

SENATE BILL NO. 425—SENATORS DONDERO LOOP, LANGE;  
CANNIZZARO, DALY, D. HARRIS, NEAL, NGUYEN,  
OHRENSCHALL AND SCHEIBLE

MARCH 27, 2023

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Establishes the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education to develop a statewide vision and implementation plan to improve the public education system in this State. (BDR 34-1060)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.  
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

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

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

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

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



17 Commission for the Commission to enter into a contract with an organization to  
18 assist in the work of the Commission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 (c) *The Superintendent of Public Instruction;*

16 (d) *The Director of the Office of Finance;*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



1 (n) One member appointed by the Nevada League of Cities;  
2 (o) One member who is the representative of an organization  
3 that advocates for public education, appointed by the  
4 Superintendent of Public Instruction;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 5. Each member of the Commission:

38 (a) Serves without compensation; and

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

42 6. Each appointed member of the Commission serves a term  
43 of 2 years and may be reappointed for additional terms of 2 years  
44 in the same manner as the original appointment. Any vacancy  
45 occurring in the membership of the Commission must be filled in



1 *the same manner as the original appointment not later than 30*  
2 *days after the vacancy occurs.*

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

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

9 *9. The Commission may appoint subcommittees to address*  
10 *designated projects or consider specific problems or other matters*  
11 *that are related to and within the scope of the functions of the*  
12 *Commission, as the Commission determines necessary to carry out*  
13 *the duties of the Commission.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

- 5 For the Fiscal Year 2023-2024..... \$12,500
- 6 For the Fiscal Year 2024-2025..... \$12,500

7 2. Any balance of the sums appropriated by subsection 1  
8 remaining at the end of the respective fiscal years must not be  
9 committed for expenditure after June 30 of the respective fiscal  
10 years by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity  
11 to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise  
12 transferred in any manner, and any portion of appropriated money  
13 remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September 20,  
14 2024, and September 19, 2025, respectively, by either the entity to  
15 which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money  
16 was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the  
17 State General Fund on or before September 20, 2024, and  
18 September 19, 2025, respectively.

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

25 2. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by  
26 subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30,  
27 2025, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity  
28 to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise  
29 transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated  
30 money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after  
31 September 19, 2025, by either the entity to which the money was  
32 appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently  
33 granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General  
34 Fund on or before September 19, 2025.

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

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

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

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



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

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