

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Seventy-Ninth Session
May 18, 2017**

The Committee on Ways and Means was called to order by Chair Maggie Carlton at 6:08 p.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2017, in Room 3137 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair
Assemblyman Jason Frierson, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Nelson Araujo
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson
Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams
Assemblywoman Olivia Diaz
Assemblyman Chris Edwards
Assemblyman John Hambrick
Assemblyman James Oscarson
Assemblywoman Ellen B. Spiegel
Assemblyman Michael C. Sprinkle
Assemblywoman Heidi Swank
Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Assemblyman Paul Anderson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Sarah Coffman, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Keaton Westergard, Committee Secretary
Lisa McAlister, Committee Assistant

Chair Carlton asked the committee assistant to call roll. Following roll call, Chair Carlton stated that in addition to the agenda, under the work session the following bills would be heard: Assembly Bill 472, Assembly Bill 480, Assembly Bill 484, Assembly Bill 486, Assembly Bill 489, and Assembly Bill 497. The Chair added Assembly Bill 141 to the work session list.



Assembly Bill 472 (1st Reprint): Establishes policies for reducing recidivism rates and improving other outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system. (BDR 5-918)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 472 (1st Reprint) established policies for reducing recidivism rates and improving other outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system. This was a budget implementation bill related to budget account 1383 [Community Juvenile Justice Programs] and was approved by the money committees. The bill was heard on May 16, 2017, and there was one proposed amendment (Exhibit C) related to changed dates for which the state would pay a portion of the local government costs. Chair Carlton asked Committee members for any questions, and hearing no response, she requested a motion for A.B. 472 (R1).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BUSTAMANTE ADAMS MOVED TO AMEND
AND DO PASS ASSEMBLY BILL 472 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblymen Anderson, Benitez-Thompson, and Frierson were not present for the vote.)

Chair Carlton stated that she would present A.B. 472 (R1) on the floor.

Assembly Bill 480: Authorizes the assessment of an administrative fee on certain public purchases. (BDR 27-899)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 480 authorized an assessment of an administrative fee on certain public purchases. This was a budget implementation bill that would create vendor assessment revenue to support the operating costs of an eProcurement system included in budget account 1358, [Purchasing] decision unit enhancement (E) 550, approved by the Committees on May 15, 2017. This bill was heard on May 16, 2017, and Jeff Haag, Administrator, Purchasing Division, Department of Administration, testified on the bill. Only one concern was raised at the hearing, she noted. The Retail Association of Nevada was in support of A.B. 480, but the association was concerned that the monies collected would be available for other purposes. As Ms. Jones stated, the intent of the bill was to keep those monies in the Purchasing Division to reduce the assessments made to state agencies for purchasing services.

Chair Carlton asked Committee members for any questions, and hearing no response, she requested a motion for A.B. 480.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARAUJO MOVED TO DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 480.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BUSTAMANTE ADAMS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblymen Anderson, Benitez-Thompson, and Frierson were not present for the vote. Assemblywoman Titus reserved the right to change her vote on the floor.)

Chair Carlton stated that Assemblyman Araujo would present A.B. 480 on the floor.

Assembly Bill 484 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to the Commission on Postsecondary Education. (BDR 34-912)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 484 (1st Reprint) revised the provisions related to the Commission on Postsecondary Education. This was a budget implementation bill that moved the Commission on Postsecondary Education from the Department of Education to the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR). The Fiscal Analysis Division staff proposed two amendments (Exhibit D) to the bill. The first amendment changed the membership of the Commission on Postsecondary Education. The second amendment concerned the proposed Deputy Administrator at DETR, which had been discussed with DETR. The proposed Deputy Administrator position would be included as an ex officio member of the Commission on Postsecondary Education. However, because the proposed position was currently in the classified system and was suggested for reclassification, Fiscal staff suggested indicating language such as "a person representing the program and appointed by the Director of DETR." By wording it this way, Ms. Jones stated that if the position title were to change, DETR would not be locked into a position title.

Christopher Sewell, State Board Liaison, Director's Office, Administration Division, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, stated that DETR heard loud and clear that the general public member of the Commission on Postsecondary Education should be added back into the membership. He noted that hearing the feedback was important to DETR.

Chair Carlton restated that the amendment would cover the position to ensure it was involved, and additionally, the amendment would add a member of the public so there would be two members of the public included in the Commission on Postsecondary Education. Mr. Sewell concurred with the Chair's statement.

Chair Carlton asked the Committee members for any questions.

Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams said she could see the amendment for the two members of the public, but she asked whether there was another amendment based on the proposed Deputy Administrator position and the classification status. Ms. Jones said there was a conceptual amendment recommended by Fiscal Analysis Division staff.

Chair Carlton agreed that "a designee indicated by the appointing authority" instead of a specific title would allow more flexibility for DETR. It also would help in the situation of an extended vacancy in a position, she added.

Chair Carlton requested a motion on A.B. 484 (R1).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BUSTAMANTE ADAMS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS ASSEMBLY BILL 484 (1ST REPRINT) WITH BOTH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblymen Anderson and Benitez-Thompson were not present for the vote.)

Chair Carlton stated that Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams would present A.B. 484 (R1) on the floor.

Assembly Bill 486 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions governing the distribution of the governmental services tax. (BDR 43-978)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 486 (1st Reprint) revised provisions for the distribution of governmental services tax proceeds to be distributed to the State General Fund and the State Highway Fund. The bill changed the allocation of proceeds collected from the reduced depreciation rate for vehicles authorized in the 75th Session (2009).

In fiscal year 2016-2017, Ms. Jones explained, 50 percent of the proceeds went to the State General Fund and 50 percent of the proceeds went to the State Highway Fund. As recommended in The Executive Budget, 25 percent of the proceeds would go to the State General Fund and 75 percent of the proceeds would go to the State Highway Fund. The effective date for the bill would be July 1, 2017, and the bill would expire by limitation on June 30, 2019.

Fiscal Analysis Division staff, she continued, noted that the projections had been updated: an estimated \$19,367,000 would go into the unrestricted State General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2018 and \$19,573,500 would go into the unrestricted State General Fund in FY 2019.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were any questions from the Committee members.

Assemblywoman Titus asked for clarification on the percentages, and then asked whether there would be a need to backfill the State General Fund because 25 percent less was going to the State General Fund. Ms. Jones explained that the 25-percentage point reduction for the State General Fund was included in The Executive Budget, although the reprojection changed the amounts slightly.

Hearing no other questions and with no other amendments proposed, Chair Carlton asked for a motion on A.B. 486 (R1).

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED TO DO PASS AS AMENDED
ASSEMBLY BILL 486 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BUSTAMANTE ADAMS SECONDED THE
MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblyman Anderson was not present for the
vote.)

Chair Carlton stated that Assemblyman Sprinkle would present A.B. 486 (R1) on the floor.

**Assembly Bill 489: Revises provisions relating to the Revolving Account for Land
Management. (BDR 26-907)**

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 489 revised provisions for the Revolving Account for Land Management. The bill appropriated \$200,000 to the Revolving Account for Land Management, effective July 1, 2017. This was a budget implementation bill. Additionally, this bill proposed a change to statute. The statutory change revised the threshold amount from \$5,000 to \$20,000 below which a request could be made to the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) to replenish the account. An amendment discussed during the bill hearing allowed for the removal of the reversionary language from the bill. Ms. Jones stated that this was a revolving account, and the funds should not revert, so the proposed amendment was reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were any questions from Committee members, and hearing no questions, the Chair asked for a motion on A.B. 489.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 489.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblyman Anderson was not present for the
vote.)

Chair Carlton stated that Assemblywoman Spiegel would present A.B. 489 on the floor.

Assembly Bill 497: Makes a supplemental appropriation to the Division of Administrative Services of the Department of Motor Vehicles for a projected shortfall related to credit card processing fees. (BDR S-1167)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 497 made a supplemental appropriation to the Administrative Services Division, Department of Motor Vehicles. This bill was heard on May 8, 2017, and the Division had advised that the amount of the bill could be reduced from \$847,022 to \$734,147 by an amendment.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were any questions from Committee members, and hearing no questions, the Chair asked for a motion on A.B. 497.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 497.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblyman Anderson was not present for the vote.)

Chair Carlton stated that Assemblyman Oscarson would present A.B. 497 on the floor.

Assembly Bill 141: Revises the organizational structure and purposes of the Office of Minority Health. (BDR 18-214)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 141 was heard on April 10, 2017. This bill changed the name of the Office of Minority Health in the Office for Consumer Health Assistance, Department of Health and Human Services, to the Office of Minority Health and Equity and designated it as a separate office in the Department of Health and Human Services reporting to the Director. The fiscal note indicated that moving the position from budget account 3240, Consumer Health Assistance, to budget account 3150, Director's Office, would be cost-neutral. There was a decision unit included to move the position along with the costs to support a coalition related to the minority health effort. She stated that The Executive Budget included the position as a classified position, although the bill indicated an unclassified position. After discussions with the agency and the bill sponsor, it was agreed that the position could be unclassified as requested by the bill sponsor. This would not affect the total amount in the budget.

Chair Carlton asked whether an amendment would be needed to make the position unclassified, but Ms. Jones clarified that no amendment would be required.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were any questions from Committee members, and hearing no questions, the Chair asked for a motion on A.B. 141.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 141.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BUSTAMANTE ADAMS SECONDED THE
MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblyman Anderson was not present for the
vote.)

Chair Carlton stated that she would present A.B. 141 on the floor. The Chair then closed the
work session and opened the hearings on the bills shown on the agenda ([Exhibit A](#)).

**Assembly Bill 503: Makes an appropriation to the Office of the Secretary of State for
the second phase of the replacement of the Electronic Secretary of State System
(ESOS) software and hardware. (BDR S-1193)**

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel
Bureau, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 503 made an appropriation to the Office
of the Secretary of State for the second phase of the replacement of the Electronic
Secretary of State System (ESOS) software and hardware. The appropriation included in
The Executive Budget was \$6,334,319.

Cadence Matijevech, Deputy for Operations, Office of the Secretary of State, presented
A.B. 503. This bill provided for a State General Fund appropriation to the budget for the
Office of the Secretary of State for \$6,334,319. The appropriation would provide funding for
the continuation of the technology investment request (TIR) originally approved in the
78th Session (2015). The project was intended to replace the current electronic system that
was over 15 years old and used for receipting, processing, and archiving business entity
filings. The current system supported revenue collections of over \$190 million annually.
The current system, she stated, was antiquated and increasingly difficult to maintain.
Portions of the system software were no longer available or supported. Work stoppages
occurred frequently as parts of the system failed, and the entire system operated below
technology standards for processing and security.

Ms. Matijevech stated that the proposed project would replace the current ESOS with
a state-of-the-art system that would increase online functionality, create a front end that was
user-friendly for customers, improve backend administration capabilities, and provide
increased reliability and security. While many of the project components and deliverables
spanned both the current and upcoming biennia, the funding from the 2017-2019 biennium
appropriation would provide for continuing project management, completion of the system
requirements and design, and test plans and results. Additionally, the appropriation would
fund the final system development, configuration, and installation; forms configuration; data
management; and data migration. The data migration included conversion of existing files
from microfilm, microfiche, and paper-to-digital files; training on the new system; and
completion of operations and support documentation.

Ms. Matijevich explained that the baseline project schedule currently reflected a go-live date early in calendar year 2019. The 2017-2019 funding would allow the Office of the Secretary of State to meet the target date while delivering a quality product. She added that the request was to be able to use the funds across both fiscal years of the biennium.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were any questions from Committee members.

Assemblyman Frierson asked why the Committee would consider this type of technology funding when other requests for efficiency improvements through software and hardware purchases were not accommodated. He said that the Office of the Secretary of State testified earlier that the Virginia Office of the Secretary of State would not answer questions about electronic notarizations, but in talking with the Virginia Office of the Secretary of State, he found that the Virginia office had never been contacted. He recognized that there had been inconsistencies in a testimony process that mandated integrity, openness, and communication. He asked whether there were areas that would operate more efficiently beyond the information provided by Ms. Matijevich today.

Ms. Matijevich stated that this appropriation was for continuation of the TIR initiated in the 2015-2017 biennium. Included in that appropriation, she said, were the components currently processed through the ESOS system, primarily the functionality in the Commercial Recordings Division. Some components, such as notary signatures that processed through the system, related to other functional areas. The scope of the project did not anticipate electronic notarizations, but her office had provided a fiscal note on the identification of additional funding required for the expansion of the project scope.

Assemblyman Frierson asked for more information on the project deliverables. Ms. Matijevich explained that improved functionality would be achieved in the filings for the Commercial Recordings Division.

Scott Anderson, Chief Deputy, Office of the Secretary of State, and former Deputy of Commercial Recordings for 17 years prior, noted that the current ESOS system was installed in 2001 with some final components installed in 2005, and it was reaching the end of its useful life. The improved processes included the filing process for articles of incorporation and articles of organizations for corporations and limited liability corporations (LLCs) and the filings of annual lists of officers. The system would allow for every filing completed through the Commercial Recordings Division to be available in an online manner, while modernizing the paper process. It was important to recognize that while some would use the online functionality, there would still be some who would choose to use paper for filings with the Commercial Recordings Division. Electronic notarization, he added, was in the original request, but remote notarization was not included. The project included the modernization of every aspect of the Commercial Recordings Division, with the possible addition of the modernization of the election system processes in the future.

Additionally included in this project, Mr. Anderson stated, was disaster recovery and failover systems to ensure that if there were a problem with the system, service to the customers (and the \$190 million revenue stream) would be uninterrupted.

Assemblyman Frierson asked for more information about the modernization of the election system processes and whether that was part of the project. Mr. Anderson said that the elections effort was not part of this project.

Ms. Matijevich noted that during the budget presentation and budget closing, a request was placed on the record for \$2.4 million of the appropriation from the 2017-2019 biennium for the Office of the Secretary of State to purchase election modules. The pending solution was that the \$2.4 million would revert, and there would be a possibility that those funds would be appropriated to the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) for the election modules. Ms. Matijevich noted that the Office of the Secretary of State had not completed its due diligence in researching the election system components and was not ready to request the additional \$2.4 million in funding at this point. She stated that if the funds were appropriated to the IFC, the Office of the Secretary of State would appear before IFC when it was ready to expand the scope of the project to include the elections components.

Ms. Matijevich acknowledged that there was a request as part of the budget hearing and budget closing to balance forward unexpended monies from the original project. The original cost estimate was \$21,875,000, amended to \$16,600,000 based on recommendations from the Office of Finance, Office of the Governor.

Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams asked for the number of customers for the Commercial Recordings Division. Mr. Anderson replied that there were approximately 350,000 business entities filed with Nevada, including corporations and LLCs, plus business licenses for sole proprietors and partnerships.

Chair Carlton asked whether the Committee members had any other questions, and she heard no response. The Chair asked whether there was anyone in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on A.B. 503. Hearing no responses, she closed the hearing on A.B. 503 and opened the hearing on A.B. 504.

Assembly Bill 504: Makes an appropriation to the Office of Finance to replace the existing financial and human resource management information technology system. (BDR S-1194)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 504 made an appropriation of \$15 million to the Office of Finance, Office of the Governor, to replace the existing financial and human resource management information technology (IT) system.

Patrick Cates, Director, Department of Administration, presented A.B. 504 to the Committee. The bill appropriated funds for the next phase of Nevada's enterprise resource planning

(ERP) project, which replaced the existing financial and human resource management technology used by all state agencies. In 2014, he said, a benchmark study was completed by The Hackett Group for the state. The report revealed that Nevada's administrative processes for financial and human resource management lagged behind other states in efficiency and effectiveness and was marked by a high rate of manual processes and a lack of automation and investment in technology. He reminded Committee members that the existing ERP system was put in place 18 years ago, was highly customized, and had not been significantly upgraded since the installation. There were approximately 1,000 positions statewide in the fiscal and human resource job series, and this was the state's core business system. A new system built on the latest technology with highly automated processes and business intelligence presented a tremendous opportunity to improve the efficiency and effectiveness in a fundamental manner.

Because of the benchmark study, Mr. Cates continued, the 2015 Legislature appropriated \$1 million to start the ERP project. The purpose of the preliminary phase was to gather information from the ERP community and to document state processes and requirements. An executive committee was formed, consisting of Mr. Cates; James R. Wells, C.P.A., Director, Office of Finance, Office of the Governor; and Ron Knecht, State Controller. A contracted project manager and business analyst were selected, and functional teams were formed in the core areas of human resources, purchasing, finance, and technology.

Mr. Cates stated that a project kickoff meeting was held in April 2016 to engage stakeholder agencies and staff representing the three agencies of the executive committee, as well as the Department of Transportation, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Taxation, the Office of the State Treasurer, and the Department of Wildlife. The project manager and business analyst engaged several stakeholders across the functional areas to document current state processes in preparation for a Request for Proposal (RFP). Deep dive vendor demonstrations were held to engage the vendor community, provide insight into modern ERP system capabilities, and help formulate an ERP procurement strategy.

Mr. Cates explained that discussions with vendors and other state representatives were continuing and diligent efforts in the current biennium had prepared state agencies for the next phase of the ERP. The project was ranked No. 2 by the IT strategic planning committee for inclusion in the Governor's budget. He added that A.B. 504 would appropriate \$15 million for a project that was anticipated to have a total cost of approximately \$50 million, with continuing subscription and maintenance costs of approximately \$2 million to \$5 million per year. With knowledge gained since the last presentation, the executive committee had changed the strategy and timeline for the project. Instead of leading with finance, the first phase would now be human resources, followed by finance, budget, grants, and procurement. The new schedule rearranged the time line, stretched the time line, and resulted in a shorter path to full system operation.

Mr. Cates noted that he engaged with Gartner Consulting for strategy refinement as well as to develop and execute an RFP to procure software and a system integrator to help configure and install the system. The RFP would now be released at the end of calendar year 2017 with an award no later than June 30, 2018. Phase I, the human resource component, would span from July 2018 through December 2019, with payroll going live in January 2020. Phase II, the finance component, would start by January 2019 and go live in July 2020. Procurement, grants, and budget, he noted, were all subsidiary to the core financial system. Regarding procurement and grants, for example, he said that the Department of Administration budgets were closed with enhancement decision units for separate applications to be developed during the 2017-2019 biennium to cover currently manual processes outside the ERP. As part of Phase II, the finance component, the systems would be integrated with the ERP core system.

In the case of the budget component, Mr. Cates stated, the ERP team was in the process of scheduling vendor demonstrations for stand-alone budget applications to ensure all options had been fully vetted. It was anticipated that a new budget application in either the new core ERP system or separate from the core ERP system would also be integrated in Phase II. Mr. Cates noted that the only events that could alter the schedule were the timing of the system rollouts to individual agencies, and the timing of the biennial budget cycle to ensure a smooth budgeting process and the transfer of budget data to the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

The process improvement gains across the state, Mr. Cates concluded, would enhance the efficiency and responsiveness of state government in support of the new Nevada.

Chair Carlton asked whether Committee members had any questions, and when there were no questions, she asked Mr. Cates to repeat the time line. Mr. Cates replied that the RFP would be released at the end of calendar year 2017, with an award no later than June 30, 2018. Phase I, the human resource component, would span from July 2018 through December 2019, with payroll going live in January 2020. Phase II, the finance component, would start by January 2019 and go live in July 2020. This schedule gave each phase an 18-month period.

James R. Wells, C.P.A., Director, Office of Finance, Office of the Governor, expanded on Mr. Cates' testimony and explained that the current financial and human resource management systems went live concurrently in January 1999. The heavily customized systems would be over 20 years old by the time Phase I was installed. In addition, he noted, there were a significant number of manual workaround processes for the system to function as needed.

Mr. Wells explained that after discussion with Legislative Counsel Bureau staff, it was proposed that the appropriation be placed in a stand-alone budget account to enable staff to track the costs associated with the ERP. Examples of such costs included backfilling positions to take subject matter experts away from their daily tasks and allow focus on the project, as well as the vendor costs for both the software and the integration contractor.

Assemblywoman Diaz referenced the customization for the existing systems and asked what steps were being taken to ensure the investment in a new system would have a long life without customizations. Mr. Wells replied that the old system was highly specific to Nevada processes. The new strategy would be to customize state processes to fit the vendor solution. It was important to note that technology had changed significantly since the 1990s, and software now allowed for more flexibility than existed 20 years ago.

Hearing no other questions, Chair Carlton closed the hearing on A.B. 504 and opened the hearing on A.B. 505.

Assembly Bill 505: Makes appropriations to the Department of Corrections for a new telephone system and certain information systems projects. (BDR S-1200)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 505 made appropriations to the Department of Corrections for a new telephone system and certain information system projects. The one-time appropriations from the State General Fund included \$2,339,477 for electronic medical records, \$1,285,440 for a transition to a new offender tracking system, \$2,263,231 for the installation of a new phone system, and \$637,085 for the replacement of a scheduling system application for correctional officers. The total amount of the bill would be \$6,525,233.

John Borrowman, Deputy Director, Support Services, Department of Corrections, said that A.B. 505 was a single bill that funded four projects. He began by describing the unique nature of the Department of Corrections. The Department of Corrections was the 11th-largest community in Nevada, made up of approximately 14,000 inmates and 3,000 staff members. Mistakes in the private sector could often be overlooked, but mistakes in a prison environment could result in the loss of life or in the loss of liberty. The four projects included:

- Electronic medical records. The volume of records under the oversight of the Department of Corrections was large, Mr. Borrowman said. About 12,000 inmate transfer records required a need for the medical records to remain with the appropriate inmates. In 2015, there were approximately 40,000 lab tests drawn, 180,000 prescriptions filled, 5,000 X-rays taken, and 135,000 other medical encounters reported. This was a major medical record effort without technology. All records existed now in hard copy in filing cabinets. The initiation of an electronic medical records system would allow records to be shared with community providers in both directions and allow the transition of an inmate to or from the community with continued medical care. The effort would take some time to complete and would be bandwidth intensive. Electronic medical records included images and significant amounts of data. To be transparent, the bandwidth cost, he noted, would not be requested until the 2019-2021 biennium, but would be substantial.

- Nevada Offender Tracking Information System (NOTIS) replacement. This system, he stated, was the backbone of every piece of information related to the Department of Corrections. Information included inmate information such as behavior, earned credits, and release date. When an inmate was released, the information was returned to the Division of Parole and Probation, Department of Public Safety, to be used for supervision in the community. Every piece of information about the inmate was critical to the system. External partners who accessed the information included the judicial system and other state agencies, such as the Division of Parole and Probation. The Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) system helped the Department of Corrections track inmates for victim protection in the community, and there was an interface to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The current vendor recognized the need for the system, and Mr. Borrowman recognized the need for a working relationship with the vendor. Given the instability of the vendor relationship, the Department of Corrections was not willing to commit to the next software version from this vendor: it wanted to explore other options to ensure the appropriate selection. The existing system was proprietary and would not be supported after 2020. Because of the reliance on Department of Corrections' operations, there was a need to be proactive in looking for a new solution. The vendor had changed its business model and provided an upgrade option; however, that was only one option available. He acknowledged the need for system support and the importance of system patches. Not finding a solution was not an option, he concluded, for managing the inmate population and remaining a viable community partner.
- Replacement telephone system. The Department of Corrections, Mr. Borrowman stated, was a substantial telephone service provider, with over 2,000 telephones and over 2 million external and internal phone calls per year. These phone services were also used by other agencies, and he used the Division of Forestry, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, as an example. The Division of Forestry worked closely with the Department of Corrections for the conservation camps. With 19 geographically dispersed locations, the possibility of a security event needed to be communicated quickly for adequate response. Additionally, he noted, the phone system was one of the oldest phone systems in the state, and there was a need for redundant phone systems in the camps in the case of a network failure and/or a security event.
- Staff scheduling software. Currently, Mr. Borrowman explained, there was a local Access database for each location. The database was difficult and time-consuming to use. His plan was to replace the scheduling database with a more effective staffing solution to enhance the ability to run basic reports. Examples of reports included the ability to identify overtime earnings or overtime abuses, the ability to identify workers who frequently called in "sick" on a Monday following a holiday, or the ability to notify nonscheduled workers of the need to report to work because of

a security event. Other facilities had these basic scheduling utilities in place already, Mr. Borrowman concluded, and new software would allow for a more efficient use of available resources.

Chair Carlton asked whether any of the youth camps' phone system requests were associated with this request. She remembered that youth camps still had rotary phones. Mr. Borrowman said that was an interesting observation, but not associated with this request.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were any questions from Committee members.

Assemblyman Oscarson expressed concern about electronic medical records because of past medical overpayments in the million-dollar range that the Committee was seeing. He wondered whether Mr. Borrowman had projected the savings that would result from the investment in electronic medical record technology and whether the overages could be reduced.

Mr. Borrowman replied that the software was a management tool for records. Better access to records would allow for the reduction of redundant services already provided in the community and would allow for the sharing of information with community providers. He acknowledged that the software might not generate a savings, but the software would allow the medical provider to have better access to the information to make better medical choices.

Assemblyman Oscarson referenced the telehealth system and access to electronic medical records. He stated that there must be a cost savings, specifically from the reduction in patient transfers between facilities because of access to these systems.

Assemblyman Oscarson asked for more information on the Division of Forestry's phone system usage. Part of the function of the Division of Forestry, Mr. Borrowman replied, was to operate from the conservation camps. Conservation camps were intended to use inmate labor to combat fires or provide conservation efforts.

Assemblywoman Titus asked about the electronic medical records system. She said using electronic medical records and cost savings in the same sentence was an oxymoron. The cost savings never happened, especially in medicine, but what the system would bring, she continued, was improved communication, documentation, and information gathering. She asked for verification that the selected vendor and system would communicate with existing medical systems because failure to integrate systems could create a larger problem.

Mr. Borrowman replied that this system specifically was an electronic medical records system for inside the Department of Corrections. The system would not solve other problems. There were two communication options for action, he said. The first option was to subscribe to an organization for information sharing with other subscribers. Nevada had an organization like this, but it was optional at the expense of the provider. Those that

agreed to share information would have access to the Department of Corrections because the Department of Corrections intended to subscribe. The second option for communication was to create a state portal. Some states, he added, mandated that medical providers must belong to the state portal and must share medical information. The cost for this option was borne by the state, the hospitals, or others. There was no such portal in Nevada.

Assemblywoman Titus asked whether changes to the medical records system first needed a change to the broadband width. Mr. Borrowman stated that the broadband component was vital to this effort. The period for releasing an RFP, selecting a vendor, designing the system, and installing the system, would be about 18 months. The window for transferring files would be limited to the latter part of fiscal year (FY) 2019. Mr. Borrowman explained that it would not be an overnight switch to the electronic medical records environment. With the many rooms of paper records, patients might have paper records and electronic records until the full file conversion occurred. Each new medical visit after the system installation would be electronic, but the older paper records would not be converted immediately. The demand on the bandwidth in FY 2019 would not be as great as expected, he estimated, but the demand would increase substantially after that time with a solution required by FY 2020 for the electronic medical records system.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were any questions from Committee members, and hearing no response, she asked whether there was anyone in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on A.B. 505. Hearing no responses, the Chair closed the hearing on A.B. 505.

Assembly Bill 506: Makes appropriations to the Nevada Gaming Control Board for certain costs relating to the Alpha Migration Project. (BDR S-1201)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 506 made a one-time appropriation to the Nevada Gaming Control Board for costs related to the Alpha Migration Project, another project initiated in the 2015-2017 biennium. This bill provided funding for phase 3 of the project and included an appropriation of \$2,091,590, including \$124,908 for in-state travel costs for information technology staff to provide support for phase 3. The bill would become effective on July 1, 2017.

Shawn R. Reid, Board Member, Nevada Gaming Control Board, stated that A.B. 506 provided funding for a continuing project known as the Alpha Migration Project. The project was an upgrade of a 35-year-old information system.

Andrew Tucker, Information Technology Manager, Administration Division, Nevada Gaming Control Board, stated that Phase 1 (licensing information) was completed at the end of fiscal year (FY) 2015, and phase 2 (tax forms) was expected to be completed by the end of FY 2017. Phase 3 was an Enforcement Division, Nevada Gaming Control Board, personal information system and would be a combined effort, acknowledging that good

law enforcement systems were available. These systems would provide much of the needed information. By creating interfaces, the new system would communicate effectively. He noted that staff worked well with the consultant partner, and it was a good blend of resources.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were any questions from Committee members. Hearing no response, she asked whether there was anyone in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on A.B. 506. Hearing no responses, the Chair closed the hearing on A.B. 506.

Assembly Bill 507: Makes appropriations to the Department of Public Safety for the replacement of vehicles, pickup trucks and motorcycles for the Nevada Highway Patrol. (BDR S-1202)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 507 made an appropriation to the Department of Public Safety for the replacement of pickup trucks and motorcycles for the Nevada Highway Patrol, Department of Public Safety. This bill appropriated \$8,531,643 for replacement vehicles and trucks and, in addition, appropriated \$385,252 for replacement motorcycles. This was a one-time appropriation for the 2017-2019 biennium and would become effective on July 1, 2017.

Chair Carlton asked whether these replacement items were all in the replacement cycle. Ms. Jones confirmed that the items were in the replacement cycle, and there were no concerns from Fiscal Analysis Division staff.

Dennis S. Osborn, Chief, Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP), Department of Public Safety, explained that the request included 125 police utility vehicles, the Ford Explorer model. There were currently 308 Ford Explorer vehicles in the NHP inventory. He said the request included 18 Ford F-150 pickup trucks, including uplifting and parts for vehicles, for a total of \$8,531,643. In addition, he continued, the request included nine Harley-Davidson motorcycles, with parts, for a total of \$385,252. All vehicles were to replace vehicles that had exceeded mileage thresholds, and the vehicles were required for NHP to execute the mission of providing traffic services and enforcement on state highways. The NHP's fleet team, he said, had worked to keep the fleet lean and to ensure the vehicles were safe.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were any sedans to be replaced, and Mr. Osborn replied that there were no replacement sedans in the 2017-2019 biennium.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were any questions from Committee members. Hearing no response, she asked whether there was anyone in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on A.B. 507. Hearing no responses, the Chair closed the hearing on A.B. 507.

Assembly Bill 508: Makes an appropriation to the Department of Public Safety for the replacement of dispatch center consoles and portable hand-held radios. (BDR S-1203)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 508 made an appropriation to the Department of Public Safety for the replacement of dispatch center consoles and portable hand-held radios. The bill appropriated \$1,329,123. Ms. Jones explained that the Department of Public Safety had requested an amendment to reduce the appropriation by \$110,251.

Julie Butler, Chief, General Services Division, Department of Public Safety, stated that there were two bureaus at the Department of Public Safety: the Records Bureau and the Communications Bureau. In the Communications Bureau, three statewide dispatch centers were housed in Las Vegas, Carson City, and Elko. The statewide dispatch centers provided communication services for the departments, the majority of which related to the NHP. The current hand-held radios were at end of life, the radios were not vendor supported, the radios experienced a lot of down time, and the radio parts and qualified technicians to work on the radios were difficult to find. Replacing the radios, Ms. Butler added, was an officer safety matter: the replacement radios would bring the radios into vendor support and improve functionality for staff. Based upon past action to decommission the Elko dispatch center on May 9, 2017, the State Highway Fund request could be reduced by \$110,251 to a new total of \$1,218,872. The reduction removed four console units and three portable radios.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were any questions from Committee members.

Assemblywoman Titus asked whether the closure of the Elko office resulted in the need to replace all of the Carson City and Las Vegas radios. Ms. Butler replied that the request included ten consoles and five portable radios in Las Vegas, and five consoles and five portables in Carson City for a complete replacement statewide. Assemblywoman Titus asked whether any consoles were being added and whether the staffing ratios would stay the same.

Ms. Butler said that only six consoles were functional in the Las Vegas office, so additional consoles were requested. She said the limitation in the Carson City office was the dispatch center furniture. When the furniture was replaced, there would be space for more consoles.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were any questions from Committee members. Hearing no response, she asked whether there was anyone in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on A.B. 508. Hearing no responses, the Chair closed the hearing on A.B. 508.

Assembly Bill 509: Makes an appropriation to the Department of Business and Industry for implementation of an electronic management system for public works and prevailing wage surveys in the Office of the Labor Commissioner. (BDR S-1207)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 509 made an appropriation to the Office of the Labor Commissioner, Department of Business and Industry, from the State General Fund for \$48,920 for the installation of an electronic management system for public works and prevailing wage surveys. This one-time appropriation would become effective on July 1, 2017.

Shannon M. Chambers, Labor Commissioner, Office of the Labor Commissioner, Department of Business and Industry, stated that the request included electronic management software for public works projects and the prevailing wage system. In fiscal year (FY) 2016, 528 public works project numbers were issued for schools, roads and other public works projects. In addition, her office was responsible for the prevailing wage calculations for those projects. The goal of the system would be to make the complete process electronic. Public works bodies should be able to access the public works number through the system, and the prevailing wages would be calculated automatically when the contractors submitted surveys for prevailing wages.

Chair Carlton stated her awareness that public works and prevailing wages were a concern in this building. She said that getting data would be important.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were any questions from Committee members. Hearing no response, she asked whether there was anyone in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on A.B. 509. Hearing no responses, the Chair closed the hearing on A.B. 509.

Assembly Bill 510: Makes appropriations to the Bureau of Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired of the Rehabilitation Division of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation and the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Rehabilitation Division of the Department for enhancement of client information systems. (BDR S-1208)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 510 made an appropriation from the State General Fund to the Bureau of Services to Persons Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired, Rehabilitation Division, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation. This bill included appropriations of \$118,665 for an enhancement to the Bureau's client information system and authorized expenditures of \$438,448 not included in the State General Fund or the State Highway Fund.

Ms. Jones explained that A.B. 510 provided an additional appropriation to the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation Division, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, for the same client information system of \$474,660 in State General Funds and authorized expenditures of \$1,753,791. Ms. Jones believed that there would be an amendment for inadvertently omitted maintenance costs.

Shelley Hendren, Administrator, Rehabilitation Division, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, explained that there was an error in the bill request because \$291,287 was mistakenly left out. Only a portion of that amount, she said, was State General Funds, with the remaining portion from the federal Section 110 funding [Rehabilitation Act of 1973].

Ms. Jones indicated that there were similar increases for the Vocational Rehabilitation's budget because the system was shared across the two budgets. The increase in State General Funds for the Rehabilitation Division in section 2, subsection 1, would be \$49,635 for a total of \$524,295 and in section 2, subsection 2, would be a federal fund authority increase of \$183,394 for a new total of \$1,937,185.

Chair Carlton asked whether there were any questions from Committee members. Hearing no response, she asked whether there was anyone in support of, in opposition to, or neutral on A.B. 510. Hearing no responses, the Chair closed the hearing on A.B. 510.

Chair Carlton opened the work session. Her intention was to move Assembly Bill 505, Assembly Bill 506, Assembly Bill 507, Assembly Bill 508, Assembly Bill 509, and Assembly Bill 510.

Assembly Bill 505: Makes appropriations to the Department of Corrections for a new telephone system and certain information systems projects. (BDR S-1200)

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 505 had just been heard. This bill made four appropriations to the Department of Corrections, including for electronic medical records, Nevada Offender Tracking Information System (NOTIS) replacement, phone system replacement, and staff scheduling system replacement. There were no amendments, and the total of the bill was \$6,525,233.

Chair Carlton asked for any questions or comments from Committee members.

Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams asked for clarification of the total amount, and Ms. Jones confirmed the total was \$6,525,233.

Hearing no other questions, Chair Carlton requested a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED TO DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 505.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblyman Anderson was not present for the vote.)

Chair Carlton asked Assemblyman Oscarson to present A.B. 505 on the floor.

Assembly Bill 506: Makes appropriations to the Nevada Gaming Control Board for certain costs relating to the Alpha Migration Project. (BDR S-1201)

Chair Carlton explained that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 506 had just been heard. This bill addressed the Nevada Gaming Control Board for costs related to phase 3 of the Alpha Migration Project. There were no proposed amendments, and she asked whether there were any questions or comments from Committee members. Hearing no questions, Chair Carlton requested a motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BUSTAMANTE ADAMS MOVED TO DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 506.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblyman Anderson was not present for the vote.)

Chair Carlton asked Assemblyman Araujo to present A.B. 506 on the floor.

Assembly Bill 507: Makes appropriations to the Department of Public Safety for the replacement of vehicles, pickup trucks, and motorcycles for the Nevada Highway Patrol. (BDR S-1202)

Chair Carlton explained that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 507 had just been heard. The bill appropriated funds to the Department of Public Safety for vehicles, pickup trucks, and motorcycles for the Nevada Highway Patrol. There were no proposed amendments; the Chair requested a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED TO DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 507.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblyman Anderson was not present for the vote.)

Chair Carlton asked Assemblyman Sprinkle to present A.B. 507 on the floor.

Assembly Bill 508: Makes an appropriation to the Department of Public Safety for the replacement of dispatch center consoles and portable hand-held radios. (BDR S-1203)

Chair Carlton explained that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 508 had just been heard. The bill appropriated funds to the Department of Public Safety for the replacement of dispatch center consoles and portable hand-held radios. There was a proposed amendment to the bill, and Ms. Jones clarified that the new total was \$1,218,872.

The Chair asked whether there were any questions or comments from Committee members. Hearing no questions, the Chair requested a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 508.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblyman Anderson was not present for the vote.)

Chair Carlton asked Assemblyman Hambrick to present A.B. 508 on the floor.

Assembly Bill 509: Makes an appropriation to the Department of Business and Industry for implementation of an electronic management system for public works and prevailing wage surveys in the Office of the Labor Commissioner. (BDR S-1207)

Chair Carlton explained that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 509 had just been heard. The bill appropriated funds of \$48,920 to the Department of Business and Industry, Office of the Labor Commissioner, for the installation of an electronic management system for public works and prevailing wage rates. There were no proposed amendments.

The Chair requested a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED TO DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 509.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblyman Anderson was not present for the vote.)

Chair Carlton asked Assemblywoman Spiegel to present A.B. 509 on the floor.

Assembly Bill 510: Makes appropriations to the Bureau of Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired of the Rehabilitation Division of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation and the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Rehabilitation Division of the Department for enhancement of client information systems. (BDR S-1208)

Chair Carlton explained that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 510 had just been heard. The bill appropriated funds to the Bureau of Services to Persons Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired, Rehabilitation Division, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, and the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation Division, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, for enhancement of client information systems. The Chair stated that she had the corrected amounts and the proposed amendment.

The Chair requested a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARAUJO MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 510.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Assemblyman Anderson was not present for the vote.)

Chair Carlton asked Assemblywoman Titus to present A.B. 510 on the floor.

Chair Carlton opened the meeting to public comment.

Frederick I. Cooper, Air Quality Consultant, Cooper Environmental, wanted to remind the Legislature that Nevada's proposed voucher [Education Savings Account] program may result in undesirable consequences for public schools. He asked the legislators to learn a lesson from the White Pine County School District. He explained that a charter school located in Ely was started in fiscal year (FY) 2013 and was successful in drawing students from the White Pine County School District. The charter school, with growing enrollments, saw increased state funding that subsequently reduced the state funding available to the White Pine County School District. The reduced funding included cuts in teacher positions and sports programs through no fault of the White Pine County School District.

Mr. Cooper stated that similar results could be expected from a private school operating under the voucher program. He cited an instance earlier this year in Michigan when lawsuits were filed to stop all funding of private schools. In that case, he said, funding a successful private school program resulted in budget problems for Michigan's public schools.

Voucher programs may not exhibit problems when the programs were initially created, he continued, but as the private schools grew, major budget problems could arise for the competing public schools. This was one of the many problems with voucher programs, he stated. He urged the Committee members to vote no on the voucher program and to vote no on the voucher program funding.

Chair Carlton clarified that the school voucher bill was not under the jurisdiction of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means.

Kathleen Watty, a private citizen from Incline Village, Nevada, explained that she was now a retired teacher and administrator after 30 years in the Washoe County School District. She stated that she opposed the funding of Senate Bill (S.B.) 506, the school voucher bill, because, she said, public dollars should not finance private schools that discriminated in admissions and employment based on religion, excluded students of certain faiths, or charged students of other faiths a higher tuition rate. The First Amendment provided the right to practice the religion of choice; however, it did not give the right to discriminate with public money.

Wanda M. Dingwall, a private citizen from Sparks, Nevada, was in opposition to S.B. 506, the school voucher bill. She referenced research completed on voucher systems across the country that showed voucher systems were not successful, and that children in private schools (who agreed to standardized testing) did not score as well as public school children. The best schools found in these studies were public schools accountable to public authorities. Studies showed that students who used vouchers to transfer to private schools experienced significant decreases in achievement. In conclusion, she said, S.B. 506 and vouchers were the path to segregation. She had lived through segregation, and she did not want to see Nevada go down that road.

Susan Nielsen, a private citizen lobbyist from Reno, Nevada, said she was in opposition to S.B. 506. She was concerned that the Legislature might follow the Governor's request to pass the voucher bill. She stated that the bill was a terrible bill and would lead to the end of the historic public school system by holding open the door to a vast corporate for-profit plan. The plan was poised to end the community schools entirely. She said that Nevada must dedicate the money that would flee with the vouchers and fund public schools with new programs for the least productive of its students. Yesterday, she had the pleasure of sitting in on a joint Senate and Assembly Education Committee hearing on Senate Bill 178, which presented a plan that seemed to be headed toward incredible success. The school superintendents from Washoe and Clark Counties gave the plan glowing recommendations and all presenters from the field of K-12 education gave the plan very high marks. She asked Committee members to make sure the funding decisions made this session enriched Nevada's public school system. She asked legislators to support this program when the opportunity arose.

Wendell Newman, a private citizen from Washoe County, was bothered by the school voucher program because the program used tax money for private schools. He believed that tax money should be used for public schools, and he had a problem with the fairness of S.B. 506. He was not part of any tax organization, but he believed he spoke for taxpayers across the state when he said it was wrong to use taxpayer money for the voucher program. Voucher programs had not been proven to serve the intended purpose. He saw this as a national movement to privatize public schools, and he felt that was the wrong direction to go. He urged Committee members to vote against S.B. 506.

Peggy Lear Bowen, a private citizen from Reno, Nevada, reminded Committee members about the history of education in the United States of America. Thomas Jefferson said that the only reason for public schools was to have an educated electorate or voter. Tax money should go to the education of the public for the purpose of educating voters so students could read, write, and do mathematics in the old-fashioned way. Reading involved comprehension, and most important, the ability to apply information gained from reading, texting, or tweeting. She emphasized to Committee members that there were those with more dedicated means who could go to private schools, and choices were available, given different economic earnings. The voucher system smacked of going against the First Amendment, of putting one religion against another, of putting one's means against another, and of taking the "public" out of public schools. She noted that public charter schools were not accountable to any elected official. She was asking legislators to make public charter schools accountable to an elected person with fiduciary responsibility.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Keaton Westergard
Recording Committee Secretary

Carmen M. Neveau
Transcribing Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

[Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster.

[Exhibit C](#) is a document titled "Proposed Amendment to A.B. 472," referenced by Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit D](#) is a document titled "Proposed Language to A.B. 484," prepared by the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, and referenced by Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.