

Senate Bill No. 71–Committee on Education

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to education; renaming the Nevada State Teacher Recruitment and Retention Advisory Task Force; revising the membership of the Task Force to include education support professionals; revising the powers and duties of the Task Force; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

Existing law creates the Nevada State Teacher Recruitment and Retention Advisory Task Force for the purpose of evaluating and addressing the challenges in attracting and retaining teachers throughout this State. (NRS 391.490-391.496) Under existing law, the Task Force is composed of 20 teachers from various school districts in this State. (NRS 391.492) **Section 3** of this bill defines the term “education support professional” for the purpose of the Task Force to include paraprofessionals, security officers, school nurses, counselors, psychologists and social workers, school bus drivers and clerical, food service, custodial and maintenance staff. **Sections 7.2 and 7.4** of this bill revise the name of the Task Force to the Nevada State Teacher and Education Support Professional Recruitment and Retention Advisory Task Force. **Section 7.4** requires the Task Force be composed of 20 members employed by a school district in this State. To the extent practicable, **section 7.4** requires 10 of those members to be teachers and 10 to be education support professionals. **Section 7.6** of this bill establishes: (1) the qualifications for membership on the Task Force; and (2) the procedure for appointment to the Task Force. **Section 7.8** of this bill expands the duties of the Task Force to include evaluating and addressing the challenges throughout the State in attracting and retaining education support professionals. **Section 7.85** of this bill makes an appropriation to the Department of Education for travel costs for the members of and staff costs for the Task Force.

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

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

**Section 1.** Chapter 391 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act.

**Sec. 2.** *As used in NRS 391.490 to 391.496, inclusive, and sections 2 and 3 of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 391.490 and section 3 of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.*

**Sec. 3.** *“Education support professional” means a person, other than a teacher or administrator, who is employed to work at a public school. The term includes, without limitation:*

*1. Paraprofessionals;*



2. *School police officers, school resource officers and other providers of security services at a school;*
3. *School nurses;*
4. *School counselors;*
5. *School psychologists;*
6. *School social workers;*
7. *Drivers of school buses;*
8. *Secretaries;*
9. *Members of the custodial or maintenance staff; and*
10. *Workers in food services.*

**Secs. 4-7.** (Deleted by amendment.)

**Sec. 7.2.** NRS 391.490 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.490 ~~[As used in NRS 391.490 to 391.496, inclusive,]~~

“Task Force” means the Nevada State Teacher *and Education Support Professional* Recruitment and Retention Advisory Task Force created by NRS 391.492.

**Sec. 7.4.** NRS 391.492 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.492 1. There is hereby created the Nevada State Teacher *and Education Support Professional* Recruitment and Retention Advisory Task Force consisting of the following **20** members:

(a) One licensed teacher *or education support professional* employed by each school district located in a county whose population is less than 100,000, appointed by the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education;

(b) Two licensed teachers *or education support professionals* employed by each school district located in a county whose population is 100,000 or more but less than 700,000, appointed by the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education; and

(c) Three licensed teachers *or education support professionals* employed by each school district located in a county whose population is 700,000 or more, appointed by the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education.

**↳ To the extent practicable, the Joint Interim Standing Committee shall appoint 10 licensed teachers and 10 education support professionals to the Task Force.**

2. After the initial terms, each member of the Task Force serves a term of 2 years and may be reappointed to one additional 2-year term following his or her initial term. If any member of the Task Force ceases to be qualified for the position to which he or she was appointed, the position shall be deemed vacant and the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the unexpired term. A vacancy must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.



3. The Task Force shall, at its first meeting and each odd-numbered year thereafter, elect a Chair from among its members.

4. The Task Force shall meet at least quarterly and may meet at other times upon the call of the Chair or a majority of the members of the Task Force. In even-numbered years, the Task Force shall have three meetings before the final meeting of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education. In even-numbered years, the fourth meeting of the Task Force must be a presentation to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education of the findings and recommendations of the Task Force made pursuant to NRS 391.496.

5. Ten members of the Task Force constitute a quorum, and a quorum may exercise all the power and authority conferred on the Task Force.

6. Members of the Task Force serve without compensation, except that for each day or portion of a day during which a member of the Task Force attends a meeting of the Task Force or is otherwise engaged in the business of the Task Force, the member is entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally.

7. Each member of the Task Force who is an officer or employee of the State or a local government must be relieved from his or her duties without loss of his or her regular compensation so that the member may prepare for and attend meetings of the Task Force and perform any work necessary to carry out the duties of the Task Force in the most timely manner practicable. A state agency or local government shall not require an officer or employee who is a member of the Task Force to make up the time the member is absent from work to carry out his or her duties as a member, and shall not require the member to take annual vacation or compensatory time for the absence.

8. The Department shall provide administrative support to the Task Force.

**Sec. 7.6.** NRS 391.494 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.494 1. Each member of the Task Force must:

(a) Be a licensed teacher *or an education support professional* with at least 5 consecutive years of experience teaching *or serving as an education support professional, as applicable*, in a public school in this State;

(b) Be currently employed as a teacher *or an education support professional* and actively teaching *or serving as an education support professional, as applicable*, in a public school in this State, and remain employed as a teacher *or an education support*



*professional, as applicable*, in a public school in this State for the duration of the member’s term; and

(c) Not be currently serving on any other education-related board, commission, council, task force or similar governmental entity.

2. On or before December 1, ~~2019,~~ 2023, the Department shall prescribe a uniform application for a teacher *or an education support professional* to use to apply to serve on the Task Force.

3. A teacher *or an education support professional* who wishes to serve on the Task Force must submit an application prescribed pursuant to subsection 2 to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education on or before January 15 of an even-numbered year. On or before February ~~15~~ 15 of each even-numbered year, the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education shall select one or more teachers ~~or~~ *or education support professionals*, as applicable, to serve as a member of the Task Force.

**Sec. 7.8.** NRS 391.496 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.496 The Task Force shall:

1. Evaluate the challenges in attracting and retaining teachers *and education support professionals* throughout this State;

2. Make recommendations to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education to address the challenges in attracting and retaining teachers *and education support professionals* throughout this State, including, without limitation, providing incentives to attract and retain teachers ~~or~~ *and education support professionals*; and

3. On or before February 1 of each odd-numbered year, submit a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmission to the Legislature describing the findings and recommendations of the Task Force.

**Sec. 7.85.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Department of Education for travel costs for members of and staff costs for the Nevada State Teacher and Education Support Professional Recruitment and Retention Advisory Task Force created by NRS 391.492 as amended by section 7.4 of this act the following sums:

For the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 ..... \$5,998

For the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 ..... \$5,998

2. Any balance of the sums appropriated by subsection 1 remaining at the end of the respective fiscal years must not be committed for expenditure after June 30 of the respective fiscal years by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise



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

**Sec. 7.9.** The amendatory provisions of this act do not affect the current term of appointment of any person who, on June 30, 2023, is a member of the Nevada State Teacher Recruitment and Retention Advisory Task Force created by NRS 391.492, as that section existed on June 30, 2023, and each such member continues to serve until the expiration of his or her term or until the member vacates his or her office, whichever occurs first. On and after February 15, 2024, the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education shall make appointments to the Nevada State Teacher and Education Support Professional Recruitment and Retention Advisory Task Force in accordance with NRS 391.492, as amended by section 7.4 of this act.

**Sec. 8.** The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

**Sec. 9.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

