

THE FIFTY-SECOND DAY

CARSON CITY (Wednesday), March 29, 2023

Senate called to order at 11:49 a.m.

President Anthony presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Pastor Nick Emery.

Father God, I thank You for this day, and I thank You for each of these leaders, their staff and the guests present today.

Psalms 25:4-5 says:

Show me the right path, O Lord;
point out the road for me to follow.
Lead me by Your truth and teach me,
for You are the God who saves me.
All day long I put my hope in You.

God, I pray that You would help these servant leaders of our State and their various staff members serve the peoples and families in Nevada well. Lead them in truth. Help them to learn and grow from one another along the way, and may they see that value in having a saving hope in You.

I pray that You would use their unique talents, skills and resources for service in this State, that You would ignite their hearts in doing so with great joy. Serving others is not always easy. There is sacrifice. There is heartache. The roles as Senators, as servants of the State, are filled with criticism, intensity and pressure. So, help them to be fully alive in service this day to our State by using the very things You have equipped them with, from their educational and practical experiences to their knowledge in various things like business, finance and law. Take all that they have encountered, blend them with every passion and sacred interest of the heart and use that for the good of our State, we pray. May God bless Nevada.

In Jesus' Name, we pray.

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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Mr. President:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred Assembly Bill No. 268, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Amend, and do pass as amended.

MARILYN DONDERO LOOP, *Chair*

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Senator Cannizzaro moved that all necessary rules be suspended, that reading so far had considered first reading, rules further suspended, that Assembly Bill No. 268, just reported out of committee, be declared an emergency measure under the Constitution, and that the bill be placed on the General File and considered next.

Motion carried.

GENERAL FILE AND THIRD READING

Assembly Bill No. 268.

Bill read third time.

The following amendment was proposed by the Committee on Finance:

Amendment No. 53.

SUMMARY—Makes appropriations for the payment of retention incentives to certain employees of the State Government. (BDR S-1037)

AN ACT making appropriations for the payment of retention incentives to certain employees of the State Government; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

Section 1. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Office of Finance in the Office of the Governor the sum of \$20,970,000 for the payment of retention incentives in accordance with subsection 2 to each person who is an employee in:

(a) The Executive Department of the State Government, except:

(1) Employees of the Nevada System of Higher Education other than the employees of the System in the classified service, as described in subsection 4 of NRS 284.140.

(2) Persons whose compensation is paid from a budget account that is not subject to NRS 353.150 to 353.246, inclusive, except as otherwise provided in section 3 of this act.

(3) Persons whose positions are temporary, intermittent or seasonal or are positions for which there is a critical labor shortage pursuant to NRS 286.523.

(b) The Judicial Department of the State Government, except persons whose positions are temporary, intermittent or seasonal or are positions for which there is a critical labor shortage pursuant to NRS 286.523.

2. A retention incentive of \$500 must be paid from the money appropriated by subsection 1 to each person who is eligible for the payment, as described in subsection 1, and who is so employed on:

(a) March 31, 2023.

(b) June 16, 2023.

3. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2023, 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 15, 2023, 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 15, 2023.

Sec. 2. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Legislative Fund created by NRS 218A.150 the sum of \$325,000 for the payment of retention incentives in accordance with subsection 2 to each person who is an employee in the Legislative Department of the State Government,

except persons whose positions are for a legislative session or are otherwise temporary, intermittent or seasonal.

2. A retention incentive of \$500 must be paid from the money appropriated by subsection 1 to each person who is eligible for the payment, as described in subsection 1, and who is so employed on:

- (a) March 31, 2023.
- (b) June 16, 2023.

3. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2023, 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 15, 2023, 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 15, 2023.

Sec. 3. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Public Employees' Retirement System the sum of \$81,000 for the payment of retention incentives in accordance with subsection 2 to each person who is an employee of the Public Employees' Retirement System, except persons whose positions are temporary, intermittent or seasonal or are positions for which there is a critical labor shortage pursuant to NRS 286.523.

2. A retention incentive of \$500 must be paid from the money appropriated by subsection 1 to each person who is eligible for the payment, as described in subsection 1, and who is so employed on:

- (a) March 31, 2023.
- (b) June 16, 2023.

3. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2023, 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 15, 2023, 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 15, 2023.

Sec. 3.5. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Nevada System of Higher Education the sum of \$3,500,000 for the payment of retention incentives for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 to employees of the Nevada System of Higher Education other than the employees of the System in the classified service, as described in subsection 4 of NRS 284.140.

2. On or before September 1, 2023, the Nevada System of Higher Education shall submit a report to the Interim Finance Committee regarding the criteria for eligibility and amounts established for the retention incentives required to be paid pursuant to subsection 1 and the number of recipients thereof.

3. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2023, 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 15, 2023, 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 15, 2023.

Sec. 4. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

Senator Dondero Loop moved the adoption of the amendment.

Remarks by Senator Dondero Loop.

Senate Amendment No. 53 amends Assembly Bill No. 268, first reprint, by adding a new section 3.5 appropriating \$3.5 million to the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) to provide for the payment of retention incentives to certain professional staff for Fiscal Year 2023. On or before September 1, 2023, the NSHE shall submit a report to the Interim Finance Committee regarding the criteria for eligibility, the amounts established and the number of recipients for those retention incentives.

Amendment adopted.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that all necessary rules be suspended, that the reprinting of the bill be dispensed with, that the Secretary be authorized to insert Amendment No. 53 adopted by the Senate, and that the bill be placed on the General File and considered next.

Motion carried.

Assembly Bill No. 268.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Senators Cannizzaro and Seevers Gansert.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

Assembly Bill No. 268 in its first reprint and as amended makes General Fund appropriations for the payment of retention incentives of \$500 to employees of the State Government employed on March 31, 2023, and June 16, 2023, as follows: \$20,970,000 to the Governor's Office of Finance for employees of the Executive and Judicial Departments of State Government except persons whose positions are temporary, intermittent or seasonal, or are positions for which there is a critical labor shortage, professional staff of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) and persons whose compensation is paid from a budget account that is not subject to NRS 353.150 to 353.246, inclusive, unless otherwise provided; \$325,000 to the Legislative Fund for employees of the Legislative Department of State Government, except persons whose positions are for a legislative session or are otherwise temporary, intermittent or seasonal; \$81,000 to the Public Employees' Retirement System for employees of PERS, except persons whose positions are temporary, intermittent or seasonal, or are positions for which there is a critical labor shortage; and \$3.5 million to NSHE for certain professional staff.

On or before September 1, 2023, NSHE shall submit a report to the Interim Finance Committee regarding the criteria for eligibility, the amounts established and the number of recipients for those retention incentives.

I will note that this is the first of what, I believe, will be several steps to allow for this legislative body and the State of Nevada to affirmatively say we believe in the people who work here and serve us as Nevadans, who serve our constituents and who do a fantastic job of ensuring services are delivered to the people who we represent who have sent us here to do the work for them.

Those state employees, for a very long time, have been overlooked. We know this. Anyone who has watched any of the Finance meetings know that we are at a point where it is becoming

very difficult for us as a State to continue to recruit and retain the talent that we know exists out there which allows us to deliver those services. This is across the board: in our state law enforcement, our Health and Human Services Departments, our Department of Motor Vehicles, in this building and our judicial branch.

What you are seeing demonstrated in this bill is a commitment of members of our colleagues across the hall and members of this body. I urge support to say to those employees we do value you; we see you; we want you to come and help us to serve Nevadans. This should, hopefully, be one of the first steps in us to affirmatively say we see you; we know the work you are doing; we know the jobs you are doing are difficult but necessary and helpful to many Nevadans.

We must invest in that workforce. They are our biggest treasure. They are one of the things which keeps this State moving. I am grateful to everyone who serves in this body and makes all of us look exceptional in ways we probably would not on our own, myself included. I urge my colleagues' support.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I, too, support Assembly Bill No. 268. I echo the comments of the Majority Leader. We value our employees, and we recognize that we have fallen behind as far as pay. They worked extremely hard during COVID, and now we have high vacancy rates because of the challenges they faced. We have fallen behind the market level for many of the jobs.

We are grateful that Governor Lombardo proposed this for this year and the next biennium. It will help bridge the gap until we can do more for our public employees. Again, we are grateful for them. I do think this represents our gratefulness. We want to support them and make sure we can hire more folks so those who are working in the trenches will get additional support. I urge support of Assembly Bill No. 268.

Roll call on Assembly Bill No. 268:

YEAS—21.

NAYS—None.

Assembly Bill No. 268 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. President declared it passed, as amended.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that all necessary rules be suspended and that the bill be immediately transmitted to the Assembly.

Motion carried.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

MESSAGES FROM THE ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER, Carson City, March 27, 2023

To the Honorable the Senate:

I have the honor to inform your honorable body that the Assembly on this day passed Assembly Bill No. 236.

CAROL AIELLO-SALA

Assistant Chief Clerk of the Assembly

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the following person be accepted as an accredited press representative and be allowed the use of appropriate media facilities: KUNR: Zoe Malen.

Motion carried.

Senator Krasner approved the addition of Senator Stone as a cosponsor of Senate Bill No. 321.

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

Assembly Bill No. 236.

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

Motion carried.

REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR

Senator Flores requested that his remarks be entered in the Journal.

I have a lot of amazing, remarkable human beings next to me. First, I would like to introduce a constituent of mine, Cesar Carvajal, who is here for Latino Lobby Day. He is a good friend of mine who does a lot of amazing work in the community. I am honored to have him join me today on the floor.

I also have a neighbor, friend and now family member, Clark County School District Trustee Brenda Zamora. She is also an amazing friend of mine, and I appreciate her being here alongside me.

Joining us in the VIP box is Imer Cespedes-Alvarado. He is a first-generation student, youth activist and founder of the Nevada Youth Voice nonprofit. He is a powerhouse in promoting youth and Latino votes in Nevada. He has been an absolute amazing friend to me, and I would have not been elected had it not been for individuals like him knocking on doors for me.

I do have a proclamation that I will not read. I want you to know you are recognized for your work, and we appreciate all you have done. We will continue working together. This proclamation is for you.

Lastly, I have the esteemed honor of being joined by our Counsel General of Mexico, Mr. Julian Escutia. I will not read this additional proclamation entirely, but I want to ensure I put some of it on the record. He is also a dear friend of mine and someone who I consider a mentor and friend, somebody I can reach out to and rely on when I have questions dealing with the Latino community particularly.

"MIENTRAS QUE, Julián Escutia Rodríguez nació en San Luis Potosí, México, y funge desde el año 2020, como Cónsul de México en Las Vegas, Nevada, contando con una extensa y exitosa carrera de servicio diplomático; y

"MIENTRAS QUE, el Cónsul Escutia estudió en el Colegio de México, en la Ciudad de México, obteniendo su Licenciatura en Relaciones Internacionales, y una Maestría en Políticas Públicas de la Universidad Victoria de Wellington, en Nueva Zelanda; y [...]

"MIENTRAS QUE, el Cónsul Escutia fue asignado Coordinador de Asesores del Subsecretario para América del Norte, a cargo de trabajo estratégico de las dos embajadas, y 55 consulados de México en Canadá y Estados Unidos, incluidas cinco unidades administrativas en la Ciudad de México; y [...]

"Sea entonces, PROCLAMADO, la gente del Estado de Nevada se incentiva en reconocer la extensa y exitosa carrera diplomática de Julián Escutia Rodríguez, Cónsul de México en Las Vegas, honrando su excelente labor y programas en beneficio de la comunidad Mexicana y sus contribuciones sociales y culturales al Estado de Nevada."

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF SENATE FLOOR

On request of Senator Doñate, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Latino Lobby Day and Melissa Morales.

On request of Senator Dondero Loop, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to University of Nevada Las Vegas Alumni and Keith Whitfield, Ph.D.

On request of Senator Flores, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Cesar Carvajal, Imer Cespedes-Alvarado and Julian Escutia.

On request of Senator Hammond, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to John Bernier, Keith Duffy and Vincent LaBella.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the Senate adjourn until Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

Motion carried.

Senate adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Approved:

STAVROS ANTHONY
President of the Senate

Attest: BRENDAN BUCY

Secretary of the Senate