percent changes compared to what was forecasted by the Economic Forum on May 4, 2021. The table also shows the FY 2022 forecast. Because the actual percent change for FY 2021 came in higher than projected at 9.1%, the forecast for FY 2022 could fall by 1.8% and the fiscal year forecast for FY 2022 would still be obtained. How much the FY 2021 actual collections came in above or below what was forecasted determines the adjusted growth rate that the state would have to average each month to achieve the forecast upon which the legislatively approved budget was built.

Table 2 on page 2 of ([Exhibit G](#)) details actual year-to-date collections and the Economic Forum FY 2022 year-to-date forecast using the percent change based on FY 2021 actual collections. The amount collected through the State Sales and Use Tax is shown for July, August, and September (first three months) of FY 2022 compared to the actual growth rate of the first three months of FY 2021. To arrive at the FY 2022 year-to-date forecast amount, staff multiplies the FY 2022 forecast growth rate by the fiscal year-to-date actual collections for FY 2021. The Economic Forum approves a fiscal year estimate and staff attempts to interpolate a fiscal year forecast into a monthly or quarterly year-to-date forecast which can be difficult; the methodology can become distorted due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on actual information available through the first three-to-five months of the monthly revenue sources, the methodology used to compare actual FY 2022 year-to-date collections shows the actual amount collected is \$363,208,838 above the forecast amount. Since it is early in the fiscal year and only the first quarter is known for the quarterly revenue sources, the anticipated direction of economic impact is showing that the actual unrestricted General Fund revenue for FY 2022 will be above the FY 2022 forecast; however, the magnitude of the economic impact could change but will remain positive.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the actual collections for FY 2020 and FY 2021, and possibly the collections for FY 2022, are distorted. The state is currently seeing a record increase in the amount of the gaming win and taxable sales being reported. It is expected that this revenue will stay elevated as federal stimulus money continues flowing into Nevada's economy, but anything can change because of the COVID-19 pandemic. I ranked the total statewide gaming-win numbers from January 2006 (prior to the Great Recession) to October 2021, with the numbers for October 2007 ranking sixth; the numbers for May through August 2021 are the top five (September 2021 ranked seventh overall). This shows that gaming-win numbers are consistently being collected at record high numbers after casinos were shut down in March 2020 due to the pandemic. I do not think many entities forecasted this happening.

Additional tables detailing gaming market statistics, taxable sales by county, taxable sales by North American Industry Classification System codes, and Commerce Tax statistics have been updated with the latest fiscal year-to-date information and are available as exhibits on the Economic Forum's website.

CHAIR BROOKS:

I appreciate the accurate forecasting of the Economic Forum during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

You stated that Nevada is collecting approximately \$3.6 million<sup>2</sup> more in revenue than what was projected for FY 2022. Is this gaming revenue or overall revenue, and does this information represent only one quarter of FY 2022?

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<sup>2</sup> The actual amount collected is \$363,208,838 above the forecast amount.



MR. GUINDON:

Table 2 on page 2 of ([Exhibit G](#)) shows that the actual General Fund collections fiscal year-to-date are above the FY 2022 year-to-date forecast. The year-to-date information pertains to the first three-to-five months of monthly revenue sources collected compared to the estimated year-to-date forecast. This applies to the first quarter of quarterly revenue sources such as the MBT. The table also shows that \$1,448,397,241 has been collected year-to-date for FY 2022, with the Economic Forum's interpolated year-to-date forecast being \$1,057,369,201, with the difference being \$363,208,838. The \$363,208,838 is how much revenue would be collected above what was forecast for FY 2022 compared to the forecast used to build the legislatively approved budget during for the 2021 Legislative Session that was adjusted for legislative actions and court decisions.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Where does the state stand with its mining taxes? There was much discussion surrounding Nevada's mining taxes during the 2021 Legislative Session. Is the Mining Gross Revenue Tax being collected at a higher rate than what was forecast? Does the forecast consider legislation that was passed to increase the contribution from Nevada's mining industry?

MR. GUINDON:

Both the Net Proceeds of Minerals Tax, and the Mining Gross Revenue Tax imposed on businesses extracting gold and silver are based on making a payment in a fiscal year based on the immediately preceding 12-month calendar year period. The Mining Gross Revenue Tax is an annual tax, and information is not required to be submitted on a monthly or quarterly basis regarding gross revenue derived from this tax. Based on the economy and current gold prices, I would predict that the revenue generated by the Net Proceeds of Minerals Tax and the Mining Gross Revenue Tax might be lower than projected for FY 2022. The mining companies will file their returns for these taxes sometime in early March 2022 for calendar year 2021. During April 2022, the mining companies will file their taxes for calendar year 2021 and pay the taxes on their gross revenue pursuant to A.B. 495 (2021 Legislative Session).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

The information that the Economic Forum has regarding Nevada's mining taxes is based on past rates. The mining industry is volatile due to the fluctuating costs of minerals. I appreciate the information that the Economic Forum can provide despite these everchanging numbers.

CHAIR BROOKS:

As the state was setting all-time records for gaming and hospitality revenue, there is still consistent unemployment within these sectors. I would like to see this trend change.

There was no further discussion on this item.



## **K. PUBLIC COMMENT**

KENT ERVIN (Nevada Faculty Alliance):

I echo the comments made by Delaney Howard with AFSCME earlier this morning regarding the restoration of state worker benefits through PEBP. The cuts to PEBP have been distressing to state employees who continue serving the public on the front lines. There is hesitancy to use ARPA funds to cover budget items that could continue in the future. Based on the Nevada Faculty Alliance's (NFA) discussions with Nevada's congressional delegation, the NFA believes that ARPA funding is clearly intended to help fill holes in the state's budget resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic; the approximately \$1.1 billion in lost revenue funds that have been transferred to the General Fund is based on this premise. The Legislature already authorized the one-time use of ARPA funds to restore state positions that were cut due to the hiring freeze resulting from the pandemic, even though these positions will be built into an agency's budget in the future. Full restoration of PEBP benefits should accompany the restored positions.

The Economic Forum has stated that state revenues are exceeding forecasts by \$589 million for FY 2021 and FY 2022, and this should relieve doubts regarding future funding. It is easy to use ARPA funds to reimburse PEBP for COVID testing and treatment expenses starting in January 2022 after Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act funding runs out; this would relieve pressure on PEBP. Instead, the costs associated with testing unvaccinated state employees is being pushed onto other PEBP members. The PEBP Board has already started designing plans for FY 2023, so any delay means making state employees suffer for another year. Please fix this.

Mr. Ervin submitted additional written testimony for the record ([Exhibit H](#)).

ANNA VILLATORO (Children's Advocacy Alliance):

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed an undue burden on children and families in Nevada. Concerns regarding access to health care have been minimized throughout the public health emergency by keeping children enrolled in the DHHS Division of Health Care Financing and Policy's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Agenda Item E-53 proposes to add needed funding to continue these services and ensure that Nevada children can continue to receive health care services that were disrupted by the pandemic. Please support and approve additional funding for CHIP.

I thank the Committee for the actions it has taken to address health disparities among infants and mothers. Please consider longstanding solutions to address maternal mortality and disparities. Maternal mortality rates are higher in the U.S. than in any other industrialized nation, with Black and Hispanic women dying at higher rates than their White counterparts. Currently, DHHS Nevada Medicaid only covers the expenses associated from the time of birth to six days postpartum. However, roughly 24% of pregnancy-related deaths occur between six weeks and one year postpartum. Research suggests that expanding postpartum Medicaid coverage can minimize higher mortality rates.

Additional written testimony has been submitted by Kendall Lyons with the Children's Advocacy Alliance ([Exhibit I](#)).

TRISHA LOZANO (Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders) submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit J](#)).

LILITH BARAN (ACLU of Nevada) submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit K](#)).

**L. ADJOURNMENT.**

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.

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Senator Moises Denis, Chair  
Interim Finance Committee

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