

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**Eighty-second Session  
May 25, 2023**

The Senate Committee on Finance was called to order by Chair Marilyn Dondero Loop at 8:12 a.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2023, in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4412E of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop, Chair  
Senator Roberta Lange (Substitute for Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro)  
Senator Dallas Harris  
Senator Dina Neal  
Senator Rochelle T. Nguyen  
Senator Pete Goicoechea  
Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert  
Senator Robin L. Titus

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro, Vice Chair (Excused)

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Senator Fabian Doñate, Senatorial District No. 10  
Senator Ira Hansen, Senatorial District No. 14  
Senator Melanie Scheible, Senatorial District No. 9

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Wayne Thorley, Senate Fiscal Analyst  
Cathy Crocket, Chief Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst  
Paul Breen, Committee Assistant  
Joko Cailles, Committee Secretary  
Helen Wood, Committee Secretary

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**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michael Miles, Deputy Director, Cannabis Compliance Board  
James Settelmeyer, Director, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Lea Case, Nevada Public Health Association  
Tom Clark, Pharmaceutical Care Management Association  
Sarah Adler, Nevada Advanced Practice Nurses Association; FirstMed Health and Wellness Center  
Steven Messinger, Nevada Primary Care Association  
Joelle Gutman, Washoe County Health District  
Melissa Clement, Nevada Right to Life  
Janine Hansen, State President, Nevada Families for Freedom  
Kathleen Palmer  
Lisa Partee  
Jim DeGraffenreid, Nevada Republican Party  
Katie Banuelos, Libertarian Party of Nevada  
Kasey Rogers  
Erin Phillips, President, Power2Parent  
Katrin Sienkiewicz, Co-Director, Health Freedom Nevada  
Scot Rutledge, Deep Roots Harvest  
Eduardo Martinez, Nevada Coalition for Psychedelic Medicines  
Annette Magnus, Battle Born Progress  
Jeanette Belz, Nevada Psychiatric Association  
Andrew LePeilbet, Chairman, United Veterans Legislative Council  
Todd Sklamberg, CEO, Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center  
Stacie Weeks, Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services  
Marla McDade Williams, Deputy Director, Programs, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services  
Nereida Bobadilla Cruz, Make the Road Nevada  
Cindy Martinez

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will start the work session with Senate Bill (S.B.) 36.

**SENATE BILL 36 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions relating to psychosexual evaluations for sexual offenses and other crimes. (BDR 14-424)

WAYNE THORLEY (Senate Fiscal Analyst):

Senate Bill 36 was heard in this Committee on May 16, 2023. The bill adds soliciting a child for prostitution to the list of criminal sexual offenses which requires a psychosexual evaluation and a certification for a person convicted of a felony or gross misdemeanor other than a sexual offense, but for which the original charge in the complaint, information or indictment was for a sexual offense, and for which the suspension of sentence or granting of is permitted. The bill was presented by the Office of the Attorney General (AG). The effective date is October 1, 2023.

The bill requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Division of Parole and Probation to arrange for psychosexual evaluation of the defendant and make a presentence investigation and report to the court that includes the evaluation in certain instances.

The DPS submitted a fiscal note indicating a \$41,400 cost in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium to pay for the additional psychosexual evaluations based on a cost range of \$1,350 to \$1,725 per evaluation. The bill was amended, and the Policy Committee and Fiscal staff received an email saying the first reprint did not change the fiscal impact of the estimated \$41,400 per year. The AG's Office did not object to the fiscal note.

There was no testimony provided in support, opposition or neutral. There were no amendments presented at that time.

Options for the Committee would be to amend the bill to add a General Fund appropriation of \$41,400 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium to address the fiscal note submitted by Parole and Probation, or the Committee could move to approve the bill without an amendment to address the fiscal cost and instruct the DPS, if unable to absorb the cost in its budget, to come to the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) during the Interim and request a contingency account allocation.

SENATOR TITUS:

Regardless of how we decide to pay for this, it is a critical evaluation that needs need to be done, and DPS cannot do them for free. These will take professional involvement. Given DPS is already understaffed, it will probably have to contract to do this.

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SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

If it is a good bill, we have to pay for it.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 36 WITH A GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION OF \$41,400 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM.

SENATOR TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close S.B. 36 and move to S.B. 71.

**[SENATE BILL 71 \(1st Reprint\)](#)**: Revises provisions relating to the recruitment and retention of school staff. (BDR 34-439)

CATHY CROCKET (Chief Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst):

Senate Bill 71 was heard in Committee on May 16, 2023. It renames the Nevada State Teacher Recruitment and Retention Advisory Task Force to the Nevada State Teacher and Education Support Professional Recruitment and Retention Advisory Task Force. It also revises powers, duties and membership of the task force to include education and support professionals. The bill becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

The Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) submitted a fiscal note indicating no fiscal impact. The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) submitted a fiscal note originally indicating an impact of \$16,050 per year. The NDE indicated in an email to Fiscal staff following the first reprint of the bill that the cost would be reduced to \$5,998 per year. Testimony by the interim deputy superintendent for Student Engagement and the deputy for Support Services indicated the fiscal impact would be reduced as previously indicated. The cost relates to increased travel costs for members of the Task Force.

There was no testimony in support, opposition or neutral. There were no amendments presented.

Options for consideration by the Committee include adding funding to support increased travel costs or seeing if NDE could absorb the costs and approach IFC during the Interim if it could not.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 71 WITH ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT INCREASED TRAVEL COSTS.

SENATOR NEAL SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:  
We will close S.B. 71 and move to S.B. 88.

**SENATE BILL 88**: Requires the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources to conduct an interim study of certain state agencies. (BDR S-345)

MR. THORLEY:  
Senate Bill 88 was heard by the Senate Finance Committee on May 24, 2023. The bill requires the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources (JISCNR) to conduct a study during the fiscal year (FY) 2023-2024 Interim concerning State agencies that regulate natural resources in the State. The bill was presented by Assemblyman Howard Watts and is effective on July 1, 2023.

The study of certain State agencies must include an examination of the composition, mission and scope of such State agencies. The JISCNR must examine, without limitation, the Board of Wildlife Commissioners, the Commission on Mineral Resources, the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the State Environmental Commission. Any findings from the study must be reported to the Eighty-third Session of the Legislature.

The LCB submitted a fiscal note indicating the fiscal impact could not be determined. However, Assemblyman Watts testified the study would not require a vendor or outside support to come in but instead be agendized at a regularly

budgeted meeting of the JISCNR and therefore not require additional costs beyond the Interim budget.

Support testimony was provided by the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, the Nevada Conservation League, Friends of Nevada Wildlife, the Nevada Humane Society, the Sierra Club and the Nevada Republican Club. There was no testimony provided in opposition or neutral. There were no amendments presented.

Given there is no fiscal impact, if the Committee would like to move this bill, the motion would be to do pass.

SENATOR TITUS:

Does JISCNR have to report back since this is a study? Will it not be assigned a bill draft request (BDR)?

MR. THORLEY:

The JISCNR is assigned to a certain number of BDRs. If it wanted to submit a BDR, it must use one of its existing BDRs.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 88.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close S.B. 88 and move to S.B. 195.

**SENATE BILL 195 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions related to cannabis.  
(BDR 56-452)

MS. CROCKET:

Senate Bill 195 was heard in this Committee on May 18, 2023. It revises provisions relating to disciplinary actions taken by the Cannabis Compliance Board (CCB) against a holder of a license or registration card. The bill was presented by Senator Nguyen and becomes effective on passage and approval.

The bill authorizes the Board to enter into a consent or settlement agreement with the licensee or registrant as long as the terms are discussed at a meeting of the Board. It sets forth mitigating circumstances for consideration when approving or modifying terms of a consent or settlement agreement. It requires a licensee or registrant with multiple alleged violations to be charged in a single complaint by the Board. It limits a civil penalty amount charged by the Board for a single violation to \$20,000 among various other provisions.

The CCB submitted a fiscal note indicating a decrease in time and effort revenues of about \$2 million a year. The revenue decrease would result in a corresponding reduction in funding available to support the State Education Fund.

There was support provided by Senator Nguyen, the Sierra Cannabis Coalition, Argentum Partners and Strategies 360. There was no testimony in opposition or neutral.

Senator Nguyen presented a conceptual amendment that reconciled section 7 of the bill with S.B. 328 if passed and would add language to section 11 to allow for certain billing solely for application-driven investigations.

**SENATE BILL 328 (1st Reprint)**: Eliminating the exemption of the Cannabis Compliance Board from the provisions of the Nevada Administrative Procedure Act. (BDR 56-519)

Based on the conceptual amendment, the CCB indicated it estimates a reduction in revenues totaling roughly \$2 million a year. That would result in a decrease in revenue available to the State Education Fund. No funding needs to be added to the bill to effect those changes.

If the Committee wishes to consider the bill, the action would be amend and do pass as amended.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

In case you missed it, there is a reduction with that amendment to the fiscal note by a couple of million dollars.

SENATOR HARRIS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 195 WITH THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY SENATOR NGUYEN.

SENATOR NEAL SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close S.B. 195 and move to S.B. 216.

**SENATE BILL 216 (1st Reprint)**: Establishes provisions relating to elections.  
(BDR 24-364)

MR. THORLEY:

Senate Bill 216 requires county and city clerks to establish and maintain a working relationship with each Indian tribe located in the county or city. The bill was presented by Senator James Ohrenschall and the Chief Deputy Secretary of State (SOS) Gabriel Di Chiara. The effective date is upon passage and approval for the purposes of adopting regulations and performing other preparatory administrative tasks and on January 1, 2024, for all other purposes.

The bill authorizes an Indian tribe to submit a request to the SOS to allow tribal identification cards to be accepted by the online voter preregistration and registration system established by the SOS.

The SOS submitted a fiscal note indicating a cost of approximately \$335,000 in FY 2023-2024. However, based on the first reprint, the SOS has reduced its fiscal impact estimate. The SOS estimates a cost of approximately \$57,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$71,000 in FY 2024-2025 for a program officer I position, who would be a dedicated tribal liaison.

An amendment submitted by the Washoe County Registrar of Voters is policy in nature and would not affect the fiscal estimate from the SOS. Rather than requiring county clerks and city clerks to establish and maintain working relationships with Indian tribes, the county clerks and city clerks would be required to schedule to meet with Indian tribes. If the Indian tribe is not interested in maintaining such a relationship, this gives the county and city clerks the ability to reach out to them. If still nonreceptive, the tribe would not be in violation of statute.



Support testimony was provided by All Voting is Local, Silver State Voices and several Nevada tribes. There was no opposition testimony. There was neutral testimony from Washoe County Registrar of Voters Jamie Rodriguez in relation to the proposed amendment.

There are several options to consider. The Committee could add a General Fund appropriation to fund the cost of the program officer I position as described in the unsolicited fiscal note from the SOS, or the Committee could not fund the program officer I position and ask the Agency to come back to the IFC if its current budget does not support the cost for this.

In closing the budget for the SOS, the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance, commonly referred to as the Money Committees, approved three new positions for the SOS's Elections Division. One position was a program officer III. The stated purpose of the program officer III position was primarily for translation services, and that position could absorb the duties of tribal liaison.

Existing law does not require agencies to have a dedicated position for tribal liaison. It does, however, require State agencies to designate a tribal liaison on their staff. Therefore, a new position is not required, and those duties could be assigned to an existing position under statute.

If the decision is to move forward without addressing the fiscal note, then the motion would be to amend and do pass with the Washoe County Registrar of Voters amendment. If the Committee would like to add the General Fund appropriations for the new program officer I position, the motion would also be to amend and do pass as amended with both the Washoe County Registrar of Voters Amendment and the General Fund appropriations in both fiscal years for the position.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

My real concern is the impact on local governments. We heard in testimony the City of Wells would have to put the ballot boxes and all this in place when technically only 16 individuals would have access. The Washoe amendment covers that. My recommendation would be to accept the Washoe amendment and see how this shakes out with the ability for them to come back to IFC. There are a lot of moving parts in these election bills. We do not know what the

final bill is going to be at this point. Rather than make an appropriation, let us go ahead and see what this looks like.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 216 WITH THE WASHOE COUNTY REGISTRAR AMENDMENT.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close S.B. 216 and move to S.B. 226.

**SENATE BILL 226 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions governing public works.  
(BDR 28-494)

MS. CROCKET:

Senate Bill 226 was heard on May 17, 2023. The bill requires, with certain exceptions, the payment of prevailing wages on any project if pursuant to certain agreements or partnerships between a developer and a public body with various items noted in the bill wherein public prevailing wages would apply. The bill was presented by Senator Cannizzaro, joined by the Southern Nevada Building Trades Unions. The act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

Senate Bill 226 also exempts certain projects related to affordable housing to the provisions of the bill.

The Nevada Department of Business and Industry (B&I), Office of Labor Commissioner (OLC) submitted a fiscal note on the bill indicating a cost of approximately \$395,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$498,140 in FY 2024-2025 based on the bill as introduced for the cost of five positions. After the first reprint of the bill, B&I indicated the cost would be reduced by one position with a reduction of approximately \$70,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$95,000 in FY 2024-2025.

There was no support testimony. Opposition testimony was provided by the Urban Consortium and the Vegas Chamber. Neutral testimony was provided by the OLC.

Senator Cannizzaro provided a draft amendment that further clarified which projects prevailing wages would apply to. Fiscal staff followed up with the OLC regarding the proposed amendment. The OLC indicated with the proposed amendment, an additional position could be eliminated from the request. The OLC indicates it would only need three positions to support the provisions of the bill. That would reduce the cost to \$261,768 in FY 2023-2024 and \$314,555 in FY 2024-2025.

Options for consideration by the Committee include adding General Fund appropriations to the bill to support the projected OLC costs, or directing B&I to approach the IFC for a contingency account allocation during the Interim if it could not absorb the workload into their existing staff.

If the Committee wishes to take action on the bill, the action would be amend and do pass as amended.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 226 WITHOUT FUNDING WITH THE STIPULATION THAT IF B&I REQUIRES ADDITIONAL FUNDING, IT MUST COME TO THE INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I will be opposing this legislation. It expands prevailing wage, and we already cover a lot of our public buildings. It is a stretch too far.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS GOICOCHEA, SEEVERS GANSERT AND TITUS VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close S.B. 226 and move to S.B. 234.

**SENATE BILL 234 (2nd Reprint)**: Revises provisions governing communications with offenders. (BDR S-810)

MR. THORLEY:

Senate Bill 234 was heard in the Senate Finance Committee on May 16, 2023. The bill requires the Nevada Department of Corrections (DOC) to establish and administer a pilot program to provide telephone calls free of charge between offenders in the custody of the DOC who have been assigned to the Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center and the families of such offenders. The bill was presented by Senator Melanie Scheible and DOC Director James Dzurenda. The provisions of this bill, including the pilot program, expire by limitation on January 1, 2025.

The pilot program allows an offender a 15-minute telephone call each day to a member of the family of the offender free of charge. The bill requires the DOC to prepare and submit a report to the Board of State Prison Commissioners concerning participation of offenders in this pilot program.

There was no fiscal impact on the bill as introduced. The DOC testified this pilot program would have no fiscal impact by absorbing any associated costs within its existing budget.

There was no testimony provided in support, opposition or neutral. There were no amendments at the time the bill was heard.

If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the motion would be to do pass as amended.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

Though Senator Scheible sponsored this bill, Max Grinstein, the Youth Legislator from District 15, asked for it.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT MOVED TO DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 234.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close S.B. 234 and move to S.B. 266.

**SENATE BILL 266 (1st Reprint)**: Excludes certain portions of entry fees for participation in certain contests or tournaments from the gross revenue of gaming licensees for certain purposes. (BDR 41-943)

MS. CROCKET:

Senate Bill 266 was heard on May 16, 2023. The bill revises existing law to exclude from the calculation of gross gaming revenue on which the monthly license fee is imposed. The bill was presented by Senator Julie Pazina and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

Any portion of entry fees collected for the right to participate in contests and tournaments conducted on the premises of a licensed gaming establishment with the participants physically present at those premises when participating is designated as: employee compensation used to pay an employee of a licensee additional compensation for being involved in the organization or operation of the contest or tournament; a donation remitted to certain tax-exempt organizations; an addition to a payoff schedule of the contest or tournament that is paid as a prize to our participant in a present or future contest or tournament; an addition to an account to pay guaranteed payouts of future contests or tournaments.

The bill also clarifies cash from an entry fee excluded from gross revenue may not be deducted from gross gaming revenue when paid out or distributed for a purpose other than the purpose for which an exclusion is authorized. Cash from an entry fee must be included in the calculation of gross gaming revenue for the month in which it is paid out or distributed for a purpose other than the purpose for which an exclusion is authorized.

The Nevada Gaming Control Board submitted a fiscal note indicating an annual reduction in gross gaming tax revenues of \$1.7 million per year based upon FY 2021-2022 collections. These fees were not included in the revenue

calculations until 2019. If the bill is approved, gross gaming tax revenues would return revenue calculations to the 2019 level.

There is a proposed amendment that generally reduces the frequency of certain reporting requirements.

The Nevada Resort Association testified in support of the bill. There was no testimony in opposition or neutral.

If the Committee wishes to approve the bill, an appropriate action might be amend and do pass as amended. There is a revenue reduction but no amendments to add any funding if the Committee wishes to approve the bill.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 266 WITH THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO REDUCE THE FREQUENCY OF CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED BY MS. CROCKET.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close S.B. 266 and move to S.B. 274.

**SENATE BILL 274 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions relating to industrial insurance. (BDR 53-946)

MR. THORLEY:

Senate Bill 274 was heard in Senate Finance on May 16, 2023. The bill revises provisions relating to industrial insurance. It was presented by Senator Skip Daly.

Under existing law, a person may appeal the failure of the administrator of B&I, Division of Industrial Relations (DIR) to respond to a written request for determination within 90 days after the request is mailed to the administrator.

A proposed amendment revises those provisions in section 4 and authorizes a person who is aggrieved by the failure of the administrator to respond to a complaint alleging that the insurer organization or managed care, health care provider, third-party administrator, employer or professional employer organization has committed certain violations within 120 days after receipt to appeal the failure to respond by final request for hearing within 150 days after that receipt.

A fiscal note was submitted by the DIR, and a subsequent unsolicited fiscal note was submitted on the first reprint from the DIR. The fiscal note indicates an additional compliance auditor investigator III position would be needed on the Workers' Compensation Section of the Division. The fiscal note also includes technology upgrade costs. The total estimated cost is \$147,000 in FY 2023-2024 and approximately \$99,000 in FY 2024-2025.

The DIR Workers' Compensation Section is funded by the Fund for Workers' Compensation and Safety. We have received confirmation from DIR that there is sufficient funding available paid by an assessment from employers to cover the cost of that position and the system upgrades accordingly. No additional funding would be required.

There was no testimony provided in support, opposition or neutral.

If the Committee wishes to move this bill with the proposed amendment, the motion would be to amend and do pass as amended.

SENATOR GOICOCHEA:

There is no real fiscal impact to this bill; if we do not like the bill, we can vote against it on the Floor.

MR. THORLEY:

The fiscal impact is not on the General Fund. It is on the Fund for Workers' Compensation and Safety.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 274 WITH THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO REVISE SECTION 4  
AS DESCRIBED BY MR. THORLEY.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

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SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:  
I will be opposing the motion.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS GOICOECHEA, SEEVERS GANSERT  
AND TITUS VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:  
We will close S.B. 274 and move to S.B. 277.

**SENATE BILL 277**: Revises provisions relating to cannabis. (BDR 56-193)

MS. CROCKET:

Senate Bill 277 was heard in Committee on May 22, 2023. The bill requires the CCB to consider adverse effects on the environment prior to modifying any regulation. The bill was presented by Senator Harris. The bill is effective for administrative preparatory tasks upon passage and approval and January 1, 2024, for other purposes. Section 16 of the bill becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

The bill establishes a process for existing medical license holders to apply for an adult-use license; deems adult-use cannabis establishments as dual licensees; exempts medical cannabis sales to holders of a registry identification card or letter of approval from the excise tax imposed on retail sales; prohibits the Board from issuing or renewing a medical cannabis license establishment on or after January 1, 2024, unless the establishment is in a covered jurisdiction; and sets forth provisions for establishments not in covered jurisdictions.

The bill revises provisions allowing exemptions from State prosecution for the possession, delivery and production of cannabis. It also revises the amount of cannabis the medical cannabis dispensaries and cannabis sales facilities are authorized to sell to a person per transaction.

The bill repeals provisions concerning excluded felony offense and associated restrictions on licenses and registrants who have been convicted of an excluded felony offense and increases the maximum fees CCB may charge to issue or renew a license.



The bill also requires a Cannabis Advisory Commission to conduct a study concerning the potential effects of the removal of cannabis from the list of controlled substances included in Schedule 1 pursuant to the Federal Controlled Substance Act or the Uniform Controlled Substances Act.

Senator Harris provided a conceptual amendment ([Exhibit C](#)). Initially, the Nevada Department of Taxation indicated a fiscal impact of approximately \$105,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$110,000 in FY 2024-2025. However, upon further review, the Department indicated in an email to Fiscal staff that it can absorb the workload with existing staff toward a nominal revenue impact associated with the bill.

The Nevada Cannabis Association, Chamber of Cannabis, Sierra Cannabis Coalition and various cannabis organizations testified in support of the bill. The Compassion Center and one individual testified in opposition, and the Nevada Association of Counties testified in neutral.

If the Committee wishes to approve the bill, the appropriate motion would be amend and do pass.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

In [Exhibit C](#), you remove the requirement for someone who has less than a 5 percent ownership to obtain a cannabis establishment agent registration card. But then you point to the CCB to decide if someone has over 5 percent and who actually has to get that card.

I know you had concerns about transparency like who owns establishments and who does not own establishments. If you are not required to obtain a cannabis establishment agent registration card, then does the Board come up with regulations that provide an ability for it to decrease the transparency around who owns cannabis establishments?

SENATOR HARRIS:

The intention here is to allow the Board flexibility where if you own 5 percent or less, you would not have to get an agent card. I do not believe the intention is to allow the Board to waive in perpetuity for people who own substantial amounts of interest. But for those smaller owners, we want to make sure the CCB can waive that requirement.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

When I read this, I was reading it the opposite way. It says adopt regulations, establishing policies and procedures to which the Board may waive the requirement set forth. Then it goes on to say, "a person who holds an ownership interest of 5 percent or more." It looks like you are opting out people less than 5 percent, and the Board will have the ability to decide what to do with anybody who is at 5 percent or greater.

SENATOR HARRIS:

You are correct. This really applies to people who are cannabis executives, not owners. There are other ways we would have transparency of the involvement of such persons. There is no guarantee what the regulations would look like, but we are going to kick it back to the CCB. This was also a request from the CCB in a previous bill. We are going ahead and adding that here.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I am concerned about this amendment, so I am going to oppose it.

MICHAEL MILES (Deputy Director, Cannabis Compliance Board):

The waiver for greater than 5 percent ownership was meant more for holding companies with passive investment that have no involvement in the business itself.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I understand. I will still be opposed.

MR. THORLEY:

The motion is to amend and do pass with the proposed conceptual amendment from Senator Harris. If this moves out of Committee, LCB Legal will draft the amendment. The official amendment will be available for review before voting on the Floor.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 277 WITH SENATOR HARRIS'S CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT.

SENATOR NEAL SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS GOICOECHEA, SEEVERS GANSERT  
AND TITUS VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:  
We will close S.B. 277 and move to S.B. 281.

**SENATE BILL 281 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions governing public utilities.  
(BDR 58-693)

MR. THORLEY:

Senate Bill 281 was heard in Senate Finance on May 17, 2023. The bill revises the existing requirement for a public utility that purchases natural gas for resale to ten or more customers to file an annual report with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) on or before October 1, 2025, and on or before October 1 of every third year thereafter. The bill was sponsored by Senator Nguyen. The effective date of the bill is upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks necessary to carry out provisions of the bill and January 1, 2024, for all other purposes.

The informational report must include a plan designed to meet the current and future needs for natural gas at the lowest reasonable cost to the public utility and its customers. The bill also creates the requirement that the PUCN require each public utility to meet with personnel from the PUCN and the Nevada Bureau of Consumer Protection within the AG's Office and any other interested persons at least four months before filing the plan or within a reasonable period before filing an amendment to an existing plan to provide an overview of the plan or amendment.

Senate Bill 281 requires the PUCN to hold a public hearing on the adequacy of the utilities plan and prohibits a public utility that purchases natural gas for resale to ten or more State customers from filing a general rate application within 180 days before or after filing of its plan. It requires the PUCN to adopt certain regulations which authorizes such utility to include in its plan a proposal to expand its infrastructure consistent with a program of economic development.

Senator Nguyen indicated the two fiscal notes submitted by the PUCN and the AG's Office still stand. The fiscal note submitted by the PUCN indicates one new full-time unclassified resource planning engineer position, one part-time unclassified regulatory economist position and one quarter-time unclassified commission policy adviser position would be needed with an estimated cost of \$215,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$237,000 in FY 2024-2025.

The PUCN is funded through the mill rate assessment, not the General Fund. The Agency estimates the fiscal impact would raise the annual regulatory assessment by 0.05 mills, impacting the monthly residential ratepayer by approximately 1 cent in FY 2023-2024 and 1 cent in FY 2024-2025.

The AG's Office fiscal note indicates one engineer and one economist position is required along with associated operating costs in the Bureau of Consumer Protection within the AG's Office. The estimate is \$229,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$289,000 in FY 2024-2025. Funding could be provided through the mill rate assessment to fund these positions.

Southwest Gas, the Vegas Chamber, Advanced Energy United, the Nevada Trucking Association and Nevada Manufacturing Association provided testimony in support of this bill. There was no testimony provided in opposition or neutral.

There were no amendments presented at the time of the hearing, and Fiscal staff is not aware of any amendments at this time. There is no General Fund impact. However, there would be an impact on the mill rate assessment.

If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate motion would be to do pass as amended.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

Natural gas utilities are not subject to a planning process. This bill would provide for more due process, more open meetings, more discussions and more consumer protections on any potential ratepayer increases.

SENATOR TITUS MOVED TO DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 281.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close S.B. 281 and move to S.B. 291.

**SENATE BILL 291**: Makes various changes relating to education. (BDR 34-503)

Ms. CROCKET:

Senate Bill 291 was heard in Committee on May 12, 2023. The bill removes the requirement that to qualify for employment as a substitute teacher, a student teacher must have completed at least four weeks of student teaching in a school district. The bill was presented by Senator Cannizzaro and Dr. Kenneth Varner. The bill becomes effective on passage and approval.

Additionally, the bill, which appropriates \$1,575,000 to the NDE for the Nevada Institute on Teaching and Educator Preparation, requires the Institute to report expenditures of this money to the IFC.

The Nevada System of Higher Education, the Las Vegas Chamber, Nevada Association of Superintendents, Nevada State Education Association and the University of Nevada, Reno, testified in support. There was no testimony in opposition or neutral.

There were no amendments or fiscal notes presented on the bill. However, it does contain a \$1,575,000 General Fund appropriation.

If the Committee wishes to take action on the bill, the appropriate motion would be do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 291.

SENATOR TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will hear bills, beginning with S.B. 205.

**SENATE BILL 205 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions relating to the registration of off-highway vehicles. (BDR 43-546)

SENATOR IRA HANSEN (Senatorial District No. 14):

Senate Bill 205 revises provisions governing the registration of off-highway vehicles (OHV). Off-highway vehicles currently have a one-year registration program. This bill would give the owners an optional three-year window to license their OHV. The dollar amounts will remain the same. It is an optional \$20 for one year or \$60 for three years.

One other provision is a reciprocity clause. In Nevada law, we allow people who bring OHVs from other states a 15-day window to use them without the need to get a Nevada license. We want to make sure Nevada citizens who take their OHVs to other states are treated the same.

The Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) submitted a fiscal note, anticipating a need to update its computer system to implement this. We made the effective date of the bill optional so when the DMV's new program is in place, it can add the provisions of the bill. It is a win-win for everyone.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Do other states allow us to take ATVs into their states and have that window of 15 days or whatever it may be in their states?

SENATOR HANSEN:

I am not sure how all the other states do it. My understanding is that we do it, and the reason we put in the reciprocity is to encourage other states to do it.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I was curious when you made that comment in your testimony. I know some ATV people that will be happy.

I appreciate the work you have done on this bill and the idea that we encourage people to do things outdoors. The price is not changing. It means we do not have those people in the DMV or online all the time. That will help the DMV as well.

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SENATOR HANSEN:

This bill reduces paperwork by a third but increases the revenue by three times.

JAMES SETTELMAYER (Director, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources):

Proposed Amendment 3637 ([Exhibit D](#)) that Senator Hansen put on this bill eliminated our fiscal note. We are supportive of the concept but obviously testifying neutral.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 205 and move to S.B. 222.

**SENATE BILL 222 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions relating to juries.  
(BDR 1-192)

SENATOR DALLAS HARRIS (Senatorial District No. 11):

Senate Bill 222 adds to the list of people who would be eligible jurors.

The Administrative Office of the Courts is asking for approximately \$20,000 to implement computer programming. That is the only fiscal impact to the State. However, I would like to do a verbal conceptual to delete sections 3, 4 and 5 of the bill, which are not related to fiscal impact but eliminate the time bar that felons could serve on criminal juries. We are deleting that piece. It has no impact on the fiscal portion of this bill.

Section 1 adds to the list that a jury commissioner must compile of qualified electors and adds the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) list of people on welfare and other State assistance programs. The goal is to increase the diversification of the jury pool.

This bill also raises jury duty compensation from \$40 per day to \$65 per day. Jury duty pay was previously set at \$10. It jumped to \$40. The \$65 number is the consumer price index adjusted amount of \$40.

SENATOR TITUS:

What sections you are removing?

SENATOR HARRIS:

Sections 3, 4 and 5.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 222 and move to S.B. 439.

**SENATE BILL 439 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions relating to communicable diseases. (BDR 40-987)

SENATOR DALLAS HARRIS (Senatorial District 11):

Senate Bill 439 revises provisions relating to communicable diseases. You should have received Proposed Amendment 3666 ([Exhibit E](#)) to S.B. 439.

Proposed Amendment 3666 does not change the substance of the bill. It does remove the fiscal note from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, which was approximately \$29 million. The fiscal impact to the State is the NDE's fiscal note related to how we teach sexual education in the State.

LEA CASE (Nevada Public Health Association):

We support S.B. 439.

TOM CLARK (Pharmaceutical Care Management Association):

We want to thank the sponsor of this bill for working with all the stakeholders. We support this bill.

SARAH ALDER (Nevada Advanced Practice Nurses Association):

We are proud to provide this care throughout our State.

STEVEN MESSINGER (Nevada Primary Care Association):

Our Association represents the State's federally qualified health centers. We are in strong support of this bill.

JOELLE GUTMAN (Washoe County Health District):

We are in strong support of S.B. 439.

MELISSA CLEMENT (Nevada Right to Life):

I appreciate that the sponsor took out the big price tag for \$10 million, but there still is a price to this bill, which is the price to the parents.



I have no issues with any of the HIV drugs. My main concern is as a parent. We are rightly the first educators of our children, especially in the areas of morals. Sex education, when it goes beyond the basics, can easily conflict.

What is the fiscal impact? I am not going into policy. But there is a real cost to parents when they do not have the opportunity to address the curriculum. This takes away the important aspect of going to your local school board and saying, "I have a problem with ... ."

Sex education is a tough issue. It is a lightning rod. When you take it to the State level where the decisions are made by bureaucrats appointed by elected officials, you are protecting the elected officials at the local level; where it becomes a problem is then parents like me have to go find a different school. Suddenly, I cannot go to my public school. I have to homeschool or have private school because I disagree.

There is a fiscal impact. It is not \$10 million anymore, but it is quite costly to our parents.

JANINE HANSEN (State President, Nevada Families for Freedom):

We are significantly concerned about this bill. It revolutionizes what is going on in the local communities regarding the sex education curriculum. It costs democracy. This takes from the local parents the opportunity to participate in their local sex education advisory committees and strips them essentially of all their authority.

An important part of democracy is participating in your local government. This is stripped out of this bill. It puts it in an unelected, unaccountable board to determine the curriculum.

The cost of that is huge in terms of local parent participation and being able to determine for the different counties what is best for them. That is important. We try to address the needs of the different counties all the time. This bill takes that away. Absolutely.

Another thing it takes away is mandating that someone like Planned Parenthood can come into the classroom and teach things the parents oppose. Before it was a school nurse or a teacher. This bill changes the way we have done it for many years in which local communities have participated in significant concerns. It

broadens the subject, and it promotes access to reproductive healthcare services without limitation. Now, they are going to be promoting Planned Parenthood in the classroom.

What is the cost of that to our children if, instead of talking to their parents, instead of a reasonable curriculum, they are told to go see somebody else about the decisions they make? We are concerned about how this radically changes the way we have done sex education in the State of Nevada with local input, local parents, local sex education advisory committees and local school boards making the decision.

We oppose this radical departure from the democratic way it was done in the past.

KATHLEEN PALMER:

Senate Bill 439 provides HIV drug access to Medicaid recipients and people in prison. But there is a lot in the bill. Offering a drug is acceptable, but partnerships were rapidly set in motion to enforce compliance during our most recent health emergency. Perhaps you remember it?

At first, I was offered injections of emergency use, authorized experimental synthetic mRNA spike protein encased in lipid nanoparticle particles. Then I was offered donuts and gift certificates if I would only submit to injections. Soon, I was barred from restaurants and civic spaces. I was not allowed to visit my mother in the hospital when she was dying because I would not submit. I lost relationships with my family members, and I could not get a job because I was not injected. Oddly, many of my family members and friends got COVID-19, especially after repeated injections. I never got COVID-19 even though I lived for months with a person who repeatedly tested positive.

One of the four principles of medical ethics is autonomy. The patient has the right to choose and refuse treatment. This applies to everyone, even people on Medicaid or in prison. The Nuremberg Code states people have the right to refuse medical treatment including experimental drugs. My experience confirms my belief in the ability of my body's robust and sophisticated immune system to fight off infections and communicable diseases.

Over the past three years, I have learned that the best way to achieve and maintain health is to do the exact opposite of what the public health authorities,

legacy media and drug companies tell me to do. The government should guarantee all persons have the right to make their own decisions about what goes into their bodies. That should be amended into S.B. 439. People should not be punished for refusing medical treatment. The medical industrial complex loses power and profit when we say no.

LISA PARTEE:

I echo Ms. Clement and Ms. Hansen's comments. Senate Bill 439 removes control of the sex education curriculum from the local sex education advisory committee which includes at least one parent under the elected school board. For control to go over to a council is unaccountable. It allows outside people to teach in our schools and with Planned Parenthood having its agenda, it promotes anti-family lifestyle. It mandates HIV drugs for literally everyone, and it is a huge payday for Big Pharma.

This bill removes accountability to the schools and the curriculum. It scares children. They will scare children into believing the propaganda about HIV, and they will inevitably get AIDS if they test positive, which after 40 years since the last big HIV scare still has not been demonstrated to cause AIDS. This will allow the schools to create the next big public health emergency based on fear and not true medical testing and issues.

Planned Parenthood was created to kill the Black population. This is nothing new to get rich off killing babies and selling their body parts, many of which end up in our pharmaceutical drugs, which is pretty sickening. Look at the ingredients of the shots produced recently. Fetal cells are in many of these. This supports the relationship between Planned Parenthood and pharmaceutical companies.

This is another attack on our kids and taxpayers, which has been so prevalent this Session. Please do not pass this bill.

JIM DEGRAFFENREID (Nevada Republican Party):

We are in opposition to S.B. 439. Senate Bill 439 seeks to take away the ability of local school boards, where most of the accountability belongs to the parents to set the sex education curriculum and determine the ages appropriate for this information. Instead, the State will set a one-size-fits-all curriculum. It will require parents to deal with an unaccountable commission as opposed to their local school board.

This bill carries fiscal expense to the State to put on this program as opposed to leaving it with the local school boards. Senate Bill 439 does not require these subjects be taught by a teacher or even an employee but rather specifically allows the subjects to be taught by strangers with ulterior motives from outside the school system.

In 2017, Governor Brian Sandoval vetoed A.B. No. 348 of the 79th Session, a bill similar to this one. The parents will be hard to defeat. His veto message stated the reasons this was a bad idea. These reasons are just as valid today. His message essentially reads that finally, without a doubt, the policy changes involving such education are ones that should be determined by parents, educators and education policymakers at local school boards. These environments invite and include optimum discussion, debate and decisions for the children who attend the schools in those neighborhoods. But a uniform one-size-fits-all approach to sex education would be ill-advised, and policy changes should be made at the local level.

Please do not circumvent local school boards. Do not add to the fiscal cost to the State. Please oppose S.B. 439 to protect Nevada's families and children.

KATIE BANUELOS (Libertarian Party of Nevada):

We oppose this bill on two grounds. First, it is centralizing sex education at the State level and deprives parents the ability to weigh in on decisions that should be made in the most decentralized way at the most local level.

Second, many of the HIV-related provisions in this bill are a handout to the pharmaceutical companies. This corporate welfare requires a variety of entities to have and keep these drugs on hand and creates a mandated provision of when they should be distributed. We oppose all of that and the requirements placed on insurers.

KASEY ROGERS:

Regarding Planned Parenthood in our classroom, as a parent, we have had enough of its indoctrination of our children. Leave our kids alone. Why are you so concerned about HIV? Is it because HIV was added into that gain-of-function research forced into over 70 percent of our Country's arms? Looks like somebody is trying to cover their tracks. Local school boards belong local, and its decisions belong to parents. Keep your so-called legal drugs from Big Pharma

away from our kids. Quit trying to control our voices as parents. They are our children, not yours.

I would like to echo everyone's opposition testimony thus far.

One last thing. When you try saying opt out, even though that is not a part of this bill, I have noticed it is not considered informed consent.

ERIN PHILLIPS (President, Power2Parent):

I oppose S.B. 439. If you read the fiscal note on NDE, they use the Advocates for Youth organization for training and curriculum. The Mission statement of this group on the front page of their website states, "Young people understand that reproductive and sexual health and rights are inextricably tied to social justice and the fight for liberation."

Essentially, we are looking at a social justice organization being billed to parents as health educators under the fiscal note. If you read more thoroughly, it is a virtual professional development that advocates for youth, offers educators in the virtual classroom and an instructional coach who will assist in offering feedback. We are looking at paying \$600 an hour to train educators for advocacy, which is not a neutral fact-based health organization. Advocates for Youth has an agenda. We need to keep that type of agenda-driven curriculum out of our classroom. We need to look at neutral curriculum, neutral training.

I urge you to vote no for the other reasons stated and the fact this is decentralizing important decisions that parents need to be involved in.

Section 18 also allows for sex education curriculum to be taught in any subject. Please read section 18 and make sure you understand this is not just about health; this is taking sex education outside the purview of health. In that way, it is also removing the specific permission that parents have the right for their child to be taught sex education.

We oppose this bill.

KATRIN SIENKIEWICZ (Co-Director, Health Freedom Nevada):

We oppose S.B. 439. This bill is just one of the many bills in this current Session of the Nevada Legislature that seeks to put pharmaceutical and medical industry profits ahead of the health of the people of Nevada.

This bill opens the pharmaceutical drug pipeline in our State, in particular that of HIV treatment and prevention, along with even more drugs to treat illicit drug addiction. This bill includes sexuality education for all Nevada public school children, kindergarten and up, to ensure they are all educated or arguably programmed from an early age to blindly accept this onslaught of pharmaceutical drugs without questions.

This bill egregiously prioritizes HIV drug access to our most vulnerable populations, particularly those receiving public services and assistance including those incarcerated.

No law requires a plan for interrupted diabetes or blood pressure medications during the next public health emergency, but this is for the dangerous and unproven HIV drugs, including preexposure drugs for those who have not had sex or used intravenous drugs, postexposure drugs for those who might have been exposed, and treatment drugs for anyone who has tested positive for HIV. Drugs for everybody.

This HIV is the original COVID-19 scam and one that has never been proven to cause AIDS. The entire house of cards is built on one statement made in a press conference by the National Institutes of Health on April 23, 1984, that claimed HIV is the probable cause of AIDS. Never has any science supported that theory. People need to educate themselves on this topic, and they need to avoid these dangerous chemotherapy drugs.

Senate Bill 439 is a massive boon for the pharmaceutical industry with mandated public and private insurance coverage of these HIV drugs. Please vote for the people of Nevada by voting against S.B. 439.

SENATOR HARRIS:

I want to put a couple of facts on the record. On page 16 of S.B. 439, section 17, subsection 3 details the advisory committee. It is not struck out. The advisory committee will continue to have the same duties it had before. There are absolutely no changes—not even to the membership of that advisory committee. This bill does not mess with its authority.

On page 16, section 17, subsection 2, paragraph (f) for the very first time, we require that the advisory committee “involve the parents or guardians of pupils

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in the instruction provided and encourage pupils to communicate with their families concerning issues related to sexuality.” Sounds like good stuff to me.

We are making a minor change about what is required to be taught, but this is evidence-based and factual instruction. That is the best way to guide our sexual education in this State.

In addition, this bill does not require an opt-out, it will remain an opt-in. We have another piece of legislation that considers changing that, but the opt-out is not part of this bill.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 439 and move to S.B. 242.

**SENATE BILL 242 (1st Reprint)**: Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish the Psychedelic Medicines Working Group.  
(BDR S-39)

SENATOR ROCHELLE T. NGUYEN (Senatorial District No. 3):

Senate Bill 242 creates the Psychedelic Medicines Working Group to study certain issues relating to the therapeutic use of entheogens during the 2023-2024 Interim. We are here today with a substantial amendment. There is no fiscal note on this bill.

This bill was heard in Senate Health and Human Services on March 23, 2023. About a month later, we heard it in work session. It has been sitting here this entire time. I have had numerous hearings, meetings and working groups to work out the language. I have been working with multiple members of the Nevada Psychiatric Association who brought this bill to me.

I have not had an opportunity to review the amendment because the first time I saw it was today when it was handed to me by Committee staff. The organization has had an abundant opportunity to meet with me to discuss its concerns and has not. But I will continue to work with any groups that reach out to me.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

You have not seen the amendment we received this morning?

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SENATOR NGUYEN:  
I have not.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:  
An FYI to anybody out there who might be listening. If you have an amendment a sponsor has not seen, it is not a good way to start a bill. I am a little disappointed in that.

Does this bill have a fiscal note?

SENATOR NGUYEN:  
No, it does not.

SCOT RUTLEDGE (Deep Roots Harvest):  
We are in support of S.B. 242. These types of study or working groups have started to show up in other states. Just this year, we have seen Washington and Hawaii create working groups. A couple of states looking at these types of programs are going forward, and that is what we are asking the working group to do. We are not the first state to do this. We are certainly not the last, and we would appreciate your support in this working group.

EDUARDO MARTINEZ (Nevada Coalition for Psychedelic Medicines):  
We are in support of S.B. 242 as it allows our State to take a proactive and thoughtful approach in evaluating the actions of states like Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Texas, Connecticut and Minnesota in relation to the substance and at minimal expense to the State. This is a fiscally responsible avenue for identifying future steps that address Nevada's mental health challenges.

ANNETTE MAGNUS (Battle Born Progress):  
This bill is an exciting bill for those of us who have mental health challenges. This is a great way to start exploring the use of these drugs all throughout Nevada.

Ms. BANUELOS:  
Speaking on behalf of the Libertarian Party of Nevada, we support this bill. It is a good step forward in legalizing psilocybin and the use of it that comes down to a matter of bodily autonomy.



The prohibition mindset prevalent in our government has so far stifled any exploration of these products for therapeutic purposes or any other research. People have a right to do with their bodies what they will and consume these kinds of products.

We fully support this bill and thank the sponsor for bringing it.

JEANETTE BELZ (Nevada Psychiatric Association):

I want to clarify for the record that Dr. Shaily Jain who Senator Nguyen has been working with may be a member of the Nevada Psychiatric Association. However, we represent the Nevada Psychiatric Association and have been working with them through the entire process in opposition to this bill.

I check the Nevada Public Notice Website <<https://www.notice.nv.gov>>, every day to see what meetings are scheduled for that day. A meeting this morning by the Statewide Epidemiology Organization Workgroup was not posted. I found out an hour later about its meeting. I researched a little more and found this workgroup used to be posted until a supposed change in the depth and level of organizations and committees being posted on that website. My concern about this meeting not being posted is there will not be transparency regarding the Medical Psychedelics Working Group.

We have proposed an amendment ([Exhibit F](#)) that is not substantial. It asks for clarity that the Psychedelic Medicines Working Group be subject to the Open Meeting Law. Item 2 asks to clarify that this working group is subject to the Open Meeting Law in *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 241; Item 4 asks to clarify that any subcommittee created by the chair of the working group is also subject to the Open Meeting Law in NRS 241. My fear is the group proposed in S.B. 242 will not be.

Item 3 in our proposed amendment is a required quorum of all members to take any action. Section 3.5, subsection 4 says a majority of members of the working group constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority of members is enough to take official action.

If a meeting is not posted and we have just a majority of people being able to take action, that is problematic to me as a transparency person and as a member of the public trying to figure out what is going on.

There are risks to taking psilocybin. If you are schizophrenic or if you have schizophrenic tendencies, you should not be taking it. It tends to increase blood pressure. If you have uncontrolled blood pressure or are unaware of it, that should be noted.

The preamble does not refer to any of those potential risks. If information on those risks was added, then it would be fine to leave the preamble. But at this point, with the opposition we have given previously, it is not in there.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I cannot speak to the amendment. I can only speak to the timing of the amendment. With that, I would say there is probably not a person in this building, including lobbyists, who would not be upset if an amendment was handed to somebody in the middle of a meeting concerning a bill he or she is sponsoring. I will allow the sponsor of S.B. 242 to address those things when she comes up for closing comments.

When you get an amendment the day of the hearing and the bill was heard two months ago, it is an issue.

MS. BELZ:

It was early this morning I started work on this. We reached out to the lobbyists of the bill early this morning as well, so they were aware of it.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I was here at seven and Senator Nguyen was here shortly after. I am not sure why nobody reached out.

ANDREW LEPEILBET (Chairman, United Veterans Legislative Council):

I am the State Commander of combat-wounded veterans in the Military Order of the Purple Heart. We are here to testify in neutral. We have struggled back and forth with this to gain education about the effects that remind us a little bit of the hyperbaric oxygen therapy which has had tests and is now endorsed by the State for the federal government to deal with.

Our concern is the health issues of our veterans and their families, and suicide prevention. There seems to be hope here, but we remain in neutral on this bill. As a member of the Governor's and Mayor's Challenges to Prevent Suicide

Among Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families, for five years, I believe this is another source of reducing suicides in our veterans and their families.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

I am open to any conversations. It is frustrating when you have had months and months and meetings after meetings, and things are brought to you in this manner. I will continue to work with opposing parties to see if we can come up with a place to have this working group move forward.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 242 and move to S.B. 419.

**SENATE BILL 419 (1st Reprint)**: Makes revisions relating to public health.  
(BDR 40-748)

SENATOR FABIAN DOÑATE (Senatorial District No. 10):

Senate Bill 419 is the Nevada Health Opportunities Planning and Expansion Act of 2023, commonly known as the Hope Act.

The Hope Act can help improve our health, infrastructure and support communities and individuals who were left behind from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Hope Act will pave the way for Nevada to be a leader in health information technology, reduce the burden of uncompensated care, align health information systems and clinical institutions to ensure patients can receive access to their data and ensure children and pregnant moms regardless of their citizenship status can finally receive access to care under the Proposed Amendment 3642 ([Exhibit G](#)) of S.B. 419.

The Hope Act is structured under two fiscal tiers: health accessibility and public health modernization. Health accessibility will reduce the level of uncompensated care. Senate Bill 419 aims to expand Medicaid coverage for pregnant moms and postpartum coverage regardless of immigration or citizenship status. It requires Medicaid to create a State-funded program to provide coverage for children aged 0 to 16 regardless of their immigration and citizenship status.

During the hearing of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, we heard a request to open the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange and determine the feasibility of applying for a federal 1332 waiver.

Proposed Amendment 3642 was a one-time biennium State appropriation of \$600,000 for the Exchange to contract experts in filing the waiver and conducting the actual analysis.

The fiscal note reflects children between the ages of 0 to 26. The amendment changes the ages from 0 to 16. Proposed Amendment 3642 would strike the provision of expanding coverage to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients which would further reduce the fiscal note provided by Medicaid under the first reprint and conduct the extra analysis under the Silver State Health Exchange with the consideration of applying for a section 1332 waiver through Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to expand coverage through the State's Health Insurance Marketplace. A one-time appropriation of \$600,000 would help the Exchange support this initiative to report back to the Legislature with accurate numbers on the direct and indirect cost of such expansion in the consideration for State subsidies.

Page 3 of the Health Accessibility Fiscal Note Summary ([Exhibit H](#)) has the fiscal notes and State impact for the biennium. Expanding Medicaid to include prenatal coverage for pregnant moms regardless of their immigration and citizenship status would cost the General Fund \$1.7 million. That includes the federal match of \$4.6 million covered under the option of the State's Children's Health Insurance Program.

Senator Yvanna Cancela sponsored S.B. No. 325 of the 79th Session. Senate Bill 419 is an expansion of that bill to cover pregnant moms and include postpartum coverage regardless of their immigration or citizenship status. The cost to the General Fund would be \$2.8 million.

The cost to expand coverage for undocumented children in the State, regardless of their immigration or citizenship status, is approximately \$14.2 million to the State General Fund in the 2023-2025 biennium. This preliminary amount was determined by conversations with Medicaid and reflects Proposed Amendment 3642.

In summary, we are doing the expansion for prenatal and postpartum coverage. Part of that has a federal match. The coverage for undocumented children will have Medicaid present as to the fiscal note for those aged 0 to 16. We have taken out DACA recipients. The Proposed Amendment No. 3642 would give \$600,000 to the Exchange, which varies from the \$20,000 on the fiscal note.

This would allow us to go through the process of determining what the State subsidies would cost. Let us open up the Exchange so people can pay for health care themselves. That is what is reflected on the amendment.

The other fiscal tier of the Hope Act is public health modernization. Page 4 of [Exhibit H](#) details the Legislature-proposed modernization efforts to update regulations for health data exchange and reduce regulatory burdens on healthcare providers. The bill requires DHHS to recruit a chief data officer to stand up the strategic arm at a cost of \$589,275 to the State General Fund reflected in a fiscal note from the Director's Office. Medicaid mentioned it had a slight revision.

An unsolicited fiscal note submitted by the DOC was in regard to the adopted regulations on data exchange. Proposed Amendment 3642, section 6, subsection 7, exempts them from complying with those regulations. They would not need the fiscal note.

TODD SKLAMBERG (CEO, Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center):

We are in support of S.B. 419. We want to thank the Senator for the important work on expanding access to health care for some of the most vulnerable population in the State.

Sunrise Hospital is the State's largest acute care hospital with 834 beds. We are committed to caring for the entire community. Last year, Sunrise provided 20 percent of the care for all Medicaid recipients receiving inpatient care in Nevada. If we look specifically at Clark County, Sunrise Hospital provides 25 percent of inpatient care for those covered under Medicaid.

Of the 834 beds at our hospital, 206 are dedicated to Sunrise Children's Hospital, the State's largest children's hospital. We proudly care for those patients in our 72-bed neonatal intensive care unit and 24-bed pediatric intensive care unit. We are the State's only pediatric critical intensive care unit.

Through our 20-room children's hospital emergency room, we provided care to over 3,200 uninsured children. Many of them are undocumented.

One of the most important aspects of this bill is providing coverage for expectant moms and enhancing access to prenatal care. To give you a sense of the staggering lack of prenatal care we see, we have had 770 mothers drop in

to our labor and delivery unit. Drop-in is defined as those mothers who had limited or no prenatal care or obstetrician. Those 770 mothers represent almost 50 percent of the delivery volume at Sunrise Hospital.

Many of you have had the opportunity to tour our children's hospital and neonatal intensive care unit. There is no better place to understand the impact of preventive care. We have 56 babies in our neonatal intensive care unit. Several of them were under 500 grams or 1 pound. Think of four sticks of butter or a 16-ounce bottle of water. Many of our patients that come through labor and delivery without that prenatal care end up in the neonatal intensive care unit. Many could be with us for 20 or 30 weeks.

Expanding the coverage to more uninsured people is a good investment financially. It increases access to preventive care, promotes overall wellness and leads to a significantly improved quality of life.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

The fiscal note on this bill is almost \$20 million.

SENATOR DOÑATE:

This is Medicaid's number. Essentially, one part of the fiscal note is off because of some revisions, and it is only to the Nevada Innovation Hub. Medicaid mentioned the amount might increase slightly, but it is around \$20 million for the biennium.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I am at \$19.2 million plus. If Medicaid has anything to add, they are welcome to come up.

STACIE WEEKS (Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services):

This amendment would remove DACA individuals and narrow the eligibility to aged 0 to 16. We expect in total about \$19 million for the biennium.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Would you repeat that amount please?

Ms. WEEKS:

It is \$18,056,972.

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SENATOR NGUYEN:

How did you quantify catastrophic care and other things that are unquantifiable?

Ms. WEEKS:

We assume some savings for any emergency-related services because we cover anyone who comes in regardless of immigration for emergency services.

SENATOR NEAL:

What is the breakout of the cost for the Nevada Innovation Hub?

MARLA MCDADE WILLIAMS (Deputy Director, Programs, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services):

The fiscal note for the DHHS Director's Office is \$258,341 for FY 2023-2024 and \$330,934 for FY 2024-2025.

SENATOR NEAL:

What is the correlation with the medical district piece and the Nevada Department of Taxation in section 31?

SENATOR DOÑATE:

Anything dealing with tax abatements has been deleted by the amendment and no longer applies to this bill.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Just because we put zero in a fiscal note does not mean it does not have a fiscal impact. We have all learned that this Session. The fiscal impact cannot be determined, but that does not mean it is nothing. We will need some clarification on that because I am looking at \$20 million.

SENATOR DOÑATE:

Are you referring to the Department of Taxation's fiscal note?

SENATOR NEAL:

I looked at the amendment. Senator Doñate deleted those sections where he would be creating a tax credit program to build a medical district, so those would not apply anymore.

MS. CASE:

The Nevada Public Health Association supports S.B. 419. We support investments in anything public health-related, including the Nevada Innovation Hub component of this and the expansion of care.

SARAH ADLER (FirstMed Health and Wellness Center):

We are a federally qualified health center with three locations in Clark County. We support this bill. Uncompensated care constitutes 35 percent of what we provide. We feel bringing care to these populations will reduce their fear of accessing care, increase their wellness and reduce healthcare costs overall.

NEREIDA BOBADILLA CRUZ (Make The Road Nevada):

I am truly honored to be here with you today as a proud member of Make the Road Nevada. Being undocumented has always tested my endurance. I grew up with brothers and sisters who could go to the doctor because they were born here. I saw how different things were for them. As a kid, I understood the value of accessing health care, but I also knew this was a burden to my family because we could not afford the cost of medical treatments. Consequently, any simple illness was met with constant anxiety resulting in days of discomfort before finally choosing to seek the treatment I needed. Today, I stand before you to support the opportunity to change this.

The Hope Act represents a chance to correct this unfairness for thousands of young Nevadans. I firmly believe health care is a fundamental human right, not a luxury reserved for certain groups of people. I urge you to vote in support of the Hope Act. This bill is a crucial step forward to the health of young Nevadans and, therefore, a brighter future for our State.

MS. HANSEN:

It is difficult to know with the last-minute amendments just what S.B. 419 will cost. We have been following this from the beginning. It is also difficult to know exactly what it covers. But we have several concerns, and the first one is the huge fiscal note.

There is never enough money for everything everybody wants. That is the reality. Individuals who pay taxes have limited money, and it is getting more limited with inflation. We could consider the working people, the poor children in foster care, our seniors, our veterans, a break for the middle-class taxpayers and health care in the rural counties where I live. That is a real problem. There



are a lot of things we could consider besides spending millions of dollars for illegal aliens and their health care.

We are also concerned about and opposed to a centralized state government health database which jeopardizes individual privacy and freedom. We know it will be connected ultimately to a federal database and possibly, as we have read, online by the World Health Organization.

No database is safe. Many government databases have been hacked, and this continues to be a problem. Your health information can affect the kind of job you can get or the kind of home you can rent. Your whole life can be affected by those who may have your private personal information on your health.

We oppose this bill because we do not feel the priorities are correct. We need to take care of American citizens in Nevada who are in need; but first of all, we should not even be spending all that money.

Ms. PALMER:

Senate Bill 419 creates a centralized State database for health and medical records of citizens and requires all medical providers to participate. It replaces current private systems of electronic medical data only available within your medical provider's office. If this bill passes, it will require your private information be entered into the central system.

It is the creation of a digital health ID, essentially a super-vaccine passport, which could allow citizens to be targeted by government or nongovernmental organizations based upon their private health data. As witnessed through the COVID-19 pandemic, government officials and unelected bureaucrats could easily control an individual's movements in a future pandemic or emergency scenario based on arbitrary health metrics.

As I mentioned in my last testimony, I have already experienced this. I was denied access to private, public and medical spaces even when my mother was dying. Even though I had no infections or communicable diseases, I was denied access because I refused to be injected with medical-use authorized substances even though I was perfectly healthy. I could not travel unless I was injected or had a swab shoved up my nose.

I urge a no vote on S.B. 419.

MS. ROGERS:

Senate Bill 419 is a database for health records including whether or not you have had the COVID-19 vaccine, making headway for vaccine passports, which we know the World Health Organization is at the forefront of and the reason our boards of health bypassed every voice of reason during the COVID-19 "scamdemic."

Talk about an insurrection, talk about inciting violence, stealing our civil liberties and our rights through fear and scare tactics by blatant lies. I would like to know, Senator Doñate, how is it that you know there will be another scamdemic/pandemic? Every bill coming through literally incites violence on the American people and the people of Nevada. Why have you not told the people you are trying to rescue that this is their salvation place, that actually you are just trying to dominate and control them and make this the place they are running from?

MR. DEGRAFFENREID:

We are in opposition to S.B. 419. On behalf of the Nevada Republican Party, our platform specifically opposes government benefits or other special treatment for those who enter our country illegally. We oppose this bill on principle.

An extra \$20 million in an already tight State budget is a horrible use of our money.

MS. PARTEE:

I vehemently oppose S.B. 419. At the prior hearing, people here illegally were upset that the healthcare system had let them down and complained about the lack of care because they are undocumented and have difficulty getting health care. Our healthcare system is shorthanded and short-staffed. Allowing people who have come here illegally to further water down our ability to get health care is an insult to Nevadans.

Their problem only started because they came here illegally. I know lots of people who go south of the border for health and dental care, and they pay cash for the privilege. Imagine how the folks there would feel if we went there and demanded they give us free health care. I do not think they would like it very much.

Also, I note that none of those who testified at that hearing or the Senator mentioned any interest in becoming citizens. The DACA kids have had plenty of time to become naturalized citizens and be productive members of society. They should be citizens by now and contributing. This is extremely insulting to all Nevadans and Americans.

And absolutely no to the healthcare database. This is a globalist agenda, and Senator Doñate is a good soldier for the globalist elites and the United Nations and not for the majority of Americans. Those who have a say in Nevada do not wish for this.

For 30 years, HIPAA has ensured our privacy. During the Senate hearing, Senator Doñate said it would still be applicable, but that cannot be when you want to put us on a Statewide and national database that can take away our autonomy and ability to make our own healthcare choices. These databases will tell anyone with access our entire medical history.

Remember COVID-19 in the attempt to prevent people from traveling or shopping based on their vaccine status? That is the purpose of these databases. They are not safe. They are not private. It is a lie to say otherwise. Nevadans have had enough of asking us to pay for all these programs. Those of us who have done the right thing all our lives and worked hard to achieve what we have, struggle to pay our insurance premiums and medical bills. Yet, you still want more.

We are not a bottomless supply of funds for these bills to take from us to give to others who do not want to bother to become naturalized citizens. You have to teach a man to fish, not give them all your fish. This is not sustainable.

I am not sure where Ms. Adler thinks this will lower costs—only for the illegals, not for citizens. We are already overtaxed and want to maintain our healthcare privacy. This is treasonous, un-American, unconstitutional and unsustainable. I echo the prior opposition.

MS. SIENKIEWICZ:

In addition to creating universal health care regardless of citizenship, S.B. 419 sets up the framework for digital health identification including potential vaccine passports and for the coordination of citizens' private health data between

Nevada's digital health database, being created with A.B. 7, and the federal government.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 7 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions relating to electronic health records (BDR 40-381)

This opens the possibility for globally shared personal health data with the involvement of nongovernmental global organizations such as the nonelected World Health Organization. This is bad news for the citizens of Nevada. As evidenced during the COVID-19 public health emergency, the adoption of a centralized digital health data system has the potential to severely restrict the freedom and sovereignty of the people of Nevada.

This is the enforcement arm of public health dictates that may or may not be legitimate. This will take away an individual's ability to decide for themselves which drug or countermeasure they accept. It will take away an individual's ability to say "no thank you."

What kind of world do we live in where our State's elected Legislators are considering laws that may enslave the population to arbitrary health standards and health controls. Please vote against S.B. 419 and stand on the side of the people of Nevada. Do not hand our medical freedom away.

CINDY MARTINEZ:

I am a United States Marine Corps veteran and an honorably retired Nevada State peace officer. The cost estimates to the General Fund are a few million here a few million there for people who are not American citizens. This is an affront to those of us who understand the fiscal responsibility of our citizenship.

It is my responsibility to not be a burden to the State, better known as my fellow citizens. It is often said health care is a right. Health care is not a right. Health care is a personal responsibility. Let me repeat that. Health care is a personal responsibility. What is being requested expands public funding of insurance to illegal aliens, a population which is exploding with the current invasion of our Country. This bill appears to seek to expand the insurance welfare state at the cost and burden to Nevada taxpayers by almost \$20 million. The spokesman from Sunrise Hospital explained they want public money to provide private services to nonpaying recipients.

I am also opposed to State-centralized medical records databases. This would appear to facilitate government's ability to identify people who may be exercising personal freedom to decline mandated injections.

My world became small during the COVID-19 pandemic. I was ejected from Costco, denied service at restaurants and chased around Macy's. I was excluded from air travel. I could not participate in public government meetings unless I wore a face shield or a gator.

Such a centralized database would be used against Nevadans like me. It is a violation of my privacy. Please vote no on S.B. 419.

MR. MESSINGER:

The Nevada Primary Care Association supports S.B. 419. We represent the State's federally qualified health centers that provide care to all comers, regardless of ability to pay for insurance status.

In 2021 we served about 32,500 uninsured Nevadans. It is important to the health of our communities for people to have health insurance. We can do primary care; we can detect problems before they get expensive and end up being funded by taxpayers in emergency rooms under emergency conditions. We can do that if the patient is uninsured and cannot access specialty care that would prevent those expensive occurrences.

The expansion of access is appropriate. These are kids in our communities and taxpayers or future taxpayers. We support that part of the bill.

Regarding sharing of information, if we want to lower healthcare costs, it is essential to share information between healthcare providers. We need to talk to those specialists. We need to get the information back to the primary care provider. We can provide the lowest cost care in the most appropriate setting. That is what this bill helps us do a little bit better.

MS. BANUELOS:

The Libertarian Party of Nevada opposes S.B. 419. We strongly oppose this bill because among other things, it creates a centralized State-run repository for all medical records and applies penalties to providers who choose not to participate. Not only does this create a privacy risk for Nevadans in terms of data security, it also creates a platform for abuse.

This bill creates the framework for the ultimate vaccine passports. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent vaccine regime, Nevadans have witnessed firsthand how willing our elected officials and the unelected bureaucrats of our public health apparatus are to lie to us and use fear to manipulate us into compliance by any means necessary. They are willing to fire Nevadans from their jobs and shut down their businesses. They are willing to hold hostage our ability to work and feed our families to boost pharmaceutical sales. They tried to turn the unvaccinated into second-class citizens and bar them from participating in public life. They punished doctors or experts who dissented from the narrative or made decisions based on the needs of their patients instead of the standards of care.

Nevadans remember these abuses of trust and attacks on personal sovereignty and informed consent. This bill will create a tool to enable future efforts of social control and medical care in our State. Senate Bill 419 is an atrocity, and we oppose it completely.

SENATOR DOÑATE:

I do not want to spend time talking about the policy portion of this bill. I have made reiterations that could satisfy a lot of those concerns. Fiscal notes are now down to the \$20 million because I could not in good faith introduce a bill that would not help my family members.

The bill in front of you passed similar provisions with Senator Cancela's bill that has passed bipartisan in other states. If you can, I encourage you all to come to my office because you will see pictures of kids who have cancer in this State and have been denied care because they do not have healthcare coverage.

Regardless of our political opinions of whether they belong here, we should not be turning kids away when they have cancer. This allows them to survive.

We spend that money already. I received data from University Medical Center in FY 2021-2022. Its uncompensated care costs were approximately \$42.3 million. We are spending the money regardless of what we decide today. This proposal helps ensure our families are protected and our communities left at a better place.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 419 and introduce BDR 14-1220.

**BILL DRAFT REQUEST 14-1220**: Revises provisions relating to records of criminal history. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 506](#).)

MR. THORLEY:

Bill Draft Request 14-1220 revises provisions relating to records of criminal history. This BDR was requested by the Committee on Finance. It carries out closing actions of the Money Committees in closing the budget for the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History.

SENATOR NEAL:

On page 8, in State law, were we collecting the repository fee from other criminal justice agencies? And now we are not?

MR. THORLEY:

The purpose of the BDR is to have certain fees collected by the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History revert to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year rather than stay in the Agency's budget. The BDR would not levy any new or increased fees. It would simply have the existing fees revert to the General Fund.

In closing the budget for the Central Repository, the Money Committees approved replacing certain fee revenue in its budget with General Fund appropriations. They approved the drafting of this BDR since the Agency would be a General Fund Agency, and no longer need to maintain a reserve level. Rather than keeping the fee revenue in the budget, it would revert at the end of the fiscal year.

SENATOR NEAL:

How much fee revenue is it? It does not matter because we will hear it.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

I was going to move to introduce the BDR.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

When we introduce a BDR, we are not supporting or opposing it, we are saying that we will let this be heard as a bill.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR 14-1220.

SENATOR TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will begin another work session. We will start with S.B. 45.

**SENATE BILL 45**: Establishes the amount for the personal needs allowance provided to certain recipients of Medicaid. (BDR 38-295)

Ms. CROCKET:

Senate Bill 45 was heard on March 28, 2023, in this Committee. It provides that the personal needs allotment retained by Medicaid recipients residing in a skilled nursing facility is not less than that retained by Medicaid recipients residing in a residential group facility. The bill was presented by the president of the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum accompanied by LCB Research staff. The act becomes effective on passage and approval of sections 1 and 2, and January 1, 2024, for all other purposes.

This bill would effectively increase the personal needs allotment for Medicaid recipients residing in skilled nursing facilities from \$35 per month to \$249 per month and increase the amount Medicaid would need to pay these facilities.

Two individuals were in support of the legislation. There was no testimony in opposition or neutral regarding the fiscal impact. There were no amendments presented at the bill hearing.

The DHHS Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) identified an impact of \$1.6 million of which \$309,374 would be General Fund in FY 2023-2024 and \$3.2 million of which \$635,388 would be General Fund in FY 2024-2025.



If the Committee would like to take action on this bill, the appropriate action would be to amend and do pass to add funding to the bill to support the cost.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 45 WITH FUNDING.

SENATOR TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close S.B. 45 and move to S.B. 54.

**SENATE BILL 54 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions relating to elections.  
(BDR 24-409)

MR. THORLEY:

Senate Bill 54 was heard by Committee on May 18, 2023. At least once every two years, the SOS is required to prepare, maintain and publish an elections procedures manual. The bill was presented by Senator James Ohrenschall and Chief Deputy, Office of the Secretary of State, Gabriel Di Chiara. The effective date is passage and approval.

The bill requires the SOS to submit the most recent version of the elections procedures manual to the Legislative Commission for approval not less frequently than every four years. It revises provisions relating to elections.

The bill requires the SOS to develop and provide a training course related to election procedures to each county and city clerk and requires each county and city clerk to attend this training course. It authorizes the county or city clerk to require any deputy or employee of the clerk's office whose duties relate to elections to attend the training course.

The bill requires the SOS to reimburse each county or city the per diem allowance and travel expenses for attending the training course and requires this reimbursement be paid from the Reserve for Statutory Contingency Account.

The SOS submitted a fiscal note indicating a fiscal impact related to the preparation and printing of the procedures manual and costs related to paying for the local election officials to attend the training. However, costs related to attending the training would be reimbursable from the Reserve for Statutory Contingency Account. The only cost to the General Fund would be \$8,104 in FY 2023-2024 and \$3,242 in FY 2024-2025 related to the elections procedures manual.

Testimony was provided in support from the Campaign Legal Center and Silver State Voices. Opposition testimony was provided by the Independent American Party, Barbara Jones and the Nevada Republican Party. There was no testimony provided in neutral. There were no amendments discussed during the hearing.

If the Committee would like to move this bill with funding for the elections procedures manual, the motion would be to amend and do pass as amended with approximately \$8,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$3,000 in FY 2024-2025 for the manual.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 54 WITH APPROXIMATELY \$8,000 IN FY 2023-2024 AND \$3,000 IN FY 2024-2025 FOR THE ELECTIONS PROCEDURES MANUAL.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (SENATOR TITUS VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:  
We will close S.B. 54 and move to S.B. 103.

**SENATE BILL 103**: Revises provisions governing the Nevada Sentencing Commission within the Department of Sentencing Policy. (BDR 14-308)

Ms. CROCKET:  
Senate Bill 103 was heard in Committee on May 20, 2023. It revises the membership, powers and duties of the Nevada Department of Sentencing Policy (NDSP), Nevada Sentencing Commission (NSC) and requires NSC to conduct an Interim study concerning the sentences imposed for misdemeanor offenses in

the State. The bill becomes effective upon passage and approval for the purpose of performing any preparatory administrative tasks necessary to carry out the provisions of this act and on July 1, 2023, for all other purposes. Testimony was provided by the director of the NSC and noted the bill was from the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Judiciary.

The NDSP submitted a fiscal note indicating a cost of \$71,237 in FY 2023-2024 and \$96,577 in FY 2024-2025 for a new management analyst II position to help collect and organize data. The Department confirmed on May 17, 2023, the position is still needed if the bill passes even though the Money Committees added an additional management analyst position to the Agency's budget that was not recommended by the Governor in closing the budget.

There was testimony and support provided by the Administrative Offices of the Courts and one other individual. There was no testimony in opposition or neutral.

The proposed amendment creates a subcommittee within NSC to allow for the study of misdemeanors and to create working groups.

If the Committee wishes to take action on the bill, an appropriate motion would be to amend and do pass to add the funding, or choose to not add the funding and have the Agency approach the IFC for contingency account allocation if unable to absorb the workload with the additional staff approved by the Money Committees.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

I remember we added an additional position in its closing. Is the NSC indicating it needs this additional position as well?

Ms. CROCKET:

Yes, that is what it has indicated to Fiscal staff.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 103 WITHOUT FUNDING ASKING NSC TO COME BACK TO IFC IF  
IT NEEDS A NEW MANAGEMENT ANALYST II POSITION.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I want to make sure we keep track of everything we set aside. We think they may need to come to IFC. We need to keep rolling totals so we do not get overwhelmed. We are passing this bill with the assumption NSC does not need the position. But if it does, it will have to get added to something.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close S.B. 103 and move to S.B. 145.

**SENATE BILL 145 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions related to employee misclassification. (BDR 53-159)

MR. THORLEY:

Senate Bill 145 revises the existing treatment of administrative penalties and investigative costs by requiring the monies to be deposited to a separate account to pay for added staff for the OLC and revises administrative penalties that may be imposed in instances of employee misclassification. It was presented in Senate Finance on May 16, 2023, by Senator Roberta Lange. The effective date on the bill is July 1, 2023.

The bill revises and clarifies provisions related to sharing of otherwise confidential information between the OLC; the Division of Industrial Relations; the Employment Security Division of the Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation; the Nevada Department of Taxation; and the AGs Office pertaining to employee misclassification. The bill also eliminates the Task Force on Employee Misclassification.

There were no fiscal notes submitted on the bill. Fiscal staff identified a likely fiscal impact because of a section 1 change to statute that would allow all administrative penalties and investigative costs collected to be deposited in a separate account which the OLC could use for additional staff. That money currently goes to the General Fund. By an estimate based on FY 2021-2022 collections, S.B. 145 would reduce the General Fund by approximately \$381,000 each year.

Amendment No. 672 ([Exhibit I](#)) on this bill is from Senator Lange. The amendment removes the provision that would allow the OLC to keep this fee revenue in its budget and use it to fund positions.

There is also a one change to "willful" in [Exhibit I](#) for section 3, subsection 2, paragraph (b). On the second offense, the addition of the word "willfully" before "misclassified" clarifies the offense is subject to a fine for a willful misclassification.

There was no testimony provided in support and no testimony in opposition. The OLC testified in neutral. The OLC indicated to Fiscal staff that Amendment No. 672 removes the language about maintain and keeps the investigative costs in the budget for positions. There would be no fiscal impact on the Office.

If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate motion would be to amend and do pass with Amendment No. 672.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Do they hold the fines in their account?

MR. THORLEY:

The amendment maintains the current language that says money goes to the General Fund. Status quo with the amendment would continue.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I want to make sure. I do not like the idea that an agency would be able to fund its own program.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 145 WITH AMENDMENT NO. 672 [EXHIBIT I](#).

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR HARRIS:

I am always happy to support a bill that eliminates the task force.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close S.B. 145 and move to S.B. 232.

**SENATE BILL 232 (1st Reprint)**: Requires the State Plan for Medicaid to include coverage for postpartum care services. (BDR 38-45)

Ms. CROCKET:

Senate Bill 232 was heard in Committee on May 11, 2023. It requires the State plan for Medicaid to cover postpartum care for 12 months following the end of pregnancy. The bill was presented by Senator Cannizzaro. It is effective upon passage and approval for preparatory administrative tasks and on January 1, 2024, for all other purposes.

The DHCFP and the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) submitted fiscal notes on the bill. The DWSS indicates a cost of \$667,300 of which \$66,730 is General Fund over the 2023-2025 biennium.

The DHCFP submitted a fiscal note indicating a total cost of \$14 million of which \$1.4 million would be General Fund over the 2023-2025 biennium.

Support was given by Battle Born Progress. There was no testimony in opposition or neutral. No amendments were presented on the bill.

If the Committee wishes to take action on the bill, an appropriate motion would be to amend and do pass as amended to add a General Fund appropriation to support the cost associated with the bill.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 232 WITH ADDITIONAL GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR TITUS:

It is a good bill.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close S.B. 232 and move to S.B. 240.

**SENATE BILL 240 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions relating to the Nevada New Markets Jobs Act. (BDR 18-792)

MR. THORLEY:

Senate Bill 240 was heard on May 23, 2023. It requires B&I to certify an additional \$170 million in qualified equity investments under the Nevada New Markets Job Act on or after July 1, 2024. It was presented by Senator Neal and Darian Harris with Advantage Capital.

The tax credits earned against the insurance premium tax for these investments may not be taken until July 1, 2026. The bill further amends the Nevada New Markets Jobs Act by requiring B&I to certify \$30 million in impact qualified equity investments to qualified active low-income community businesses as specified in the bill on or after July 1, 2024.

In exchange for the impact qualified equity investment, insurance companies are entitled to receive a credit against the insurance premium tax equal to 75 percent of the total impact qualified equity investment which may be taken against the tax in equal installments over a five-year period. The first portion of the tax credit may not be taken against the tax until July 1, 2026.

Since this is a tax credit, there would be an impact on the General Fund; however, the impact would not occur until the 2025-2027 biennium as the credits could not be taken until July 1, 2026.

There was a fiscal note from B&I indicating a management analyst II position would be needed to certify, track, manage and report on impact qualified equity investments (QEI) versus the regular QEIs. The estimated cost for this position and operating costs in the fiscal note is approximately \$203,000 in FY 2023-2024 and approximately \$100,000 in FY 2024-2025.

Testimony in support was provided by Advantage Capital Partners and the Vegas Chamber. There was no testimony in opposition or neutral.

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There is a proposed amendment from the sponsor to add North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes 44 and 45 to section 7, subsection 1, paragraph (a) for retail trade.

If the Committee wishes to move the bill forward and address the fiscal impact to the B&I, the motion would be to amend and do pass with the amendment to add the NAICS codes proposed by the sponsor and General Fund appropriations of approximately \$203,000 in FY 2023-2024 and approximately \$100,000 in FY 2024-2025.

SENATOR TITUS:

I did not support this in 2019. However, hearing the testimony and the return on the investment, I am going to support this. It is good for the communities and a good thing to support.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 240, ADDING GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$203,000 IN FY 2023-2024 AND APPROXIMATELY \$100,000 IN FY 2024-2025.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close S.B. 240 and move to S.B. 276.

**SENATE BILL 276 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions related to collection agencies. (BDR 54-158)

Ms. CROCKET:

Senate Bill 276 was heard in Committee on May 20, 2023. The bill creates new licensing and regulatory requirements for debt buyers and defines such agencies as collection agencies which require oversight by B&I under statute. The testimony was presented by Senator Lange, accompanied by the general counsel to Receivables Management Association International that represents debt buyers.



The bill requires a collection agency to display certain information on the Internet; establishes certain remote working location requirements and employment standards; revises licensure, application, recordkeeping, annual reporting, permitting and certification requirements; revises certain domestic provisions and provisions relating to bonding; removes certain permitting fees and examination requirements; repeals certain foreign provisions; prohibits certain actions; and provides for related penalties.

Sections 1 through 48 and 50 through 52 become effective upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting regulations and other preparatory tasks and on October 1, 2023, for all other purposes.

Section 49 of the act related to identifying information displayed on the website becomes effective on the date on which the Commissioner of the Division of Financial Institutions notifies the Governor and the LCB director that the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System and Registry has sufficient capabilities to allow the Commissioner to carry out the provisions of Chapter 347, *Statutes of Nevada 2021*, at page 2030.

There was no testimony in support or opposition. There was testimony by one individual in neutral.

The Division of Financial Institutions projects approximately 200 new licensees if the bill were to be approved, which would generate a fee revenue of approximately \$502,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$381,000 in FY 2024-2025.

There would also be operational costs totaling about \$224,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$287,000 in FY 2024-2025. Therefore, it appears the Agency would support operating costs with additional fee revenue. It is not necessary to add any funding to the bill regarding amendments.

An amendment presented by HOA Collections, LLC, regarding section 10 subsection 2, clarifies that certain requirements apply to a collection agency working from a remote location. At the bill hearing, it was indicated the amendment was not needed. However, Legal staff advised Fiscal staff that if the intent is for that section to apply to collection agents working from remote locations, the amendment would be necessary to provide clarification.

If the Committee wishes to take action on the bill, it may consider amend and do pass with no funding.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

The discussion on S.B. 276 is postponed until tomorrow. We will move to S.B. 301.

**SENATE BILL 301 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions governing public works.  
(BDR 28-967)

MR. THORLEY:

Senate Bill 301 was heard on May 17, 2023. The bill revises the definition of a worker employed on a public works project and thus eligible to be paid the prevailing wage. It was presented by Senator Lange. Section 1 would become effective upon passage and approval for the purposes of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

The definition of a worker employed on a public works project would now include a worker who is employed by delivering or removing construction material or structures to or from the site of a public work and to an employee who is necessary in the execution of the contract for the public work and deemed to be employed on the public work for purposes of the payment of prevailing wage. This bill defines construction material or structures to mean aggregates, asphalt and concrete.

On January 1, 2024, the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) submitted an unsolicited fiscal note indicating a cost of approximately \$43,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$79,000 in FY 2024-2025 for personnel and operating costs to ensure compliance on NDOT-funded projects.

The B&I and the OLC submitted a fiscal note indicating a cost of \$184,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$314,000 in FY 2024-2025 for personnel and operating costs associated with investigating and enforcing new prevailing wage claims.

There was no testimony provided in support. In opposition, testimony was provided by the Nevada Trucking Association and Urban Consortium. In neutral, the OLC provided testimony.

Fiscal staff is not aware of any proposed amendments. Regarding the NDOT fiscal note, the Department of Transportation has access to the Highway Fund during the Interim and could receive an allocation from it if funding is needed.

The fiscal note from the OLC asks for four additional positions. If the Committee wishes to fund those positions, it would be a General Fund appropriation in the amount of approximately \$184,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$314,000 in FY 2024-2025. The Committee also has the option to not fund those positions and direct the Agency, should these costs materialize beyond its budget, to come to the IFC and request a contingency account allocation.

Depending on Committee wishes, the motion would be to do pass to not add any funding or amend and do pass if the desire is to add funding for the OLC.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

Are the four positions full-time or part-time positions if we wish to fund this?

MR. THORLEY:

According to the support information the OLC submitted with the fiscal note, all four positions would be 1.0 FTE. The positions identified are two compliance audit investigator I positions, one program officer II position and an administrative assistant III position.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

How do you determine when they are on or off the job, especially when you start talking aggregates and asphalt and asphalt coming from adjacent states? You will need a few more positions than what it is already asking.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I was going to suggest that we pass this without the positions, thinking the positions within the Agency could handle this.

SENATOR LANGE:

It probably needs a couple of positions. We narrowed down the bill to two kinds of asphalt and concrete. It will be much easier to manage.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Do you think we could start this bill with two positions rather than four?

SENATOR LANGE:

I do.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

Normally, when we have fiscal notes, we go back and double-check with the entity.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I was going to suggest we accept a motion for Fiscal staff to go back and work with the Agency on which two positions it needs and identify the fiscal note on this.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I was not sure if we had already gone back to them. The first question would be whether it needs the two or the four because it is doing the work, then go from there.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I am not sure we have had recent communication with the OLC, but we are now here discussing whether we would not approve any, or two or four. We may want to roll this and ask Fiscal staff to get with the Agency and then come back to us with an answer. That way, when we vote, we know exactly what we are voting on.

SENATOR LANGE:

Can the Committee pass it for two positions and then, if needed, the Agency could come back to IFC in the Interim?

MR. THORLEY:

The Committee has several options here. One option would be to make a motion to approve funding for two positions, instruct Fiscal staff to work with the Agency to identify those two positions and associated costs, and then include funding for those two positions in the official amendment that is presented on the Floor and adopted. That way, all the Committee would have an opportunity to review the amendment before voting for it on the Floor.

Another option would be to roll this bill, instruct Fiscal staff to work with the Agency to identify the number of positions needed, and then come back with more current information for the Committee's consideration.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Due to time constraints, I prefer to roll this bill and possibly hear it tomorrow because we have several meetings. Senator Lange, are you okay with that?

I would direct staff to reach out to the Agency and Senator Lange to have a conversation with Fiscal. We will roll this to tomorrow and possibly have some more information.

We will close S.B. 301 and move to S.B. 307.

**[SENATE BILL 307 \(1st Reprint\)](#)**: Revises provisions relating to human rights.  
(BDR 16-881)

MS. CROCKET:

Senate Bill 307 was heard in Committee on May 24, 2023. As amended, the bill amends existing law regarding the placement of offenders in disciplinary segregation or solitary confinement. The bill was presented by Senator Pat Spearman accompanied by the Director of the DOC. The bill is effective upon passage and approval for the purposes of adopting any regulations or other preparatory administrative tasks and on January 1, 2024, for all other purposes.

This bill requires the DOC to establish regulations for the use of solitary confinement as a last resort and for the shortest duration possible. Exceptions apply for offenders with serious mental illness or impairment as ordered by healthcare providers.

The bill outlines procedures for reviewing and removing offenders from solitary confinement, including a multidisciplinary team and staff training. The Department must submit an annual report on its use of solitary confinement, including the number of offenders and reasons for the confinement, to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on the Judiciary or the Legislature. The bill also imposes a maximum limit of 15 consecutive days for disciplinary segregation.

The Clark County Public Defender and several other individuals provided comment and support. There was no testimony in opposition or neutral regarding the fiscal impact.

The DOC indicated a fiscal impact of \$12.4 million over the 2023-2025 biennium. However, it subsequently submitted an unsolicited fiscal note indicating no fiscal impact from the legislation.

An amendment was presented at the bill hearing to align the definition of mental disorder with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs definition in section 7 and to replace psychologist with mental health clinician in section 12.5, subsection 7, paragraph (a).

If the Committee wishes to take action on the bill, an appropriate amendment would be to amend and do pass with the amendment discussed.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 307 WITH THE AMENDMENT HEARD ON MAY 24, 2023, INDICATED BY MR. THORLEY.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close S.B. 307 and move to S.B. 380.

**SENATE BILL 380 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions relating to the Extended Young Adult Support Services Program. (BDR S-991)

MR. THORLEY:

Senate Bill 380 was heard in this Committee on May 17, 2023. The measure in its first reprint version revises the existing January 1, 2024, date by which the child welfare agencies in Nevada must implement a program of extended young adult support services to the sooner of July 1, 2025, or when the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) notifies the Governor and the LCB director that sufficient funding is available. It was presented by Senator Nguyen. The effective date of the measure is upon passage and approval regarding the fiscal impact.

In closing the DCFS child welfare budgets for Washoe County, Clark County and rural child welfare and based on the recommendation of DCFS, the Joint Full Committees did not approve the Governor's budget recommendation to fund Extended Young Adult Support Services to serve young adults aged 18 to 21 under the court jurisdiction for the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Programs. Only serving that subset of young adults rather than all child welfare-involved young adults aged 18 to 21 would make these services ineligible for federal matching Title IV funding. This bill extends the implementation period by which the programs must be implemented.

The DCFS indicated additional funding, if the Committee desires, could be added to allow the Agency to begin work in the current biennium in preparation for implementing the program of Extended Young Adult Support Services. The Agency testified that two temporary positions would be needed in FY 2023-2024 at a cost of \$352,000.

An additional 5 positions would be needed in Washoe County and 15 in Clark County in FY 2024-2025. The total cost in FY 2024-2025 would be approximately \$1,370,000. The total cost over the 2023-2025 biennium would be \$1.7 million to begin work on this program in the current biennium rather than have DCFS make a request for this funding in the budget submitted to the 2025 Legislature.

Testimony was provided in support by Washoe County. There was no testimony in opposition or neutral.

There were no additional amendments other than the amendment discussed by DCFS to potentially add General Fund monies to its budgets to begin working on the program and start working on the State plan in the upcoming biennium.

If the Committee wishes to move forward with this General Fund appropriation, the appropriate action would be to amend and do pass as amended to add the \$1.7 million in General Fund appropriations over the biennium to DCFS.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

I want to make it clear that we had removed this, thinking we would be able to draw down those federal funds. We need more time to get to that position and additional funding for ramp up. That is where that \$1.7 million total comes into play.

SENATOR HARRIS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 380 WITH \$1.7 MILLION IN GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OVER THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM.

SENATOR NEAL SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close S.B. 380 and move to S.B. 387.

**SENATE BILL 387**: Revises provisions related to the state personnel system.  
(BDR 23-961)

Ms. CROCKET:

Senate Bill 387 was heard in Committee on May 19, 2023. The bill requires the administrator of the Nevada Department of Administration, Division of Human Resource Management (DHRM) to periodically review the positions in the classified service of the State. The bill was presented by Senator Julie Pazina. It becomes effective on October 1, 2023.

The bill requires a review of positions required to hold a bachelor's degree and requires the administrator to revise qualifications to allow a person to substitute experience or skills in lieu of a bachelor's degree when deemed necessary for the efficiency of the public service.

The DHRM submitted a fiscal note indicating a cost of \$161,144 in FY 2023-2024 and \$201,115 in FY 2024-2025 for personnel and associated operating costs to implement the provisions of the bill. However, in closing, the Governor's Office of Finance \$500,000 budget was approved. That will be in a separate bill for the DHRM to perform a comprehensive classification study during the Interim. Therefore, the Agency has indicated that the costs associated with this particular bill are no longer necessary.

There were no amendments discussed. There were no individuals testifying in support, opposition or neutral on the bill.



If the Committee wishes to approve the bill today, the appropriate motion would be to do pass.

SENATOR TITUS:

I told the sponsor of this bill that this is one of the best bills presented so far. It will go a long way to filling our job vacancies and recognizing somebody's skills.

SENATOR TITUS MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 387.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close S.B. 387 and move to S.B. 389.

**SENATE BILL 389 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions relating to crimes.  
(BDR 15-133)

MR. THORLEY:

Senate Bill 389 was heard in this Committee on May 19, 2023. It was presented by Senator Seevers Gansert and Senator Scheible. Sections 7.5 and 9 become effective on passage and approval. Sections 1 through 7 inclusive and section 8 become effective on July 1, 2023.

The bill in its first reprint version revises provisions governing crimes related to sex trafficking and requires certain entities to work together to submit a biennial report to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on the Judiciary on or before July 1 of each even-numbered year.

The report must include the annual operating budgets of each entity that submits a report, all written policies adopted by the entity regarding identification of victims of human trafficking, referrals to resources and detention or citation, information regarding the delivery of services to victims, information relating to the prosecution of human trafficking in Nevada and policy recommendations for decreasing human trafficking in Nevada.

The DCFS submitted a fiscal note projecting an impact of approximately \$85,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$108,000 in FY 2024-2025 to add one social services specialist position and associated operating expenditures to compile the data necessary to facilitate the biennial report.

Section 7.5 of the bill makes an appropriation from the General Fund of \$1 million to the Contingency Account for Victims of Human Trafficking.

Support testimony was provided by the Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition. There was no testimony provided in opposition or neutral.

There were no amendments discussed at the at the hearing, and Fiscal staff is not aware of any pending amendments.

If the Committee wishes to move this bill and to address the fiscal note for the one full-time social services specialist position from DCFS, the General Fund addition to the bill would be approximately \$85,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$108,000 in FY 2024-2025. Alternatively, the Committee has the option to approve the bill in its current form with the \$1 million appropriation to the Contingency Account for Victims of Human Trafficking and instruct the DCFS should resources be required to come to before lawmakers in the Interim and request those resources.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

The bill sponsor is here. I understand there is an amendment.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

I have proposed an amendment to this bill. Since the Senate Finance hearing, I had a further conversation with the Nevada Statistical Analysis Center at University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), which runs the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) database.

The CSEC is willing and able to expand its database to include adults. It would address the same agencies and organizations but instead of somebody reporting to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on the Judiciary, all members would participate in the database. Then the database would provide a report that the CSEC indicated that it is willing and able to do. The CSEC does it anyway, so it would not be a financial burden.

MR. THORLEY:

Based on the testimony provided by Senator Scheible, it appears the change could possibly remove the fiscal impact from DCFS since it would not be required to compile the report; the information would go into this database and be available. The Committee may wish to not include the funding for that position if the amendment is adopted.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 389 AND ELIMINATE THE POSITION FOR FY 2023-2024 AND FY 2024-2025, CONTINUING WITH THE APPROPRIATION OF \$1 MILLION TO THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT FOR THE VICTIMS.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close S.B. 389 and move to S.B. 390.

**SENATE BILL 390 (1st Reprint)**: Enacts provisions relating to neurodegenerative diseases. (BDR 40-135)

Ms. CROCKET:

Senate Bill 390 authorizes UNLV to establish and maintain a system for reporting and analysis of information on neurodegenerative diseases. The bill was presented by Senator Scheible. It is effective on July 1, 2023.

The bill includes a \$150,000 General Fund appropriation to UNLV to carry out the provisions of the bill. The purpose of the amendment ([Exhibit J](#)) is to provide for coordination between the State-designated health data utility and the Department of Brain Health at UNLV to make the registry opt in instead of opt out and to clarify the registry will be housed and managed by the Department of Brain Health within UNLV.

Five individuals provided testimony in support of the bill, including people from the Nevada Alzheimer's Association and Michael J. Fox Foundation. There was

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no testimony in opposition or neutral. There are no fiscal impacts beyond the General Fund appropriation.

If the Committee wishes to take action on the bill, an appropriate action would be to amend and do pass.

SENATOR TITUS:

During the Policy Committee hearing on this bill, I voted no. However, with the amendments, the communication, current logistics and the fiscal note removed, I support this bill.

SENATOR TITUS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 390 WITH THE CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT [EXHIBIT J](#).

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We are at the end of the work session. We have rolled three bills to tomorrow S.B. 276, S.B. 301 and S.B. 505.

[SENATE BILL 301](#): Revises provisions governing public works. (BDR 28-967)

[SENATE BILL 505](#): Makes an appropriation to the Office of Energy in the Office of the Governor for a program to reduce energy use by and emissions resulting from certain activities of State agencies. (BDR S-1217)

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Hearing no public comment, this meeting is adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Joko Cailles,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>EXHIBIT SUMMARY</b>				
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Exhibit Letter</b>	<b>Introduced on Minute Report Page No.</b>	<b>Witness / Entity</b>	<b>Description</b>
	A	1		Agenda
	B	1		Attendance Roster
S.B. 277	C	17	Cathy Crocket	Conceptual Amendment by Senator Dallas Harris
S.B. 205	D	23	James Settlemeyer / DCNR	Proposed Amendment 3637 by Senator Ira Hansen
S.B. 439	E	24	Senator Dallas Harris	Proposed Amendment 3666
S.B. 242	F	33	Jeanette Belz / Nevada Psychiatric Association	Proposed Amendment
S.B. 419	G	35	Senator Fabian Doñate	Proposed Amendment 3642
S.B. 419	H	36	Senator Fabian Doñate	Fiscal Note Summary
S.B. 145	I	53	Wayne Thorley	Amendment No. 672 from Senator Roberta Lange
S.B. 390	J	67	Cathy Crocket	Conceptual Amendment