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June 5, 2011

Chairman, Legislative Committee on Education
Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Committee Chair:

At its hearing of April 13, 2011, the Senate Committee on Education considered Senate Bill 116:

> **Senate Bill 116 requires the State Board of Education to prescribe an adjusted adult diploma. (BDR 34-92)**

One of the proposed amendments would have required the State Board of Education to review the types of diplomas issued to students in this State and other states. Under that proposal, the Board would have reported its findings and recommendations to the 2013 Legislature, identifying the types of diplomas not offered in Nevada.

Enclosed are the minutes from the April 13, 2011 hearing, highlighted for your review. During work session the Committee rejected that amendment, but asked that the Senate Standing Committee send a letter of intent to the interim Legislative Committee on Education requesting that the Committee (or the staff of the Committee), conduct the review of diplomas offered by other states and provide a copy of the findings of that review to the Committee for its final report to the 2013 Legislature.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or the Committee Policy Analyst, Pepper Sturm, at 775-684-6825.

Sincerely,

Senator Moises Denis
Chairman, Senate Committee on Education

MD/ncb:W111239
Enc.

**EXHIBIT FF - EDUCATION**
**Document consists of 5 pages.**
**Entire document provided.**
**Meeting Date 06-14-12**

# MINUTES OF THE
# SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

## Seventy-sixth Session
## April 13, 2011

The Senate Committee on Education was called to order by Chair Mo Denis at 2:36 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2011, in Room 2149 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4412E, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Exhibit A is the Agenda. Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Moises (Mo) Denis, Chair
Senator Ruben J. Kihuen, Vice Chair
Senator Valerie Wiener
Senator Sheila Leslie
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske
Senator Don Gustavson
Senator Greg Brower

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Senator David R. Parks, Clark County Senatorial District No. 7

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Pepper Sturm, Policy Analyst
Kristin Roberts, Counsel
Billie McMenamy, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Keith Rheault, Ph.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education
Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Director, Office of Charter Schools, Department of Education
Kathleen Conaboy, K-12, Inc.
Christopher Roller, American Heart Association

Bart Mangino, Clark County School District
Tracey Green M.D., State Health Officer, Health Division, Department of Health and Human Services
Russell Rowe, Nevada Justice Association; Clinics in Schools
Craig Hulse, Washoe County School District
Samuel McMullen, Citizens for Fire Safety

CHAIR DENIS:
We will not hold another hearing on these bills and will not take further testimony. This is our time to act on the bills. I will open the work session on Senate Bill (S.B.) 38.

**SENATE BILL 38**: Revises provisions governing apportionments to school districts, charter schools and university schools for profoundly gifted pupils. (BDR 34-507)

PEPPER STURM (Policy Analyst):
This bill was requested by the Department of Education (DOE). At the direction of the Chair, the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), Keith Rheault, prepared a proposed amendment (Exhibit C) to address concerns raised at the hearing.

SENATOR WIENER MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 38.

SENATOR KIHUEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR GUSTAVSON:
Section 2, subsection 3, of the proposed amendment may authorize the SPI to withhold the entire amount of an apportionment. I am concerned they may withhold more money than they should. I have a problem with that section of the bill.

CHAIR DENIS:
There is an appeals process.

SENATOR GUSTAVSON:
I understand there is an appeals process but that takes time. I do not want to put an unfair financial burden on a school.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS CEGAVSKE AND GUSTAVSON VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR DENIS:
I will open the work session on S.B. 116.

**SENATE BILL 116**: Requires the State Board of Education to prescribe an adjusted adult diploma. (BDR 34-92)

MR. STURM:
Senate Bill 116 requires that the State Board of Education (SBE) adopt regulations to prescribe an adjusted adult diploma and set forth the requirements for receipt of an adjusted adult diploma for pupils who did not obtain an adjusted diploma through their Individualized Education Program (IEP). We have a work session document for S.B. 116 (Exhibit D). Several amendments were proposed. Ex-Senator Joyce Woodhouse proposed amending section 5 of the bill to delay the effective date to July 1, 2013, to eliminate the fiscal note for the current biennium. We also received an amendment from the Nevada State Education Association (NSEA) that proposed to amend the bill substantially. It would delete section 1 through section 4 of the bill. Instead of adjusted adult diplomas it would require that the SBE review all types of diplomas issued in Nevada and all types of diplomas issued in other states.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:
I am intrigued by the NSEA amendment. I am concerned that we have too many adjusted diplomas and that we are going down the wrong path. The students are better off receiving their General Educational Development diploma than an adjusted diploma. I will not support S.B. 116. I agree that we need to review the different types of diplomas.

SENATOR BROWER:
I do not like the bill but will defer to others. I am surprised we have so many adjusted diplomas.

CHAIR DENIS:
The bill appears to have issues. We could support this proposed section. Without the bill, what is the process?

MR. STURM:
A letter from you, Mr. Chair, can be sent on behalf of the Senate Committee on Education asking their staff or the Legislative Committee on Education to review. That does not have the force of law or have to go through Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections.

SENATOR LESLIE:
I would suggest the Committee send a letter of intent. I agree we need a review.

CHAIR DENIS:
We will move on to the charter school bill, S.B. 212.

**SENATE BILL 212**: Revises provisions governing charter schools. (BDR 34-900)

MR. STURM:
Senate Bill 212 creates the State Board of Charter Schools (SBCS). There were numerous amendments proposed as found in the work session document (Exhibit E). At the direction of the Chair, Keith Rheault, SPI and Steve Canavero, Director, Office of Charter Schools, DOE, convened a group of interested parties to develop a consensus amendment to the bill.

A mock-up of the changes is in the work session document, Exhibit E. Pages 1e and 2 of the mock-up is the legislative declaration. On page 2, instead of the SBCS it has been changed to the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) throughout the bill.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:
What was wrong with the name of Charter Institute?

CHAIR DENIS:
They decided on the SPCSA for reference.

KEITH RHEAULT Ph.D. (Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education):
We thought there might be a mix-up between the SBE and the SBCS. The institute was not in the initial bill. The SPCSA was agreed upon by the interested parties.