

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**Eighty-second Session  
June 2, 2023**

The Senate Committee on Finance was called to order by Chair Marilyn Dondero Loop at 8:50 a.m. on Friday, June 2, 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 Nicole J. Cannizzaro, Vice Chair  
Senator Dallas Harris  
Senator Dina Neal  
Senator Rochelle T. Nguyen  
Senator Pete Goicoechea  
Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert  
Senator Robin L. Titus

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Assemblyman Howard Watts, Assembly District No. 15

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Wayne Thorley, Senate Fiscal Analyst  
Cathy Crocket, Chief Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst  
Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst  
Eileen O'Grady, Counsel  
Brenda Erdoes, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau  
Joko Cailles, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Amy Stevenson, Director, Office of Finance, Office of the Governor  
Matthew Tuma, Deputy Director, Nevada Department of Administration

Jack Robb, Director, Nevada Department of Administration  
Ross Armstrong, Director, Nevada Commission on Ethics  
Daniel Marlow, Administrator, Administrative Services Division, Nevada  
Department of Administration  
Erin Branch, Director, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
Justin Robinson, Chief Technology Officer, Aging and Disability Services  
Division, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services  
Natalie Lieb, Chief, Financial Management Division, Nevada Department of  
Transportation  
Joseph Rodriguez, Lieutenant, State Fire Marshal Division, Nevada Department  
of Public Safety  
Chris DeRicco, Chairman, State Board of Parole Commissioners  
Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director, Nevada Governor's Council on  
Developmental Disabilities  
Dora Martinez, Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition  
Tom Burns, Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Shari Davis, Director of Rural Economic and Community Development,  
Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Aodhan Downey, Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance  
Jen Nalder, Main Street Gardnerville  
Andrew Clinger, Chief Financial Officer, Nevada System of Higher Education  
Kent Ervin, Nevada Faculty Alliance  
Dale Erquiaga, Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education  
James Simpson, Captain, Highway Patrol Division, Nevada Department of Public  
Safety  
Denny Gortari, Administrative Services Officer, Highway Patrol Division, Nevada  
Department of Public Safety  
Curtis Palmer, Administrative Services Officer, Director's Office, Nevada  
Department of Public Safety  
Jo Malay, Deputy Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health,  
Nevada Department of Health and Human Services  
James Humm, Director of Policy and Government Affairs, Governor's Office of  
Economic Development  
Fred Wagar, Director, Nevada Department of Veterans Services  
Andrew LePeilbet, United Veterans Legislative Council  
Aaron Evans, Deputy Chief, Division of Parole and Probation, Nevada  
Department of Public Safety  
Mike Edgell, Captain, Investigation Division, Nevada Department of Public  
Safety

Senate Committee on Finance  
June 2, 2023  
Page 3

Lisa Swearingen, Deputy Administrator, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services  
Sean Sever, Deputy Administrator, Research and Project Management, Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles  
Christi Cabrera-Georgeson, Deputy Director, Nevada Conservation League  
Lea Case, Associated General Contractors, Nevada Chapter  
Tom Clark, Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition; MedX AirOne  
Amber Salgout, Battle Born Progress  
Laurel Saito, The Nature Conservancy  
Joelle Gutman-Dodson, Washoe County Health District

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will open the hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 469.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 469**: Makes an appropriation to restore the balance in the State Claims Account. (BDR S-1097)

AMY STEVENSON (Director, Office of Finance, Office of the Governor):

Assembly Bill 469 replenishes the State Claims Account created by *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 353.097 in the amount of \$4,419,410.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 469 and open the hearing on A.B. 470.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 470**: Makes an appropriation to the State Public Works Division of the Department of Administration for professional services and filing fees related to water rights associated with the Marlette Lake Water System. (BDR S-1127)

MATTHEW TUMA (Deputy Director, Nevada Department of Administration):

Assembly Bill 470 makes an appropriation to the State Public Works Division of \$41,353 for professional services and filing fees associated with water rights for the Marlette Lake Water System.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 470 and open the hearing on A.B. 471.

Senate Committee on Finance  
June 2, 2023  
Page 4

**ASSEMBLY BILL 471**: Makes an appropriation to the State Public Works Division of the Department of Administration for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software. (BDR S-1136)

MR. TUMA:

Assembly Bill 471 makes an appropriation to the State Public Works Division for computer software and hardware replacements.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 471 and open the hearing on A.B. 472.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 472**: Makes an appropriation to the Purchasing Division of the Department of Administration for the purchase of a warehouse building in Las Vegas, Nevada, to replace leased space. (BDR S-1137)

JACK ROBB (Director, Nevada Department of Administration):

Assembly Bill 472 makes an appropriation \$7,163,000 million to the Purchasing Division of the Department of Administration to purchase a warehouse in Las Vegas. The Division is negotiating for the building. It is short of the total but has reserves to complete the transaction.

SENATOR TITUS:

What will this building be used for?

MR. ROBB:

The building will be multipurpose. It is a 25,000-square-foot warehouse. Of that, 10,000 square feet will be used for the minimum requirement of personal protective equipment (PPE). The rest will be used for general storage. It also gives us a location to participate in the government surplus program. The program requires an address for shipping, and it will allow us to get items at greatly reduced cost from the federal government.

SENATOR TITUS:

During COVID-19, the State rented several warehouses to store PPE items. Will we be consolidating those in this warehouse?

MR. ROBB:

We have consolidated the PPE under one warehouse and are trying to get rid of the excess. We have way too much. We have worked with hospitals to get rid

of it, but they and their parent corporations are in similar situations. Everyone is sitting on surplus PPE. We cannot give it away.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 472 and open the hearing on A.B. 473.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 473**: Makes an appropriation to the Fleet Services Division of the Department of Administration for the replacement and purchase of vehicles. (BDR S-1138)

MR. TUMA:

Assembly Bill 473 makes an appropriation to the Fleet Services Division to purchase new vehicles. Since introducing this bill, we have received more vehicle requests. The dollar amount will not change since it is based on projections of what will be available, but the number of vehicles being replaced may change from the methodology used to get the dollar amount.

SENATOR NEAL:

If the number of vehicles has increased, what variable in the methodology offsets the cost of the extra vehicles?

MR. TUMA:

The biggest variable will be availability of cars. Certain types of vehicles are not available. The cost will come down to how many vehicles we can purchase. When vehicles are slated for replacement, we keep track of general characteristics rather than specific vehicle types with a certain price because prices will change. Because we have a lot of vehicle replacements coming up, we are not sure how many of the vehicles will get replaced based on what is available. The car market is unusually volatile right now.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 473 and open the hearing on A.B. 474.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 474**: Makes an appropriation to and authorizes the expenditure of money by the Commission on Ethics for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software. (BDR S-1139)

Senate Committee on Finance  
June 2, 2023  
Page 6

ROSS ARMSTRONG (Director, Nevada Commission on Ethics):  
Assembly Bill 474 makes an appropriation of \$11,980 for replacement computers. Approximately \$3,300 is from the General Fund and the remaining \$8,600 is from local county assessments.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:  
I will close the hearing on A.B. 474 and open the hearing on A.B. 475.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 475**: Makes appropriations to the Department of Administration for certain activities and technology requirements of the National Judicial College and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. (BDR S-1148)

DANIEL MARLOW (Administrator, Administrative Services Division, Nevada Department of Administration):  
Assembly Bill 475 makes appropriations to the Department of Administration for estimated requests for the National Judicial College and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court judges.

ERIN BRANCH (Director, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges):  
I support A.B. 475.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:  
I will close the hearing on A.B. 475 and open the hearing on A.B. 476.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 476**: Makes appropriations to and authorizes the expenditure of money by the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services for the replacement or purchase of computer hardware and associated software and door locks. (BDR S-1182)

JUSTIN ROBINSON (Chief Technology Officer, Aging and Disability Services Division, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services):  
Assembly Bill 476 would make one-time appropriations in the amount of \$2,219,528 for various computer hardware and software and door lock systems.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:  
I will close the hearing on A.B. 476 and open the hearing on A.B. 477.

Senate Committee on Finance  
June 2, 2023  
Page 7

**ASSEMBLY BILL 477**: Makes appropriations to and authorizes the expenditure of money by the Department of Transportation for the replacement of the Nevada Shared Radio System. (BDR S-1168)

NATALIE LIEB (Chief, Financial Management Division, Nevada Department of Transportation):

Assembly Bill 477 makes appropriations to the Nevada Department of Transportation for the replacement of the Nevada Shared Radio System.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 477 and open the hearing on A.B. 478.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 478**: Makes an appropriation to the State Emergency Response Commission for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software. (BDR S-1166)

JOSEPH RODRIGUEZ (Lieutenant, State Fire Marshal Division, Nevada Department of Public Safety):

Assembly Bill 478 makes appropriations of \$2,014 for one new computer.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 478 and open the hearing on A.B. 479.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 479**: Makes appropriations to the State Board of Parole Commissioners for the replacement of computer hardware, software and related equipment and licenses to upgrade a computer operating system. (BDR S-1158)

CHRIS DERICCO (Chairman, State Board of Parole Commissioners):

Assembly Bill 479 makes an appropriation of \$112,464 from the General Fund to replace computer hardware, software, network equipment and licenses in accordance with its replacement schedule. There are no amendments. Section 1 of the bill appropriates \$66,169 for the replacement of computer hardware. Section 2 appropriates 45,556 for network components and switches. Section 3 appropriates \$739 for license upgrades.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 479 and open the hearing on A.B. 480.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 480**: Makes an appropriation to the Interim Finance Committee to allocate to certain state agencies to implement language access plans. (BDR S-1155)

WAYNE THORLEY (Senate Fiscal Analyst):

Assembly Bill 480 makes a one-time appropriation request, included in the Executive Budget, of \$25 million in fiscal year (FY) 2024-2025 for language access plans as required by NRS 232.0081. The appropriation would be made to the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) Contingency Account. It would be set aside as restricted funding and be available for access over the upcoming Interim upon request of the Governor. Agencies also could come to the IFC and request allocations from that \$25 million.

SENATOR NEAL:

Once the \$25 million is exhausted, is this expected to be a recurring expense in the next biennium? If State agencies begin to offer language services, would they be able to continue them?

MS. STEVENSON:

This is intended to be a one-time expense. Then we will determine a plan for these language access programs. The plans should be implemented by then and can become a recurring cost and be budgeted for through our regular process.

SENATOR NEAL:

Is the language service providing interpretation? Or having an interpreter be a part of the agencies to speak to a citizen that may not speak a certain language?

MS. STEVENSON:

It depends on an agency's plan, which we do not know yet. That is why we wanted to go to the IFC.

CATHERINE NIELSEN (Executive Director, Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities):

In Nevada, over 376,000 people have a disability. One in four adults live with a disability that impacts their cognition, hearing and/or vision. It is critical that all members of this community can receive information about services in their native language. For many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, this includes American Sign Language, braille, large print and audio.



Language access allows for equal access to documents, products, services and support that meet the needs of all people and specifically those with disabilities and other language barriers. Language access is vital to ensuring people receive all the information they need in a timely manner. We support [A.B. 480](#).

DORA MARTINEZ (Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition):  
We support [A.B. 480](#).

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on [A.B. 480](#) and open the hearing on [A.B. 481](#).

**[ASSEMBLY BILL 481](#)**: Makes an appropriation to the Account for the Nevada Main Street Program. (BDR S-1149)

SHARI DAVIS (Director of Rural Economic and Community Development, Governor's Office of Economic Development):

The National Main Street Organization was originally established as a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1980 to address the myriad of issues facing historic downtowns by working with a nationwide network of coordinating programs and local communities. The organization has helped 2,000 communities across the Country to bring economic vitality back to downtowns while celebrating their historic character. Nevada Main Street was established in 2017, funded at \$350,000 per biennium with no additional staff and placed within the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED). The establishment of the State program allowed Main Street Gardnerville to pursue accreditation with the National Main Street Organization, which provided an opportunity for additional Main Street organizations to be created.

Nevada Main Street is a holistic approach to downtown revitalization that includes historic preservation, community development, beautification and economic vitality. It supports business creation and retention to build and sustain healthy, economically vibrant communities with a primary focus on improving quality of life for residents. The program offers community-based initiatives with an adaptable framework to adjust for each unique community, growing with the community over time.

Some of the most important things Nevada Main Street has done is build partnerships and elevate levels of communication that communities are able to take advantage of. We have several local, State and federal partners that attend

our meetings on a regular basis. These partners include Travel Nevada; the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Division of Outdoor Recreation; the State Historic Preservation Office; small business development centers; U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development; U.S. Senator Jackie Rosen's office; U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto's office; the University Center for Economic Development; the Nevada Department of Business and Industry; Rural Nevada Development Corporation; the Office of Small Business Advocacy; the Nevada Arts Council and DCNR Division of State Parks. We recently added the Bureau of Land Management and Nevada Rural Housing. When partnered communities need something, they can contact any of these organization for help.

When I took over the program a year ago, it was still recovering from budget reductions due to the pandemic and had 12 participating communities. There are 21 Main Street organizations throughout the State, both rural and urban. Some main street organizations are only participating in our meetings to assess whether their communities should be designated, which is the highest level in the Country and the level that Main Street Gardnerville has achieved. There will be 24 communities participating by the end of this calendar year. Nevada Main Street is growing at an incredible pace and many of the communities are new, so they need as much training and support as they can get.

Two weeks ago, I was in Gardnerville with many of our Main Street organizations and partners to attend a two-day training that focused on teaching our communities the roles of directors, committees, boards, volunteers and communities; building a community vision; understanding markets and strategies; measuring success; outreach and inclusive community engagement; building leadership and a volunteer base; building partnerships; assembling resources for sustainable programming and operations and place keeping. Nevada communities already have a sense of place and Nevada Main Street gives them the tools and resources to build the vibrant successful community they want, without losing what makes them unique. It empowers them and increases their capacity.

The \$700,000 requested by A.B. 481 will primarily allow for competitive grants to be awarded to Main Street organizations that have completed the required Nevada Main Street trainings and show the organizational capacity to complete requested projects. Grant awards will focus on community development,

beautification, entrepreneurships and small business support. Several communities have voiced interest in pursuing small business incubator spaces, facade grant programs, storefront improvements, benches, downtown bike path signage and more. The remainder of the \$700,000 will be used to offer training and one-on-one support to our Main Street communities.

Approximately \$75,000 was allocated to Nevada Main Street over the biennium. The program may survive with that drastically reduced budget, but it will not thrive. Nevada Main Street has grown by leaps and bounds and the excitement from our communities is palpable. This program works, as evidenced by thousands of successful communities throughout the Nation and Nevada.

Wells created a small business incubator. Tonopah installed a metal cattle drive on the sidewalk rail downtown, honoring past and present local ranchers. Gardnerville and Tonopah both implemented successful facade grant programs. White Pine Main Street installed a trailhead kiosk in downtown Ely and seven way-finding signs throughout the town. Mesquite installed a public art feature and artistic wraps for utility boxes. Reno used Nevada Main Street grant funding to illuminate the ReTrac Plaza mural. Several Main Street organizations created most eligible business type programs to increase occupancy.

Nevada Main Street organizations have hosted over 100 events in 2022 that created 771 jobs, completed 11 rehabilitation projects, 7 public improvement projects, 18 new construction projects and had 6,349 volunteer hours.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

What city would this \$700,000 go to? Would it be split among the 21 communities?

Ms. DAVIS:  
It would.

AODHAN DOWNEY (Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance):

Our rural partners lean on this program for economic development. We support A.B. 481.

JEN NALDER (Main Street Gardnerville):

We support A.B. 481. We are getting ready to celebrate our fifteenth anniversary. For Main Street Gardnerville to become a nationally accredited

program, we needed a State program. As of 2020, we are one of the 862 nationally accredited programs in the United States and we remain the only nationally accredited program here in Nevada. In the last 15 years, we have contributed over 58,094 volunteer hours, valued at \$1,266,196 of in-kind contributions of volunteer support to the community.

Our Main Street in Bloom project, working with Douglas High School, Smith Valley High School and China Springs High School has cultivated 894 hanging flower baskets and 777 adopted pots adorning streets and business frontages. We have a community garden, the Heritage Park Gardens, which is a 100 percent volunteer effort to beautify an empty space we once had downtown. We have installed 4 public art pieces, 30 commemorative decorative benches and 7 bike racks for our community to enjoy.

Last year, we launched our Facade Improvement Grant Program, and in partnership with Douglas County Economic Vitality, we were named champions of distinct downtowns. We were awarded \$14,000 in Facade Improvement grants and a 50/50 match reimbursement program. The six recipients contributed \$30,000 in return investment to the community. This year, we have \$30,000 available. So, we hope to see an additional \$60,000 invested in our community through our Facade Improvement Grant Program.

Gardnerville's many local events are made possible through private donations, grant funding and contributions from our municipality and county. The impact the Main Street program has on this community is immeasurable. Main Street organizations are comprised of volunteers, local businesses and partnering organizations who share a common goal of creating a vibrant center in their community that brings people together through beautification events, cultural celebrations and historic preservation.

Please approve A.B. 481. This critical funding will support 21 Main Street communities seeking accreditation through the State of Nevada by offering technical training grants for small business incubators and beautification projects. It will improve our downtown in measurable ways.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 481 and open the hearing on A.B. 486.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 486**: Makes appropriations to the Division of State Library, Archives and Public Records of the Department of Administration for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software and the purchase of digitization equipment and technology. (BDR S-1130)

MR. TUMA:

Assembly Bill 486 makes an appropriation to the Department of Administration, Division of State Library Archives and Public Records, for computer hardware and software replacements and the purchase of digitization equipment to replace microfilm equipment.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

This was the budget that asked for more funds. Have additional funds rolled in from the Assembly or is this the Governor's original recommendation?

MR. TUMA:

These requests were in the Governor's original budget, and nothing is additional in either operating expenditures or one-time funds. The digitization equipment has some ongoing costs that are already in the operating budgets for the budget account.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 486 and open the hearing on A.B. 492.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 492**: Makes appropriations to the Nevada System of Higher Education for certain information technology leases and equipment. (BDR S-1179)

ANDREW CLINGER (Chief Financial Officer, Nevada System of Higher Education): Section 1 of the bill appropriates \$3 million to the System Computing Center budget. This is to renew dark fiber leases that have expired or will expire for NevadaNet. Section 2 of the bill appropriates \$5 million to the System Computing Center budget to replace equipment including servers, switches, and uninterruptible power supply systems.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Is the total \$8 million for Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE)?

Senate Committee on Finance  
June 2, 2023  
Page 14

MR. CLINGER:  
Yes.

KENT ERVIN (Nevada Faculty Alliance):  
We support A.B. 492. This is a function that serves the State but is funded through the NSHE budget.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:  
I will close the hearing on A.B. 492 and open the hearing on A.B. 493.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 493 (1st Reprint)**: Makes an appropriation to the Nevada System of Higher Education for an interim study of the funding formula for the System. (BDR S-1178)

DALE ERQUIAGA (Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education):  
Assembly Bill 493 appropriates \$2 million to NSHE for an Interim study of the funding formula.

MR. ERVIN:  
The Assembly discussed a list of things that could be studied and among those was how to distribute funding and the appropriate level of funding. We support A.B. 493.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:  
I will close the hearing on A.B. 493 and open the hearing on A.B. 495.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 495 (1st Reprint)**: Makes appropriations to the Nevada Highway Patrol Division of the Department of Public Safety for the replacement or purchase of vehicles, motorcycles, weapons and certain equipment and a staffing study. (BDR S-1163)

JAMES SIMPSON (Captain, Highway Patrol Division, Nevada Department of Public Safety):  
Assembly Bill 495 makes appropriations to the Nevada Highway Patrol Division of the Department of Public Safety to replace or purchase vehicles, motorcycles, weapons and certain equipment and to fund a staffing study.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:  
Is the fiscal note for A.B. 495 \$11,948,770?

MR. SIMPSON:

That cost is for our motor vehicles. The total fiscal note is \$17,222,969.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

The State is buying many vehicles. Are each Division's purchases handled by separate contracts or are they all rolled into one large purchase?

DENNY GORTARI (Administrative Services Officer, Highway Patrol Division, Nevada Department of Public Safety):

Those contracts are usually handled by the Purchasing Division, which negotiates with the car dealers. We then buy from those contracts.

MR. TUMA:

Regarding the question about purchase of vehicles, those contracts are managed by the Purchasing Division within the Department of Administration with Nevada dealerships.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

How long do these vehicles last?

MR. SIMPSON:

We have a five-year replacement plan, though miles come into play as well.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Do vehicles in rural areas last longer or shorter than those in urban areas?

MR. SIMPSON:

We move rural vehicles to urban areas to manage our fleet as best we can.

MR. GORTARI:

We rotate vehicles between urban and rural deployment to try to level off the mileage, but the vehicles still usually need to be replaced in five to six years. These cars must be turned in when the mileage hits 100,000 as per regulations.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 495 and open the hearing on A.B. 496.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 496**: Makes appropriations to the Department of Public Safety for costs related to the Joint Emergency Training Institute and the replacement or purchase of computer hardware and associated software, radio equipment and certain weapons. (BDR S-1162)

CURTIS PALMER (Administrative Services Officer, Director's Office, Nevada Department of Public Safety):

Assembly Bill 496 is a one-time appropriation for Agency 650 which contains multiple budget accounts. Section 1 of the bill is a \$2 million allocation for the Joint Emergency Training Institute, a partnership that we are establishing in Clark County. Sections 2 to 7 are General Fund appropriations totaling \$47,912 and Highway Fund appropriations totaling \$49,866. This is to replace computer hardware, radio equipment and tasers. Section 8 is an appropriation of \$5,550 for the replacement of computer hardware. Sections 9 to 11 are General Fund appropriations totaling \$35,814 for replacement of hardware, radios and tasers.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 496 and open the hearing on A.B. 500.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 500**: Makes a supplemental appropriation to the Office of Finance in the Office of the Governor for an unanticipated shortfall related to costs associated with the preparation of the statewide cost allocation plan. (BDR S-1100)

MR. MARLOW:

Assembly Bill 500 makes a supplemental appropriation to the Office of Finance in the Office of Governor for an unanticipated shortfall related to the costs and the contract associated with the preparation of the Statewide cost allocation plan known as White Cap.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

What is the total cost of A.B. 500?

MR. MARLOW:

The total for the supplemental appropriation is \$70,450.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 500 and open the hearing on A.B. 502.



**ASSEMBLY BILL 502 (1st Reprint)**: Makes a supplemental appropriation to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services for an unanticipated revenue shortfall and an increase in operating costs. (BDR S-1104)

JO MALAY (Deputy Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services):

The first reprint of A.B. 502 makes a supplemental appropriation to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of \$471,798 for an unanticipated revenue shortfall and increase in operating costs.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 502 and open the hearing on A.B. 504.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 504**: Makes appropriations to and authorizes the expenditure of money by the Office of Economic Development in the Office of the Governor for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software and the costs of office furniture, communication services, certain staff certification and office modification. (BDR S-1140)

JAMES HUMM (Director of Policy and Government Affairs, Governor's Office of Economic Development):

Assembly Bill 504 makes appropriations to GOED for the replacement of computer hardware, associated software, office furniture, communications services, staff certifications and office modifications.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 504 and open the hearing on A.B. 505.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 505 (1st Reprint)**: Makes appropriations to and authorizes the expenditure of money by the Department of Veterans Services and the Veterans Home Account for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software, the purchase of information technology peripheral devices and the performance of certain projects. (BDR S-1143)

FRED WAGAR (Director, Nevada Department of Veterans Services):

Assembly Bill 505 makes a one-time appropriation to the Nevada Department of Veterans Services for computer hardware and associated software replacements

Senate Committee on Finance  
June 2, 2023  
Page 18

as well as the construction project at the Northern Nevada State Veterans Home.

ANDREW LEPEILBET (United Veterans Legislative Council):  
We support A.B. 505. It helps the State take care of our veteran heroes and gets them the medical service they need.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:  
I will close the hearing on A.B. 505 and open the hearing on A.B. 508.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 508**: Makes appropriations to the Division of Parole and Probation of the Department of Public Safety for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software, radio equipment, certain weapons and an information technology system. (BDR S-1164)

AARON EVANS (Deputy Chief, Division of Parole and Probation, Nevada Department of Public Safety):  
Assembly Bill 508 makes appropriations to the Division of Parole and Probation for the replacement of computer hardware and software, radio equipment, tasers, firearms and our records management system.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:  
What is the total cost of the bill?

MR. EVANS:  
The total cost is \$5,134,788.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:  
I will close the hearing on A.B. 508 and open the hearing on A.B. 509.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 509**: Makes appropriations to the Investigation Division of the Department of Public Safety for the replacement of vehicles, radio equipment, cameras, computer hardware and associated software and certain weapons. (BDR S-1165)

Senate Committee on Finance  
June 2, 2023  
Page 19

MIKE EDGELL (Captain, Investigation Division, Nevada Department of Public Safety):

Assembly Bill 509 is a one-time appropriation request for a total of \$817,103 to replace vehicles, cameras, miscellaneous camera equipment, tasers and computer software.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 509 and open the hearing on A.B. 511.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 511 (1st Reprint)**: Makes appropriations to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software, the replacement of office furniture and equipment and deferred maintenance projects. (BDR S-1184)

MS. MALAY:

The first reprint of A.B. 511 makes appropriations to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health for the replacement of computer hardware and software, office furniture, equipment and deferred maintenance projects.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

What is the total cost for A.B. 511?

MS. MALAY:

I do not have the total. The reprint changed A.B. 511, section 6 from an appropriation of \$611,310 to \$264,870. We gave some of the original amount to the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services Division, and the Division of Child and Family Services.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 511 and open the hearing on A.B. 512.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 512**: Makes appropriations to and authorizes the expenditure of money by the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services of the Department of Health and Human Services for certain information technology upgrades and projects. (BDR S-1185)

LISA SWEARINGEN (Deputy Administrator, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services):

Assembly Bill 512 makes appropriations to the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services and authorizes the expenditures of money for certain information technology upgrades and projects. Section 1 of the bill requests \$551,505 in appropriations from the General Fund. We are also expecting to draw down \$1,355,426 in federal funds to support this effort. This request will replace computer hardware and associated software in budget account (B/A) 101-3228.

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HHS-Welfare - Administration — Budget Page DHHS-DWSS-14 (Volume II)  
Budget Account 101-3228

Section 2 requests \$281,644 in appropriations from the General Fund. We are also expecting to drawdown \$688,879 in federal funds to support this effort. This request will enhance the Wi-Fi technology within our offices and procure licenses to improve effectiveness for staff and customers.

Section 3 requests \$825,817 in appropriations from the General Fund. We are also expecting to draw down \$1,814,265 in federal funds to support this effort. This request will replace computer hardware and associated software within budget account 3233.

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HHS-Welfare – Welfare Field Services — Budget Page DHHS-DWSS-35  
(Volume II)  
Budget Account 101-3233

Section 4 requests \$16,420,672 in appropriations from the General Fund. We are also expecting to draw down \$31,875,429 in federal funds to support this effort. This request will support the continuation of the Child Support Enforcement Program’s technology modernization project.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 512 and open the hearing on A.B. 510.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 510 (1st Reprint)**: Makes appropriations to the Department of Motor Vehicles for the replacement or purchase of computer hardware and software, office furniture and equipment. (BDR S-1176)

SEAN SEVER (Deputy Administrator, Research and Project Management, Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles):

Assembly Bill 510 makes appropriations from the Highway Fund to various divisions of the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles to replace computer hardware and software, printers, office furniture and other end-of-life equipment. Replacement of this equipment aligns with standard replacement schedules. The total amount requested is \$4,635,173.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 510 and open the hearing on A.B. 485.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 485 (1st Reprint)**: Makes an appropriation to the Legislative Fund for annual dues for national organizations, a passenger van and information technology services projects. (BDR S-1141)

BRENDA ERDOES (Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau):

Assembly Bill 485 makes appropriations for three categories. The first appropriation of \$2,924,486 is for Broadcast and Production Services (BPS) control room upgrades. If we do not have these upgrades, it will be difficult to get assistance during any technical issues. The BPS control room upgrade is \$1,534,840. Related hardware and server infrastructure replacement is \$513,637. This will benefit the hearing rooms as well as Floor chambers. There are also audiovisual and telecommunications system upgrades for phone and computers totaling \$734,362 and an email domain migration totaling \$141,647. The email migration will improve email security and shorten our email addresses.

Secondly, the bill also makes appropriations for a passenger van for the Legislative Police of \$75,000. Finally, annual dues for national and regional organizations are \$975,000, which facilitates conferences for Legislators and provides a variety of training programs for staff.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 485 and open the hearing on A.B. 112.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 112 (2nd Reprint)**: Establishes provisions relating to wildlife crossings. (BDR 35-340)

ASSEMBLYMAN HOWARD WATTS (Assembly District No. 15):

Assembly Bill 112 would create a wildlife crossings account and would appropriate \$5 million to that account. The account would support the Nevada Department of Transportation and Nevada Department of Wildlife in planning, developing and constructing wildlife crossings, including related studies to identify and design these areas. Wildlife crossings benefit motorists by preventing collisions with wildlife and help the animals by reconnecting migratory corridors. Every vehicle collision with deer, elk or moose comes with a cost of thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars for vehicle repairs, injury treatment and incident response.

Under the federal infrastructure law, there is now a \$350 million Wildlife Crossings pilot program. With the amount of federal land in Nevada, the federal match that we can obtain for those funds is a 95-to-5 ratio. The \$5 million requested by A.B. 112 can leverage up to \$95 million in federal funds to help construct these projects across the State. Each wildlife crossing project is a multimillion-dollar endeavor. The purpose of the bill is to provide seed funding for these projects that does not divert funding from existing roadway projects but brings in significant additional federal resources. Several neighboring states have set up similar programs. I want to ensure Nevada gets our fair share of federal funds.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Can you give the Committee a visual of what these wildlife crossings look like?

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS:

They can take a wide range of forms to accommodate many different kinds of wildlife. The smallest can be culverts put under roadways to help desert tortoise mitigation, especially in southern Nevada. There are also large crossings that go over underpasses or are overpasses to a road. These would be dirt paths with significant fencing to encourage animals to go through the crossing instead of jumping out onto a highway. There is a prominent one near Boulder City on Interstate 11, primarily for the benefit of bighorn sheep, and another major

crossing near Wells. Nevada has been a leader in identifying, piloting and developing wildlife crossings and the crossings have been successful. We should continue to support those efforts and take advantage of this funding opportunity that will open in a few months.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

Highway projects already have to take animal migration into account. Would the funding opportunity A.B. 112 seeks to take advantage of defer costs Nevada already incurs?

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS:

Yes. Wildlife migrations are being evaluated on roadway projects. This bill would give Nevada the opportunity to handle that element of existing projects. There are also projects on a 10-year horizon. With the federal funds generated by A.B. 112, we have an opportunity to handle the wildlife concerns for those projects now, which hopefully will free up resources for roadway projects.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

Regarding the 95-to-5 funding match, are certain states allocated certain amounts of funds or are we competing with every other state?

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS:

The \$350 million of federal funds is a competitive grant pool. The bill is designed to align with federal statute so Nevada can compete for those funds. The State has to put forth some money to get the match though, which is what A.B. 112 would do. I want Nevada to have as many advantages as possible in competing for those federal funds.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

What about the tarantulas? They cross Mount Charleston going to Pahrump. I only know this because I had them in my classrooms.

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS:

Unfortunately, insects are not treated as wildlife under current law. I have another measure related to insects, but it has not made it to the Senate yet. Tarantulas might be left out of the equation until a future session.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

When we apply for the \$350 million in federal grants, is it first come? What are the qualifying criteria?

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS:

Projects must have done research showing that they will reduce wildlife collisions. We will have to prove there are wildlife collisions in an area and that it would benefit from a wildlife crossing project. Usually, if those collisions are happening, it is because the area is clearly a migration corridor. The planning, project design, research, and similar costs incurred by State agencies could be covered with any federal funds received and get that 95-to-5 match. Not all the \$350 million will be allocated this year, but I am not sure if there is a set amount allocated each year. We do not want to be left behind, applying for whatever funding is left after a few years.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

If we get the 95-to-5 funding match, this bill would take almost a third of the total federal funding. I do not see any reversion or timeline. What happens to any leftover money?

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS:

Other federal programs and funding pools would provide the same 95-to-5 match. We need to figure out how Nevada can handle these wildlife crossings without diverting funds from existing roadway project funding. If Nevada is not able to get \$95 million from that \$350 million in competitive funding, A.B. 112 would still be in place for us to continue to get that match for projects moving forward. If there was money left in the account, we would be able to decide what to do with it.

SENATOR TITUS:

A lot of the research has already been done on these roads, but A.B. 112 is asking for General Fund dollars as opposed to Highway Fund dollars. Can we merge these funds at all?

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS:

There are a variety of problems with Highway Fund inflow. I did not want to encumber those funds, which are needed to complete other roadway projects. The bill would use General Fund money, but it could be part of the project mix, and the Nevada Department of Transportation is good about piecing together all



the different pots of funding available. They already have plans and concepts underway. This bill would give us the opportunity to pull this piece out of future projects and handle it now, maybe accelerating the project.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Will unused money revert to the General Fund?

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS:

As written, there is no reversion. I want the account's funding to be seeded so it could accept donations and create State funding that we can leverage against a federal match in future projects. I am open to discussing a reversion piece to A.B. 112.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I support A.B. 112, but the aspect we need to focus on most is the fencing. The crossings can cost \$10 million, and good fencing is comparatively cheap. Most existing fencing is game-friendly, so deer can jump over it. That does not fit nicely if we are trying to prevent wildlife collisions. If we make existing fences taller, we can more easily herd game animals into crossings that already exist for livestock.

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS:

I agree, higher fencing can be incorporated into new projects and used to strengthen existing projects. There will be consultation with any private landowners or grazing rights holders affected by these projects.

CHRISTI CABRERA-GEORGESON (Deputy Director, Nevada Conservation League):

We strongly support A.B. 112. Nevada has a significant number of wildlife accidents that cost the State about \$20 million a year. Wildlife crossings are effective, leading to a 90 percent reduction in these accidents. This bill will save human and animal lives, save the State money and get access to federal funds.

LEA CASE (Associated General Contractors, Nevada Chapter):

This bill is an excellent use of General Fund dollars to supplement highway construction. There is an extreme deficit in our highway funding. The more Nevada can supplement these projects with additional dollars, the better off it will be. We support A.B. 112.

TOM CLARK (Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition; MedX AirOne):

Wildlife crossings work when they are installed in places around the west, especially in Nevada. They get animals off the road. Wildlife collisions are terrible for everyone involved. Unfortunately, what often happens is drivers swerve to miss an animal and end up rolling around in the desert. Animals can cause serious accidents even if there is no wildlife collision. We strongly support A.B. 112.

AMBER SALGOUT (Battle Born Progress):

We support A.B. 112 because it provides a great investment in our wildlife and our communities. This investment will protect wildlife corridors, migration patterns and drivers.

LAUREL SAITO (The Nature Conservancy):

We support A.B. 112. Preserving and enhancing connectivity of habitats and migration corridors is critical to maintaining the biodiversity of the State for generations to come. Constructing strategic wildlife crossings on transportation corridors achieves this goal. Wildlife crossings protect the needs of migrating species and prevent unnecessary accidents and deaths for both humans and wildlife. There is great opportunity right now to leverage federal dollars to support this important infrastructure.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 112 and call a work session starting with A.B. 112.

MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 112 was presented by Assemblyman Watts. I will not go over the information because he just presented it. The fiscal impact of this bill is \$5 million General Fund appropriation in section 6, which would be used to leverage up to \$95 million in matching federal funds. There are no amendments.

SENATOR TITUS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 112.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Next on the work session is Senate Bill (S.B.) 118.

**SENATE BILL 118 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions relating to public health.  
(BDR 40-334)

MR. THORLEY:

The first reprint version was presented in this Committee on May 20, 2023, by Senator Fabian Doñate and Joelle Gutman Dodson with the Washoe County Health District. Reprint one of the bill removes the requirement that two counties must be physically adjacent to create a health district, requires an account be created in the General Fund for the purpose of improving public health in the State, requires the administrator to allocate money in the account annually to be used by each health authority, defines the term health authority, prohibits the health authority from using such money to replace or supplant other sources of funding, requires annual reporting to the Legislature and requires the Nevada Department of Taxation to annually transfer 35 percent of the proceeds of the tax from the purchase or sale of tobacco products other than from cigarettes, also known as "other tobacco products" (OTP), into the account. The effective date would be July 1, 2023.

Proposed Amendment 3778 ([Exhibit C](#)) removes the provisions relating to the transfer of OTP revenue and instead would create a \$15 million General Fund appropriation to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) in FY 2024-2025. Section 9.2 of Proposed Amendment 3778 lays out how the DPBH would distribute the money among the three health districts, and DPBH would be responsible for administering the money in the remaining counties. Reporting requirements to the Legislature are in section 9.2.

The intent here is to provide ongoing funding and to include the \$15 million in DPBH's base budget when that budget is submitted to the 2025 Legislature. There is one small change to Proposed Amendment 3778, the effective date, in section 10.

Senate Committee on Finance  
June 2, 2023  
Page 28

JOELLE GUTMAN-DODSON (Washoe County Health District):

The effective date could be upon passage of the bill or July 1, 2023, whatever the preference is.

MR. THORLEY:

The new revisions would go into effect before the other provisions of the bill, which would go into effect at the start of FY 2024-2025. Testimony in support was provided by the Washoe County Health District; Carson City Health and Human Services; Nevada Public Health Association; Churchill County; Southern Nevada Health District; University of Nevada, Reno; Central Nevada Health District; Service Employees International Union Local 1107; several other public health associations and the Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition. There was no testimony in opposition. The Division of Public and Behavioral Health testified in neutral.

SENATOR TITUS:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the County Health Officer for Lyon County brought in surrounding counties to address the crisis. This bill will help rural areas move forward and provide sustained funding for public health issues. I support it as amended.

SENATOR TITUS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 118 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT 3778.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Next on the work session is S.B. 506.

SENATE BILL 506: Revises provisions relating to records of criminal history.  
(BDR 14-1220)

MR. THORLEY:

Senate Bill 506 was heard in this Committee on May 30, 2023, and revises provisions relating to records of criminal history. The bill was presented by

Daniel Miller, Fiscal Analysis Division. This bill was requested by the Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means when they closed the budget for the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History. The bill allows fees collected by the Central Repository to also be used for any other purpose authorized by the Legislature. The bill also requires the balance of any such money remaining from the collection of these fees to revert to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year. The effective date on the bill is July 1, 2023.

A verbal amendment was proposed by Mr. Miller, and this has been discussed with the Agency, to make the bill effective October 1, 2024. This would allow the Agency to balance forward reserve funding from year one of the upcoming biennium to year two, which is consistent with how the Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means closed their budgets. There was no testimony in support or opposition. There was testimony from the administrator of the Records, Communications and Compliance Division of the Nevada Department of Public Safety.

SENATOR NEAL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 506, CHANGING THE EFFECTIVE DATE TO OCTOBER 1, 2024.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

Remainder of page intentionally left blank; signature page to follow.

Senate Committee on Finance  
June 2, 2023  
Page 30

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Having no further business, the Senate Committee on Finance adjourns at 7:32 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

---

Spencer Jones,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

---

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. 118	C	27	Wayne Thorley	Proposed Amendment 3778