

THE FORTY-SIXTH DAY

CARSON CITY (Thursday), March 21, 2019

Assembly called to order at 11:57 a.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Roll called.

All present except Assemblymen Hafen and Hambrick, who were excused, and one vacant.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Pastor J.J. Tuttle.

Thank You, O Lord, for giving us another day. Lord, You are ever present, the source of all wisdom and self-giving love. The sacred scriptures reveal Your continued guidance in human affairs. We thank You for the many blessings granted this great state throughout its history.

May we seek Your mercy and rely on Your revelations to guide and protect this legislative body. With renewed standards of ethics and a deeper commitment of accountability, may all who serve in public office be Your steady instruments in unifying, protecting, and guiding the people of this state to increasing virtue, greater prosperity, and witness to goodness for the world.

May all that is done this day be done for Your greater honor and glory.

AMEN.

Pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with and the Speaker and Chief Clerk be authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

Motion carried.

Mr. Speaker announced if there were no objections, the Assembly would recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Assembly in recess at 12:04 p.m.

ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 12:58 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Quorum present.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

By Assemblymen Thompson, Watts, Assefa, Neal, Carrillo, Flores and Martinez; Senators Harris, Spearman and Woodhouse:

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 6—Urging Congress to prevent the United States Census Bureau from adding a citizenship question to the 2020 decennial census.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections.

Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

By Assemblywoman Hansen:

Assembly Bill No. 378—AN ACT relating to mental health; requiring the model plan for the management of a crisis, emergency or suicide involving a school to include a plan for transporting a pupil with a mental illness to a mental health facility or hospital; clarifying that consent from any parent or legal guardian of a person is not necessary for the emergency admission of that person; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Education.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman Daly:

Assembly Bill No. 379—AN ACT relating to local government; revising the powers that a board of county commissioners or the governing body of an incorporated city may exercise without express statutory authority; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Wheeler, Ellison, Titus, Hafen, Hansen, Hardy, Kramer, Krasner, Leavitt, Roberts and Tolles; Senators Hammond, Hansen, Pickard and Settlemeyer:

Assembly Bill No. 380—AN ACT relating to education; making a child who is a reported victim of bullying or cyber-bullying in a public school immediately eligible for an education savings account; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Education.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Titus, Benitez-Thompson, Hansen and Leavitt; Senators Ratti and Hardy:

Assembly Bill No. 381—AN ACT relating to days of observance; designating April 16 as “Healthcare Decisions Day” in Nevada; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

By Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno:

Assembly Bill No. 382—AN ACT relating to State Government; requiring the Administrator of the Division of Human Resource Management of the Department of Administration to conduct biennial surveys relating to the

compensation of certain classified employees in the Department of Public Safety and make certain related revisions to the pay plan for such classified employees in certain circumstances; requiring the inclusion of certain expenditures relating to the compensation of those employees of the Department of Public Safety in the proposed budget for the Executive Department of the State Government; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman Frierson:

Assembly Bill No. 383—AN ACT relating to student education loans; providing for the licensing and regulation of student loan servicers by the Commissioner of Financial Institutions; providing for the designation of a Student Loan Ombudsman within the Division of Financial Institutions of the Department of Business and Industry and prescribing the powers and duties relating to that position; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman McCurdy:

Assembly Bill No. 384—AN ACT relating to employment; requiring a court to award certain relief to an employee injured by unlawful employment practices under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen McCurdy and Neal:

Assembly Bill No. 385—AN ACT relating to tax credits; enacting the Southern Nevada Enterprise Community Economic Development Act; creating the Southern Nevada Enterprise Community Advisory Council; providing for the issuance of transferable tax credits to a project that satisfies certain requirements related to the economic development of the Southern Nevada Enterprise Community and certain other requirements; authorizing the governing body of a city or county to grant abatements of certain permitting and licensing fees imposed or charged by the city or county; removing authorization for the issuance of certain transferrable tax credits for certain qualified projects; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Taxation.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman McCurdy:

Assembly Bill No. 386—AN ACT relating to special license plates; providing for the issuance of special license plates that commemorate the historic Moulin Rouge Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas; exempting the special license plates from certain provisions otherwise applicable to special license plates; imposing a fee for the issuance and renewal of such license plates; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Growth and Infrastructure.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Frierson and Backus:

Assembly Bill No. 387—AN ACT relating to mental health; establishing a task force to develop a program to prevent the relinquishment of custody of certain children to an agency which provides child welfare services because of a need for services for a mental illness or emotional disturbance; requiring an agency which provides child welfare services to annually report to the Department of Health and Human Services certain information concerning the relinquishment of custody of children to the agency; requiring the Department to annually report to the Legislature certain information concerning such relinquishment and the effectiveness of the program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman Leavitt:

Assembly Bill No. 388—AN ACT relating to taxation; exempting from personal property taxes certain heavy equipment used for construction, earthmoving and industrial purposes that is owned by a person engaged in the business of renting or leasing such equipment; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Taxation.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman Leavitt and Senator Hardy:

Assembly Bill No. 389—AN ACT providing a charter for the City of Laughlin; requiring an election to be held on the question of incorporation of the City; making the incorporation of the City contingent upon approval of the incorporation by the qualified electors of the area to be included in the City; setting forth certain powers and duties of the City Council and

the Board of County Commissioners of Clark County if incorporation is approved by the qualified electors; providing penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Leavitt, Assefa, Roberts, Kramer, Duran, Edwards, Ellison, Hafen, Hansen, Nguyen, Peters, Torres and Watts; Senators Pickard, Hammond, Hardy and Kieckhefer:

Assembly Bill No. 390—AN ACT relating to stop lamps; authorizing the use of certain devices in motor vehicles which cause certain stop lamps to flash briefly upon the application of brakes; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Growth and Infrastructure.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman Ellison:

Assembly Bill No. 391—AN ACT relating to state employees; prescribing a minimum annual base salary for certain employees of the Department of Public Safety; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Hardy, Hansen, Tolles, Hafen, Kramer, Titus and Wheeler; Senators Hardy, Hammond, Pickard and Seevers Gansert:

Assembly Bill No. 392—AN ACT relating to education; requiring the Department of Education, the board of trustees of a school district and the governing body of a charter school to coordinate with the Office of Workforce Innovation in the Office of the Governor to certify work-based learning programs; establishing the requirements for an employer to become a work-based learning program; providing that a pupil in certain work-based learning programs is considered an employee for the purpose of workers' compensation; authorizing an insurer that provides workers' compensation to grant a reduction in the premium of the policy of a work-based learning organization; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Education.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman Frierson:

Assembly Bill No. 393—AN ACT relating to governmental administration; prohibiting the foreclosure of real property or a lien against a unit in a common-interest community owned by a federal worker, state worker or household member of such a worker during a government shutdown in certain circumstances; providing certain protections to a tenant who is a federal worker, state worker or household member of such a worker during a government shutdown; prohibiting a person from repossessing the vehicle of a federal worker, state worker or household member of such a worker during a government shutdown; authorizing the provision of assistance in paying for natural gas and electricity to a federal worker, state worker or household member of such a worker during a government shutdown; providing penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By Assemblywoman Martinez:

Assembly Bill No. 394—AN ACT relating to unemployment compensation; requiring an employer that uses certain self-service devices to pay a fee; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman Edwards:

Assembly Bill No. 395—AN ACT relating to vehicles; authorizing the operation of an unregistered motor vehicle under certain circumstances; revising provisions relating to the Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles; revising provisions relating to the operation of certain off-highway vehicles on certain roads; revising provisions relating to the authority of certain local governing bodies to restrict the operation of off-highway vehicles on certain roads; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Growth and Infrastructure.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman Edwards:

Assembly Bill No. 396—AN ACT relating to education; making a child who is a victim of bullying or cyber-bullying in a public school immediately eligible for the establishment of an education savings account; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Education.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Benitez-Thompson and Frierson:

Assembly Bill No. 397—AN ACT relating to misconduct by certain public officials; authorizing the Nevada Equal Rights Commission to recommend impeachment or removal of certain public officials under certain circumstances; providing that an accusation of sexual harassment by the Commission is legally sufficient for removal in certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

By Assemblywoman Jauregui:

Assembly Bill No. 398—AN ACT relating to commercial mortgage lending; exempting commercial mortgage brokers from the requirement to obtain a certain type of license; requiring a commercial mortgage broker to obtain a certificate of exemption from the Commissioner of Mortgage Lending under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

By Assemblywoman Spiegel:

Assembly Bill No. 399—AN ACT relating to employment; creating the Board of Trustees of the Nevada Employee Savings Trust; prescribing the membership, powers, duties and limitations of the Board; authorizing the Board to create the Nevada Employee Savings Trust Program; prescribing certain required attributes of the Program; creating the Nevada Employee Savings Administrative Fund and specifying the sources and uses of money deposited therein; creating the Nevada Employee Savings Trust and prescribing the manner of its administration; providing for the confidentiality of certain information; providing civil immunity to certain persons and entities in connection with the Program; making certain persons fiduciaries with respect to participants in the Program; prohibiting certain persons from engaging in certain financial transactions in connection with the Program; requiring the preparation and submission of certain annual reports; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

By Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson:

Assembly Bill No. 400—AN ACT relating to tax abatements; prohibiting the Office of Economic Development from granting certain tax abatements to a person who has already received tax abatements; prohibiting the Office from approving certain abatements of the taxes imposed for the support of local schools; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Taxation.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Assefa, Kramer and Munk:

Assembly Bill No. 401—AN ACT relating to motor vehicle registration; imposing a fee based on vehicle miles traveled upon the renewal of registration of certain light-duty motor vehicles; requiring the Department of Motor Vehicles to calculate and charge such a fee; requiring deposit of certain portions of the fee in the State Highway Fund; requiring the Department of Transportation to provide a report to the Legislature concerning the highways of this State; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Growth and Infrastructure.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Assefa, Monroe-Moreno, Neal and Torres:

Assembly Bill No. 402—AN ACT relating to taxicabs; authorizing a transportation workers cooperative to obtain an operating certificate from the Taxicab Authority authorizing members of the cooperative to operate a taxicab in certain circumstances; imposing a fee for such a certificate, and a fee for the operation of a taxicab; authorizing the Authority to regulate such a transportation workers cooperative, its members and the taxicabs of its members; creating a Compliance Enforcement Division in the Department of Business and Industry; authorizing the Division to enforce certain provisions of law relating to motor carriers; exempting certain operators of a taxicab from the imposition and collection of certain excise taxes; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Growth and Infrastructure.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Ellison, Kramer, Roberts, Leavitt, Titus and Wheeler:

Assembly Bill No. 403—AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; revising provisions relating to the applicability of certain traffic laws concerning

reckless driving and vehicular manslaughter; providing penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Growth and Infrastructure.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Titus, Ellison, Kramer, Tolles, Hardy, Krasner, Leavitt and Wheeler; Senator Settlemeyer:

Assembly Bill No. 404—AN ACT relating to hunting; requiring the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to establish a program authorizing a person to transfer a lawfully obtained tag to another person under certain circumstances; authorizing the Department of Wildlife to charge and collect a fee in a certain amount for transferring a tag pursuant to the program; authorizing the Commission to establish an additional program which authorizes a person to transfer a lawfully obtained tag to certain qualified organizations for use by certain persons; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Kramer, Carrillo, Assefa, Hardy, Leavitt, Titus and Wheeler:

Assembly Bill No. 405—AN ACT relating to student loans; requiring the State Treasurer to develop and carry into effect a program to use proceeds from the issuance of certain bonds to make or finance student loans to certain students enrolled in certain short-duration job training courses of study; authorizing the issuance of private activity bonds to pay the cost of the program; repealing provisions relating to an existing student loan program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Kramer, Titus and Ellison:

Assembly Bill No. 406—AN ACT relating to the Airport Authority of Carson City; revising provisions relating to the appointment of members of the Board of Trustees of the Authority; revising the powers of the Board; revising provisions governing procedures concerning employment; removing an obsolete transitory provision; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Hardy and Roberts; Senators Hardy, Hammond and Pickard:

Assembly Bill No. 407—AN ACT relating to personal information; authorizing an agreement between the Department of Motor Vehicles and certain governmental entities regarding the maintenance and retention of certain records relating to the provision and use of certain personal information contained in the files and records of the Department; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Growth and Infrastructure.

Motion carried.

By Assemblywoman Hardy; Senators Hammond and Seevers Gansert:

Assembly Bill No. 408—AN ACT relating to animals; revising provisions governing the access of service animals and service animals in training to certain places; requiring a place of public accommodation, a common carrier, a common motor carrier of passengers or other means of public conveyance or transportation to post a sign providing certain information to patrons concerning such access; providing penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman McCurdy:

Assembly Bill No. 409—AN ACT relating to marijuana; establishing requirements for the issuance of a license to operate a marijuana consumption lounge by a county or city; authorizing a marijuana consumption lounge to purchase marijuana or marijuana products from a retail marijuana store for resale to the customers of the marijuana consumption lounge; imposing an excise tax on marijuana or marijuana products sold by a marijuana consumption lounge; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Krasner, Titus, Flores and Fumo; Senators Spearman and Settelmeyer:

Assembly Bill No. 410—AN ACT relating to orders for protection; revising provisions relating to orders for protection against domestic violence or stalking, aggravated stalking or harassment; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SIGNING OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

There being no objections, the Speaker and Chief Clerk signed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4.

Mr. Speaker announced if there were no objections, the Assembly would recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Assembly in recess at 1:13 p.m.

ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 4:55 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Quorum present.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Mr. Speaker appointed Assemblymen McCurdy and Krasner as a committee to invite the Senate to meet in Joint Session with the Assembly to hear an address by Nevada Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Gibbons.

The members of the Senate appeared before the bar of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker invited the members of the Senate to chairs in the Assembly.

IN JOINT SESSION

At 5:02 p.m.

President of the Senate presiding.

The Secretary of the Senate called the Senate roll.

All present except Senator Kieckhefer, who was excused.

The Chief Clerk of the Assembly called the Assembly roll.

All present except Assemblymen Bilbray-Axelrod, Hafen, Hambrick, and Titus, who were excused, and one vacant.

The President of the Senate appointed a Committee on Escort consisting of Senator Pickard and Assemblywoman Cohen to wait upon the Honorable Chief Justice Mark Gibbons and escort him to the Assembly Chamber.

The Committee on Escort in company with The Honorable Nevada Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Gibbons appeared before the bar of the Assembly.

The Committee on Escort escorted the Chief Justice to the rostrum.

Mr. Speaker welcomed Chief Justice Gibbons and invited him to deliver his message.

Chief Justice Gibbons delivered his message as follows:

MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEVADA
EIGHTIETH SESSION, 2019

Governor Sisolak, Lieutenant Governor Marshall, Speaker Frierson, Majority Leader Cannizzaro, Majority Leader Benitez-Thompson, Attorney General Ford, distinguished members of the Senate and the Assembly, honorable constitutional officers, and honored guests. Thank you for the opportunity of speaking to the Nevada Legislature on behalf of our state's judicial system.

On January 16th in his State of the State Address, Governor Sisolak began his remarks by acknowledging that for the first time in history, the Nevada Legislature has a majority of women. When I first began my legal career in Nevada as an attorney, Nevada had never elected a woman to either the Nevada Supreme Court or the district court. In 1982, Miriam Shearing became the first woman elected to the district court. Judge Shearing made history again in 1992 when she became the first woman elected to the Nevada Supreme Court. As Nevada makes further history, the Nevada Supreme Court now also has a majority of women.

I would like to introduce my colleagues on the Nevada Supreme Court: Associate Chief Justice Kristina Pickering, Justice Jim Hardesty, Justice Ron Parraguirre, Justice Lidia Stiglich, Justice Elissa Cadish, and Justice Abbi Silver. It is my privilege to serve with these distinguished jurists. Tonight from the Nevada Court of Appeals, we have with us Chief Judge Michael Gibbons and our newest judge, Bonnie Bulla. Also with us tonight are Chief Judge Linda Bell from the Clark County District Court, Chief Judge Scott Freeman from the Washoe County District Court, together with Judge Bridget Robb from Washoe County, Judge Tom Stockard from Churchill County, and Judge Tom Gregory from Douglas County. I would also like to recognize and thank the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Elizabeth Brown; legal counsel, Phaedra Kalicki; the Supreme Court's extraordinary legal staff; the Director and Assistant Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Robin Sweet and John McCormick; our Law Library Director, Jason Sowards; and the dedicated and hardworking staff of the Supreme Court and AOC [Administrative Office of the Courts.]

I would like to acknowledge attorney Tom Harris, Chief Assistant Clerk. Tom passed away on February 21, 2019. Tom spent 19 years with the Court and was an extraordinary member of our court family. His loss is deeply felt by all of us and we will miss him very much.

I am privileged to speak on behalf of our 3 Court of Appeals judges, 82 district court judges, 67 justices of the peace, 30 municipal court judges, and the nearly 2,000 court employees throughout the state. On behalf of all employees of the Supreme Court and the Administrative Office of the Courts, I thank Governor Sisolak for including in his budget a request for a salary increase for all state employees and teachers. Speaking as a long-term Nevada resident, I hope that consideration is also given to a pay increase for the most underpaid state employees in Nevada: the 63 hard-working members of the Nevada Legislature. We appreciate all of your hard work, not only throughout the session but throughout the year when you have to do constituent work; committee work you do throughout that time.

Nevada's judicial officers and court employees are committed to the administration of fair and impartial justice in criminal, civil, family, and juvenile disputes in accordance with the rule of law. In fulfilling our constitutional duties, we are mindful of the importance of providing timely access to the court system and resolving cases as efficiently as budgets and caseloads permit. I am proud to serve with these dedicated public servants and offer my profound thanks to all of them for their service to all Nevadans.

My purpose this evening is to discuss the state of the Judicial Branch. In doing so, I would like to share with you some of the many accomplishments of the Nevada courts and offer a vision for the future of Nevada's Judiciary.

As you know, the resolution of disputes represents the core function of the Nevada court system. In today's environment, what is the right role for Nevada's Judiciary? Whether we like it or not, the state courts of this country are in the eye of the storm. We have become the emergency room for society's worst ailments: substance abuse, family violence, mental illness, and so much more. This reality has forced the courts to approach cases with innovation and collaboration with all involved. These pressures underscore the need for a public judicial system that is timely and efficient in its management of a case, while treating each person with respect and dignity.

As Justices of the Supreme Court, some of our duties include community outreach. For the past decade, the Nevada Supreme Court has held oral arguments of actual cases in high schools throughout Nevada. In Washoe County, the court has held arguments at Reno High School, Bishop Manogue, and Sparks High Schools. In Clark County, the court has held arguments at Palo Verde, Valley, and Bishop Gorman high schools. Outside of our two largest counties, the court has held oral arguments at high schools in Pahrump, Tonopah, Panaca, West Wendover, Elko, Winnemucca, Fallon, Yerington, and Minden. When we meet with high school students, we have an opportunity to show them how the courts work and answer their questions. It also gives us the chance to emphasize the importance of completing their education and the dangers of substance abuse.

As part of our community outreach, we urge all of our judges to serve on jury duty when the opportunity arises. In Clark County, a number of our district judges have served as jurors for civil cases. Several years ago, I was selected for jury duty for a one-week criminal trial in Carson City. I took this opportunity as a juror to submit several written questions to witnesses during the trial. My jury service was a great experience, and I urge all Nevadans to do so if you have the opportunity.

Since the Nevada Court of Appeals was created in 2015, it has improved justice in our state by reducing the Supreme Court's caseload, shortening the time to decide appellate cases and increasing the number of published opinions on Nevada law. From what I have witnessed during the first four years of operation, I can state with confidence that the Court of Appeals has a very bright future.

Since 2015, the Court of Appeals has been assigned approximately 4,000 cases. By the end of 2018, the Court of Appeals had decided approximately 3,600 of these cases, or 90 percent of the cases assigned to it. The success of the Court of Appeals is one of many examples of the achievements of the Nevada Judiciary.

I would like to update you on a few others. In 2001, the Supreme Court created the business court in Clark and Washoe Counties. Patterned loosely after Delaware's Chancery Courts, the business courts in Nevada are designed to resolve the most complex, lengthy, and expensive business disputes in a timely, cost-efficient manner. Prior to establishing Nevada's business court, these cases usually took more than four years to complete. Today, a business court case takes roughly two years to reach conclusion.

Nevada's drug courts and other specialty courts continue the incredible journey that began in 1992 when Nevada launched the nation's fifth drug court. The Legislature's continued support of these courts through administrative assessments and General Fund appropriations has enabled dedicated specialty court judges and staff to achieve successes that no one thought possible. In 2018 alone, the 56 drug and mental health courts throughout the state served 6,527 clients, with 1,284 of these clients completing the program and graduating that year. During the past year, 48 drug-free babies were born to participants in these and other specialty courts—that is 48 babies who now have a chance to grow up without the prenatal limitations caused by drug-addicted mothers.

Individuals charged with nonviolent crimes who have opioid or other substance abuse addictions can enroll in specialty court and complete an intensive rehabilitation program. When they are successful and graduate, they will receive a reduction or dismissal of the criminal charges. Recently, 28 clients graduated from the medication assisted treatment court. This two-year diversion court serves adults suffering from opioid addiction under the supervision of a medical doctor. Medications, such as Suboxone and Vivitrol, are prescribed to help addicts end dependency. Because of this success, the medication assisted treatment court now has been expanded to 55 participants. National studies show that almost 60 percent of criminal defendants who graduate from a drug court program remain drug free for the remainder of their lives and do not commit new crimes.

It is easier to staff drug courts in Nevada's urban areas. Nevertheless, the Supreme Court, through the Specialty Court Funding Committee, is making every effort to allocate necessary resources to our rural communities. As part of our state's effort to fight the opioid crisis and other controlled substance abuse, the Supreme Court has requested senior judges to assist the district courts to expand the number of participants in drug court programs. For example, Senior Judges Peter Breen, at age 79, and Archie Blake, at age 76, drive 1,900 miles every month between

Lovelock, Fallon, Hawthorne, Yerington, Minden, and Carson City to assist the district courts to service more than 460 drug court clients and help save lives. Senior Judges Breen and Blake were two of the pioneers of development of drug courts in Nevada during the 1990s. When individuals with substance abuse problems graduate from drug court, they not only avoid incarceration at taxpayers' expense, but are able to maintain employment and contribute as productive members of society.

Also, I want to update you on the success of the felony DUI court program. There are 11 DUI court programs throughout Nevada. This specialty court deals with serious and chronic DUI offenders who have failed to appreciate their actions after prior jail or prison terms. The DUI court has been remarkably successful in breaking the destructive cycle of these offenders. In 2018, 278 clients graduated from DUI court programs throughout Nevada.

These initiatives are a few of the many achievements of the Judicial Branch. All of them illustrate the dedication of the judges and court employees who work very hard every day to make the courts responsive to the needs of Nevada's citizens.

As we look to the future, I perceive a lengthy agenda for Nevada's judicial system. We must continue our efforts to make the public judicial system responsive to the needs of people in civil cases. Access to justice in Nevada cannot be just a goal, it must be a reality. Families and children in crisis and unrepresented litigants have every right to expect their judicial system to work equally for them. Too often, parties turn away from the public judicial system because it is just too expensive and takes too long. This issue is not unique to Nevada. A committee of the Conference of Chief Justices has been studying two fundamental reasons for cost and delay in the public judicial system. These reasons are case management by judges and the rules of civil procedure. Discovery rules add cost and time to an already challenging process. The Nevada Supreme Court recently approved the recommendations of a committee of experts, who included Justices Pickering and Cadish, Judge Bulla, Judge Wilson from Carson City, Judge Wanker from Pahrump, and Washoe County Discovery Commissioner Wesley Ayres. As a result, the Supreme Court has amended the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure to help accomplish these goals. These rule changes will assist civil litigants for years to come.

In addition, we must study and improve our methods for setting pretrial release conditions for those accused of a crime. Pretrial judicial decisions about the release or detention of a defendant must be based on risk assessments. The decisions of judges have a significant impact on thousands of defendants. Incarceration adds great financial stress to publicly funded jails holding defendants who are unable to make bail or meet financial conditions of release. As our jail populations swell, particularly in Clark County, Nevada's judges are adopting Nevada-specific pretrial release assessment tools that better determine if a defendant will fail to appear or present a risk of safety to others. Studies show that imposing conditions on a defendant that are appropriate for that individual, following a valid pretrial risk assessment, substantially reduce pretrial detention without impairing the judicial process or threatening public safety. In Washoe County and Clark County, District Judges Elliot Sattler and Doug Herndon, together with Justices of the Peace Scott Pearson and Joe Bonaventure, have initiated programs utilizing risk assessment tools to grant pretrial release to individuals accused of crimes but who do not have the money or collateral to obtain bail. In rural Nevada, courts in Douglas and Churchill Counties have voluntarily initiated similar programs. These tools have been very successful in predicting whether an individual will commit other offenses while awaiting trial and further ensure that the individual will appear for all scheduled court appearances. The Nevada Supreme Court entered an order yesterday requiring all Nevada courts to commence training for the use of pretrial risk assessment tools within nine months. We urge the Legislature to expand the statutory authority of these pretrial risk assessment tools.

I am excited about the future of Nevada's judicial system. I cannot think of a better time to practice law in our state. Boyd Law School is ranked among the top 60 law schools in the country. We have judges and court employees who are motivated, enthusiastic, innovative, and engaged in working every day to make our public judicial system the best that it can be. I am proud to serve with these outstanding public servants.

However, we cannot take the public's confidence in the courts for granted. We can improve justice if we adhere to the rule of law, remain proactive in the management of our cases, creative in our efforts to provide access to the courts, sensitive to the needs of people who come before us,

innovative in our resolution of disputes, accountable for our own behavior, and fiscally responsible and transparent in all that we do.

Finally, I want to leave you with a thought from Cicero, a Roman politician and lawyer, who said, "The people's good is the highest law."

Thank you for the opportunity to visit with you. We hope you will join us in the Supreme Court rotunda for our reception at 6 p.m. this evening.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the Senate and Assembly in Joint Session extend a vote of thanks to Chief Justice Gibbons for his timely, able, and constructive message.

Seconded by Assemblywoman Backus.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee on Escort escorted Chief Justice Gibbons to the bar of the Assembly.

Assemblywoman Hansen moved that the Joint Session be dissolved.

Seconded by Senator Hansen.

Motion carried.

Joint session dissolved at 5:27 p.m.

ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 5:28 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Quorum present.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF ASSEMBLY FLOOR

On request of Assemblyman Assefa, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Alfredo Santiago, Marserenith Gonzales, and Nuhamin Gebremariam.

On request of Assemblywoman Backus, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Carlos Velis, Mariah Davis, and Gavin Garcia.

On request of Assemblywoman Bilbray-Axelrod, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Reina Velis, Ruben Serna, and James Meriweather Jr.

On request of Assemblywoman Carlton, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to and Darin Imlay.

On request of Assemblyman Carrillo, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Louise Stewart, Ivon Meneses, and Ruby Estrada.

On request of Assemblywoman Cohen, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Kevin Butler, Rosita Cesareo-Navarrete, and Francisco Rodriguez.

On request of Assemblyman Daly, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to the following students, teachers, and chaperones from Jesse Hall Elementary School: Kylee Baeckel, Hailey Blunk, Neveah Carrillo, Tooa Collins, Brandon Curtis, Nico Delamora, Shaila Estrada Perez, Taylor Flood, James Flores, Kayleena Fries, Mateo Hyatt, Jarret Jarding, Kevin Jim, Esmeralda Martinez-Malone, Hunter Mclean, Jordan Rivers, Braden Ross, Layton Stewart-Thompson, Jae-Lah Thayer, Brooklyn Trimble, Savahna Verdeck, Halle Wagner, Michael Wells, Hudson White, Ember Aguilar, Hayley Barnato, Chris Brown, Jayden Cervantes, Malachi Cervantes-Thayer, Kara Corona, Tyler Grier, Caden Hart, Record Hendricks, Taylor Imelli, Brayden James, Nicole Kirsch, Paige Lowrey, Jalei Moody, Julianna Naranjo-Moreno, Brady Porter, Presley Price, Iven Ramirez, Ensley Riley, Jett Rotsma, Joseph Shaw Jr., Abigail Sheriff, Skye Thompson, Meyer Walking Bull, Audryana Webb, Travis Young, Emma Andelin, Xiana Andersen, Marley Armstrong, Cortlyn Bailey, Sabrina Bataller, Deegan Benbrook, Dylan Bingham, Morgan Clack, Avery Clark, Layten Easley, Fernando Hernandez, Judah Karsten, Ava Marquis, Abigail Martinez, Olivia Murillo, Floyd Shaw, Joshua Shaw, Clara Shippee, Nathan Stark, Sienna Stites, Lillianne Vallieres, Gage White, Cayden Wilkett, Brandon Young, Jazel Hays, Brigham Andelin, Charity Beights, Alexia Card, Niemah Carrillo, Vincent Carter, Kenneth Cortes, Nyah Dettloff, Ky Dupree, Bryan Ford, Emma Fulton, Rebecca Gilmore, Mitchell Hoven, Royce Howard, Jayden Ordonez, Jameson Palmer Knight, Atsa-Etsa Phoenix, Kelsilyn Poole, Shaden Quartz, Lily Reynoso-Anaya, Gavin Rhodes, Kolton Sego, Chesney Simpson, Maddi Twichell, Brooklyn Wagner, Zander Zielinski, Fernando Romero, Maria Romero, and Erick Romero.

On request of Assemblywoman Duran, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Alicia Contreras, Lupita Ramirez, and Joseph Harwell.

On request of Assemblyman Ellison, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Paul Satonin.

On request of Assemblyman Flores, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Elias Barajas, Alonso Montes Sotelo, and Maria Nieto.

On request of Assemblyman Fumo, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Nora Luna.

On request of Assemblywoman Hansen, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Thomas L. Stockard.

On request of Assemblywoman Hardy, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Vickie Shields, Nicola Opfer, and Glenn Christenson.

On request of Assemblywoman Jauregui, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Nayeli Nereida Cazares Guillen, Cazares Guillen, and Mary Carmen Guillen.

On request of Assemblyman Kramer, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Andra Scano.

On request of Assemblyman Leavitt, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Anthony Ruiz, Erin Keller, and Serge Ballif.

On request of Assemblywoman Martinez, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Carlos Hernandez, Erika Castro, Frankie Perez, and Lydia Lopez.

On request of Assemblyman McCurdy, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Andrew Sierra and Dara Colon.

On request of Assemblywoman Munk, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Caleb Green and Cecia Alvarado.

On request of Assemblywoman Nguyen, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Elana L. Graham and Elana T. Graham.

On request of Assemblywoman Peters, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Bernice Olguin, Mayra Salinas, and Ivette Avina.

On request of Assemblyman Roberts, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Bart Patterson, Amber Lopez, and Shantal Marshall.

On request of Assemblywoman Spiegel, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Vickie Roberts, Heidi Batiste, Felicia Ortiz, and Abby Peters.

On request of Assemblywoman Swank, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Judge Linda Bell, Judge Scott Freeman, and Judge Tom Gregory.

On request of Assemblyman Thompson, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to D'Anthony Brim, Tiffany Black, and Phillip LaMotte.

On request of Assemblywoman Titus, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Ofelia Olague Orosco.

On request of Assemblywoman Tolles, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Judge Bridget Robb and Lauren Morris.

On request of Assemblywoman Torres, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Edith Fernandez, Yahaira Cueller, and Ricky Gourrier.

On request of Assemblyman Watts, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Fermin Ramirez and Alida Chavez.

On request of Assemblyman Yeager, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Shartriya Collier-Stewart, Nick Claus, Jessica Cordoba, and Gloria J. Sturman.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the Assembly adjourn until Monday, March 25, 2019, at 11:30 a.m.

Motion carried.

Assembly adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Approved:

JASON FRIERSON
Speaker of the Assembly

Attest: SUSAN FURLONG
Chief Clerk of the Assembly