

THE THIRTY-SEVENTH DAY

CARSON CITY (Tuesday), March 14, 2023

Senate called to order at 11:30 a.m.

President Anthony presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Father Jeff Paul.

Faithful God, calm us into a quietness that heals and listens and molds our longings and passions, our wounds and wonderings into a more holy and human shape. May our souls be preserved in peace from winter's dawn light till winter's twilight.

We invoke blessing and protection upon this Senate and upon those who work herein.

AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

By previous order of the Senate, the reading of the Journal is dispensed with, and the President and Secretary are authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

WAIVERS AND EXEMPTIONS
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

March 14, 2023

The Fiscal Analysis Division, pursuant to Joint Standing Rule No. 14.6, has determined the eligibility for exemption of: Senate Bills Nos. 126, 158, 204, 253.

WAYNE THORLEY
Fiscal Analysis Division

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

By Senators Scheible, SeEVERS Gansert, Krasner, Spearman, Buck, Cannizzaro, Daly, Doñate, Dondero Loop, Flores, Goicoechea, Hammond, Hansen, Harris, Lange, Neal, Nguyen, Ohrenschall, Pazina, Stone and Titus:

Senate Joint Resolution No. 5—Urging Congress to expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children to cover the purchase of menstrual products.

Senator Scheible moved that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections.

Motion carried.

By Senator Spearman; Assemblywomen González and Taylor:

Senate Joint Resolution No. 6—Proposing to amend the Nevada Constitution to provide for limited annual regular legislative sessions and for legislative compensation and expenses to be paid in a manner fixed and determined by law.

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That Section 2 of Article 4 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2. 1. The *regular* sessions of the Legislature shall be ~~biennial,~~ and shall commence on the 1st Monday of February following the election of members of the Assembly, unless ~~annual as set forth in this section,~~ but the Governor of the State or the members of the Legislature ~~shall,~~ may, on extraordinary occasions in the interim ~~between regular sessions,~~ convene the Legislature by proclamation or petition ~~in special sessions only as authorized by this Constitution.~~

2.—~~The~~ In each odd-numbered year, the Legislature shall commence the regular session on the first Monday of February and shall adjourn sine die ~~each regular session~~ not later than midnight Pacific time at the end of the ~~120th consecutive calendar~~ 90th legislative day of that session, inclusive of the day on which that session commences. Any legislative action taken after midnight Pacific time at the end of the ~~120th consecutive calendar~~ 90th legislative day of that session is void, unless the legislative action is ~~conducted~~ taken during a special session.

3. In each even-numbered year, the Legislature shall commence the regular session on the first Monday of February and shall adjourn sine die not later than midnight Pacific time at the end of the 60th legislative day of that session, inclusive of the day on which that session commences. Any legislative action taken after midnight Pacific time at the end of the 60th legislative day of that session is void, unless the legislative action is taken during a special session.

4. During a regular session held in an even-numbered year the Legislature shall prioritize legislative business related to the executive budget and any other issues that the Governor, in coordination with the Speaker of the Assembly and the Majority Leader of the Senate, determines are fiscal in nature or require the immediate attention of the Legislature.

5. During any regular session:

- (a) The Legislature may introduce, consider and pass any bill related to any subject as not otherwise prohibited by this Constitution;
- (b) A standing legislative committee may hold meetings; and
- (c) The Speaker of the Assembly and the Majority Leader of the Senate may jointly call a recess of the Legislature.

6. The Governor shall submit to the Legislature:

- (a) The proposed executive budget ~~to the Legislature~~ not later than 14 calendar days before the commencement of each regular session ~~held in an odd-numbered year.~~

(b) Any proposed appropriations or proposed revisions to the executive budget not later than 14 calendar days before the commencement of each regular session held in an even-numbered year.

7. For the purposes of this section ~~“midnight”~~:

- (a) “Legislative day” means any calendar day on which either House of the Legislature is in session or any legislative committee holds a

meeting during a session. The term does not include any day the Legislature is in recess pursuant to subsection 5.

(b) “Midnight Pacific time” must be determined based on the actual measure of time that, on the final ~~calendar~~ legislative day of the session, is being used and observed by the general population as the uniform time for the portion of Nevada which lies within the Pacific time zone, or any legal successor to the Pacific time zone, and which includes the seat of government of this State as designated by Section 1 of Article 15 of this Constitution. The Legislature and its members, officers and employees shall not employ any device, pretense or fiction that adjusts, evades or ignores this measure of time for the purpose of extending the duration of the session.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 33 of Article 4 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 33. The members of the Legislature shall receive for their services a compensation to be fixed by law and paid out of the public treasury ~~[, for not to exceed 60 days during any regular session of the Legislature and not to exceed 20 days during any special session;]~~ *at regular intervals determined by law*, but no increase of such compensation shall take effect during the term for which the members of either ~~the~~ *House* shall have been elected; Provided, that an appropriation may be made for the payment of such actual expenses as members of the Legislature may incur ~~for postage, express charges, newspapers and stationery not exceeding the sum of Sixty dollars]~~ for any *[general]* regular or special session to each member; and Furthermore Provided, that the Speaker of the Assembly ~~and~~ *and* the Lieutenant Governor, as President of the Senate, shall each, during the time of their actual attendance as such presiding officers, receive an additional allowance of two dollars per diem.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 6 of Article 11 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to read as follows:

~~Section~~ *Sec. 6. 1.* In addition to other means provided for the support and maintenance of said university and common schools, the legislature shall provide for their support and maintenance by direct legislative appropriation from the general fund, upon the presentation of budgets in the manner required by law.

2. During a regular session of the Legislature ~~and~~ *in any odd-numbered year*, before any other appropriation is enacted to fund a portion of the state budget for the next ensuing biennium, the Legislature shall enact one or more appropriations to provide the money the Legislature deems to be sufficient, when combined with the local money reasonably available for this purpose, to fund the operation of the public schools in

the State for kindergarten through grade 12 for the next ensuing biennium for the population reasonably estimated for that biennium.

3. During a special session of the Legislature that is held between the end of a regular session *in an odd-numbered year* in which the Legislature has not enacted the appropriation or appropriations required by subsection 2 to fund education for the next ensuing biennium and the first day of that next ensuing biennium, before any other appropriation is enacted other than appropriations required to pay the cost of that special session, the Legislature shall enact one or more appropriations to provide the money the Legislature deems to be sufficient, when combined with the local money reasonably available for this purpose, to fund the operation of the public schools in the State for kindergarten through grade 12 for the next ensuing biennium for the population reasonably estimated for that biennium.

4. During a special session of the Legislature that is held in a biennium for which the Legislature has not enacted the appropriation or appropriations required by subsection 2 to fund education for the biennium in which the special session is being held, before any other appropriation is enacted other than appropriations required to pay the cost of that special session, the Legislature shall enact one or more appropriations to provide the money the Legislature deems to be sufficient, when combined with the local money reasonably available for this purpose, to fund the operation of the public schools in the State for kindergarten through grade 12 for the population reasonably estimated for the biennium in which the special session is held.

5. Any appropriation of money enacted in violation of subsection 2, 3 or 4 is void.

6. As used in this section, "biennium" means a period of two fiscal years beginning on July 1 of an odd-numbered year and ending on June 30 of the next ensuing odd-numbered year.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 12 of Article 17 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 12. The first regular session of the Legislature shall commence on the second Monday of December A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty Four, and the second regular session of the same shall commence on the first Monday of January A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty Six; and the third regular session of the Legislature shall be the first of the biennial sessions, and shall commence on the first Monday of January A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty Seven; and the regular sessions of the Legislature shall be held thereafter . ~~biennially.~~

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 2 of Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2. 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1 of Article 4 of this Constitution, but subject to the limitations of Section 6 of this Article, the people reserve to themselves the power to propose, by initiative petition, statutes and amendments to statutes and amendments to this Constitution, and to enact or reject them at the polls.

2. An initiative petition shall be in the form required by Section 3 of this Article and shall be proposed by a number of registered voters equal to 10 percent or more of the number of voters who voted at the last preceding general election in not less than 75 percent of the counties in the State, but the total number of registered voters signing the initiative petition shall be equal to 10 percent or more of the voters who voted in the entire State at the last preceding general election.

3. If the initiative petition proposes a statute or an amendment to a statute, the person who intends to circulate it shall file a copy with the Secretary of State before beginning circulation and not earlier than ~~January 1 of the year preceding the year in which a~~ *1 year before the commencement of the regular session of the Legislature* ~~[is held.]~~ *to which the petition will be transmitted.* After its circulation, it shall be filed with the Secretary of State not less than 30 days ~~[prior to any]~~ *before the commencement of the regular session of the Legislature* ~~[.]~~ *to which the petition will be transmitted.* The circulation of the petition shall cease on the day the petition is filed with the Secretary of State or such other date as may be prescribed for the verification of the number of signatures affixed to the petition, whichever is earliest. The Secretary of State shall transmit such petition to the Legislature as soon as the Legislature convenes and organizes. The petition shall take precedence over all other measures except appropriation bills, and the statute or amendment to a statute proposed thereby shall be enacted or rejected by the Legislature without change or amendment within 40 days. If the proposed statute or amendment to a statute is enacted by the Legislature and approved by the Governor in the same manner as other statutes are enacted, such statute or amendment to a statute shall become law, but shall be subject to referendum petition as provided in Section 1 of this Article. If the statute or amendment to a statute is rejected by the Legislature, or if no action is taken thereon within 40 days, the Secretary of State shall submit the question of approval or disapproval of such statute or amendment to a statute to a vote of the voters at the next succeeding general election. If a majority of the voters voting on such question at such election votes approval of such statute or amendment to a statute, it shall become law and take effect upon completion of the canvass of votes by the Supreme Court. An initiative measure so approved by the voters shall not be amended, annulled, repealed, set aside or suspended by the Legislature within 3 years from the date it takes effect. If a majority of such voters votes disapproval of such statute or amendment to a statute, no further action shall be taken on such petition. If the Legislature rejects such

proposed statute or amendment, the Governor may recommend to the Legislature and the Legislature may propose a different measure on the same subject, in which event, after such different measure has been approved by the Governor, the question of approval or disapproval of each measure shall be submitted by the Secretary of State to a vote of the voters at the next succeeding general election. If the conflicting provisions submitted to the voters are both approved by a majority of the voters voting on such measures, the measure which receives the largest number of affirmative votes shall thereupon become law. If at the session of the Legislature to which an initiative petition proposing an amendment to a statute is presented which the Legislature rejects or upon which it takes no action, the Legislature amends the statute which the petition proposes to amend in a respect which does not conflict in substance with the proposed amendment, the Secretary of State in submitting the statute to the voters for approval or disapproval of the proposed amendment shall include the amendment made by the Legislature.

4. If the initiative petition proposes an amendment to the Constitution, the person who intends to circulate it shall file a copy with the Secretary of State before beginning circulation and not earlier than September 1 of the year before the year in which the election is to be held. After its circulation it shall be filed with the Secretary of State not less than 90 days before any regular general election at which the question of approval or disapproval of such amendment may be voted upon by the voters of the entire State. The circulation of the petition shall cease on the day the petition is filed with the Secretary of State or such other date as may be prescribed for the verification of the number of signatures affixed to the petition, whichever is earliest. The Secretary of State shall cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation, on three separate occasions, in each county in the State, together with any explanatory matter which shall be placed upon the ballot, the entire text of the proposed amendment. If a majority of the voters voting on such question at such election votes disapproval of such amendment, no further action shall be taken on the petition. If a majority of such voters votes approval of such amendment, the Secretary of State shall publish and resubmit the question of approval or disapproval to a vote of the voters at the next succeeding general election in the same manner as such question was originally submitted. If a majority of such voters votes disapproval of such amendment, no further action shall be taken on such petition. If a majority of such voters votes approval of such amendment, it shall, unless precluded by subsection 5 or 6, become a part of this Constitution upon completion of the canvass of votes by the Supreme Court.

5. If two or more measures which affect the same section of a statute or of the Constitution are finally approved pursuant to this Section, or an amendment to the Constitution is finally so approved and an amendment

proposed by the Legislature is ratified which affect the same section, by the voters at the same election:

(a) If all can be given effect without contradiction in substance, each shall be given effect.

(b) If one or more contradict in substance the other or others, the measure which received the largest favorable vote, and any other approved measure compatible with it, shall be given effect. If the one or more measures that contradict in substance the other or others receive the same number of favorable votes, none of the measures that contradict another shall be given effect.

6. If, at the same election as the first approval of a constitutional amendment pursuant to this Section, another amendment is finally approved pursuant to this Section, or an amendment proposed by the Legislature is ratified, which affects the same section of the Constitution but is compatible with the amendment given first approval, the Secretary of State shall publish and resubmit at the next general election the amendment given first approval as a further amendment to the section as amended by the amendment given final approval or ratified. If the amendment finally approved or ratified contradicts in substance the amendment given first approval, the Secretary of State shall not submit the amendment given first approval to the voters again.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

Senator Spearman moved that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections.

Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

By Senators Spearman, Doñate, Daly, Dondero Loop, Harris, Lange, Nguyen and Pazina:

Senate Bill No. 272—AN ACT relating to governmental administration; requiring a state agency or local government to post certain information on its Internet website relating to certain purchasing contracts, performance contracts and contracts for public works; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Spearman moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

By Senators Lange, Harris, Spearman, Flores, Hammond, Daly, Doñate, Dondero Loop, Nguyen, Ohrenschall, Pazina, Scheible, Seevers Gansert and Stone; Assemblymen Nguyen, Thomas, Brittney Miller, Monroe-Moreno, Bilbray-Axelrod, Backus, Carter, Considine, D'Silva, González, Hardy, Jauregui, C.H. Miller, Mosca, Summers-Armstrong, Watts and Yurek:

Senate Bill No. 273—AN ACT relating to higher education; changing the name of the Nevada State College to the Nevada State University; designating

the Nevada State University as a state college; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Lange moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Education.

Motion carried.

By Senator Daly:

Senate Bill No. 274—AN ACT relating to industrial insurance; authorizing a claimant to bring a civil action against an insurer or third-party administrator for certain violations of the Nevada Industrial Insurance Act or the Nevada Occupational Diseases Act; increasing the amount of certain penalties for certain violations of the Nevada Industrial Insurance Act or the Nevada Occupational Diseases Act; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Daly moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

By Senator Daly:

Senate Bill No. 275—AN ACT relating to manufactured home parks; requiring the Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry to calculate annually and publish a maximum annual rent increase percentage in manufactured home parks; authorizing certain persons to apply for an exemption to certain requirements relating to increases in rent; revising certain requirements related to increases in rent for certain tenancies in manufactured home parks; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Daly moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

By Senator Lange:

Senate Bill No. 276—AN ACT relating to collection agencies; requiring a collection agency to display certain information on the Internet website of the collection agency; authorizing a collection agent to work from a remote location under certain circumstances; requiring a collection agency to provide certain documentation to a debtor upon receiving or accepting a payment; revising certain terminology related to collection agencies; revising the entities required to obtain a license as a collection agency and the circumstances under which such a license is required; revising provisions governing certain records and an application for and the issuance of a license as a collection agency or collection agent; revising the frequency of the determination of the amount of the bond or substitute for a bond that a collection agency is required to maintain; eliminating certain examinations; removing a requirement that a collection agency obtain a permit for each branch office; revising provisions relating to the application and issuance of a chief compliance officer's certificate; prohibiting the chief compliance officer of a collection agency from

being simultaneously employed by another collection agency or exempt entity; exempting debt buyers from certain provisions governing collection agencies; revising provisions related to certain annual reports; prohibiting certain actions by a collection agency, chief compliance officer or collection agent; revising procedures governing certain civil actions to collect a claim; repealing certain provisions governing foreign collection agencies, examinations and certificates; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Lange moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

By Senators Harris, Flores, Neal and Nguyen:

Senate Bill No. 277—AN ACT relating to cannabis; requiring the Cannabis Compliance Board to consider certain matters before adopting, amending or repealing any regulation; revising provisions relating to the issuance and renewal of licenses and registration cards by the Board; revising certain restrictions on sales of cannabis; eliminating provisions related to excluded felony offenses; increasing certain fees for the issuance and renewal of an adult-use cannabis establishment license; authorizing certain cannabis establishments to have more than one entrance; deeming each adult-use cannabis establishment to be a dual licensee; revising the exemption from state prosecution for certain offenses relating to cannabis to increase the amount of cannabis and concentrated cannabis that a person who is 21 years of age or older is authorized to possess, deliver or produce; revising provisions relating to the excise tax on cannabis; requiring the Cannabis Advisory Commission to conduct a study concerning certain matters relating to the scheduling of cannabis; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Harris moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

By Senator Spearman:

Senate Bill No. 278—AN ACT relating to child care; authorizing an employer to receive a credit against the payroll taxes imposed on the employer if the employer provides certain financial assistance to employees for child care; requiring the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services to make available to businesses in this State information related to worksite wellness and family-friendly policies; exempting certain persons who provide care for the children of friends and neighbors from regulation as child care facilities; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Spearman moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Revenue and Economic Development.

Motion carried.

By Senator Spearman and Assemblywoman Brown-May:

Senate Bill No. 279—AN ACT relating to disabilities; establishing the State as a Model Employer Program in the Division of Human Resource Management of the Department of Administration; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Spearman moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections.

Motion carried.

SECOND READING AND AMENDMENT

Senate Bill No. 4.

Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

Senate Bill No. 43.

Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

Assembly Bill No. 165.

Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the Senate recess until 4:45 p.m.

Motion carried.

Senate in recess at 11:47 a.m.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 5:00 p.m.

President Anthony presiding.

Quorum present.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

The Sergeant at Arms announced that Assemblywoman Torres and Assemblyman McArthur were at the bar of the Senate. Assemblywoman Torres invited the Senate to meet in Joint Session with the Assembly to hear Chief Justice Lidia S. Stiglich.

The President announced that if there were no objections, the Senate would recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Senate in recess at 5:01 p.m.

IN JOINT SESSION

At 5:08 p.m.

Speaker Yeager presiding.

The Secretary of the Senate called the Senate roll.

All present except Senator Krasner, who was excused.

The Chief Clerk of the Assembly called the Assembly roll.

All present except Assemblyman Gray, who was excused.

The Speaker appointed a Committee on Escort consisting of Senator Scheible and Assemblywoman Marzola to wait upon the Honorable Chief Justice Lidia S. Stiglich and escort her to the Assembly Chamber.

Chief Justice Stiglich delivered her message as follows:

MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEVADA
EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION, 2023

Lieutenant Governor Anthony, Speaker Yeager, Majority Leader Cannizzaro, Majority Leader Jauregui, Attorney General Ford, distinguished members of the Senate and the Assembly, honorable constitutional officers and honored guests, thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Nevada Legislature on behalf of our State's judicial system.

My name is Lidia Stiglich, and I am the Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court. I have had the privilege of serving in the judiciary since 2012 and have worked alongside my colleagues to uphold the principles of fairness, impartiality and justice for all Nevadans. I am honored to have this opportunity to share with you the progress we have made and the challenges we face as we work to strengthen the judicial branch of our State government.

I would like to acknowledge my colleagues on the Nevada Supreme Court: Associate Chief Justice Elissa Cadish, Justice Kristina Pickering, Justice Linda Bell, Justice Ron Parraguire, Justice Douglas Herndon and Justice Patty Lee. It is my privilege to serve with these distinguished jurists, and I am honored that they have selected me as their chief. From the Nevada Court of Appeals, Chief Judge Michael Gibbons, who is here with us tonight, Judge Bonnie A. Bulla and Judge Deborah L. Westbrook. Also, with us today, who I would like to acknowledge, is retired Justice James Hardesty. I would also like to recognize and thank the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Elizabeth Brown; our Legal Counsel, Phaedra Kalicki; the Supreme Court's extraordinary legal staff; the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Katherine Stocks; Assistant Court Administrator John McCormick; as well as all of the dedicated and hardworking staff of the Supreme Court and Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). I would also like to extend my personal appreciation to Chief Clerk Susan Furlong and her incredible team for their warm and gracious welcome today.

Our mission of service to the residents of the Silver State is to provide timely access to impartial justice. In fact, it is our fundamental purpose. We are privileged to be charged with this duty.

The pandemic had a tremendous impact on our society as a whole, including, of course, the judiciary. As a branch, we can be slow to change and are often too busy adjudicating disputes to comprehensively examine our processes. The pandemic, though, compelled us to reflect on why and how we serve the people of Nevada. We took a critical look at our institutions and identified where we can improve our delivery of timely access to impartial justice. Tonight, I ask you to join me in looking forward and focusing on the who, why and how of the Nevada judiciary.

So, who are we and who do we serve? I am privileged to appear on behalf of our 7 Supreme Court justices, 3 court of appeals judges, 90 district court judges, 68 justices of the peace, 31 municipal court judges and the nearly 2,000 judicial employees throughout the State of Nevada. In the appellate courts, our staff are highly skilled attorneys and subject matter experts responsible for managing the business of the courts and supporting the business of the trial courts to promote timely access to impartial resolution of all the cases filed.

We proudly serve every Nevadan along with those who visit our great State. We serve those with civil disputes, criminal charges and administrative matters. According to a 2019 report by the Pew Charitable Trusts, 47 percent of households had at least one civil legal issue that involved a court in a 12-month period. When traffic is added, that number jumps to 56 percent of households that had an interaction with a court. More than half of all households have some sort of civil matter that comes before a court in any given year. Broadly published estimates indicate that about one-third of the adult population has been involved, in some fashion, in the criminal justice system. We serve litigants whether they choose to use our system or are required to participate. Regardless of how someone gets to our courts, it is our responsibility to ensure that they are treated fairly.

So, why do we serve? For each of us, there are unique motivations to become public servants, yet we all are here to serve. Some of us came to the judiciary because of a positive experience and a desire to pay that service forward. There are others among us that came to the judiciary with a

motivation to improve a system that they felt may have fallen short. For most, it is both. We serve because it is our duty and distinct privilege to provide an impartial forum for the resolution of disputes and to ensure access to the courts for all.

How do we serve and how will we serve? To answer this question, we started with a survey of the entire Nevada judiciary in the form of a strategic planning process. By engaging with statewide stakeholders, we identified existing innovations that are scalable to improve service delivery across Nevada: guided interviews for self-represented litigants, self-help forms and improved websites as well. We also identified areas where improvements are needed: training for court staff and a living wage for our employees.

Ultimately, the "how" for the Supreme Court became Senate Bill No. 58, the Nevada Judicial Branch Budget Reform Act, which is before you now. Senate Bill No. 58 and its corresponding reforms offer long-term improvements in the administration of Nevada's judiciary. These reforms are essential to ensuring that the judiciary meets its core constitutional functions. Senate Bill No. 58 brings stability and consistency to our budget and ensures that the court will be able to be responsive to the needs of our branch and have the flexibility to ensure our business processes meet the needs of those that we serve and the priorities set by the Legislature.

Time is of the essence to implement these long-overdue improvements to the systems and structure of the Supreme Court. Our current strategic plan, as supported by Senate Bill No. 58 and our proposed budget, is guided by three primary strategies: stability, flexibility and responsiveness. Those are designed to improve the way the judiciary provides fair, timely, equal and universal access to justice.

We are duty-bound to simplify and improve public access to the courts. We need to do that while continuing to ensure that all parties are treated fairly. Through the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds, we embarked on improvements in access to justice in response to the needs of those that we serve. As an example, these three projects are either months away from completion or already in deployment.

Our statewide, online temporary protection order portal will allow a victim of abuse or stalking to be able to file a petition for a temporary restraining order online from anywhere in the State of Nevada. States that have already deployed this option see at least 50 percent of petitions completed through the platform.

Our statewide self-help portal utilizes guided interviews to create court pleadings and provides resources in written and video formats. There are currently three iterations of self-help websites in Nevada, and we are combining the three together into one place for a court user to go. We are thankful to be partnering with the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada to ensure the initial and ongoing success of this critical resource for access to justice.

As a follow-up to a recent study of Nevada's family court, we are utilizing federal funds to bring differentiated case management for family law cases. Our trial courts will have access to an evidence-based tool that places a case into tracks of complexity. Each case will still receive individual attention. However, a court is able to dedicate necessary internal resources to cases of higher complexity. This project is coming out of the initial research phase. We are excited about it, and pilot courts are being recruited.

Alongside these particular projects, we have worked to develop methods for Nevada courts to be supported by sustainable, appropriate funding of judicial and personnel resources as well as technological improvements and systems at all levels of the branch. For this biennium, we took a two-tier approach that works together to stabilize the Supreme Court's current and future operations.

We are seeking to reduce reliance on administrative assessments (AA) through statutory and budget request changes. Administrative assessment revenues peaked in 2010, have dropped steadily since and have dropped 50 percent in the last few years. These revenues are not showing signs of recovering, and even with a reduced AA budget request, we are 30 percent below budget for this biennium.

We have submitted a budget that includes a living-wage salary based upon the cost of living in Nevada for a household with two children and two working adults and establishes operations, professional and managerial career paths for our employees. Our classification and compensation schedule reflects the court's commitment to recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce that is paid a living wage.

A factor in stabilizing turnover and being an employer of choice is the ability for our employees to have only one job. We demand a special set of skills for our employees, and those employees deserve to be compensated appropriately. All of our employees are required to have legal knowledge, an understanding of the judiciary and a familiarity with the Nevada Revised Statutes and Court Rules.

Once we determined an appropriate minimum living wage, we overhauled our classification and compensation schedule. Thank you to the team from the AOC that spent months scouring vacancy announcements, pay tables and wage and labor data in order to establish and validate the revised system that is based on the specific skillset required to effectuate our duty to the people of Nevada. We are, in effect, a midsize law firm, and we rely heavily on both our attorneys and subject matter experts to do the work of the appellate courts and support the 74 trial courts in Nevada.

I have personally received some feedback that our requests may have created some confusion, or maybe I have created some confusion. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify our intent. Senate Bill No. 58 and our budget request are designed to work in tandem, and they reflect our operating needs. Specifically, Senate Bill No. 58 creates a judicial fund that allows the court to retain appropriations across the biennium. This fund is subject to legislative oversight, and we do not seek to change that. The court's proposals in Senate Bill No. 58 and our budget are designed to provide the flexibility the court needs to effectuate the Legislature's priorities and fulfill our constitutional purpose.

Our specialty courts are an example of the current predicament. It is a predicament which hinders our ability to provide critical resources to treatment courts when AA revenues fall short. Currently, because they are funded in part with AAs, we must cut funding to our specialty court programs even when there are funds available in another Supreme Court account. That is what Senate Bill No. 58 does, it gives the court the flexibility to meet those needs as they come up.

Speaking of specialty courts, which are near and dear to my heart, I would like to highlight the success of our programming here in Nevada. The Nevada specialty court's transition to virtual and remote hearings exemplifies the resiliency of our judiciary and our participants. As a result of the pandemic, online status checks, telehealth counseling, virtual twelve-step meetings, GPS-enabled breathalyzers and drug patches allowed treatment courts to continue to monitor sobriety while providing necessary treatment and access. This contributed to a significant decrease in arrests and criminal filings across the State. Moreover, the recidivism rates for people in the specialty court programs, even those individuals who do not complete the programs, are lower than those who do not receive the intervention. I am proud to report that 91.8 percent of the people who graduated from a Nevada specialty court program in 2018 have not had a new conviction within three years, and 81.3 percent of people who did not successfully complete a program have not reoffended as well. Some treatment is better than no treatment, and our treatment is excellent.

Looking forward, with the assistance of the AOC, the specialty court program is exploring utilizing drug-testing equipment at a fixed rate, which could leverage statewide collaboration to lower testing costs, streamline testing and ensure consistency across the State. This will dovetail with the peer review program as the AOC endeavors to connect the courts and grow the programs that we already have in place.

We have many achievements that received a push from the adversity of the last few years that are worth celebrating. We have identified areas for improvement and are actively addressing them. With your help, the future is encouraging.

In closing, I would like to take a moment to remember some of the distinguished members of the Nevada judiciary family who passed away during the last year. We mourn the loss of Justice Robert Rose, Judge Brent Adams, Judge Mathew Harter, Justice of the Peace Melanie Tobiasson, Justice of the Peace Kent Jaspersen, Justice of the Peace Cassandra Jones, Justice of the Peace Juanita Colvin, treasured court employee Lilliette Brooks—who we lost just a week ago—and the incomparable Ben Graham. These individuals dedicated their careers to serving our communities and upholding the principles of justice and fairness. Their contributions to the judiciary will not be forgotten, and we extend our deepest sympathies to their families and loved ones. As we move forward, let us continue to honor their legacy by upholding the values and ideals they held dear.

Thank you for allowing me to provide you this summary of the courts and our 2023 legislative agenda. I am excited to work with you—we all are—to continue to improve and expand timely

access to impartial justice for every Nevadan. Thank you, Legislators, for your service. We ask a lot of our public servants in Nevada but especially of our Legislators. So, God bless you and your families, who are going it alone for these 120 days—hopefully just 120 days—and may God Bless the great State of Nevada. We would be honored if you would join us after these proceedings in the Supreme Court rotunda for a reception. Thank you.

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

Motion carried.

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

Assemblywoman Cohen moved that the Joint Session be dissolved.
Motion carried.

Joint Session dissolved at 5:29 p.m.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 5:33 p.m.

President Anthony presiding.
Quorum present.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF SENATE FLOOR

On request of Senator Buck, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Theresa Ann Babcock.

On request of Senator Doñate, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Char Frost and Jude Oliver.

On request of Senator Flores, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Liridian Gambia, Rudy Hernandez and Magdalena Ruiz.

On request of Senator Harris, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Ava Natly.

On request of Senator Nguyen, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Kyler Holland and Carrie Morton.

On request of Senator Pazina, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to R.J. Gourrier.

On request of Senator Seevers Gansert, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Jennifer Carson, Ph.D., Elmcrest Elementary School and Brennan Pott.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the Senate adjourn until Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

Motion carried.

Senate adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Approved:

STAVROS ANTHONY
President of the Senate

Attest: BRENDAN BUCY
Secretary of the Senate