Senate Bill No. 425–Senators Dondero Loop, Lange; Cannizzaro, Daly, D. Harris, Neal, Nguyen, Ohrenschall and Scheible

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to education; creating the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education; providing for the membership and duties of the Commission; making appropriations; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

This bill creates the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education for the purposes of developing a statewide vision and implementation plan to improve the education system in this State. **Section 3** of this bill creates the Commission and prescribes the membership of the Commission, consisting of 24 persons representing a variety of stakeholders. **Section 4** of this bill requires the Commission to: (1) conduct a study comparing the education policies of this State to those of high-performing international and domestic education systems; (2) make recommendations on how to adapt the appropriate education policies of those high-performing education systems into the public education system in this State; (3) make recommendations on how to put the performance of pupils in this State in parity with the performance of those pupils in high-performing education systems; (4) incorporate any relevant findings of any previous or ongoing studies related to funding for education; and (5) develop an implementation plan for the recommendations made, including an analysis of the costs involved. **Section 5** of this bill makes an appropriation to the Commission for travel expenses for members of the Commission. **Section 6** of this bill makes an appropriation to the Commission for the Commission to enter into a contract with an organization to assist in the work of the Commission.

EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets [~~omitted material~~] is material to be omitted.

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

Section 1. Chapter 385 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act.

Sec. 2. ***As used in sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, "Commission" means the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education created by section 3 of this act.***

Sec. 3. ***1. The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education is hereby created. The Commission consists of:***

(a) Three members who are Senators, two of whom are appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate and one of whom is appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

(b) Three members who are members of the Assembly, two of whom are appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and one of whom is appointed by the Minority Leader of the Assembly;

(c) The Superintendent of Public Instruction;

(d) The Director of the Office of Finance;

(e) The Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education;

(f) One member who is a representative of the State Board of Education, appointed by the President of the State Board;

(g) One member who is a teacher and member of the Nevada State Education Association, appointed by the President of that Association;

(h) One member who is a teacher and member of the Clark County Education Association, appointed by the President of that Association;

(i) One member appointed by the Nevada Association of School Administrators;

(j) One member who is a member of the board of trustees of a school district, appointed by the Nevada Association of School Boards;

(k) One member who is a superintendent of schools of a school district, appointed by the Nevada Association of School Superintendents;

(l) One member who is the chief financial officer of a school district, appointed by the Association of School Business Officials International;

(m) One member appointed by the Nevada Association of Counties;

(n) One member appointed by the Nevada League of Cities;

(o) One member who is the representative of an organization that advocates for public education, appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction;

(p) One member who is the parent or guardian of a pupil who is enrolled in a public school in this State, appointed by the Nevada Parent Teacher Association;

(q) One member who is a representative of the public at large, appointed by the Governor;

(r) Two members who own or manage a business located in this State, appointed by the Governor; and

(s) One member who serves on the Commission on School Funding created by NRS 387.1246.

2. In appointing the members of the Commission described in paragraphs (g) and (h) of subsection 1, the appointing authorities shall coordinate the appointments so that:

(a) One member is a teacher in an elementary school and one member is a teacher in a secondary school, respectively; and

(b) One member is a teacher in a public school in an urban setting and one member is a teacher in a public school in a rural setting, respectively.

➥ The appointing authorities shall, in appointing a member at the beginning of each term, alternate the characteristics described in paragraphs (a) and (b) so that each member appointed to the Commission does not possess the same characteristic in consecutive terms.

3. If any organization listed in subsection 1 ceases to exist, the appointment required pursuant to that subsection must be made by the organization's successor in interest or, if there is no successor in interest, by the Governor.

4. In appointing the members of the Commission described in subsection 1, the appointing authorities shall coordinate the appointments when practicable so that the members of the Commission represent the diversity of this State, including, without limitation, regional, ethnic, economic and gender diversity.

5. Each member of the Commission:

(a) Serves without compensation; and

(b) While engaged in the business of the Commission, is entitled to receive the travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally.

6. Each appointed member of the Commission serves a term of 2 years and may be reappointed for additional terms of 2 years in the same manner as the original appointment. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Commission must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment not later than 30 days after the vacancy occurs.

7. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall call the first meeting of the Commission. At its first meeting and annually thereafter, the members of the Commission shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair from among the members of the Commission.

8. The Commission shall meet at least once each calendar quarter and as needed at the call of the Chair.

9. The Commission may appoint subcommittees to address designated projects or consider specific problems or other matters that are related to and within the scope of the functions of the

Commission, as the Commission determines necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission.

10. The Department shall provide any administrative support necessary for the Commission to carry out its duties.

Sec. 4. *1. The Commission shall develop a statewide vision and implementation plan to improve the public education system in this State. The Commission shall:*

(a) Conduct a benchmarking or gap analysis study comparing the education policies of this State to the education policies of high-performing international and domestic education systems.

(b) Make recommendations on how to adapt the appropriate education policies of high-performing international and domestic education systems into the public education system in this State.

(c) Identify objectives to put the education performance of pupils in this State in parity with that of pupils in high-performing international and domestic education systems and make recommendations on how to meet the identified objectives.

(d) Review the findings of any previous or ongoing studies related to the funding of education and incorporate any relevant findings.

(e) Develop an implementation plan for the recommendations made pursuant to this section which includes an analysis of the costs of the plan.

2. The Commission may employ and contract with the National Center on Education and the Economy or an organization with similar expertise and qualifications to carry out any of its functions pursuant to this section.

3. The Commission may coordinate with educational entities and business entities for information and expertise as necessary to carry out any of its functions pursuant to this section.

4. On or before June 30 of each year, the Commission shall submit a written report of its findings to the Governor, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Legislative Commission and the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education.

Sec. 5. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education created by section 3 of this act, for travel expenses of the members of the Commission the following sums:

For the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 ..... $12,500

For the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 ..... $12,500

2. Any balance of the sums appropriated by subsection 1 remaining at the end of the respective fiscal years must not be committed for expenditure after June 30 of the respective fiscal

years by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September 20, 2024, and September 19, 2025, respectively, by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 20, 2024, and September 19, 2025, respectively.

Sec. 6. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education created by section 3 of this act the sum of $250,000 for the Commission to enter into a contract with an organization to assist in the work of the Commission pursuant to subsection 2 of section 4 of this act.

2. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2025, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September 19, 2025, by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 19, 2025.

Sec. 7. The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

Sec. 8. 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and approval.

2. Sections 1 to 7, inclusive, of this act become effective:

(a) Upon passage and approval for the purposes of appointing members to the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education created by section 3 of this act and performing any other administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

(b) On July 1, 2023, for all other purposes.