

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**Eighty-second Session
June 4, 2023**

The Senate Committee on Finance was called to order by Chair Marilyn Dondero Loop at 10:08 a.m. on Sunday, June 4, 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:

Assemblywoman Natha C. Anderson, Assembly District No. 30
Assemblywoman Venicia Considine, Assembly District No. 18
Assemblywoman Cecelia Gonzalez, Assembly District No. 16
Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow, Assembly District No. 35
Assemblywoman Brittney Miller, Assembly District No. 5
Assemblyman C.H. Miller, Assembly District No. 7
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Assembly District No. 1
Assemblyman Duy Nguyen, Assembly District No. 8
Assemblyman Philip "P.K." O'Neill, Assembly District No. 40
Assemblywoman Sarah Peters, Assembly District No. 24

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Assemblywoman Selena Torres, Assembly District No. 3
Assemblyman Steve Yeager, Assembly District No. 9

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wayne Thorley, Senate Fiscal Analyst
Cathy Crocket, Chief Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Karen Hoppe, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
James Malone, Senior Program Analyst
Colby Nichols, Program Analyst
Marie Bell, Committee Secretary
Paul Breen, Committee Assistant
Joko Cailles, Committee Secretary
Helen Wood, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Annette Magnus, Executive Director, Battle Born Progress
Jennifer Lanahan, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe; Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
Kent Ervin, Nevada Faculty Alliance
Michael Flores, University of Nevada, Reno
Alex Tanchek, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Duck Valley Indian Reservation;
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
Tom Clark, Nevada Society for Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery;
MedX AirOne
Steve Messinger, Nevada Primary Care Association
Amber Law, Deputy Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy,
Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
Lindsey Knox, Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority
Joan Hall, Nevada Rural Hospital Partners
Ashley Garza Kennedy, Clark County
Jonathan Norman, Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers
John T. Jones, Jr., Nevada District Attorneys Association
Beth Schmidt, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Mike Cathcart, City of Henderson
Pamela Del Porto, Executive Director, Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association
Benjamin Challinor, Alzheimer's Association
Andrew LePeilbet, United Veterans Legislative Counsel
Doralee Martinez, Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition

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Matthew Wilkie

Ashley Cruz, American International Group; Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance

Dakota Hoskins, Service Employees International Union Local 1107

Carlos Fernandez, Nevada State AFL-CIO

Doug Unger, Nevada Faculty Alliance

Jim New, President, Nevada Faculty Alliance

Gabriel Di Chiara, Chief Deputy Secretary of State, Office of the Secretary
of State

Emily Persaud-Zamora, Executive Director, Silver State Voices

Kerry Durmick, All Voting is Local

Christine Saunders, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

Eric Jeng, One APIA Nevada; Asian Community Development Council

Athar Haseebullah, Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada

Amanda Vaskov

Alejandro Rodriguez, Nevada System of Higher Education

Lea Case, Nevada Coalition to END Domestic and Sexual Violence; Nevada
Psychiatric Association

Constance Brooks, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Regan Comis

Dan Musgrove, Campaign Legal Center

Jagada Chambers, Rights Restoration Coordinator, Silver State Voices

Leo Murrieta, Executive Director, Make the Road Nevada

A'Esha Goins, NAACP Las Vegas

Shelbie Schwartz, Battle Born Progress

Quentin Savvoir, NAACP Las Vegas

Yesenia Moya

Mathilda Guerrero, Native Voters Alliance Nevada

Davis Huskon, Las Vegas Indian Center

Aria Flores, Director, Chispa Nevada

David Goldwater, Nevada Wholesale

Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health,
Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

Erv Nelson, American Kratom Association

Mac Haddow, American Kratom Association

Peter Guidry, Forgotten Not Gone

Anthony Ruiz, Nevada State College; WaterStart

Paige Barnes, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Sheila Bray, University of Nevada, Reno

Kayla Rackey

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Melissa Mayfield
Elizabeth Marrett
Marianne Jackson
Amie Norris
Lenny Sue Tinseth, Nevada Midwives Association; Great Basin Midwifereries
Taylor Turner
Kristen Gray
Jessica Lagor
Romina Paulucci
Cassia Lopez
Rebecca Wells, Nevada Midwives Association
Eliza Hall
Roma Wolff, Nevada Midwives Association
Samantha DeAndrea
Asher Hall
Elissa Wahl
Ashley Sohler
Katie Banuelos, Libertarian Party of Nevada
Suzanne D. Reed
Elise Cowan
Rachael Reed
Dustin Cowan
Camila Santiago
Will Adler, Silver State Government Relations
Mary Pierczynski, Nevada Association of School Superintendents
Christina Erling, Barrick Gold Exploration
Sarah Adler, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe; Aqua Metals
Carter Bundy, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
Todd Ingalsbee, President, Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada
Rick McCann, Nevada Association of Public Safety Officers
Mandee Bowsmith, Administrator, Division of Human Resource Management,
Nevada Department of Administration
Zach Conine, State Treasurer
Kanani Espinosa, Junior League of Las Vegas; Nevada HAND Inc.; Jobs for
Nevada's Graduates
Paul Catha, Culinary Workers Union Local 226
Miles Dickson, Nevada Grant Lab
Janet Quintero, United Way of Southern Nevada

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Mendy Elliott, PBS Reno; Nevada Humane Society; Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada; Nevada National Guard Association
Chris Bosse, Renown Health
Marco Alfaro, Green Our Planet
Zoe Houghton, United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra; The Children's Cabinet
Jim DeGraffenreid, Nevada Republican Party
Cindy Martinez
Amy Stephenson, Director, Office of Finance, Office of the Governor
Timothy Galluzi, Administrator, Division of Enterprise Information Technology Services, Nevada Department of Administration
Stacey Bostwick, Director of Workforce Development, Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development
Nick Vander Poel, Northern Nevada Development Authority
Frank Woodbeck, College of Southern Nevada
Bob Potts, Deputy Director, Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development
Andrew Clinger, Chief Financial Officer, Nevada System of Higher Education
James Dzurenda, Director, Nevada Department of Corrections
Mary Walker, Douglas County; Lyon County; Storey County
Joanna Jacob, Clark County
Vincent Guthreau, Executive Director, Nevada Association of Counties
Kristee Watson, Nevada Conservation League
Daniel Stewart, Clark County Education Association
Elizabeth Becker
Craig Statucki, Interim Deputy Superintendent for Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement, Nevada Department of Education
Russell Rowe, Carvana; University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Kathy Flanagan, Southern Nevada Water Authority
Laurel Saito, The Nature Conservancy
James Humm, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Susan Fisher, Northern Nevada HOPES; Nevada Aviation Association; Nevada League of Cities
Carolyn Turner, Nevada Rural Electric Association
Stephen Wood, Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We begin with Assembly Bill (A.B.) 150.

ASSEMBLY BILL 150 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions governing the waiver of certain fees by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada. (BDR 34-88)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN NATHA C. ANDERSON (Assembly District No. 30):
Assembly Bill 150 is cleanup language from a bill passed by the Legislature last Session. We were able to get a tuition waiver for our Native American students and members of our sovereign nation tribes in Nevada.

There have been countless conversations over the last year and a half to figure out some of the issues after having such a large bill. Initially, there were several issues to change based upon different discussions on the Assembly side.

Some of the members and descendants of our federally recognized Native American tribes live in tribal land that may cross the Nevada State line. The land sometimes flows into the Idaho or California borders. This bill allows those individuals to be recognized and be granted a waiver.

We found students who qualified for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) would lose the money for other expenses related to university and community college costs. With this bill, expenses covered under FAFSA will be taken out after the expenses covered under the waiver.

We were able to fund A.B. 150. My initial language had to do with funding at the level of \$450,000 per year. Now it is \$453,000 per year to help 140 students attend universities, community colleges and other items. This bill now covers all classes, whether degree-seeking or not.

ANNETTE MAGNUS (Executive Director, Battle Born Progress):
We are in strong support of A.B. 150.

JENNIFER LANAHAN (Las Vegas Paiute Tribe; Reno-Sparks Indian Colony):
We urge your support of A.B. 150.

KENT ERVIN (Nevada Faculty Alliance):
As of June 1, 2023, I am the past president of the Nevada Faculty Alliance. In the policy communities, we supported deserving populations getting fee waivers and said we could be more enthusiastic with funding. We support A.B. 150.

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MICHAEL FLORES (University of Nevada, Reno):
We are enthusiastic about A.B. 150.

ALEX TANCHEK (Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Duck Valley Indian Reservation;
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe):
We are enthusiastic to support A.B. 150.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN ANDERSON:
The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) and I have been working on A.B. 150, and it is in support.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
The hearing on A.B. 150 is closed. We move to the hearing on A.B. 155.

[ASSEMBLY BILL 155 \(2nd Reprint\)](#): Establishes provisions relating to biomarker testing. (BDR 40-305)

SENATOR ROCHELLE T. NGUYEN (Senatorial District No. 3):
Assembly Bill 155 expands access to biomarker testing for treatment of disease. The amendments before you are a product of continued negotiations and compromises with stakeholders. While biomarkers have been used successfully in other areas and other diseases of treatment, for the purposes of this bill, we are limiting that to cancer, and we are also directing a study in the Interim to look at potential cost savings for other diseases in the future. This language ensures insurance coverage covers the appropriate biomarkers while attempting to limit potential overuse of biomarkers.

The first two amendments assisted significantly in reducing the fiscal note from Medicaid and local self-funded plans.

This bill has strong bipartisan policy and ultimately will save lives and money.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
What are the amendments to A.B. 155?

SENATOR NGUYEN:
There are two amendments. I am looking at Proposed Amendment 3748 ([Exhibit C](#)).

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Is there any data on this? Has anything been done on this?

SENATOR NGUYEN:

Biomarkers testing already exists. It enables doctors to target and figure out exactly what is causing, for example, cancer, and then determine the most effective treatment. Rather than going through multiple types of one-size-fits-all treatment for cancer, you save money, time, lives and target the type of cancer and type of marker you are seeking to treat.

SENATOR TITUS:

I like that it was amended, and we will prevent overuse. Everybody will want to use it. If you sign up for 23andMe, you can do biomarkers on some of these studies; but this will specify your risks. I certainly support it.

TOM CLARK (Nevada Society for Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery):
We agree with this amended version of A.B. 155.

STEVE MESSINGER (Nevada Primary Care Association)

I represent the State's federally qualified health centers. We support A.B. 155.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

There is a one-page proposed amendment ([Exhibit D](#)) to A.B. 155 that is not included in [Exhibit C](#). The bill would need to be amended for [Exhibit D](#) to be included. It includes the test being limited to medically necessary costs.

I will let the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) speak to the fiscal note. It is my understanding it has been removed.

AMBER LAW (Deputy Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services):

We have reviewed the amendment and determined there is not an anticipated need for additional funding.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

What is the remaining fiscal note on this?

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SENATOR NGUYEN:
It is the study.

Ms. LAW:
The appropriation to the agency is \$650,000 for the study, \$325,000 in General Fund and \$325,000 in State funds.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
Is that per year?

Ms. LAW:
Yes.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
The hearing on S.B. 155 is closed. We move to A.B. 158.

ASSEMBLY BILL 158 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to emergency medical services. (BDR 40-511)

ASSEMBLYMAN PHILIP P.K. O'NEILL (Assembly District No. 40):
Assembly Bill 158 deals with Nevada joining the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Personal Licensure Interstate Compact which grants multistate privileges to practice for EMS personnel. The bill has been vetted for policy and gone through the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means.

There is a \$10,000 biennial note to maintain the interface between the State and the Compact.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
What is the fiscal note?

ASSEMBLYMAN O'NEILL:
It is \$10,000 to maintain the interface.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
Is that per year?

ASSEMBLYMAN O'NEILL:
It is biennial.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Can you give us more information about what this bill does?

ASSEMBLYMAN O'NEILL:

The EMS Compact facilitates the movement of licenses of EMS personnel across State boundaries in the performance of their official duties. It allows EMS professionals the privilege to practice in other Compact states or come to Nevada from other states.

The Compact increases access to patient care, protects the public, reduces administrative burden and enhances the EMS system in the U.S. The EMS Compact standardizes state licensure requirements, mandating an FBI fingerprint background check for EMS personnel, establishes a national database for personnel and creates a new mechanism for the states to collaborate on investigations and disciplines across state borders.

We have medical services shortages, no matter what the specialty, in Nevada. This is one more piece of the pie we can address in bringing in services.

SENATOR TITUS:

Are all our surrounding states part of the Compact?

ASSEMBLYMAN O'NEILL:

There are 22 members. Additional states are in the process of joining.

TOM CLARK (MedX AirOne):

MedX AirOne is the fixed-wing rudder and ground ambulance service in northern rural Nevada. This Compact will greatly enhance our ability to get paramedics from those surrounding states. Many surrounding states that have the Compact are rural in nature. They like to work in places like Elko, Winnemucca, Battle Mountain and similar areas. This will greatly enhance that process.

LINDSEY KNOX (Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority):

We fully support A.B. 158 and ditto Mr. Clark's comments.

JOAN HALL (Nevada Rural Hospital Partners):

We are also in agreement.

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SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Is Utah part of the Compact? That is a huge issue for Wendover. The ambulance service runs on both sides, and they have been struggling with that.

ASSEMBLYMAN O'NEILL:

Yes, they are. One of the issues is the ability to cross state lines.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

That is huge in that split community.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 158. We move to A.B. 160.

ASSEMBLY BILL 160 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions governing the sealing of certain criminal records. (BDR 14-634)

ASHLEY GARZA KENNEDY (Clark County):

Assembly Bill 160 aims to automate the sealing of eligible criminal records. It is not intended to expand the eligibility of record-sealing records. It is about removing barriers for our constituents and using innovation and technology to streamline our record-sealing process.

There are many circumstances to get your records sealed in Nevada. To be eligible, someone must have been released from custody, not be under a suspended sentence, discharged from parole or probation, met a statutory waiting period and have not been charged with any offense since. However, this process is complicated. It is a cumbersome and expensive process difficult to do without a lawyer.

A 2020 Michigan study found 90 percent of people in Michigan who were eligible to have their records sealed did not apply for it. In its first reprint, this bill tried to take our petition-based process and move it to something automatic without someone having to go through the legal process with a court petition.

In its second reprint, all the stakeholders narrowed the bill dramatically to misdemeanor and Category E drug offenses. Starting January 1, 2027, we will have a process in place where the Nevada Department of Public Safety (DPS) will be reviewing eligible records and notifying the Administrative Office of the

Courts which will then notify the court with jurisdiction so we can get this process started.

The petition-based process would exist for all other eligible crimes. The delayed implementation gives us time to make this work in Nevada. We have a disparate system where not every single criminal justice agency is on the same system. This is a way to start small and get us there.

We added an appropriation in the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means of \$2.5 million, with \$1 million going to DPS to address its technology needs. Another \$500,000 will be available for the administrative cost of running a task force. We are setting up a task force to help us get this process rolling in a responsible way with all the people involved in the criminal justice agencies. We will also have \$1 million set aside for the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) Contingency Account for a Statewide contract with the vendor to help with this work.

Most of the State fiscal notes were in future biennia because of the 2027 implementation timeline. The narrowed scope on the local government side decreased that fiscal impact moving forward. We submitted a proposed amendment ([Exhibit E](#)) to the Committee that clarifies a few things not captured in the second reprint. One of them was how the appropriation was spent. We also delayed the implementation to 2027. In section 9, all the effective dates line up, and then we made some technical changes to the definition of eligible charge in section 1.3, subsection 12.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Section 8.15 of [A.B. 160](#) has \$500,000 for the task force. Section 8.2 has a sum of \$1 million for DPS allocation. That is \$1.5 million. Did you say it is \$1 million for the tech task force?

MS. GARZA KENNEDY:

One of the pieces of the conceptual amendment was to clarify this allocation. The pot is still \$2.5 million. Our goal was not necessarily captured accurately in the reprint, and we wanted to address that. Section 8.1 of the bill says \$1 million for the Department of Public Safety is for its technology costs. Related to the task force, \$500,000 will strictly be used for administrative costs. Section 8.2 is the \$1 million for the Statewide contract in the IFC Contingency Account.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Has that Statewide contract set in place a request for proposal?

Ms. GARZA KENNEDY:

There will be a request for proposal process that exists for that work to happen. The DPS would enter into that contract and the task force would oversee the work.

ASSEMBLYMAN C.H. MILLER (Assembly District No. 7):

The implementation date is a day-forward approach. That means only offenses that happen on the implementation date are eligible for automatic record sealing.

The task force is tasked with doing the work, but we have the next Session before the implementation date if or when the work of the task force tells us exactly what we need to do as a State to bring forward this policy. It is a smart and measured approach to a task that seems insurmountable, but other states have done it with similarly decentralized systems.

SENATOR NEAL:

Can you talk about the reprint fiscal notes? I see the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) has the first reprint \$342,000, saying it reduces the staff; however, on the original, it talked about the need to lease additional space.

ASSEMBLYMAN MILLER:

I understand the LVMPD is under the assumption it has to build an entire department to handle this because of the increase in the number of people who will be eligible.

Some states have a retroactive policy where everything sealable becomes sealable through an automatic process. We did a day-forward approach so the LVMPD would have time to build that department if needed based on what the task force finds is the best approach for the State.

SENATOR NEAL:

Why do you have to lease space? The building on Martin Luther King Boulevard is a large facility.

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ASSEMBLYMAN MILLER:
It is a large building.

MS. GARZA KENNEDY:
The LVMPD fiscal note was really about the manpower and amount of staffing it would need. As far as the lease space, I cannot speak to that. With the kind of work we have done to narrow this, we have reduced fiscal notes across the board for jurisdictions.

SENATOR NEAL:
Have you seen the unsolicited fiscal note from the City of Las Vegas at \$2.3 million over the biennium?

MS. GARZA KENNEDY:
Yes, unsolicited fiscal notes were updates based off the second reprint and less than what was originally part of the first reprint.

SENATOR NEAL:
What's the new number?

MS. GARZA KENNEDY:
I do not have it on me right now.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We do not appear to have any fiscal notes based on second reprint.

MS. GARZA KENNEDY:
I believe it was based off the first reprint. When it came out of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, we already narrowed it. The second reprint includes a couple of technical changes, but it is the appropriation for the most part.

SENATOR NEAL:
The Clark County fiscal note has an absorption of fees, staff and equipment that is related to the LVMPD. Its fiscal note for \$300,000 plus is not absorbed in your fiscal note. Is \$700,000 on the reprint?

MS. GARZA KENNEDY:
When our finance department submitted our fiscal note, it encompassed everything we contribute to, including the Clark County portion to LVMPD and

District Court. It submitted its own updated fiscal notes, but ours encompassed that as well.

SENATOR NEAL:

What is currently the number to administer the bill? You have seven unsolicited fiscal notes attached to the first reprint.

ASSEMBLYMAN MILLER:

Based on what we accomplished in the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, we appropriated a \$2.5 million ask that should be the bottom line according to the second reprint with the amendment from Ways and Means.

We had to reorganize that a bit because the language came out a little weird in how that money was to be used. But the \$2.5 million is to cover the DPS fiscal note and administer the resources for the task force and then pursue a Statewide contract to put this all together from a decentralized perspective.

We are just asking for \$2.5 million to get this done.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

Is that \$2.5 million in each year of the biennium or in total?

ASSEMBLYMAN MILLER:

That figure is in total.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

I was concerned when I saw the \$29 million fiscal note by LVMPD and many other agencies in the north that do not appear to have submitted anything. I appreciate the day-forward approach. It looks like this would not go into effect until convictions after 2027. It provides a lengthy ramp-up to figure out how we can start moving forward on new convictions.

ASSEMBLYMAN MILLER:

We did a day-forward approach so convictions and offenses starting on the implementation date become eligible that day. We have enough time to figure it out. Even before the first automatic seal happens, there is a significant amount of time from the implementation date to the first one being sealed. It gives us a good amount of ramp-up.

MS. GARZA KENNEDY:

With the day-forward approach, the statutory guidelines as far as the eligibility remain the same. For a misdemeanor offense, you have to wait a year after completing any probation. For a Category E offense, it is two years. In the first year, we would only be capturing anything acquitted where charges were dismissed. In the second year, we would probably start capturing the misdemeanors. In the third year, we would be capturing the Category E offenses. It is not only a long ramp to the implementation date but a long ramp moving forward.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

Are most of the problems in automatic record sealing across our State and across agencies due to our lack of a unified court system?

ASSEMBLYMAN MILLER:

Yes.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

Is this an attempt to create a pseudo-unified sealing system across the State?

ASSEMBLYMAN MILLER:

Essentially, yes. We aim to get to that step knowing different jurisdictions have different processes. We need to figure out what works for everyone and create one system. They can continue to do their own thing, but at least they communicate into the same system that will get us closer to an actual automatic record seal.

MS. GARZA KENNEDY:

Ten states have passed this type of legislation, three of which have disparate systems like ours. Michigan went live with its implementation last month standing up a database that all the different jurisdictions can access and capturing data retroactively.

The whole goal of the task force is to figure out what works for our State and jurisdictions. While we have this appropriation to start, federal funds from the Department of Justice related to this type of work are available.

JONATHAN NORMAN (Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers):

We do record sealing in Clark County. It is a labor-intensive process. Anything that can speed up sealing records allowed under law to be sealed is a good thing.

JOHN T. JONES, JR. (Nevada District Attorneys Association):

The bill in its current state is much better than when first introduced from a county fiscal impact side. The District Attorneys (DA) Association agrees sealing of records is an important societal goal, but I want to make clear that calling this an automatic sealing bill is a misnomer.

We are constrained by our record system. We do not have a unified record system in this State, and the systems we have can best be described as antiquated.

The obligations of this bill are placed on each State and county agency to implement. The DA Offices, the courts, the DPS law enforcement agencies, every one of them will need individual people to help meet the goals of this bill. That is the basis of our fiscal note.

It takes the current defendant-initiated sealing processes and places the obligation to seal on the State and local governments. If this is the direction we want to go, we need a more comprehensive look at what our sealing statutes do and their requirements.

I was part of a group that worked with then Senate Majority Leader Aaron Ford back in 2017 that drastically reduced the time an individual must wait to seal his or her records. This bill uses those time frames as a basis for the automatic sealing process. We agreed to those reduced time frames, with an understanding that the defendant would have to show rehabilitation. Remember, sealing is an act of judicial grace where a defendant demonstrates he or she is rehabilitated. The sealing triggers at that point.

We do not object to the working group. This is something we should study to ensure we have the systems in place that allow us to do what this bill wants us to do. If this bill were to take effect in a few years out, it would be an illusory promise with our current staffing; we would be unable to implement this bill. People will think their records are sealed when they are not. That is a worse outcome for everybody.

BETH SCHMIDT (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department):

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) has had productive conversations with Assemblyman Miller and Ms. Garza Kennedy, but we are opposed to A.B. 160 as amended.

Fiscal notes the organizations submitted, including mine, were for a very different bill than we see today. The original bill included everything that could be sealed. For LVMPD, that involved going from 120 seals a month to 4,500 a month. That is where the manpower issue came in. We would have to hire 265 people for that process. When it was brought back to misdemeanor drugs and E-felony drug charges, that would require only three additional employees. We would not need to create a new space. They would be absorbed into our current record sealing.

I want to be clear we are not opposed to record sealing. In fact, we seal more criminal records than any other law enforcement organization in this State. We contribute 80 percent of the criminal history records in Nevada. We believe LVMPD has the expertise to guide Nevada toward that process. We are the experts. We support the task force; yet our request to specifically be named to the task force has not been accepted.

Record sealing is a human process and extremely labor-intensive. It can take anywhere from hours to days to seal a criminal record. There is no existing technology and no available software. The task force should look at this.

The bill makes automatic sealing the responsibility of the State and, ultimately, the local agencies. Yet this fiscal note provides no allocation for the local agencies. The sealing process encompasses more than just removing the criminal history repository information from databases. It is complex. At LVMPD, 20 different systems require information to be removed in addition to detectives' notes and any other information.

MIKE CATHCART (City of Henderson):

My previous two colleagues have talked a great deal about the policy pieces, and I thank the Assemblyman for working with us and all of the stakeholders. I will just address the City of Henderson's refiled fiscal note.

We were one of the agencies that did an unsolicited fiscal note on the first reprint. We based our note on the postponement to 2027. We pushed our

IT pieces to 2025. Our six electronic systems would have to be integrated. We filed \$500,000 in the first year and \$500,000 in the second year for a total of \$1 million in IT needs. We do not know if that would cover the cost of those integrations. Integrations are an expensive endeavor when you are talking about legacy systems, and the note included adding one court support specialist in the outer years. This would be an unfunded mandate in the future.

PAMELA DEL PORTO (Executive Director, Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association):

Ditto to the previous three speakers, but add that the Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association would like to be on the task force to provide the name of the agency representative from the rural communities. Our Association covers the State and rural agencies.

ASSEMBLYMAN MILLER:

The implementation date is 2027. That means we have the entire 2025 Legislative Session to make changes, adjustments, push something out or know if this is doable for our State.

The task force has two law enforcement representatives, one from the urban area and one from the rural areas. The task force can invite experts it deems appropriate to provide more information and details.

In the disbursement of \$2.5 million, \$1 million goes to DPS for the upgrades it needs. Public Safety mentioned needing to start its tech upgrade as it is rolling out. Another \$500,000 goes to the DPS for the administration of the task force. There is \$1 million for a Statewide vendor contract. If anything is left over, then there is additional capacity for the jurisdictions that need support or help with their technical issues to apply for grants. Any unused funding reverts to the General Fund.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 160. We move to A.B. 208.

ASSEMBLY BILL 208 (2nd Reprint): Establishes a program to provide structured family caregiving to certain recipients of Medicaid. (BDR 38-297)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN VENICIA CONSIDINE (Assembly District No. 18):

Nevada has the third-fastest rate of growth for dementia and Alzheimer's disease. The number of Nevadans living with dementia is expected to grow by about 30 percent from 49,000 to 64,000 by 2025.

An estimated 48,000 informal caregivers in Nevada provide care for adults with dementia. These caregivers provide about 78 million hours of unpaid care, which is the equivalent of approximately \$1.3 billion. Nearly 70 percent of caregivers are women.

Caregivers play a critical role in the care of our senior citizens with complex health needs and disabling conditions by asserting a wide range of household, self-care and medical tasks necessary for health function and community living. Many of them are doing it without pay and without being able to work. The highest percentage of these are women, who have low income going into retirement. Assembly Bill 208 plays a role in in correcting that.

Several studies have demonstrated how Medicaid reaps significant benefits by providing contributions for a family caregiver. When an older adult caregiver receives standardized assessments, the training and respite received to support the person with dementia or Alzheimer's improves his or her outcome. Placement of those cared for in a nursing home is delayed which helps the community. There are decreased expenditures for emergency room visits, fewer hospital readmissions, and decreased Medicaid program and service utilization.

Family caregivers play an important role in the State's efforts to help Medicaid recipients safely remain in their community by being cared for by people they trust and love.

The bill's intent is to provide financial support and training for family caregivers, including legally responsible individuals such as a spouse, daughter-in-law, a son-in-law or another family member.

The bill requires DHHS to apply for a waiver to the existing home- and community-based services for Medicaid recipients that will allow them to choose their caregiver, including their legally responsible individuals and the residence where the caregiving is provided. It requires a caregiver chosen by the recipient to become an employee of a personal care agency or intermediary service or organization.

It provides the caregiver a daily stipend of at least 65 percent of the per diem rate and requires a caregiver to complete training, as determined by the DHHS Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD). In short, we have a growing number of people with dementia and Alzheimer's. That means we have a growing number of family caregivers who are doing this without any income. This bill is to provide those family caregivers income through a structured framework that allows the patient to be in a loving home with family and help our community.

BENJAMIN CHALLINOR (Alzheimer's Association):

We were able to get a couple of fiscal notes amended into the most recent reprint.

A total of \$460,000 would go to DHCFP. Of that, \$150,000 will go toward personnel, travel and operating expenses with another \$309,000 going toward the remainder. Of that, \$151,000 is General Fund, and the remainder will be a reimbursement from the federal government through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. A \$722,000 appropriation goes to the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services .

We removed an additional fiscal note from the ADSD after the first reprint that was addressed in Assembly Ways and Means.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Is the total fiscal note \$460,000?

Mr. CHALLINOR:

It is \$460,000 for DHCFP and \$722,000 for the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services. Of that, \$151,000 will come from the General Fund, and the remainder will be reimbursed from the federal government.

ANDREW LEPEILBET (United Veterans Legislative Council):

People do not realize that many of our veterans are not covered by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Only about a third of our veterans in the State get services from the VA. However, we have a lot of veterans in our rural areas, especially, that have dementia and need to use these services because they do not have access to the VA. We support A.B. 208.

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DORALEE MARTINEZ (Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition):
I support A.B. 208.

MATTHEW WILKIE:
I support A.B. 208.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will close the hearing on A.B. 208. We move to A.B. 216.

ASSEMBLY BILL 216 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions governing travel insurance. (BDR 57-198)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MICHELLE GORELOW (Assembly District No. 35):
Assembly Bill 216 can be called the Travel Insurance Model Act. The bill codifies travel insurance language to conform with best practices in the industry.

Over 30 states have already implemented these changes. A lot of them are changing definitions and clarifying what happens when you purchase travel insurance. With the first reprint, the Nevada Department of Taxation said the bill does not create a fiscal impact. The fiscal impact has been removed.

ASHLEY CRUZ (American International Group):
We support A.B. 216.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will close the hearing on A.B. 216. We will hear A.B. 224.

ASSEMBLY BILL 224 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions governing collective bargaining. (BDR 23-155)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SARAH PETERS (Assembly District No. 24):
Assembly Bill 224 is known as the NSHE collective bargaining bill. We have attempted to pass this piece of legislation for the last three Sessions. It has been included in other collective bargaining bills, but this time around we gave NSHE its own bill and have been working since before the Legislative Session on this with NSHE and other stakeholders to the point where it is today.

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Assembly Bill 224 authorizes collective bargaining for professional employees at NSHE, the largest group of public employees in Nevada who do not have collective bargaining in statute for negotiations of mutually beneficial work conditions. The provisions of A.B. 224 mirror the provisions for collective bargaining in *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 288 for state classified employees and local government employees with some classifications for higher education.

Certain appropriations were added to the bill in the Assembly. They will go to the IFC once NSHE has developed a plan to implement the collective bargaining process. We put in funds for the Office of the Attorney General in the event it needs additional staff for arbitration and legal issues.

MR. ERVIN:

The Nevada Faculty Alliance has submitted a fact sheet on A.B. 224 and a section-by-section bill summary ([Exhibit F](#)). The appropriations along with other amendments in the Assembly address concerns from NSHE.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Is there a fiscal note to this bill?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS:

A fiscal note was for NSHE to hire additional staff to undertake the collective bargaining process as interpreted within the bill. The Assembly Committee on Ways and Means determined this should be appropriated to the IFC so NSHE can devise an implementation plan more structured than presented in the fiscal note.

MR. ERVIN:

The fiscal note for Nevada Department of Administration, Division of Human Resource Management (DHRM) was removed by an amendment adopted by the Assembly.

DAKOTA HOSKINS (Service Employees International Union Local 1107):

We support A.B. 224.

CARLOS FERNANDEZ (Nevada State AFL-CIO):

We support A.B. 224.

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DOUG UNGER (Nevada Faculty Alliance):

As amended, A.B. 224 answers many previous policy and fiscal concerns. This is a well written and sensible bill that higher education teachers and professionals have desired for a long time.

JIM NEW (President, Nevada Faculty Alliance):

Collective bargaining conducted in good faith results in benefits for both management and labor, including greater efficiency, a greater reduction of grievances and cost savings. I urge you to vote in favor of A.B. 224.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 224. We move to A.B. 237.

ASSEMBLY BILL 237 (2nd Reprint): Makes an appropriation and authorizes expenditures for certain purposes relating to health care. (BDR S-328)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SARAH PETERS (Assembly District No. 24):

Assembly Bill 237 in its initial draft was a completely different bill than what you see in front of you today. This measure is a fix-it bill to increase the reimbursement rates for certain Medicaid-covered nursing facilities.

These are long-term nursing facilities raising their rates to \$275. There is an appropriation in both years of the 2023-2025 biennium for that effort.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Is there a fiscal note?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS:

The fiscal impact has been absorbed into the language of the bill and includes an appropriation of \$2.6 million and \$6.5 million in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium, respectively, in section 1, subsection 1. Section 1, subsection 2 of A.B. 237 contains \$8.1 million and \$19.5 million, respectively, for each year of the 2023-2025 biennium. Section 1, subsection 1 is the reimbursement rate and the General Fund portion. Section 1, subsection 2 covers the federal portion.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

During hearings of the Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, and Joint Subcommittees on Human Services, we

approved some increases for these types of nursing facilities. After those budgets went through, we realized the increases were potentially not enough. What type of increase to the daily reimbursement rate does this now bring to these facilities?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS:

This increases the reimbursement rates to \$275 a day. It is a pretty significant increase.

SENATOR GOICOCHEA:

I am concerned. We raise the Medicaid rate. The rate the facilities charge is usually higher than that. There are those who have the ability to pay. Will their costs be ratcheted up? How will they be affected? This change may help people who are fully on Medicaid or Medicare, but people who pay a portion of their costs might be impacted a bit more.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS:

How this change will affect non-Medicaid patients is an interesting question. In most of the long-term facilities that take Medicaid patients, their proportion of Medicaid patients is significant at around 85 percent to 90 percent. This is a huge part of what covers the costs of running those facilities.

SENATOR GOICOCHEA:

I am worried about how people who were not Medicaid-qualified would be impacted with the other rate going up.

SENATOR TITUS:

The reality is the change would help the people described by Senator Goicoechea. Private payers and insurance plans tend to pay more because they lose money on Medicaid patients. Medicare will not pay for nursing homes, so this is a Medicaid issue. If nursing homes get at least some of their Medicaid costs, it would prevent hospitals from needing to increase rates for non-Medicaid patients.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS:

I am hesitant to make a definitive statement that the change would not increase rates; we hope it would not. This will help offset some of those operating costs not covered under Medicaid rates.

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MS. MARTINEZ:

The Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition supports A.B. 237.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We close the hearing on A.B. 237. We will hold a work session.

WAYNE THORLEY (Senate Fiscal Analyst):

Assembly Bill 150 sponsored by Assemblywoman Anderson was presented earlier this morning by the Assemblywoman. The bill revises provisions governing the waiver of certain fees by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada. The fiscal impact relates to a General Fund appropriation to the Nevada System of Higher Education. Section 1.7 of A.B. 150, it makes an appropriation of \$457,449 in each fiscal year of the upcoming biennium for the cost of granting waivers pursuant to NRS 396.5449. There was testimony in support from Battle Born Progress, various Indian tribes, the Nevada Faculty Alliance and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). There was no opposition or neutral testimony. There were no amendments.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 150.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CATHY CROCKET (Chief Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst):

Assembly Bill 155 was heard this morning. It requires policies of health insurance to include coverage for certain biomarker testing. There is a General Fund appropriation in section 28.5 for \$325,000 to the DHCFF.

A conceptual amendment, Exhibit D, was handed out at the meeting. If the Committee wishes to take action on the bill, the motion would be to amend and do pass with the conceptual amendment provided.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 155 WITH THE CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT EXHIBIT D.

SENATOR TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 158 was presented by Assemblyman O'Neill earlier this morning. The bill revises provisions relating to emergency medical services.

A General Fund appropriation in section 21.5 of the bill appropriates \$5,000 per year of the upcoming biennium to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health for maintenance fees and software licenses to connect to the coordinated database established under the Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact.

There was testimony and support from MedX AirOne, Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority and Nevada Rural Hospital Partners. There was no testimony in opposition or neutral. There were no amendments discussed. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action would be do pass.

SENATOR TITUS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 158.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MS. CROCKET:

Assembly Bill 160 revises provisions governing the sealing of certain criminal records. It was presented by Clark County. There is funding totaling \$2.5 million General Fund appropriations in the bill. A conceptual amendment, [Exhibit E](#), was provided that revises sections 1.3, 8.15, 8.2 and 9 of A.B. 160.

Comments were provided in support by Nevada Legal Service Providers. Various governmental entities testified in opposition. There were no comments in neutral.

If the Committee wishes to take action, the action would be to amend and do pass with the conceptual amendment, [Exhibit E](#).

SENATOR NEAL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
A.B. 160 WITH THE CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT, [EXHIBIT E](#).

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR TITUS:

I will not be able to support this bill based on the testimony in opposition. It is irresponsible for us to do this.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I reserve my right, meaning I will vote yes on the motion but retain my right to vote no on the legislation when it comes to the Senate Floor. I am still looking at it.

SENATOR GOICOCHEA:

Because of the impact to local government, I am concerned about the measure. I will vote no at this time. I hope we can get to a better place.

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

* * * * *

MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 208 establishes a program to provide structured family caregiving to certain recipients of Medicaid. It was presented by Assemblywoman Considine.

There is a General Fund appropriation in section 2.3 of the bill of \$50,662 in fiscal year (FY) 2023-2024 and \$100,400 in FY 2024-2025. That appropriation would go to the DHCFF for the cost of including structured family caregiving for persons suffering from dementia as medical assistance under Medicaid.

Section 2.3, subsection 2 of A.B. 208 contains authorizations for expenditures of non-General Fund or Highway Fund dollars. That would be the federal matching portion of the legislation. There was testimony in support from the United Veterans Legislative Council for Nevada, the Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition and Matthew Wilkie. There was no testimony in opposition or

neutral. There are no amendments. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action will be do pass.

SENATOR NEAL MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 208.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. CROCKET:

Assembly Bill 216 was heard this morning. It was presented by Assemblywoman Gorelow. It revises provisions relating to insurance, particularly travel insurance. It was noted there was no fiscal impact on the bill. One entity testified in support. There were no comments in neutral or opposition. No amendments were presented on the bill. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate motion would be to do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 216.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 224 revises provisions governing collective bargaining related to the Nevada System of Higher Education. The bill was presented by Assemblywoman Peters, and former president of the Nevada Faculty Alliance, Kent Ervin.

The bill makes two General Fund appropriations. Section 65.3 of A.B. 224 makes an appropriation to the IFC for allocation to NSHE for its personnel and operating costs related to collective bargaining changes in A.B. 224. In FY 2023-2024, it is approximately \$601,000. In FY 2024-2025, it is approximately \$1.3 million.

The second General Fund appropriation is in section 65.5 of A.B. 224. This is an appropriation to the IFC for allocation to the Office of the Attorney General. Approximately \$181,000 is given in FY 2023-2024 and approximately \$231,000 is given in FY 2024-2025. This is for personnel, operating and information services expenses related to the changes in collective bargaining in A.B. 224.

Testimony in support was provided by the Service Employees International Union Local 1107, Nevada Faculty Alliance and Nevada State AFL-CIO. There was no testimony in opposition or neutral. There are no amendments. If the Committee wishes to move the bill, the appropriate action would be do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 224.

SENATOR NEAL SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I will not be supporting this legislation. I do not want to further expand collective bargaining.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I will reserve my right.

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

* * * * *

Ms. CROCKET:

Assembly Bill 237 was presented by Assemblywoman Peters. It provides General Fund appropriations and authorizes funding to support a rate increase for home nursing facilities for Medicaid. General Fund appropriations total \$2.6 million in FY 2023-2024 and \$6.5 million in FY 2024-2025. There was one comment in support of the bill and no comments in opposition or neutral. No amendments were discussed. The appropriate motion would be to do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 237.

SENATOR NEAL SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. THORLEY:

Senate Bill (S.B.) 10 revises provisions related to the Nevada State Infrastructure Bank. The measure was introduced by the Senate Committee on Growth and Infrastructure on behalf of the State Treasurer. It was heard by the Senate Committee on Finance on June 1, 2023.

SENATE BILL 10 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions related to the Nevada State Infrastructure Bank. (BDR 35-358)

A proposed amendment ([Exhibit G](#)) deletes section 16.5 of the bill, eliminating the proposed \$50 million General Fund appropriation to the Nevada State Infrastructure Bank Fund, thereby removing all fiscal impacts of the bill. Senate Bill 10 would be solely focused on policy.

If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action would be amend with the conceptual amendment, [Exhibit G](#), and do pass as amended.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 10 WITH THE CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT, [EXHIBIT G](#).

SENATOR NEAL SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR NEAL:

I reserve my right on this. I still do not support the movement into allowing buildings to be built, and I did not feel comfortable learning about the \$15 million to be managed by someone who I do not view as having the expertise to build buildings.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I will support the motion.

SENATOR TITUS:

I am going to be a no as I am concerned about that transparency issue.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS VOTED NO.)

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MR. THORLEY:

Senate Bill 400 was heard on May 19, 2023. This bill revises provisions relating to homelessness. It was sponsored by Senator Neal.

SENATE BILL 400 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to homelessness.
(BDR 38-1027)

There was a conceptual amendment ([Exhibit H](#)) presented by Senator Neal and an amendment attached to the bill dated May 17, 2023.

Another verbal amendment addresses the funding for S.B. 400. Under this change from Senator Neal, the \$30 million from gaming tax revenue deposited into the account created by S.B. 400 to address homelessness is changed to a \$30 million General Fund appropriation. The allocation from gaming tax revenue is being removed. All other parts of the conceptual amendment that were discussed in the bill hearing on May 19, 2023, are proposed in [Exhibit H](#).

The appropriate action would be to amend and do pass with the conceptual amendment [Exhibit H](#), and a verbal amendment for a change in the funding source of \$30 million from gaming tax to a \$30 million General Fund appropriation.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 400 WITH THE CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT, [EXHIBIT H](#), AND A VERBAL AMENDMENT TO CHANGE A FUNDING SOURCE FROM \$30 MILLION IN GAMING TAX REVENUE TO A \$30 MILLION GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I will reserve my right. The bill has changed a number of times, and I want to evaluate the measure in its final form.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. CROCKET:

Senate Bill 454 was heard on May 16, 2023. It makes appropriations to various sections within the Office of the Governor in the amount of \$26,721. There are no amendments. If the Committee wishes to move the bill, the appropriate motion would be to do pass.

SENATE BILL 454: Makes appropriations to the Office of the Governor for the replacement of certain equipment and computer hardware and associated software and licenses to upgrade a computer operating system. (BDR S-1109)

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 454.

SENATOR NEAL SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 15 was heard yesterday. It prescribes the manner for increasing the base salaries of district court judges. It was presented by the assistant court administrator from the Administrative Office of the Courts. There is no fiscal impact in the upcoming biennium. It would hit starting in FY 2026-2027.

ASSEMBLY BILL 15: Prescribes the manner for increasing the base salaries of district judges. (BDR 1-430)

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 15.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. CROCKET:

Assembly Bill 16 was heard yesterday. It revises the way the base salaries of justices of the Nevada Supreme Court and judges of the Nevada Court of Appeals are determined. It contains a General Fund appropriation of \$86,113. There were no amendments discussed on the bill. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate motion is do pass.

ASSEMBLY BILL 16 (1st Reprint): Prescribes the manner for increasing the base salaries of justices of the Nevada Supreme Court and judges of the Nevada Court of Appeals. (BDR 1-434)

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 16.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS VOTED NO.
SENATOR GOICOECHEA WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE).

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MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 37 was presented in this Committee yesterday by Fergus Laughridge from the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board.

ASSEMBLY BILL 37 (1st Reprint): Authorizes the establishment of the Behavioral Health Workforce Development Center of Nevada. (BDR 34-361)

A General Fund appropriation in section 10.5 of the bill allocates nearly \$685,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$1.4 million in FY 2024-2025 to NSHE for personnel and operating expenses associated with establishing the Behavioral Health Workforce Development Center. There were no amendments. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action will be do pass.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 37.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR GOICOECHEA WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

MS. CROCKET:

Assembly Bill 77 creates the Office of Entrepreneurship within the Office of the Governor, Office of Economic Development (GOED). The bill was presented by Senator Nguyen.

ASSEMBLY BILL 77 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions governing economic development. (BDR 18-711)

It contains General Fund appropriations in section 13.5 of approximately \$250,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$269,000 in FY 2024-2025. There were no amendments discussed on the bill. The appropriate motion would be to do pass.

SENATOR NEAL MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 77.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS VOTED NO. SENATOR GOICOECHEA WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 84 was heard yesterday in this Committee and presented by Assemblyman Howard Watts. It provides for the issuance of free annual permits to certain persons for entering State parks and recreational areas.

ASSEMBLY BILL 84 (1st Reprint): Provides for the issuance of free annual permits to certain persons for entering state parks and recreational areas. (BDR 35-471)

A General Fund appropriation in section 1.7 of approximately \$215,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$242,000 in FY 2024-2025 to the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks offsets the loss of revenue from user fees associated with implementing the program in this bill.

There are no amendments. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action would be to do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 84.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR GOICOECHEA WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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Ms. CROCKET:

Assembly Bill 119 was heard yesterday in Committee. It was presented by Assemblyman David Orentlicher. It creates the Vulnerable Adult Fatality Review Committee.

ASSEMBLY BILL 119 (2nd Reprint): Creates the Vulnerable Adult Fatality Review Committee. (BDR 38-311)

The fiscal impact was addressed by the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means. A conceptual amendment (Exhibit I) was presented. If the Committee wishes to take action on the bill, the motion would be to amend and do pass as amended.

SENATOR NEAL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 119 WITH THE CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT, EXHIBIT I.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I will reserve my right.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS VOTED NO. SENATOR GOICOECHEA WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 125 heard yesterday in this Committee was presented by Assemblywoman Shea Backus. The bill revises provisions relating to public safety.

ASSEMBLY BILL 125 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to public safety.
(BDR 43-796)

A General Fund appropriation in section 4.5 of the bill for the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Investigation Division of approximately \$105,000 in FY 2023-2024 and approximately \$113,000 in FY 2024-2025 for personnel, travel, operation, equipment and information services expenses is related to carrying out the provisions of this bill. There were no amendments. If the Committee wishes to move this bill the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 125.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED (SENATOR GOICOECHEA WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

Ms. CROCKET:

Assembly Bill 128 was heard yesterday in this Committee. It was presented by the Nevada Conservation League.

ASSEMBLY BILL 128 (1st Reprint): Makes an appropriation to the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program Account for the costs of the program. (BDR S-778)

It appropriates \$250,000 per fiscal year in the 2023-2025 biennium to the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program Account. There were no amendments discussed on the bill. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate motion is do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 128.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR GOICOECHEA WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 137 was heard in this Committee yesterday. The bill revises provisions relating to fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. It was presented by Assemblywoman Gorelow and Stacey Weeks, Administrator of the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy.

ASSEMBLY BILL 137 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. (BDR 40-327)

A General Fund appropriation in section 7.5 of the bill appropriates approximately \$115,000 in FY 2023-2024 and approximately \$159,000 in FY 2024-2025 to the DHCFP to provide Medicaid coverage described in the bill. The money could also be used for IT system updates and various operating expenses. There were no proposed amendments. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 137.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR GOICOECHEA WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

MS. CROCKET:

Assembly Bill 138 was heard yesterday, presented by representatives of Shatterproof. It requires a State plan for Medicaid to include coverage for certain behavioral health integration services.

ASSEMBLY BILL 138 (1st Reprint): Provides Medicaid coverage for certain types of behavioral health integration services. (BDR 38-332)

It contains General Fund appropriations in section 3 of approximately \$5,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$207,000 in FY 2024-2025. There were no amendments. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate motion is do pass.

SENATOR NEAL MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 138.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR GOICOECHEA WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 246 was presented by Assemblywoman Torres. It revises provisions governing elections.

ASSEMBLY BILL 246 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions governing elections. (BDR 24-821)

There is a General Fund appropriation of approximately \$240,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$209,000 in FY 2024-2025 in section 36.7 for expenses related to translation of voting materials into additional languages. There were no amendments presented. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 246.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I will reserve my right.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS VOTED NO. SENATOR GOICOECHEA WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

Ms. CROCKET:

Assembly Bill 255 was heard yesterday and presented by Assemblywoman Lesley E. Cohen. It revises provisions governing financial assistance to the adoptive family of a child with special needs.

ASSEMBLY BILL 255 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions governing adoption. (BDR 11-658)

There are appropriations in several sections of the bill. Section 1.2 contains approximately \$181,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$143,000 in FY 2024-2025. Section 1.4 contains approximately \$495,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$642,000 in FY 2024-2025. Section 1.6 contains approximately \$58,000 in FY 2023-2024 and approximately \$71,000 in FY 2024-2025. All these appropriations are accompanied by authorized funding. There were no amendments discussed on the bill. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 255.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR GOICOECHEA WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 257 was heard in Committee yesterday presented by Liz Ortenburger, CEO of SafeNest, and sponsored by Assemblywoman Shondra Summers-Armstrong.

ASSEMBLY BILL 257 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to forensic medical examinations of certain victims of certain crimes. (BDR 16-839)

Discussion regarded an unsolicited fiscal note from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services put on the bill after it left the Assembly for approximately \$2.16 million per year for reimbursement payments for strangulation examinations. Discussion was about whether the bill language was permissive or required the State to make those payments. After the bill hearing, Senator Neal proposed a verbal conceptual amendment to fund reimbursement from the State at 50 percent of the projected cost. The counties would pick up the other 50 percent that would reduce the fiscal note from the Division of \$2.16 million in each year to \$2.16 million over the biennium. There are no other amendments.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 257 WITH THE VERBAL CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT FROM SENATOR NEAL.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

Ms. CROCKET:

Assembly Bill 259 requires a provider of jobs and day training services to develop a plan to transition persons earning less than the State minimum wage to earning at least the State minimum wage. It was presented by Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May. It contains a General Fund appropriation in section 12.5 of approximately \$396,000. There were no amendments discussed. The appropriate actions would be to do pass.

[ASSEMBLY BILL 259 \(2nd Reprint\)](#): Revises provisions governing wages for persons with disabilities. (BDR 39-13)

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 259.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 310 revises provisions relating to affordable housing. It was presented in this Committee yesterday by Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno and the executive director of the Nevada Housing Coalition.

ASSEMBLY BILL 310 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions governing affordable housing. (BDR 25-1032)

There is a \$32.2 million General Fund appropriation in section 4 of the bill. An exhibit presented at the bill hearing discussed how the \$32.2 million will be distributed. There were no amendments presented. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 310.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR TITUS:

I will support this out of the Committee but reserve my right.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

Ms. CROCKET:

Assembly Bill 319 was heard yesterday presented by Senator Nguyen. It appropriates \$43 million to the Nevada Department of Agriculture for the purpose of awarding grants of money to Nevada school districts to provide universal free breakfast and lunch to Nevada pupils.

ASSEMBLY BILL 319 (1st Reprint): Makes an appropriation to the State Department of Agriculture for universal free breakfast and lunch for Nevada pupils. (BDR S-1010)

There were no amendments discussed on the bill. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 319.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I will support this. We have kids going to school, and some are packing lunch because they do not meet that lower threshold. It is problematic for some of these students. I support this measure, but I wish it went a little further and got into some of the schools that do not have lunch programs.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

Ms. CROCKET:

Assembly Bill 376 was heard yesterday in this Committee. The bill establishes provisions governing paid family leave for certain State employees. It was presented by State Treasurer Zach Conine.

[ASSEMBLY BILL 376 \(2nd Reprint\)](#): Establishes provisions governing paid family leave for certain state employees. (BDR 23-1053)

There is a small General Fund appropriation in section 3.5 of the bill of approximately \$18,000 to DHRM for computer programming. There were no amendments. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 376.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

Ms. CROCKET:

Assembly Bill 383 revises provisions relating to health care. The bill was presented yesterday by Assemblywoman Torres.

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ASSEMBLY BILL 383 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to health care.
(BDR 40-116)

It contains a General Fund appropriation in section 20.5 to the DHCFP for approximately \$15,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$23,000 in FY 2024-2025. No amendments were discussed on the bill. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 383.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:
I will reserve my right.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

MR. THORLEY:
Assembly Bill 388 was heard yesterday in this Committee. It was presented by Senator Nguyen.

ASSEMBLY BILL 388: Makes an appropriation to the Department of Sentencing Policy for the purpose of funding certain grants awarded by the Nevada Local Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council. (BDR S-1049)

Section 1 of the bill appropriates \$3 million from the General Fund to the Nevada Department of Sentencing Policy for the purpose of funding grants awarded to the Nevada Local Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council. There were no amendments. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 388.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:
I have to look at this bill again. I reserve my right.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

MS. CROCKET:

Assembly Bill 422 requires the ADSD to create a pilot program to serve children diagnosed with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. It was presented yesterday by Assemblywoman Gorelow.

ASSEMBLY BILL 422 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. (BDR S-774)

Federal funds are expected to be available. There is no fiscal cost associated with the bill at this time. No amendments were discussed. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 422.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 451 was presented yesterday in Committee by Amy Stephenson, Director of the Office of the Governor, Office of Finance (GFO).

ASSEMBLY BILL 451 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to certain employees in the Executive Department of the State Government. (BDR 23-1085)

This budget implementation bill would allow for the payment of overtime for two positions in the GFO. It would also appropriate \$500,000 for a comprehensive State employee classification and compensation study in section 1.7 of the bill. There were no amendments considered. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 451.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

Ms. CROCKET:

Assembly Bill 452 was presented yesterday by Assemblywoman Sabra Newby. It revises provisions relating to offenders, establishing the Office of the Ombudsperson for Offenders within the Nevada Department of Corrections.

ASSEMBLY BILL 452 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to offenders.
(BDR 16-315)

An unsolicited fiscal note from the Nevada Department of Corrections submitted on May 26, 2023, indicated a cost of \$175,000 in FY 2023-2024 and \$350,000 in FY 2024-2025. This would need to be addressed. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate motion is to amend and do pass as amended to add the funding as reflected in the unsolicited fiscal note.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 452 WITH A VERBAL AMENDMENT TO ADD THE FUNDING AS REFLECTED IN THE UNSOLICITED FISCAL NOTE.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I reserve my right.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS VOTED NO.)

* * * * *

MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 454 was heard in this Committee yesterday. It was presented by Marcie Ryba, Executive Director of the Nevada Department of Indigent Defense Services.

ASSEMBLY BILL 454: Revises provisions relating to legal services for indigent defendants. (BDR 14-1067)

The bill revises provisions relating to legal services for indigent defendants. There are no General Fund appropriations on the bill. There is a fiscal note from Indigent Defense indicating the fiscal impact cannot be determined.

If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 454.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

Ms. CROCKET:

Assembly Bill 498 revises provisions relating to the Public Employees' Retirement System. It was heard yesterday and presented by Fiscal staff.

ASSEMBLY BILL 498 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to public employees' retirement. (BDR 23-1200)

The bill contains General Fund appropriations of approximately \$105 million in FY 2023-2024 and \$86 million in FY 2024-2025, and Highway Fund appropriations of approximately \$19 million in FY 2023-2024 and \$21 million in FY 2024-2025. A provision in the 2023 Pay Bill providing for an additional 7 percent cost of living increase for State employees is only effective if this bill is not approved. It is really a net-zero cost when taking that into consideration. There were no amendments discussed on A.B. 498. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 498.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

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

* * * * *

MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 515 provides for the award of tuition assistance and stipends under the Incentivizing Pathways to Teaching Grant Program. This is a budget implementation bill heard yesterday in this Committee. It was presented by the Interim Deputy Superintendent for Educator Effectiveness of the Nevada Department of Education Craig Statucki.

ASSEMBLY BILL 515: Provides for the award of tuition assistance and stipends under the Incentivizing Pathways to Teaching Grant Program. (BDR 34-1216)

The General Fund appropriations associated with the program were already approved by the Money Committees and included in the budget. There were no amendments. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 515.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MS. CROCKET:

Assembly Bill 516 would create the Department of Native American Affairs in the Executive Branch. It was presented yesterday by Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno.

ASSEMBLY BILL 516 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to the Nevada Indian Commission. (BDR 18-1215)

This is a budget implementation bill that aligns with the closing decisions of the Money Committees. There were no amendments discussed. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR TITUS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 516.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 523 revises provisions relating to education. It was heard in this Committee yesterday and presented by Adam Drost from Fiscal staff.

ASSEMBLY BILL 523: Revises provisions relating to education. (BDR 34-1219)

This is a budget implementation bill. It carries out the closing decisions of the Money Committees, closing the K-12 education budgets. There is no fiscal impact directly associated with this bill because all the money associated with the bill is included in the K-12 education funding bill. There were no amendments. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 523.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will now hear A.B. 192.

ASSEMBLY BILL 192 (3rd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to elections.
(BDR 24-836)

GABRIEL DI CHIARA (Chief Deputy Secretary of State, Office of the Secretary of State):

Assembly Bill 192 has three provisions. The first would allow the State to enter into a contract with the vendor on behalf of counties for all envelopes, mail ballots and other materials related to elections. We believe this will save money over time. The second provision would require the Office of the Secretary of State to set the form of all envelopes and mail ballots uniformly across the State. The third provision relates to electioneering.

EMILY PERSAUD-ZAMORA (Executive Director, Silver State Voices):

Statute provisions stipulate that electioneering cannot occur past the 100-foot marker. This legislation would require signage at polling locations identifying the 100-foot mark location. We have found through community feedback and going to polling locations that there is not a clear indicator as to the 100-foot mark. If the site does not allow electioneering at all, a sign would say, "No electioneering is permitted at this location."

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CECELIA GONZALEZ (Assembly District No. 16):

We have had issues, as some election sites are public and others are private. Some do not have visible signage. During our initial investigations, we saw sticky notes on trees that you would just walk by and not see. We are talking about election safety and related topics. We want to address these issues with large signage. That is reflected in the fiscal note.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

If a polling site is at an Albertson's or Raley's, who puts up the signs?

MS. PERSAUD-ZAMORA:

The county is responsible for putting up the signage.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Does that apply to private property?

MS. PERSAUD-ZAMORA:

Yes.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Would they have to have permission for that?

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MS. PERSAUD-ZAMORA:
Yes.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
What if a private property such as a store or landlord refuses to put up signage?
Is there a way around that or to establish a mandate?

MR. DI CHIARA:
A private location with a polling site can ask for no electioneering, in which case 100-foot marker signs would not be necessary. If another private property owner wanted to allow electioneering but not signs, whomever the county sends over would have to deal with that situation.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
My concerns pertain to private stores like Albertson's or Raley's. The company where the polling site is located does not necessarily own that property. They may rent or lease that property. Does a document say to a private property owner that if a polling site is being set up, certain things have to be established like a place for people to line up, voting machines and signage?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GONZALEZ:
Would Legal staff have an answer? If we implement the measure, my understanding is the private property hosting the polling site would have to be in compliance with the NRS.

MR. THORLEY:
Clark County is where voting on private property occurs most often in the State. The County has developed this program over several decades. When a private property agrees to serve as a polling place, they fill out a form and agree to do certain things. If they do not agree to those things, they cannot be a polling site. The County gets that approval up front from the property owner, even if it is not the business leasing the building.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
I was concerned that somebody would say yes to one and no to another.

KERRY DURMICK (All Voting is Local):
We are in full support of A.B. 192.

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CHRISTINE SAUNDERS (Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada):
We support this bill.

ERIC JENG (One APIA Nevada; Asian Community Development Council):
We are in full support.

ATHAR HASEEBULLAH (Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union
of Nevada):
On behalf of ACLU of Nevada, are also in support.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will close the hearing on A.B. 192 and work session this bill.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 192.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT.
I am happy to support this bill. I appreciate the work of the sponsor and the
Secretary of State's Office.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will hear A.B. 245.

ASSEMBLY BILL 245 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions governing education.
(BDR 34-818)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SELENA TORRES (Assembly District No. 3):
My colleague, Ms. Vaskov, who is a graduate of the University of Nevada,
Reno, will present A.B. 245.

AMANDA VASKOV:
I am a recent graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno. I have been here this
Session on behalf of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada,
representing 14,000 undergraduate students. We worked with University of

Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), students. Higher education came together on A.B. 245.

This bill expands resources for victims of power-based violence in Nevada schools and institutions of higher education. This builds off progress made in the Eighty-first Legislative Session. In 2021, the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct at Institutions of Higher Education was established. Now, we are looking to revise the membership to include some voices we feel are necessary. Those voices include the victim survivor advocates at both Nevada universities.

Given that two-thirds of our student body comes from Nevada high schools, we want to make sure the issue is addressed at the K-12 level too. Assembly Bill 245 allows school districts and charter schools to enter into memoranda of understanding with community-based survivor advocacy organizations. The intent is that a K-12 student who becomes a victim of sexual misconduct has access to resources if he or she chooses to use them. A subcommittee would be created on the Statewide School Safety Task Force to review best practices regarding power-based violence with the recommendations being presented to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education. The fiscal impact of the legislation was removed in April with an amendment added by the Assembly.

ALEJANDRO RODRIGUEZ (Nevada System of Higher Education):
We support A.B. 245.

LEA CASE (Nevada Coalition to END Domestic and Sexual Violence):
The Nevada Coalition to END Domestic and Sexual Violence supports A.B. 245.

CONSTANCE BROOKS (University of Nevada, Las Vegas):
We are in full support and also appreciate the inclusion of UNLV students on the development of this bill.

MR. FLORES:
The University of Nevada, Reno, supports A.B. 245.

REGAN COMIS:
I am the mom of a teenage daughter. We have had challenges with the school district and its responses. I appreciate the work on A.B. 245 and would appreciate your support.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 245 and open the work session on this bill.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 245.

SENATOR TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We move to A.B. 286.

ASSEMBLY BILL 286 (1st Reprint): Makes various changes relating to elections.
(BDR 24-530)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BRITNEY MILLER (Assembly District No. 5)

Assembly Bill 286 enables people detained in jail to exercise their constitutional right to vote. These are people who have not been convicted of a felony, so they have not lost their right to vote. They may have been convicted of a misdemeanor. Eventually, they may also be released from jail without ever having a trial, or they may go to trial and be acquitted. Constitutionally, they have not lost their right to vote.

Assembly Bill 286 was amended by the Assembly. The original version of the bill made jails, juvenile detention centers and camps polling places. The amendment removed those provisions to indicate we would not make jails or juvenile detention centers polling places. The change impacted the fiscal notes.

I submitted an amendment (Exhibit J) to the Senate to remove the Effective Absentee System for Elections (EASE) provisions from A.B. 286. This was done by request. The EASE system is used by active duty military members who are overseas and people with special needs. We put provisions for EASE in the bill, but they have been removed. People would exercise their right to vote or register to vote by requesting an absentee paper ballot in the jail.

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SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

Senator Melanie Scheible has a bill similar to this. Are they aligned or do they conflict?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MILLER:

As a Legislator, I only read bills that are in my Committee or on second reading. I would not say they conflict, but I do not know how closely aligned they are.

MS. PERSAUD-ZAMORA:

Silver State Voices supports A.B. 286. We are grateful the bill received a hearing and that Assemblywoman Miller worked with us on this piece of legislation. There have been several meetings with stakeholders.

MS. SAUNDERS:

The Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada supports A.B. 286.

MS. HOSKINS:

Service Employees International Union Local 1107 supports A.B. 286. Anyone who has the right to vote should be able to do so.

DAN MUSGROVE (Campaign Legal Center):

Assembly Bill 286 is Nevada's opportunity to join a growing vanguard of states working to ensure all eligible voters have meaningful access to the ballot. This would reaffirm Nevada's commitment to the principle that democracy works best when all eligible voters can participate. We urge you to take this important step.

JAGADA CHAMBERS (Rights Restoration Coordinator, Silver State Voices):

We support A.B. 286. I am a directly impacted person, and having the right to vote literally changed the course of my life.

MR. HASEEBULLAH:

The ACLU supports A.B. 286.

LEO MURRIETA (Executive Director, Make the Road Nevada):

We support A.B. 286.

A'ESHA GOINS (NAACP LAS VEGAS):

We support A.B. 286.

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MR. JENG:

One APIA Nevada and the Asian Community Development Council support A.B. 286.

MS. DURMICK:

All Voting is Local supports A.B. 286.

MR. DI CHIARA:

The Secretary of State believes everyone should have the right to vote and supports A.B. 286.

SHELBY SCHWARTZ (Battle Born Progress):

We remember the Vote Nevada coalition. We are in support of A.B. 286.

QUENTIN SAVVOIR (NAACP Las Vegas):

We stand in strong support of A.B. 286. This bill is essential to strengthening our democracy, especially in this time when it is constantly under attack.

YESENIA MOYA:

I support A.B. 286.

MATHILDA GUERRERO (Native Voters Alliance Nevada):

We support A.B. 286.

DAVIS HUSKON (Las Vegas Indian Center):

We are in strong support of A.B. 286.

MS. MARTINEZ:

The Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition supports A.B. 286.

ARIA FLORES (Director, Chispa Nevada):

Chispa Nevada builds the power of low-income families with its Nevada coalition. We are in strong support of A.B. 286.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 286 and open the work session.

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SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

Where is the amendment, [Exhibit J](#), for taking out the overseas electronic voting?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MILLER:

I emailed that amendment request to Legal staff and to Chair Dondero Loop on May 25, 2023.

MR. THORLEY:

[Exhibit J](#) would simply remove references to EASE from sections 6 and 16.3 of [A.B. 286](#).

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I am fine for now. We will see when it hits the floor.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED [A.B. 286](#) WITH THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT, [EXHIBIT J](#).

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR TITUS:

I will support it out of Committee but reserve my right.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will now hear [A.B. 322](#).

ASSEMBLYMAN DUY NGUYEN (Assembly District No. 8):

[Assembly Bill 322](#) is a public health bill prohibiting a person from selling or offering to sell a kratom product to an end user unless the product has been registered with the State.

[ASSEMBLY BILL 322 \(3rd Reprint\)](#): Revises provisions relating to kratom products. (BDR 52-763)

It was recently determined that the appropriate body would be the DHHS Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) to ensure that registration, testing, documentation, reviews and renewals are carried out in the implementation of A.B. 322. The fiscal note indicates projected costs would include salary, office-based training, equipment and basic operating expenses. This will include the development of regulations and adoption of fees to maintain the program. The program will be self-sufficient in FY 2024-2025.

The administrator of the DPBH and a program manager worked to submit a fiscal note with an impact significantly less than originally indicated. The State Board of Pharmacy collaborated on substantive changes to add layers of protection for Nevada consumers and retailers.

DAVID GOLDWATER (Nevada Wholesale):

This bill has an appropriation of \$261,272 to get the program started. This is not a bill to allow kratom in the State. Kratom is a botanical health supplement sold in health food stores and smoke shops all over the State. This is a bill to protect consumers and make sure the State is only selling kratom that is tested and regulated by Nevada.

The approved fee is accepted and supported by the industry, wholesalers and retailers want to see good kratom sold and have consumers protected.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I am not familiar with kratom. Is this a natural substance? Is it synthetic?

MR. GOLDWATER:

It is a botanical product that comes from a leaf out of the ground from Thailand. It is imported to the United States. The goal of A.B. 322 is to make sure the product remains pure and unadulterated. There are stories of bad experiences with kratom. Those experiences are usually from an adulterated product.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Is this more of a consumer protection bill?

MR. GOLDWATER:

It is titled the Consumer Protection Act. The legislation has language similar to what 15 other states have enacted. We look forward to protecting consumers with this legislation. There are 15 million Americans who use kratom and

hundreds of thousands of Nevadans who use it. I want to make sure it is unadulterated.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

There are several opinions on kratom, but there was legislation brought by Assemblyman Steve Yeager and former Assemblyman Jim Wheeler in 2019. Kratom is already lawfully sold. This allows for testing and regulatory measures to protect consumers from laced products. We do not want adulterated products. There are not any issues with the product that people are already able to sell.

MR. GOLDWATER:
I concur.

SENATOR TITUS:
Will this be regulated by the State Board of Health?

MR. GOLDWATER:
It will be regulated by DPBH that regulates things like drinking water and such.

SENATOR TITUS:
That Division does not typically regulate natural products. Does DPBH regulate other herbal medications or is it an outlier?

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

This would be regulated by one of our environmental health specialists who would be trained. They thought they could accomplish just one position for the biennium. The State Board of Health would help set the fees and the regulatory restrictions; that environmental health specialist would do the actual oversight.

SENATOR TITUS:
Was the bill changed? In the synopsis, section 6 had the State Board of Oriental Medicine regulating it.

ASSEMBLYMAN NGUYEN:
The bill was amended to have the DPBH carry out the regulations instead of the State Board of Health.

ERV NELSON (American Kratom Association):

The American Kratom Association is a body that lobbies for consumers. I echo everything that has been said. I met with a number of veterans in Nevada who take kratom to help them stay off opioids they became addicted to when stationed in Afghanistan or Iraq. Support A.B. 322.

MAC HADDOW (American Kratom Association):

We are a consumer organization. Surrounding states, including Utah, Arizona, Oregon and Colorado, have passed similar legislation. This is critical to protect consumers from adulterated and synthesized compounds added deliberately by some unscrupulous vendors. It protects consumers so when they go to a store in Nevada, they know they are buying pure kratom. We are strengthening the provisions of previously passed legislation that did not have the kind of enforcement A.B. 322 would entail. We strongly support A.B. 322.

PETER GUIDRY (Forgotten Not Gone):

I am a Las Vegas retired Air Force veteran and cofounder of a suicide prevention organization called Forgotten Not Gone. For the last nine years of service, we have dedicated our lives to stomping out veteran suicide. Many veterans take their lives because they face uncontrollable pain. About seven years ago, I found that kratom is a solution to control chronic pain and the suffering caused by my military injuries. I was in the military's security forces and my body was beat up.

I was medically retired from the service. For a period of time, I was on psychotropic narcotics. I have been off that medication for ten years with the help of kratom. Thank you for taking into consideration and supporting A.B. 322 because it has been a solution to my suffering. I have been productive in the community. I am a cofounder of a successful veteran nonprofit. For the last nine years, including today, it was physically hard for me to get up in the morning.

I am grateful to have access to safe plant-based medicine or supplements like kratom, instead of the psychotropics and narcotics the VA gave me.

LEA CASE (Nevada Psychiatric Association):

We oppose A.B. 322. During a meeting of the Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor, the Nevada Psychiatric Association requested several amendments to the bill. This included requiring a label warning of the risks of addiction, overdose and death from kratom, age verification, compliance

checks, and increasing the minimum age to 21 years old to purchase mitragynine or kratom. We also requested adverse event reporting and a public dashboard showing data from such events.

I provided Committee staff with death data from Clark County and Washoe County. Most deaths in the list were from a combination of substances. Using kratom or mitragynine in combination with alcohol, other opiates or even marijuana increases your risk of overdose and death. We have several cases, especially in northern Nevada, of deaths from mitragynine alone.

Dr. Laura Knight is the Washoe County Regional Chief Medical Examiner. She is a published author on overdose deaths related to mitragynine. We have met with the sponsor many times before and throughout the Session, but we are still opposed. If A.B. 322 fails to pass, the Nevada Psychiatric Association will work with law enforcement and county coroners to continue the scheduling process through the State Board of Pharmacy that we started in 2019. We all know what happened in 2020. We came back to again attempt to schedule this drug through the State Board of Pharmacy in 2022, but it was halted at the direction of the State Board of Pharmacy. We will continue that process should A.B. 322 fail. If the legislation continues, we still request amendments, including raising the minimum purchase age to 21 years old, as in Florida.

Ms. SCHMIDT:

Both the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and the Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association tonight are opposed to A.B. 322 as amended due to the opioid- and stimulant-like effects of kratom. We support regulation through the State Board of Pharmacy.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

Are there any current regulations?

Ms. CASE:

I do not know the current status of regulations, just that we have attempted to regulate this through the Board of Pharmacy.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

Is the issue that you do not care for where this is housed?

Ms. CASE:

Regardless of where it will be housed, we have requested amendments including a minimum purchase age of 21 years old; a warning label so people know there are risks to taking this, especially with other illicit or prescription substances; age verification; and compliance checks. These should be included in the legislation and not just the regulatory process.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

Whether you agree with A.B. 322, kratom is legal in Nevada. Without this legislation, there is no regulation, right?

Ms. SCHMIDT:

Yes, and we support this being a scheduled drug through the State Board of Pharmacy.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

Is that not what A.B. 322 encompasses?

Ms. SCHMIDT:

Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN NGUYEN:

The intent of A.B. 322 is to protect the consumer. This is the first step to do so. It is not perfect, but we want to start protecting Nevadans through a regulatory process that creates guardrails.

In terms of the opposition, we will continue to collaborate. I spoke with the State Board of Pharmacy and discussed its blessing to ensure we can implement important guardrails and protect Nevadans.

SENATOR TITUS:

I have worked on this subject for the last several Sessions when former Assemblyman Wheeler and Assemblyman Yeager brought it forward in the past. There needs to be some type of regulatory process. This is no more a benign drug than cocaine or heroin. We have an opioid epidemic, and they are lacing things. We need to bring this drug under control.

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SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

This is not a federally scheduled drug from the standpoint of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, but it is available. Anything we can do to put regulations on the substance would be better. Many things out there are harmful. We need to get a handle on these things and get them licensed.

ASSEMBLYMAN NGUYEN:

I concur.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 322 and move to a work session on this bill.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 322.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS NEAL AND SEEVERS GANSERT WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will hear A.B. 386.

ASSEMBLY BILL 386 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to midwives.
(BDR 54-111)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DANIELE MONROE-MORENO (Assembly District No. 1):

Assembly Bill 386 revises provisions relating to midwives. A similar bill was presented in 2021. The legislation creates the Board of Licensed Certified Professional Midwives. This is for those professional midwives who want to have Nevada licensure. We have had numerous stakeholder meetings. There is a new proposed amendment ([Exhibit K](#)) from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

The bill is in its second reprint, and the previous amendments dropped the DHHS's fiscal note to \$22,000 per year.

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Ms. BROOKS:

The University supports A.B. 386 and appreciates that UNLV is being used as a resource.

ANTHONY RUIZ (Nevada State College):

We support A.B. 386.

PAIGE BARNES (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists):

We appreciate the sponsor for working with us on A.B. 386. We come in support of the proposed amendment, [Exhibit K](#). The legislation will provide protection to patients and improve health outcomes. Obstetricians and gynecologists understand the role midwives serve, and voluntary licensure will advance the midwifery practice. Assembly Bill 386 provides protection to providers who receive patients from and collaborate with midwives.

SHEILA BRAY (University of Nevada, Reno):

We support A.B. 386.

Ms. GOINS:

I support A.B. 386.

Ms. MARTINEZ:

The Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition supports A.B. 386.

KAYLA RACKEY:

I am a certified professional midwife, a licensed midwife from Oregon and a new resident of Nevada. I am here today to support A.B. 386 for the licensure of midwives. I urge you to support the passage of legislation that recognizes and regulates the important role that midwives play in our healthcare system.

Midwives are essential members of the healthcare team, providing crucial care and support to birthing parents and their families during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum care. Unfortunately, despite their immense contributions to maternal and newborn health, midwives in Nevada face significant barriers to practice. The lack of a standardized licensure process hampers their ability to provide care, limits access to their services and undermines the quality of care that birthing parents receive during childbirth. This is a disservice to both expectant birthing parents and the healthcare system.

By supporting the licensure of midwives, we can address these barriers and ensure people have access to the full range of healthcare options available to them. Licensure would provide a recognized framework for midwives to demonstrate their competency and expertise, ensuring they meet rigorous educational and clinical requirements.

Licensure would enable midwives to participate fully in our healthcare system, working collaboratively with other healthcare providers to improve the outcomes for birthing parents and babies. Midwives can help reduce unnecessary interventions, promote natural childbirth and provide comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care.

In the focus today, midwifery licensure has the potential to generate significant Medicaid savings and reduce overall government costs.

Midwives are trained to provide comprehensive prenatal care, including routine screenings, education and counseling. By focusing on this preventative and primary care, midwives can help identify and address potential health issues early on, reducing the need for costly interventions or emergency care later in pregnancy. This proactive approach can result in healthier pregnancies, fewer complications and decreased healthcare costs for the government and Medicaid programs.

Midwives are known for their expertise in promoting natural childbirth. Research has consistently shown that midwifery-led care is associated with lower rates of cesarean sections. Since cesarean sections are more expensive than vaginal deliveries and often require extended hospital stays, reducing unnecessary cesarean rates can lead to substantial cost savings for Medicaid programs.

Additionally, studies have demonstrated that midwifery-led care is associated with lower rates of intervention and hospitalization for both mothers and babies. By promoting the healthy pregnancies and avoiding unnecessary hospitalizations, midwifery licensure can contribute to cost savings for Medicaid programs.

Midwifery licensure has the potential to generate Medicaid savings and reduce overall government costs. Let us take this important step forward and ensure midwives can continue to provide safe, compassionate and

evidence-based care. I implore you to support the licensure of midwives and pave the way for a bright and healthy future with support of A.B. 386.

MELISSA MAYFIELD:

I am a licensed midwife in the state of Washington. I have also been licensed in Oregon and have served Medicaid clients in both places. Most low-risk healthy people are eligible for cost-saving midwifery care, which has been shown to increase breastfeeding rates at six months and beyond. It reduces the financial burden for Medicaid clients as long-term breastfeeding has been shown to reduce rates of serious illness in children. In my experience serving this population, they have also been disproportionately impacted by generational trauma and poverty. This type of care is most beneficial to this population because it is respectful, trauma-informed and culturally competent.

I have seen people be empowered to leave abusive homes and relationships through midwifery care. Empowering people this way can save the State money through reduced emergency room trips from domestic violence and so forth. I support A.B. 386.

ELIZABETH MARRETT:

I support A.B. 386. This legislation would help many more women to afford a home birth. Insurance and Medicaid put up too many walls in helping to cover it for families. Home births are much cheaper than hospital births. Because we are not covered by insurance provisions, due to the lack of regulation that A.B. 386 is trying to correct, many families cannot afford the practice. Home births lower the overall C-section rate, which reduces State government costs.

MARIANNE JACKSON:

I am against A.B. 386 because it eliminates a large number of midwives.

AMIE NORRIS:

I am a home birthing mother and drove here yesterday from Las Vegas to speak to you all today. I strongly oppose A.B. 386. I had my first baby in the hospital, and it was not an experience I wanted to repeat. My three girls were born at home in Nevada with traditionally trained midwives. For two of their births, fees were affordable even for a low-income family on Medicaid. We worked hard and paid for them out of pocket with a payment plan. At no point did we feel we could not afford their births.

For one of our births, we did not have the money available and worked with our midwife to barter services to cover that birth. I have seen stories similar to mine play out all over Las Vegas as I have worked with many families who are expecting or had babies over the past 15 years. Having licensure available will not increase access to midwives for low-income women. Licensure would increase the costs for midwives to practice, who would then have to pass those costs on to families.

I also oppose A.B. 386 because it is not clearly written that licensure would be voluntary. We have heard verbal assurances to that effect, but it is not explicitly stated. Even if it was, we have seen in other states where voluntary licensure becomes mandatory over time, and families lose the option to have access to their provider of choice.

LENNY SUE TINSETH (Nevada Midwives Association; Great Basin Midwives):

I am a licensed midwife and a certified professional midwife. I have been practicing for 37 years. I oppose A.B. 386. Over 80 percent of families, mothers and Midwives oppose this bill for many reasons. It does not provide inclusive care. I appreciate the attempt by Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno and the revisions made yesterday to the bill. Unfortunately, they did not resolve the problems.

Section 16 describes how the DPBH would be open to funding with gifts and grants to implement A.B. 386, and we are concerned about how that would be funded over a long period of time. The cost has been reduced according to Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno, but our concerns remain. An estimated 20 certified professional midwives are practicing in Nevada. Even if half of them choose to become licensed, the Board cannot be supported through the small number of practicing midwives.

Section 17 indicates licensed midwives will be appointed to the Board. It does not designate the proportion of members from northern and southern Nevada. Assembly Bill 386 does not account for the diverse needs of the two poles of our State.

Section 20 says licensing fees are not to exceed \$1,000 annually. This is an increase from the \$500 cap and a great burden for midwives in small practices and rural environments.

We are not sure whether sections 83 and 84, where liability insurance is referenced, contradict each other. We are not quite sure if we are required to have liability insurance. We have been unable to get lawyers to define whether insurance is mandatory in the State.

Section 20 is quite the barrier to midwifery care. We have what is called the portfolio evaluation process as approved by the North American Registry of Midwives, the accreditation board that certifies professional midwives across the Country.

We have to answer to an organization for disciplinary actions. We are required to do educational processes and peer review. This apprenticeship process will be approved by the Board on a case-by-case basis. This restricts care to rural Nevada as midwives will not be able to serve that area because of the costs that we will incur or pass on to families.

TAYLOR TURNER:

I am a home birth mother and educator. I am here out of concern for the future of midwifery. Licensure came about originally to get rid of midwives. At one time, traditional midwives were the only ones attending births, and then this wisdom was passed down to others.

We are losing this art to medicalized midwifery. I hear all the time from many mothers in the community who are not happy with the medicalized midwifery care they are seeing today. Regulating midwives will push out traditional midwives and the women who want to provide that kind of care.

Please oppose [A.B. 386](#) so we can preserve midwifery and autonomy.

KRISTEN GRAY:

[Assembly Bill 386](#), particularly with the proposed amendment [Exhibit K](#), steps on women's rights. [Exhibit K](#) strikes out "with the consent of the client" from section 27, meaning you will be forced to take on co-care when you may not want it. The legislation strips you of your autonomy in pregnancy.

The original fiscal note on the bill said there would be an impact of \$315,000 annually. That was revised down to \$152,000 annually. With just a handful of midwives licensed, there is really no way to fund the provisions of [A.B. 386](#). That necessitated the provision of allowing the DPBH to take gifts and grants to

fund the provisions, which is not ethical as it strips money away from other areas that need funding.

Assembly Bill 386 contradicts itself. An advisory board would be established under the DPBH, and the bill says no one is allowed to be paid or get per diem for that board's meetings. But if you are a State employee, you still get to have your pay because you are excused from work on meeting days. People on the advisory board who are not State employees have to take time off work and not get paid, but a State employee could get paid. That is just one of the areas where a contradiction exists.

In support testimony, we heard from midwives in Washington and Oregon. You did not hear any of the midwives in Nevada in support. I do not know any midwives personally who are in favor of A.B. 386 as it stands.

MS. TINSETH:

I oppose A.B. 386 because it will do great harm to rural Nevada.

JESSICA LAGOR:

I am a traditional practicing midwife in Las Vegas. The majority of midwives in the entire State—basically the entire industry—are against A.B. 386.

ROMINA PAULUCCI:

I am a mother of three and a home birth midwife, serving families in southern Nevada. I want to thank Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno for her passion and efforts to improve maternal mortality outcomes here in our State. Midwives can and do positively impact the communities they serve. There should be more of them.

I understand this is a Money Committee and agree that midwifery care is much more affordable than medicalized birth. I do not have any opposition there. However, midwives and the families that choose to enter into contracts with them have historically been persecuted for living and practicing autonomously. Other states that have implemented bills like this with the greatest of intentions restrict the autonomy of birthing women and families. The midwives who support these families' choices are criminalized.

I sincerely hope that the changes in [Exhibit K](#) continue to progress throughout this process. I know there is no more time to get those changes made. At this

point, the majority of the industry opposes A.B. 386 because it was unable to work with the midwives who wrote the bill.

I encourage you to remember a time when things like birth were honored and sacred to families, done within the families themselves. We did not usually go into hospitals because they did not exist. I ask you to return to those times and ask yourselves how we came to lose all of the wisdom and knowledge that we previously had as a culture. Understand and remember what colonialism has done to us as humans. Realize it continues to affect our humanity. The way that we birth continues to affect that as well. Oppose A.B. 386 so we do not continue to colonize and medicalize birth, especially as Nevada has a long-standing tradition of preserving these rights.

CASSIA LOPEZ:

I am a rural mother in southern Nevada. Despite the noble reason behind A.B. 386, the amendments and the bill itself do not support a woman's choices to give birth in Nevada. Oppose A.B. 386.

REBECCA WELLS (Nevada Midwives Association):

I am also a midwife in southern Nevada. I have been a midwife since 2010. I oppose A.B. 386. There is a letter of opposition ([Exhibit L](#)) that is signed by 29 Nevada midwives who oppose this bill. I would like to remind you we are hearing primarily from midwives outside of the State and those from Nevada are here in opposition. The bill is not supported by the industry. It was not written with the industry. It was written by a couple of midwives with a different way of thinking of things than the rest of us. A public opinion poll was overwhelmingly in opposition.

ELIZA HALL:

I oppose A.B. 386.

ROMA WOLFF (Nevada Midwives Association):

I work for the Nevada Midwives Association handling insurance billing. I concur with the opposition comments previously made. Assembly Bill 386 is convoluted, contradictory and vague. It is excessive at over 89 pages long. Finding birthing options for families, to include birth center facilities, would be welcome. It should not be at the expense of families who desire more traditional home birth experiences, especially those who are from metropolitan areas.

I have heard various comments regarding insurance billing, and I would like to state for the record that I continually bill out-of-network for our clients and receive insurance reimbursement. Although we do not receive Medicaid billing or reimbursement, we offer various payment plans. I have often seen midwives provide services for free.

The proponents of A.B. 386 claim that participation under the license is voluntary; however, a failure to specifically state that within the bill reveals the proponents' intentions to eventually make this licensing requirement mandatory. Section 15 excludes various parties from the requirements in this bill.

I do not understand how you could say we might get a grant and pay for it this way. There are only 100 midwives in Nevada; at \$1,500 each, I am not sure how that covers the full cost of the new board.

SAMANTHA DEANDREA:

I am a midwife in Reno. As a student midwife, I just graduated midwifery school and I am a doula. I oppose A.B. 386.

ASHER HALL:

I echo previous comments in opposing A.B. 386.

ELISSA WAHL:

As a mom involved in the local midwife home-birthing community, I see not enough widespread support for A.B. 386. I strongly urge you to vote no.

ASHLEY SOHLER:

I oppose A.B. 386. I am a licensed certified professional midwife in the State, and this bill does not represent me or 80 percent of my colleagues.

Ms. JACKSON:

I oppose A.B. 386.

KATIE BANUELOS (Libertarian Party of Nevada):

The Libertarian Party of Nevada opposes A.B. 386. A small number of providers within this industry will personally benefit from this bill. Costs imposed on the State and taxpayers create a whole new licensure apparatus that then needs to be funded and maintained indefinitely into the future. It also imposes costs on all the midwives subject to this bill and anybody in the future who wants to

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become a midwife. Please vote no on this bill and protect midwifery in our State.

SUZANNE D. REED:

I am against A.B. 386 because it is unnecessary to create a government board to regulate midwives. Midwives can already get all the licensure and education they want from whoever they wish. It seems like many of the people who are advocating for this bill come from other states and now want to bring their expensive expanded government models with them. More government interference into childbirth is not needed in our State. I am against this bill.

ELISE COWAN:

I am a student midwife and home birth mother. I oppose A.B. 386.

RACHAEL REED:

This bill has already cost thousands of Americans time and money. We need to keep this industry safe and intact. If you pass this bill, you would be destroying the industry for the future. Please do not support A.B. 386.

DUSTIN COWAN:

I oppose A.B. 386.

CAMILA SANTIAGO:

I am a certified professional midwife. I oppose A.B. 386.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 386 and open up the work session for this bill.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
A.B. 386 WITH THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT, [EXHIBIT K](#).

SENATOR NEAL SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR GOICOCHEA:

I am going to vote yes, but I reserve my right on the Floor.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS SEEVERS GANSERT AND TITUS WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will hear A.B. 519.

ASSEMBLY BILL 519 (1st Reprint): Establishes provisions governing capital projects of school districts. (BDR 34-1202)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DANIELE MONROE-MORENO (Assembly District No. 1):
Assembly Bill 519 makes desperately needed appropriations to support capital projects for Nevada school districts while establishing new provisions that govern county funds for capital projects.

This bill includes an appropriation for \$64,500,000 to the Elko County School District for the construction of a new school to replace the Owyhee Combined School. The school is located on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation in northeastern Nevada.

The conditions of the school are unacceptable and put the health and education of Nevadans at risk. It has become so severe that school administrators reported bat feces dropping from the ceilings. This appropriation is critical to give the people of Duck Valley Indian Reservation a school that they deserve.

Assembly Bill 519 also makes two additional appropriations for \$25 million each to a newly created account to assist rural school districts in financing capital improvements. The first appropriation is for grants to school districts, and the second appropriation is for grants to school districts for capital projects on qualified tribal lands. This new fund will help support rural school districts to ensure we do not see schools deteriorate to the level of the Owyhee Combined School. The bill also requires the Elko County Board of Commissioners to levy a tax at a rate of not less than \$0.01 and not more than \$0.25 on each \$100 of assessed valuation of taxable property.

On June 2, 2023, the Elko County Board of Commissioners voted to support A.B. 519 and will levy and allocate at least 1 cent of ad valorem tax to support the construction of the new Owyhee Combined School.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

The fiscal impact on this is \$25 million and the \$0.01 tax. What else is there?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

There are none aside from appropriations within the bill. It will be \$64,500,000 to the Owyhee Combined School. We had a rural school fund for years, but we never funded it. This would provide \$25 million for that fund.

By making the fund both a rural and a tribal school fund, it sets us up to get federal funding we could never get before because we did not have a dedicated fund for tribal schools. I have already worked with our congressional delegation to get those grant funds to come into our State.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We had a couple of questions about the levy on the tax.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

There have been several renditions of the bill, but I was under the impression that to access the other rural school district funding, a mechanism in A.B. 519 would allow a rural school district to go outside the cap and impose this.

It almost seems like it is locked into Elko between the 52,500 and 57,500 population amounts. Can you clarify that for me?

WILL ADLER (Silver State Government Relations):

Section 2 of A.B. 519 is exclusively directed toward Elko County as it contains a population amount corresponding with Elko County. However, section 3 of the bill has an additional provision that allows any county of 100,000 or less to go into a local agreement to levy a 1-cent to 25-cent tax for its own treasury and a local account. Those funds will be matchable to the State account in section 4 of A.B. 519.

The idea is a local school district of any kind—including Elko, which could have a second one of these accounts if it so wishes—could enter into one of these under section 3 of A.B. 519.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I see that population cap on the counties of less than 100,000. Would they be eligible for any of the federal funding?

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ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE MORENO:

Assembly Bill 519 says that the account can take grants, gifts and donations, and any of that money coming into the account would be available.

MARY PIERCZYNSKI (Nevada Association of School Superintendents):

We support A.B. 519.

CHRISTINA ERLING (Barrick Gold Exploration):

We support A.B. 519.

SARAH ADLER (Duckwater Shoshone Tribe):

I am speaking on behalf of Chairman Warren Graham of the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe. The school is 302 miles from their school district headquarters. They appreciate A.B. 519 for assisting students into their future.

MR. TANCHEK:

I represent the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. We support A.B. 519.

MS. MARTINEZ:

The Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition supports A.B. 519.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 519 and open the work session for this bill.

MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 519, in its first reprint, is the current version of the bill. The optional rate is inside of abatements that in all likelihood would not generate any revenue because it would get eaten up by the abatements. To generate revenue, the rate would need to be outside the abatements in NRS 361.4722, NRS 361.4723 and NRS 361.4724. If the Committee wishes to make that amendment, Legal staff would draft it. It is already outside the cap as drafted, but the optional rate would also have to be outside of the abatements.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
A.B. 519 WITH THE VERBAL AMENDMENT EXPLAINED BY
FISCAL STAFF.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

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SENATOR TITUS:

I am going to vote this out of Committee and reserve my right.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR HARRIS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will hear A.B. 378.

ASSEMBLY BILL 378 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions governing collective bargaining. (BDR 23-1050)

ASSEMBLYMAN STEVE YEAGER (Assembly District No. 9):

Assembly Bill 378 reforms the collective bargaining process and moves up some dates to make sure our bargaining units can bargain before the Session ends. This is so we do not end up in a situation where a bargaining agreement that comes after the Session would not be fundable.

There is a fiscal note. There are waiting times associated with selecting mediators and arbitrators, and getting them scheduled. The legislation requires the mediators and arbitrators be selected at the outset of negotiations, and that dates be set for those processes if possible. The fiscal note comes from the Nevada Department of Administration's belief that it needs the authority to expend the full amount of a mediation or arbitration at the time the mediator or arbitrator is selected. I believe we would only be looking at a cancellation fee if one did not go through mediation or arbitration.

CARTER BUNDY (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees): We do not disagree with the projection of arbitration cost. However, nothing in A.B. 378 actually creates more or less arbitration. You are just preselecting the arbitrator or mediator. The bill adds, in terms of fiscal costs, the potential for some cancellation fees. It does not add the whole costs of arbitrations, which the State and union are already on the hook for and pay 50/50.

TODD INGALSBEE (President, Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada):

We support A.B. 378. We have worked with preselected arbitrators. We have preselected dates. We have had dates where we had to cancel proceedings.

Those arbitrators will often let you use future services at no cost because their fees and such are already included.

RICK McCANN (Nevada Association of Public Safety Officers):

I am a member of Nevada Law Enforcement Coalition. I concur with previous comments. I have been a litigator for more than 40 years. If I had an arbitration or a trial date looming, I could get things done faster. There may be an occasion where cancellation fees apply, but beyond that, preselecting will not make the process that much more expensive.

MANDEE BOWSMITH (Administrator, Division of Human Resource Management, Nevada Department of Administration):

I will add clarity about why we need the fiscal note on A.B. 378. The DHRM has to be given the budget authority from the Legislature to enter into potential contracts as they relate to arbitration. Regardless of what is believed by people who worked on the bill, we must have the full budget authority to enter into contracts. This led to the fiscal note to appropriate those funds for that authority. Whether we only pay cancellation fees, instead of for full hearings, we need the full budget authority.

MR. THORLEY:

If the Committee wishes to move this bill and fund the cancellation fees only, an appropriation could be added to the bill in the amount of \$20,000 to cover the cost of any cancellation fees.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 378 and open up the work session for this bill.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 378 WITH A VERBAL AMENDMENT TO ADD \$20,000 TO COVER THE COST OF CANCELATION FEES.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

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

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will hear A.B. 526.

ASSEMBLY BILL 526: Revises provisions relating to state financial administration. (BDR S-1205)

ASSEMBLYMAN STEVE YEAGER (Assembly District No. 9):
Assembly Bill 526 seeks to ensure Nevada does not send federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money back to the federal government.

We are doing a good job obligating and appropriating funds from ARPA. We did that in the Interim, but the truth is we are not spending the money quickly. We are forty-ninth out of fifty states in terms of money spent. I have a concern we end up sending ARPA money back to the federal government. That would be a shame because it is Nevada's money.

Assembly Bill 526 seeks to establish a moment in time on or before August 30, 2024. The GFO, by that date, would look at the money allocated or appropriated and make a determination as to whether all of the money can be spent by the deadline at the end of 2026. If the money can be spent, everything will go according to plan; if not, A.B. 526 acts as a clawback.

The money would go back into an account. We sometimes talk about funding waterfalls. If we have enough money, No. 1 will be funded, then No. 2, and then No. 3. The concept here is like a pie. The money that comes back goes into the pie and is redistributed on a percentage basis to 369 different nonprofit organizations listed in A.B. 526. These organizations cover the topics of children, disabilities, domestic violence, legal issues, seniors, health care and miscellaneous issues. You will recognize the nonprofits in the legislation.

The idea is we do not know how much money will be available, but there would be a way for us to get the funds out the door. There is also a process of preapproval, as organizations must be vendors of the State to receive this money. Our goal is not to send any of this money back to the federal government.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I would like an adjustment. I recognize the value of Opportunity 180, but could we share that piece of the pie so we do not alter the end balance? Could we fund Opportunity 180 at 25 percent and the Silver State Education Foundation at 25 percent?

ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER:

I would be amenable to anything you, as the Committee Chair, would like to get this bill moving forward.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

It is a valuable foundation doing much teacher and principal training. If you would be amendable to that amendment, I would appreciate it.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I do not know the current percentages. What are they right now?

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I am looking on page 6, line 25 of A.B. 526.

ZACH CONINE (State Treasurer):

To clarify, that is half a percent of that piece of the pie. We can take it to 25 basis points of that piece.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I am somewhat familiar with Opportunity 180. What is the other organization?

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

It is the Silver State Education Foundation that does teacher and principal training and professional development.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

We have quite a bit of money for regional professional development programs, teacher training and education. I do not know if we have anything that does the type of work Opportunity 180 does. I am concerned about that because we have many buckets of money related to teachers. This is only half of a percentage point.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We could take Opportunity 180 out and give the money to the Silver State Education Foundation that does a good job at providing professional development, which is what teachers seek to move their careers and crafts in different directions. I would not bring it up if I did not think it was important.

ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER:

I am open to that amendment.

SENATOR GOICOCHEA:

We are talking about clawing back money. We had a couple of bills previously where we discussed school funds. Is there any chance we can roll some of this money? If we pull it back, some needs among local governments could be met.

ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER:

We could. The bill is self-executing. The money goes in, is registered, goes out and the checks are cut. If the GFO makes the determination it can spend the money but afterward realizes otherwise, it may still come before the IFC for a new work program so something else can be done in that time frame.

The most important thing is making sure the money is spent, and we know these nonprofits are doing good work. We could do what Senator Goicoechea was saying, but at this point in Session, it is probably unwise to try to add another concept to the bill.

SENATOR TITUS:

Thinking of the logistics of the bill and the number of potential recipients, I do not know the total amount, but it is significant. How will we ask people allocated this money whether they can spend all of it by X date so we do not lose the money? Do we take back whatever money cannot be spent and cut a new check to the nonprofits in the legislation? How will you monitor that money? This is not just about fiscal cost, it is about monitoring the funds. If they cannot get it done, we would then look at cutting it up and redistributing the pie a second or third time. How do you logistically stay on top of that?

TREASURER CONINE:

The point is to make sure the bill is self-executing. We recognize that under the final U.S. Treasury Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund rules, nonprofits can be beneficiaries, not subgrantees. This requires them to report

what they have done. Beneficiaries are like a recipient of housing assistance or anything else.

When the dollars get to the nonprofit, we are effectively saying that the organization will have already gone through vetting. The money is to get them closer to whole. When the money leaves the State, we do not have to do additional work. The work is upfront. During the time between now and when the money is clawed back, we will work with the Office of the State Controller to ensure all recipients are registered vendors that will know what is going on, so when the money is clawed back, we can get it out before we have to return it to the federal government.

SENATOR TITUS:

When the money gets clawed back, is it one pile of money you then redistribute to all the groups you have listed in the bill?

TREASURER CONINE:

That is correct. It is just a model. You put a number in the top, and it kicks out 370 checks at the end.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

The Silver State Education Foundation is building a network of resources and support for developing and retaining diverse, qualified people committed to K-12 teaching careers beginning at the high school level. It is also developing our homegrown teachers.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I defer to you because you know education better than I. I did not know about the organization. We talk about what these organizations do and the teacher pipeline. If we start talking to kids early in the sixth grade or high school, that is how we raise their interest.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

The Nevada Association of School Administrators has grown exponentially over the last five years. I used to go to gatherings as a teacher and, if we were lucky, we had 100 attendees. Now, it turns people away. It has done a fabulous job. I would love to amend this and at least give them a piece of the pie.

SENATOR NEAL:

I do not understand the power structure in the bill. Why is IFC not the entity that will have the revocation power?

ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER:

There is a concern about the money getting out in time, and the IFC requires work programs to come before us. The idea is we have gone through the IFC process, and the money is not being spent. We sat through budget hearings. We heard about positions not being filled because the position created by human resources has not been posted. That is the worst situation we heard of, but we know much of this money will not be spent. I am concerned about delays if we go through the IFC process.

Assembly Bill 526 shares power in the sense that the GFO makes the election of what is spent. We, as the Legislature, can say if this happens, this is where we want the money to go. I would see this as the Legislature exercising its power. We will not have to return to the IFC for 369 or 350 work programs that may or may not work. We will not have to go through disagreements with the Governor on this funding. The goal is to get the money out the door. We are doing so as quickly as we can, knowing the IFC has constraints and we will likely not be in session when these deadlines come.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will work on the amendment.

KANANI ESPINOSA (Junior League of Las Vegas; Nevada Hand Inc.; Jobs for Nevada's Graduates):

We really appreciate A.B. 526.

PAUL CATHA (Culinary Workers Union Local 226):

We support the bill.

MR. MESSINGER:

On behalf of the State's federally qualified health centers, we would like to thank the Office of the State Treasurer for listening to our needs. Some of our members are in the bill. We support A.B. 526.

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MILES DICKSON (Nevada Grant Lab):
We support A.B. 526.

JANET QUINTERO (United Way of Southern Nevada):
I am here to express our gratitude and support for A.B. 526.

MR. NORMAN:
The members of the Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers are on the A.B. 526 list. Nonprofits doing great work throughout the pandemic, who we refer many of our clients to, are on there. We support the legislation.

MENDY ELLIOT (PBS Reno; Nevada Humane Society):
We support A.B. 526.

CHRIS BOSSE (Renown Health):
We support A.B. 526.

MARCO ALFARO (Green Our Planet):
We support A.B. 526.

MR. JENG:
One APIA Nevada and the Asian Community Development Council support A.B. 526.

ZOE HOUGHTON (United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra; The Children's Cabinet):
We support A.B. 526.

MS. MARTINEZ:
The Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition supports A.B. 526. I appreciate that nonprofits assisting blind Nevadans are on the list.

JIM DEGRAFFENREID (Nevada Republican Party):
I am the National Republican Party Committeeman for Nevada. The Nevada Republican Party opposes A.B. 526 as a last-minute bill introduced just six days ago. It is an affront to transparent and responsive government.

More than 22 pages list the labor and charitable organizations proposed to be gifted unspent COVID-19 relief funds, estimated at the end of 2022 to be as

much as \$135 million. The grants are listed anywhere from a fraction of 1 percent to 10 percent of the total funds available. There is simply no way for the Legislature nor the public to properly review the expenditures in one day, before tomorrow's adjournment, to determine appropriate recipients or if the relative share of the pie is fair as with the \$55 million in the "Christmas tree" bills.

Plenty of groups on the list do good work; that is not the issue. Handing out government money without accountability or proper review is never appropriate. Assembly Bill 526 is particularly troubling given that former Governor Steve Sisolak and Treasurer Conine traveled throughout Nevada in the summer and fall of 2021 on a listening tour to hear how the public wanted to spend COVID-19 relief funds. Housing and health care topped those lists in most cases, yet those categories are only 17 percent and 11 percent of the bill, respectively. To disregard the voice of the people that former Governor Sisolak and Treasurer Conine took the time to hear and give money away without considering the highest and best use of these funds is inappropriate.

Charitable organizations had a hard time during Governor Sisolak's shutdown. The same goes for Nevada businesses, many of which did not survive. Most have not begun to recover to the preshutdown level. Where are the COVID-19 funds for recovery—the stated purpose of these funds that Nevada received?

This bill is particularly inappropriate given that other bills in this Session also proposed to give unprecedented tens of millions of dollars to charitable organizations without proper vetting. This is an easy bill to vote against. If you support transparent and effective government, the only possible vote on A.B. 526 is no.

CINDY MARTINEZ:

I am a grassroots conservative activist in Washoe County in opposition to A.B. 526 based on my understanding of federal allocation rules and expenditures of our funds in Washoe County. At the time, those funds were under a federal statutory deadline to be expended by 2025.

In December 2021, the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners formed a plan that encumbered its allocation of funds and developed projects accordingly. At an April 2021 Washoe County Board of County Commissioners meeting, Congressman Mark Amodei specifically addressed the

matter of the State and counties receiving more money than they requested or needed. He said they should realize they would be requested to return the money. He said to be mindful that ARPA funds, in addition to federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act money that had to be printed, contributed to historically high inflation.

The organizations you propose to send money are nongovernmental organizations unaccountable to the scrutiny and accountability of Nevada citizens. Please vote no on A.B. 526.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 526 WITH A VERBAL AMENDMENT FOR OPPORTUNITY 180 AND THE SILVER STATE EDUCATION FOUNDATION TO RECEIVE 25 PERCENT OF TOTAL CERTIFIED MONEY WITHIN CATEGORY OR SUBCATEGORY.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR TITUS:

I will be a no on A.B. 526. Although I do not want to send any money back to the federal government, there are bills we have not heard in this Committee with good projects. These nonprofits are well-meaning, but we have areas that need funding like airports, buildings and infrastructure that we are not addressing. The money should go there and not to some of the things listed in A.B. 526.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I will support the motion. We have worked hard to ensure we are spending this money. We are behind, and we need to make sure we put something in place to Nevada citizens' benefit. Part of A.B. 526 is nonprofits have to qualify. Given the guidelines, these are probably carefully selected.

SENATOR GOICOCHEA:

I will vote no. I do not disagree that we need to spend the money, but there are many places to spend it. We are putting this spending in statute, and I cannot agree with some of the pathways.

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

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SENATOR NEAL:

Can we at least entertain a sunset on this policy for that money to expire and consider reverting the power back to the Legislature? I understand what the bill is doing, but that is not a forever solution.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Section 3 of A.B. 526 says "are eligible to apply for registration pursuant to section 2 of this act."

ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER:

With the one-time election the Governor makes by August 30, 2024, the money comes back, it goes out, and does not get clawed back a second time. If something happens afterward, it can be addressed through the normal IFC process.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

At different times, we have experienced the federal government changing dates. I would worry about the sunset because it may give us a year or two. We do not really know.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I will work with the Speaker of the Assembly on an amendment. We will close the hearing on A.B. 526. We will now hear and work session A.B. 517.

[ASSEMBLY BILL 517 \(1st Reprint\)](#): Revises provisions governing the Legislative Counsel Bureau. (BDR 17-447)

ASSEMBLYMAN STEVE YEAGER (Assembly District No. 9):

Assembly Bill 517 authorizes the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) Audit Division to do performance audits of the school districts. This comes on the heels of this Committee meeting with the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means to talk to the school districts over those two days.

This bill mandates a performance audit of the two largest school districts every four years with an ability to audit some of the smaller school districts and the State Public Charter School Authority. There is not a fiscal impact on LCB because this is baked into the budget we passed.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Is there a pecking order? Are we starting with the larger districts and working down?

ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER:

Yes. It takes time because when you perform audits, you have to look backward. In the next four-year cycle, the Audit Division will do the two largest school districts and the State Public Charter School Authority. It will then alternate between smaller districts at the election of the Chair of the Subcommittee on Education Accountability of the IFC. We see two bills work in tandem.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

It is a good idea.

MR. DEGRAFFENREID:

The Nevada Republican Party supports A.B. 517. We are heartened that the Legislature is moving forward to audit school performance, particularly in the two largest school districts. We support accountability for education dollars spent.

Ms. MARTINEZ:

The Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition supports A.B. 517.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 517.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR HARRIS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will hear A.B. 468.

ASSEMBLY BILL 468 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Office of Finance in the Office of the Governor and the Interim Finance Committee for certain costs related to the Enterprise Resource Planning System. (BDR S-1110)

AMY STEPHENSON (Director, Office of Finance, Office of the Governor):
Assembly Bill 468 makes an appropriation to the IFC. The appropriation is broken out in three different buckets of money: \$126,635,910 of General Fund appropriations, \$29,704,720 of Highway Fund monies and \$10 million of ARPA money for costs related to the Enterprise Resource Planning System.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 468.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will hear A.B. 482.

ASSEMBLY BILL 482 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Office of Finance in the Office of the Governor as loans for the replacement of an information technology service management provider and computer hardware and associated software. (BDR S-1146)

TIMOTHY GALLUZI (Administrator, Division of Enterprise Information Technology Services, Nevada Department of Administration):
Assembly Bill 482 makes an appropriation to the Enterprise Application Services Unit for replacement of an end-of-life IT Service Management System used for the incident ticketing and tracking.

This bill has been amended in the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means to be transitioned into a General Fund loan due to S.B. 446 not progressing and

language interpretation of NRS 242 preventing direct General Fund appropriations. We are not envisioning any additional amendments at this time.

SENATE BILL 446: Revises provisions related to Division of Enterprise Information Technology Services of the Department of Administration. (BDR 19-1076)

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 482.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will hear A.B. 483.

ASSEMBLY BILL 483 (1st Reprint): Makes an appropriation to the Workforce Innovations for a New Nevada Account. (BDR S-1145)

STACEY BOSTWICK (Director of Workforce Development, Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development):

Senate Bill 483 is the only vehicle this Session that can provide General Fund appropriations to the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) Workforce Innovations for a New Nevada Fund, created by the Legislature in 2015.

The requested funds are passed through GOED to eligible postsecondary workforce training providers to develop new training pathways for Nevadans and a new talent pipeline for Nevada businesses. We recognize the Fund is the only workforce development asset in the State that can make comprehensive investments to create customization or expansion of workforce training program infrastructure. Since 2016, we have approved over \$30 million in project funding, shaping 23 programs that over 2,000 Nevadans have accessed.

Funding provided in A.B. 483 will enable GOED to continue to partner with postsecondary education institutions to develop and expand training pathways

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to new family-sustaining jobs and to support business needs for a talented workforce.

ASHLEY CRUZ (Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance):
We are in full support.

SARAH ADLER (Aqua Metals):
On behalf of Aqua Metals, a lithium battery recycler, this is exactly the job grid we are working on with Western Nevada College, to create job training for about 200 more employees. We support A.B. 483.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:
We support A.B. 483.

NICK VANDER POEL (Northern Nevada Development Authority):
We support A.B. 483.

MENDY ELLIOTT (Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada):
The Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada supports A.B. 483.

MR. RUIZ:
Nevada State College supports A.B. 483.

MS. BROOKS:
The University of Nevada, Las Vegas, supports A.B. 483. Although we are not a recipient of these funds, GOED is a partner of ours and other NSHE institutions.

MR. FLORES:
The University of Nevada, Reno, supports A.B. 483.

MS. MARTINEZ:
The Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition supports A.B. 483.

FRANK WOODBECK (College of Southern Nevada):
The College of Southern Nevada supports A.B. 483.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 483.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR HARRIS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will hear A.B. 484.

ASSEMBLY BILL 484: Makes an appropriation to the Office of Economic Development in the Office of the Governor for the support of designated regional development authorities. (BDR S-1144)

BOB POTTS (Deputy Director, Office of Economic Development, Office of the Governor):

Assembly Bill 484 makes an appropriation to GOED to provide grants to support the activities of Nevada's eight regional development authorities (RDAs). Unfortunately, this support has continued to shrink over the last three years because of pandemic-caused budgetary cutbacks. Our RDAs have had to step up their efforts to include a much broader range of businesses, workforce education and community development support.

They are now called upon to play a larger role in supporting housing, broadband, transportation and entrepreneurial opportunities. With shifts arising from structural changes in our economy, it is essential we support RDAs to help our State's economy stay on track. The RDAs are an essential and integral part of Nevada's economic development ecosystem. We at GOED must provide additional resources to them given our mandate. This one-shot appropriation is needed to address inflationary impacts and ongoing staffing challenges. Even if funding is restored to prepandemic levels, those amounts will still be inadequate because of inflation and the staffing shortages the RDAs have experienced.

Ms. CRUZ:

On behalf of Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance, southern Nevada's regional development authority, we support A.B. 484.

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Ms. ELLIOTT:

On behalf of the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada, we support A.B. 484.

MR. VANDER POEL:

The Northern Nevada Development Authority supports A.B. 484.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 484.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR HARRIS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will hear A.B. 487.

ASSEMBLY BILL 487 (1st Reprint): Makes an appropriation to the Office of Finance in the Office of the Governor as a loan for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software. (BDR S-1129)

MR. GALLUZI:

Assembly Bill 487 makes an appropriation to the Office of Information Security for computer equipment and software replacement.

There was a similar amendment from the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means due to the lack of flexibility and funding from NRS 242 and S.B. 446 not moving forward. We do not envision any further amendments.

SENATOR TITUS:

It is down as an appropriation and a loan. What is the loan component?

MR. GALLUZI:

Nevada Revised Statutes 242 has language that restricts the Nevada Department of Administration, Division of Enterprise IT Services (EITS) from receiving direct appropriations. At least, that is how the provision has been

interpreted. To move forward, we need to turn these enhancements into a General Fund loan that we will repay in the future biennium.

SENATOR TITUS:

With what money will you repay the loan?

MR. GALLUZI:

At EITS, we are an internal service funded organization. All of our revenue is derived from the rates we charge other agencies for our services. This would go into our rate-building process during the next budget build. We would factor in the repayment of these loans during that process.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 487.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR NEAL WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will hear A.B. 488.

ASSEMBLY BILL 488 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Office of Finance in the Office of the Governor as loans for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software, the replacement of components of a security firewall and security upgrades to mountaintop microwave sites. (BDR S-1128)

MR. GALLUZI:

Assembly Bill 488 makes an appropriation to the Communications and Computing Unit, which is currently the Network Services Unit, and the Community Computing Services Unit for computer equipment replacement, a security firewall and security upgrades to mountaintop microwave sites. This was amended by the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means for reasons similar to the previous bills.

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SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 488.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR NEAL WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will hear A.B. 489.

ASSEMBLY BILL 489: Makes appropriations to the Office of Finance in the Office of the Governor for the replacement of furniture and certain equipment. (BDR S-1112)

Ms. STEPHENSON:
Assembly Bill 489 appropriates a total of \$155,146 in General Fund appropriations to the GFO for the replacement of furniture and office equipment.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 489.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR NEAL WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will hear A.B. 491.

ASSEMBLY BILL 491 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Nevada System of Higher Education for enrollment recovery at and to support certain expenditures for certain institutions. (BDR S-1180)

ANDREW CLINGER (Chief Financial Officer, Nevada System of Higher Education):
Assembly Bill 491, sections 1 through 3 appropriate funds to Great Basin College, the College of Southern Nevada and Truckee Meadows

Community College. These funds will ensure those three institutions do not fall below base level funding. Their base budget for FY 2022-2023 declined because of enrollment declines, and their appropriations were reduced. This bill will ensure they maintain a base level of funding to retain faculty and staff while enrollment recovers. Sections 4 and 5 were added by the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, providing funding to Western Nevada College and Nevada State College. The funding in sections 4 and 5 is a result of the Money Committees Joint Subcommittees on K-12/Higher Education/CIP closing. The Joint Subcommittees chose an option that was a partial departure from the funding formula. Sections 4 and 5 restore the funding Western Nevada College and Nevada State College lost.

MR. ERVIN:

The Nevada Faculty Alliance supports A.B. 491.

MR. RUIZ:

Nevada State College supports A.B. 491. It ensures schools that had enrollment loss during the pandemic as well as enrollment gains are held harmless.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 491.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR NEAL WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will hear A.B. 494.

ASSEMBLY BILL 494: Makes an appropriation to the University of Nevada, Reno, for the addition of weighted student credit hours resulting from the acquisition of Sierra Nevada College. (BDR S-1177)

MR. CLINGER:

Assembly Bill 494 appropriates \$1.6 million to UNR. This is for students who transitioned from Sierra Nevada College to UNR as part of the acquisition. They

were not counted as part of the funding formula. This makes an adjustment for those students.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
How many students are at Sierra Nevada College?

MR. FLORES:
They have all transferred over and are part of our University.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
Why would we appropriate money for student credit hours to UNR when you did not have them at UNR at that time?

MR. CLINGER:
The funding formula uses caseload growth. We looked back to FY 2021-2022 and compared it to FY 2019-2020. The Sierra Nevada students were not part of NSHE in FY 2021-2022. This makes that adjustment.

Normally, we look back to see whether those students are registered. In this case, we took the extra step and only counted students who ended up enrolling at the University in fall 2022.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
I still struggle with paying for something when you did not own something.

MR. CLINGER:
It is recognizing those students through the funding formula. A two-year delay in funding is the way the funding formula works. Other agencies like the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) do a projection on enrollment. Our formula is a go-back-and-look-at-what-happened mechanism. Additional students enrolled at UNR as a result of the transition. This is providing that funding.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
But we no longer have student-weighted credit hours, correct?

MR. CLINGER:
When the Joint Committees partially closed the budget, weighted student credit hours calculated caseload growth. This is done basically the same way.

MR. ERVIN:

I recall the gift of the campus occurred a year earlier, and there was a transition period before the students officially became our students.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I understand that, and "gift" is the key word there.

We will close the hearing on A.B. 494. I will hold the vote as I will want to ask more questions. We will hear and work session A.B. 506.

ASSEMBLY BILL 506 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Office of Finance in the Office of the Governor as loans to the Division of Enterprise Information Technology Services of the Department of Administration for the replacement of an information technology investments tracking system and computer hardware and associated software. (BDR S-1147)

MR. GALLUZI:

Assembly Bill 506 makes an appropriation to the Office of the Chief Information Officer for computer equipment replacement and the replacement of a homegrown information technology investment system needed to develop and track the State's technology portfolio. An amendment from the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means turned this into a General Fund loan.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 506.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will hear A.B. 507.

ASSEMBLY BILL 507 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations to the Department of Corrections for a staffing study and the replacement or purchase of computer hardware and software and various types of equipment, vehicles and systems. (BDR S-1157)

JAMES DZURENDA (Director, Nevada Department of Corrections):

Assembly Bill 507 as amended makes appropriations for vitally important and needed equipment throughout the Department including medical equipment, computers, information technology equipment, culinary facility, food service equipment, transportation vehicles, a garbage truck replacement and other replacement equipment.

Equipment recommended for replacement has reached the end of its useful life and is necessary for the safe and effective operation of all our institutions. In section 2, A.B. 507 funds an important staffing study that will allow the Department to work with an expert in the first year of the biennium to review its shift relief factor, post charts and noncustody positions to determine best practices and provide staffing recommendations for consideration during the 2025 Legislative Session.

The Department's last shift relief factor review was performed and approved during the Seventy-eighth Session in 2015, and this data is in need of a comprehensive analysis and update.

Section 4 of the bill was amended to reduce the funding from \$3,022,392 to \$2,822,392 to remove its cost for switch replacements for facilities that will or will not close.

Sections 7 and 8 of A.B. 507 were deleted by the amendment adopted by the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means due to the closure of Warm Springs Correctional Center. Funding was not approved for the reopening of the facility for FY 2024-2025.

Deleted by amendment was section 16 that pertained to costs for security cameras at the Humboldt Conservation Camp, which is in the process of being closed.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 507.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR HARRIS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will close the work session on A.B. 507.

SENATOR NGUYEN:
I am now chairing this meeting as Chair Dondero Loop has briefly stepped out and Vice Chair Cannizzaro is excused. We will hear A.B. 518.

ASSEMBLY BILL 518 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to indigent defense. (BDR 14-1194)

COLBY NICHOLS (Program Analyst):
Assembly Bill 518 was drafted and introduced upon request of the Money Committees in reviewing, approving and closing the Department of Indigent Defense Services (DIDS) budgets. The bill would be effective as of July 1, 2023.

This bill establishes the maximum contribution amounts for counties for costs related to indigent defense services, including an inflationary adjustment intended to be compounding. Assembly Bill 518 establishes the policies and procedures for counties wishing to seek State reimbursement for costs in excess of several conforming changes to update references that point toward regulation to instead refer to the provisions of this act.

In section 7 of A.B. 518, there is an appropriation of \$6.3 million in FY 2023-2024 and \$6.6 million in FY 2024-2025 to the IFC for allocation to DIDS for reimbursement to counties should the cost for reimbursement exceed the amounts appropriated directly to the DIDS budget and other costs associated with compliance to the *Davis v. Nevada* consent judgement.

New in section 7.3, as amended, is an appropriation of approximately \$1.5 million per year for the 2023-2025 biennium to DIDS. That would fund stipends to district attorneys, public defenders and judges for pretrial hearings held on weekends.

MARY WALKER (Douglas County; Lyon County; Storey County):

We support A.B. 518. We have some rural judges. One of them has had four days off this last year. There are not enough judges to go around. This stipend will help hire people to come in and relieve the judges, district attorneys and public defenders.

JOANNA JACOB (Clark County):

On behalf of Clark County, we support A.B. 518.

MR. JONES, JR:

On behalf of the Nevada District Attorneys Association, we support section 7.3 of A.B. 518.

VINCENT GUTHREAU (Executive Director, Nevada Association of Counties):

Every county in Nevada provides indigent defense services, and we support A.B. 518.

MR. HASEEBULLAH:

The *Davis vs. Nevada* case referenced is our litigation. The ACLU is hoping A.B. 518 passes to avoid and preclude the opportunity for future litigation while not waiving our right to continue to litigate that issue should we recognize the budget is insufficient at that point.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 518 and open a work session for this bill.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 518.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED (SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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SENATOR NGUYEN:

We will work session A.B. 258.

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ASSEMBLY BILL 258 (2nd Reprint): Enacts certain provisions governing the confidentiality of certain personal information of a donor, member or volunteer of a nonprofit organization. (BDR 19-605)

MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 258 was heard in this Committee yesterday. It was presented by Assemblywoman Shea Backus.

A General Fund appropriation to the IFC in section 5 of the bill would be allocated to the Attorney General's Office (AG) for a deputy attorney general position if needed, which is why the appropriation is being made to IFC. The AG would have to request the allocation in the Interim and demonstrate the need. There were no amendments. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 258.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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SENATOR NGUYEN:

We will hear A.B. 346.

ASSEMBLY BILL 346 (1st Reprint): Revises the State Budget Act. (BDR 31-928)

ASSEMBLYMAN PHILIP "P.K." O'NEILL (Assembly District No. 40):

Assembly Bill 346 incentivizes State agencies to save money without being penalized for not spending full budget fund allocations in their base year. It achieves this by providing a definition of the base budget to be used by State agencies when they are preparing biennial budgets.

When an agency does not spend its entire budget, the agency's base budget will not be reduced in the upcoming biennium. With this change, State agencies will not need to spend money on items not crucial to meet the allocated base

budget for the fiscal year. This allows for savings to be returned without a penalty.

The State Budget Act forced the process of preparation to submit the proposed biennial budget for the Executive Department of the State Government. The Act requires the chief of the Budget Division of the GFO to prepare a final version of the proposed budget, which must include the adjusted base budget for each department, institution and agency of the Executive Department.

No definition tells how to calculate the adjusted base budget. There is an established practice whereby the adjusted base budget includes the actual expenditures and revenues for the last completed even-numbered year, plus or minus items routinely adjusted out—including overtime; terminal, annual and sick leave; and one-time expenditures. These are not limited to equipment, computer hardware, software, one-time contracts, and items approved on a one-time basis. The cost of contract employees used to fill vacant positions are retained in the base.

Items routinely added to the base include known building lease adjustments, known adjustments to contracts such as copy release and maintenance agreements, and annualization of revenues and expenditures for ongoing programs not operational for the entire base year. Because the adjusted base is calculated using actual expenses and revenues an agency accrues in the last completed even-number year, the agency does not spend what is authorized or appropriated in the base year. The starting point for the adjusted base budget will be reduced in the upcoming biennium to the actual amount spent. This removes any incentive to save funds.

Assembly Bill 346 provides a definition of “adjusted base budget” in section 1, subsection 5 to mean the amount appropriated to the agency by the Legislature for the second year of the current biennium, adjusted with the removal of one-time appropriations or authorizations; Statewide fringe benefits; contractual obligations; ongoing expenditures approved by the IFC; annualization of costs that occurred in part of the second year; actual caseloads; rate changes and any other adjustments necessary, as determined by the head of the GFO.

If an agency appropriated \$1 million in FY 2021-2022 and \$1.2 million in FY 2022-2023 but only spent \$800,020 in FY 2021-2022, its adjusted base budget would not be reduced by \$800,020 in FY 2023-2024 and

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FY 2024-2025 as a starting point. Rather, the agency begins at the FY 2022-2023 approximation of \$1.2 million, plus or minus the adjustments defined in section 1, subsection 5. The language also carries forward in section 2, subsection 7 that also references the definition of "adjusted base budget."

The LCB has an FY 2022-2023 fiscal note of \$27,000 to upgrade information systems to make them capable of saving money for the State. We can spend a small amount to save large amounts.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 346.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR TITUS:
I reserve my right.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

SENATOR NGUYEN:
We will hear A.B. 349.

ASSEMBLY BILL 349 (2nd Reprint): Establishes the Nevada Wildlife Conservation Program. (BDR 45-912)

ASSEMBLYMAN PHILIP "P.K." O'NEILL (Assembly District No. 40):
Assembly Bill 349 deals with the wildlife commission that would be established to make it possible for private agencies, private individuals and companies to donate money to the commission and then use that money for various wildlife habitat and wildlife protection activities.

Under specific definitions, members are appointed by the Governor and by the various leadership in the Senate and Assembly. Members are either involved in conservation, mining or energy, so we can get that part involved in wildlife habitat or in the various components that make up our open area and ranges.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
Senator Goicoechea, could you weigh in on this?

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:
I am skimming through the bill here. I do not know how that is going to work. Does this take the place of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners?

ASSEMBLYMAN O'NEILL:
I may be using the wrong term when I say "commission."

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:
You have the Nevada Wildlife Conservation Program, but the Board of Wildlife Commissioners is in place that manages and monitors wildlife issues. I did not know if you propose a new department.

ASSEMBLYMAN O'NEILL:
It would be somewhat subordinate to the Board, if I recall. I do not have the bill in front of me. Assemblyman Watts and I were inspired to put it together.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:
I do not want to destroy the bill, but as I look at it and consider the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources that exists, I am going to look at the Wildlife Commission and some of these other agencies. We may be premature creating this one.

ASSEMBLYMAN O'NEILL:
I had a written presentation.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:
We have time to listen. I do not know how they fit together.

ASSEMBLYMAN O'NEILL:
The Nevada Wildlife Conservation Program Account is to be established in the General Fund to administer the Program.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:
I am trying to figure out exactly what money will go to the Program.

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ASSEMBLYMAN O'NEILL:

It is money from agencies, private individuals and companies that will donate. There would be no State funding at all.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Would this program receive grant money in the name of conservation while still being staffed?

ASSEMBLYMAN O'NEILL:

Do you mean staffed by a secretary?

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I assume it either has to be a habitat conservation person or wildlife biologist.

ASSEMBLYMAN O'NEILL:

The Program would be made up by the various appointees to make recommendations on expenditures to the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Would they be compensated?

ASSEMBLYMAN O'NEILL:

No. Any expenditures should be self-funded.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will not work session A.B. 349 right now. We will move to testimony on A.B. 349.

KRISTEE WATSON (Nevada Conservation League):

We support A.B. 349.

MR. DEGRAFFENREID:

The Nevada Republican Party supports A.B. 349. This bill has unanimous support in the Assembly. It does not have any listed fiscal note, and it has significant support from a variety of people. It looks like a good way for us to find some private, additional funding for wildlife.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 349. We will hear and work session A.B. 332.

ASSEMBLY BILL 332 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to student education loans. (BDR 55-162)

Ms. VASKOV:

Assembly Bill 332 is not a forgiveness repayment bill. It establishes consumer protections for education loan borrowers.

These are protections that already exist for several types of loans like mortgage loans, installment loans and payday loans in Nevada. It also establishes procedures for licensure of education loan servicers in Nevada. We already have licensed mortgage loan servicers, but not education loan servicers.

With the first reprint, the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation removed its fiscal note. The other State agencies submitted fiscal notes of zero. There is a fiscal note from the Nevada Department of Business and Industry, Division of Financial Institutions. Given that this is a self-funded agency, it will pull from reserves for startup costs and replenish that with revenue generated from the licensure fee. An email verifying that went to Committee staff.

SENATOR NGUYEN:

I appreciate amendments and changes Ms. Vaskov worked on.

Ms. SAUNDERS:

On behalf of the Progressive Leadership Alliance in Nevada, and as someone who graduated with my undergraduate and graduate degree and over \$100,000 of student loan debt, I urge you to support A.B. 332.

Ms. BRAY:

The University of Nevada, Reno supports A.B. 332.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 332.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I will vote yes in the Committee but reserve my right. I am struggling to understand it.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS NEAL AND SEEVERS GANSERT WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will hear A.B. 428.

ASSEMBLY BILL 428 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to economic development. (BDR 18-775)

DANIEL STEWART (Clark County Education Association):
Assembly Bill 428 combines of a couple good ideas from the Assembly that we have been working on for some time toward creating a teacher pipeline in Nevada.

The framework is pretty simple. It starts in the ninth grade. It has an integration between high school and K-12 where somebody earns dual enrollment and gets admitted to an NSHE institution in an education department. If they teach in Nevada, they will be paid a reimbursement for whatever remaining tuition not already covered by other scholarships like the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship. They will have a job in the school district of their choice.

This is open to all schools in Nevada. The only difference is that it will be mandatory in all 49 high schools in Clark County, excluding career and technical academies. It is the only way to diversify our teaching pipeline to match the students they serve. We want to recruit teachers from the communities where these students live.

An amendment (Exhibit M) from Assemblywoman Shea Backus adds things related to the Commission on Professional Standards in Education. There are also pieces from Assemblywoman Torres. This bill expands the practice. Two fiscal notes need to be added from the NDE. Prepared on May 23, 2023, they were too late for the hearing in the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means.

Because we are adding Assemblywoman Torres's provisions, there is an additional \$2,703 in the NDE fiscal note. Both of those notes are reflected in the amendment that talks about a General Fund appropriation of \$398,591 in

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FY 2023-2024 and \$226,517 in FY 2024-2025. There were two additional appropriations in the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means. A \$10 million appropriation for the Office of the Treasurer is the seed fund for the scholarship that will eventually pay for this tuition. We are probably five or six years out before the program gets its first graduates. The Office of the Treasurer will let that build up in an interest-bearing account. A second appropriation is to run the program in other areas outside of teaching.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
Have you presented this bill each time?

MR. STEWART:
I have presented it once.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
Was Assemblywoman Backus in charge of presenting the bill previously?

MR. STEWART:
Yes.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
Students can already go to school and get dual credits. The State Treasurer is to establish a reimbursement program, which we have through the Guinn Millennium Scholarship. They will not get a job at the school of their choice because they have to apply and be accepted to teach a certain thing to get a job. What do you mean by school of their choice?

MR. STEWART:
I meant school district of their choice. This program is set up to guarantee them a job once they graduate from college.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
This is not unlike all teachers.

MR. STEWART:
I cannot speak to that.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We are short 1,000 teachers. Can you explain the proposed amendment, [Exhibit M](#), and Assemblywoman Torres's provisions?

MR. STEWART:

Assembly Bill 323, which you may be hearing as well, is Assemblywoman Torres's bill. There was some worry in the last House that her bill was not getting out, and she asked us to amend her language into this bill.

ASSEMBLY BILL 323 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to education.
(BDR 34-114)

If this Committee would prefer to hear her language in A.B. 323, we are okay with that. We are doing this at the request of Assemblywoman Torres and her leadership.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Is A.B. 323 for Pre-K?

MR. FLORES:

I think Mr. Stewart was talking about A.B. 347, another bill from Assemblywoman Torres.

ASSEMBLY BILL 347: Makes an appropriation to the Department of Education for programs of dual credit. (BDR S-115)

MR. STEWART:

We do not need to include the amendment or the appropriation if it is coming up in a later bill.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

There is some dual credit information in A.B. 347.

SENATOR NEAL:

Was this appropriation vetted on the other side? You said earlier "if the other bill dies." Did the other bill die?

MR. STEWART:

The appropriation was approved in that bill.

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ASSEMBLYWOMAN TORRES:
Can you clarify your question?

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
Mr. Stewart said parts of one of your bills are in A.B. 428. We were trying to figure out which bill and exactly what parts.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:
I want to make sure I understand this. In A.B. 428, if the student enters the university system to be a teacher, the program will pay whatever tuition is left minus any scholarships once he or she graduates. Is that correct?

MR. STEWART:
Freshmen will be recruited into a career and technical (CTE) program that will be mandatory in Clark County and permissive in others. If they continue in the CTE program and graduate, they will graduate with 12 dual credits. They will be eligible for any NSHE institution they are otherwise academically qualified for. While in that institution, they will have an opportunity for paraprofessional internships and so forth.

Once they graduate, a job becomes available for them in the school district. If they teach for three years, any remaining tuition minus any scholarships would be covered by the money set aside for them in the Office of the Treasurer.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:
Will they have to teach for the school district for three years, or do they go through 4 years of high school, come out with 12 credits, go to the University system with their 12 credits and become a teacher? After that, do they work in the district and repay the debt? I am looking for the same thing we have in other fields. You do a year of service for a year of scholarship. Is that required?

MR. STEWART:
You are required to work in the school district to have the full outstanding balance paid. You would have to work for three years, although the Office of the Treasurer has a mechanism through which, if you have a life event after one or two years and cannot finish, the balance can be prorated and you pay that.

Both NSHE and K-12 are mandated to push and make available wraparound services to help students apply for other scholarships. There will be assessments on the front end in high school. Wraparound services will be provided for those who have any learning or socioeconomic barriers to help them succeed.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I wanted to make sure they pay their education through return of service in Nevada.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We are reinventing the wheel. We already have dual credit programs. We have 28 schools with this type of program growing teachers. I am struggling with where this is going. I am not clear why we need this legislation or what we are doing because we have all of this in place in this State.

MR. STEWART:

Those programs are not growing enough teachers to meet our agency crisis, much less the 19,000 teachers we need in Clark County over the next decade. The only two ways you can get teachers is to "grow" them or go out to the market. If we go out to the market, we are unable to compete and will always have a deficit.

As to the programs being voluntary, yes, they are in schools, and we have specific language in A.B. 428. Programming will change or be integrated, but it is now mandatory. All schools will have it. That means all our Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act schools will have a CTE teacher focus on education so we can diversify the teacher workforce.

The Office of the Governor, Office of Workforce Innovation within the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation section of A.B. 428 is to set up a relatively plug-and-play model. If this works for teachers, we can use the same integrated model to start doing things for engineers or computer sciences as they have a long-term vision on workforce needs for the future.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We have at least 30 schools with a program like this. We are not filling all those programs, and we do not have enough teachers. If we mandate this bill, my concern is a given school might not have a teacher to staff the program, but it

would still be mandated. What would we do? What if we have 2 kids or 28 kids interested but we lack a teacher? This is a hard push.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TORRES:

There are two components of this legislation. I am here to focus on the main part of the legislation amended in from A.B. 323. The first part of the amendment, Exhibit M, requires the development of a strategic plan for the recruitment of teachers and other educational personnel within NDE and a strategy to decrease the processing time of applications for licensure.

The next part of this bill is an ongoing issue and something I have seen complaints on from constituents, other teachers, colleagues and administrators. Assembly Bill 323 requires a plan to provide a translation of academic transcripts under NDE to be posted online. While NDE has a process to do this, the plan is not posted online. Many principals in my district have said they have staff in their office who have a degree but are not able to get their license here. This bill will help eliminate that issue.

On page 2 of Exhibit M, relating to NRS 391.011, section 3 has to do with the Commission on Professional Standards in Education. It adds a representative from Nevada State College or a representative of the Teacher Education Program at Great Basin College. It also adds a chief human resources officer or a representative of the department of human resources of a school district with 40,000 or fewer pupils enrolled and a school district with more than 40,000 pupils enrolled.

On page 5 of Exhibit M in subsection 1, paragraph (g), subparagraph (2) to NRS 391.019, we also added "establish standards for professional development training which may be used to satisfy any course work requirement prescribed pursuant to this paragraph." This ensures an opportunity for professional development provided at schools to be applied toward some of the required work.

One of the biggest issues we see is multicultural education legislation required for new teachers coming into Nevada. They are required to take additional training regardless of the education program they completed. Additionally, you have the family engagement class. As an educator, family engagement in multicultural education is critical to the instruction I provide. The way we require teachers to take this class is a barrier.

If you taught for 30 years in New York City, do you really have to take a college class in family engagement? I have worked in conjunction with the UNLV College of Education to make sure this makes sense. Universities and colleges could still work closely with the districts and schools to provide that training and support, ensuring we meet Nevada standards. The NDE would be required to provide for those regulations.

Assembly Bill 428 affects NRS 391. The Commission created during the Eighty-first Session set forth a study, and one of the things looked at was the Praxis test. That is a required teacher exam. One of the interesting things about Praxis is that a large group of individuals might not demonstrate competency in this practice. They might be struggling to take that test but are competent and ready to teach our students. They might struggle with the math portion of Praxis, even if their goal is to teach Pre-K classes. I think there is room for us to create an alternative. Several states have already done that. The NDE recommended we do that, as did an NSHE study from many years ago. Assembly Bill 428 requires we create that alternative to eliminate the barrier.

The other part streamlines licensing for those who graduate from a university outside Nevada. Perhaps their degrees have not yet been conferred, but they graduated. We streamline this process for NSHE graduates but not those from other places. It takes longer for them to become teachers here.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Your explanation of the amendment, [Exhibit M](#), helps. The part I was worried about was if we start mandating before everything is in place, schools might be unable to carry out the mandate. I do not have a problem working on newer and better ideas to fill teacher positions. We need to reach out to our Title I schools. How will schools fulfill the mandate if they do not have the personnel?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TORRES:

I definitely understand your hesitancy there. As an educator yourself, you know we are struggling to get people into our fields. My mom is a CTE teacher for a teaching and training program at our school. She has had the opportunity to work with kids and expose them to the CTE program. An expansion of this program will help get kids excited about teaching. What is great is we have the licensed professionals who are ready to teach those classes at our schools. They are teachers, and this is what we need. It will help get us more teachers in

classrooms one day because this hands-on exposure and experience increases their likelihood of becoming teachers.

MR. STEWART:

I agree we have a lot of programs out there. The evidence is they are not working. The concept behind this program is to make, for the first time, a fully integrated start-to-finish delivery. A high school student can come in, attain a vision, be given an assessment and be encouraged so he or she enters into a career debt free. If we do not mandate this in every school, we end up with what we have now, which is a teaching population that does not look like the population it serves. The current problems are disjointed. The attrition rate from step to step is tremendous. Assembly Bill 428 is designed specifically to limit the attrition rate.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

The Nevada System of Higher Education is in support of A.B. 428. We have been supporting the other teacher pipeline bills.

MR. FLORES:

The University of Nevada, Reno, is in support of A.B. 428.

ELIZABETH BECKER:

I am an instructor at the College of Southern Nevada. I have students who are dual enrolled, some of whom are my best students. I went to graduate school at UNLV in 2007. I did not end up teaching for the Clark County School District because of the convoluted alternative-to-licensure process at the time. I support A.B. 428.

CRAIG STATUCKI (Interim Deputy Superintendent for Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement, Nevada Department of Education):

To clarify the NDE fiscal note, we added \$200,000 in [Exhibit M](#) because of the amendments from Assemblywoman Torres's bill to conduct a study around Praxis. Our unsolicited fiscal note is for staff, professional development and travel. If implemented, the NDE believes this legislation would come pretty close to increasing the number of teaching and training programs we have by at least a third. We would need additional staff.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

What is your total fiscal note to the amendment?

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MR. STATUCKI:

It is \$398,591 for FY 2023-2024, \$226,517 for FY 2024-2025 and \$469,959 for future biennium.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Is that a total of \$1 million?

MR. STATUCKI:

It is over \$1 million.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 428 and open a work session for several other bills.

MR. CLINGER:

You had concerns about A.B. 494 and funding students at a non-NSHE institution. When this was presented to the NSHE Board of Regents, it was a \$5.8 million ask. At that time, they were counting 467 students. Because we had the same concerns that not all of those 467 students would continue on to UNR, we filtered them out and reduced it to 112 students. Those 112 students were enrolled at UNR in fall 2022, which gives you the \$1.6 million in the bill.

SENATOR TITUS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 494.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We move to a hearing and work session on A.B. 290.

ASSEMBLY BILL 290 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions governing motor vehicles. (BDR 43-620)

RUSSELL ROWE (Carvana):

I am presenting on behalf of our client Carvana and the sponsor, Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May.

Assembly Bill 290 creates a statutory process for an auto dealer to unwind a sale where the dealer and purchaser enter into a written return agreement to cancel a vehicle sale. It also updates Nevada statutes with respect to federal requirements regarding odometer information. We collaborated with the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles to get the second reprint. The fiscal note from the previous version has been removed.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 290.

SENATOR NEAL SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will hold more work sessions.

MR. THORLEY:
Senate Bill 341 was heard in this Committee on April 3, 2023. It was presented by Senators Cannizzaro and Pazina. This bill, as introduced, made two separate General Fund appropriations totaling \$2 million over the biennium, one for Food Bank of Northern Nevada and the other for Three Square for food purchases.

SENATE BILL 341: Makes appropriations to the Food Bank of Northern Nevada and Three Square for the purpose of purchasing food for persons who are served by such organizations. (BDR S-502)

Proposed Amendment 3784 (Exhibit N) to Senate Bill 341 includes the original General Fund appropriations to Food Bank of Northern Nevada and to Three Square and makes several other General Fund appropriations to various entities.

General Fund appropriations from sections 1 through 38 total \$71.5 million.

Proposed Amendment 3784 adds three more sections to S.B. 341.

Section 39 requires these entities that receive General Fund appropriations pursuant to this bill to prepare and transmit a final report to the IFC on or before

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September 19, 2025. Section 40 contains general reversion language that applies to all entities receiving General Fund appropriation under this bill.

Section 41 makes an amendment to A.B. 522 which is the pay bill. It revises the unclassified salaries for various positions within the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada that begin on page 17, subsection 38 of section 1 of the pay bill. You can see the revisions to the unclassified salaries and a handful of revisions to the titles of the positions.

ASSEMBLY BILL 522: Revises provisions relating to the compensation of state employees. (BDR S-1212)

The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada is not filling several vacant classified positions which would make this more or less revenue-neutral. The Commission is funded by the mill assessment which it has the ability to levy in an amount needed to fund its business.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 341 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT 3784, EXHIBIT N.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I will be a no as we have not had time to review.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I appreciate the funding, but it is a lot of money. I will support it, but I need to look at it a little closer and reserve my right.

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

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will go back to the work session on A.B. 428. I will accept a motion to amend and do pass as amended with Exhibit M.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 428 WITH THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT [EXHIBIT M](#).

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 28 was presented yesterday in this Committee by Treasurer Conine. An amendment was done on the Assembly side so we are working off the second reprint, which includes a \$5 million General Fund appropriation for the Baby Bonds Program.

[ASSEMBLY BILL 28 \(2nd Reprint\)](#): Establishes the Nevada Baby Bonds Program.
(BDR 18-356)

There is not an additional amendment from the Treasurer's Office on this beyond that already included in the bill, so the appropriate action is to do pass.

SENATOR NEAL MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 28.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR GOICOCHEA:
I will reserve my right.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS VOTED NO.)

* * * * *

MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 45 was heard in this Committee yesterday. The bill creates a program to repay the student education loans of certain providers of health care. It was presented by Erik Jimenez with the Treasurer's Office.

ASSEMBLY BILL 45 (2nd Reprint): Creates a program to repay the student education loans of certain providers of health care. (BDR 18-359)

Section 12 establishes restricted revenue of \$2,750,000 from the Abandoned Property Trust Account before the remaining amount is transferred to the General Fund. This restricted revenue would be scraped off the top to fund the program, similar to the current funding of \$7.6 million annually for the Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund from the Account. There were no amendments. If the Committee wishes to move this bill, the appropriate action is do pass.

SENATOR TITUS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 45.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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JAMES MALONE (Senior Program Analyst):

Senate Bill 510 makes an appropriation for the implementation of certain collective bargaining units. It was presented yesterday by Amy Stephenson, Director of the GFO. One individual provided testimony in opposition.

SENATE BILL 510 (1st Reprint): Makes appropriations for the implementation of certain collective bargaining agreements. (BDR S-1227)

This bill makes a General Fund appropriation of \$64.2 million and authorizes \$5.3 million in expenditure authority to effectuate provisions of approved collective bargaining agreements.

Proposed Amendment 3786 (Exhibit O) to this bill provides funding for all economic provisions of the collective bargaining agreements and breaks that funding out by General Fund, Highway Fund and other funds. It results in \$64.2 million in General Fund appropriations, \$7.1 million in Highway Fund appropriations and \$5.3 million in other funds which the GFO indicated would be ARPA funding.

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In addition, the amendment would effectuate all provisions of the approved collective bargaining agreements that require an act of the Legislature to be given effect, except for provisions that the 2023 Session of the Nevada Legislature appropriated or authorized for expenditure of money and another Act this Session approved by the Governor.

An example of that would be the salary and grade increases provided for in the pay bill.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 510 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT 3786, [EXHIBIT O](#).

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR TITUS:

I do not support collective bargaining for our public employees. However, this bill has been negotiated in good faith, so I will support this.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will now hear A.B. 261.

ASSEMBLY BILL 261 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to water.
(BDR 18-470)

ANTHONY RUIZ (WaterStart):

WaterStart first brought forth A.B. 261. Under the first reprint, there is no fiscal impact from the bill with the removal of the proposed study. The State recognizes two formal plans for economic development, the State plan itself and the plan that regional development authorities have to submit to get funding from GOED.

Assembly Bill 261 codifies that GOED and the RDAs must include plans for consumptive water use. This is important, even if changes of leadership occur at GOED or the RDAs, because we want to make sure the work moves forward.

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We want to codify this element into the State and RDA plans. Only the two largest RDAs already doing the work are impacted.

MENDY ELLIOTT (Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada):
We support A.B. 261.

KATHY FLANAGAN (Southern Nevada Water Authority):
We support A.B. 261.

LAUREL SAITO (The Nature Conservancy):
We support A.B. 261.

JAMES HUMM (Governor's Office of Economic Development):
I confirm there is no fiscal impact on GOED.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 261.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 261. We will hear and work session A.B. 434.

ASSEMBLY BILL 434 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions governing prescription drugs. (BDR 57-652)

MR. MESSINGER:

Assembly Bill 434 ensures our Nevada Primary Care Association safety net clinics can continue to receive a federal benefit by receiving discounted prescription drugs. This bill ensures clinics continue to get paid the customary retail price for those drugs by the payers of health care, keeping their revenue stream.

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SUSAN FISHER (Northern Nevada HOPES):
Northern Nevada HOPES supports A.B. 434, specifically speaking to section 3 which guarantees and codifies the pharmaceutical rebates that go to the providers.

MS. MARTINEZ:
Many Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition members go to the northern Nevada health clinics, and we support A.B. 434.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 434.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR TITUS:
This is critical for the primary care doctors.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will close the hearing on A.B. 434. We will hear and work session A.B. 239.

ASSEMBLY BILL 239 (1st Reprint): Makes various changes relating to government administration. (BDR 23-896)

MR. BUNDY:
Assembly Bill 239 restores some boards and commissions. It was done during the Interim.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will close the hearing on A.B. 239 and open a work session for this bill.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 239.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

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THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close A.B. 239. We will hear S.B. 438.

SENATE BILL 438 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to the recruitment, preparation and retention of teachers. (BDR 34-1061)

SENATOR ROBERTA LANGE (Senatorial District No. 7):

Senate Bill 438 expands the Teach Nevada Collaborative Account, which is where we fund teacher pipeline scholarships to all the universities and colleges in Nevada. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas, has taken the lead. It will help get more teachers into the pipeline.

The bill has a fiscal note of \$51 million. The State currently funds the Account at \$10 million per year.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

Can you explain how it will work?

SENATOR LANGE:

The State already has a program created at UNLV and at UNR training teachers in this program. It expanded the process to offer more scholarships primarily to the minority communities, so we can get more teachers into the pipeline.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

How many teachers are involved?

SENATOR LANGE:

I do not know.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

This is in conjunction with UNLV, UNR and our Nevada State College. It is open to all universities that have education programs.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

The Nevada System of Higher Education supports this bill.

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Ms. BRAY:
The University of Nevada, Reno, supports S.B. 438.

RUSSELL ROWE (University of Nevada, Las Vegas):
We support S.B. 438.

MR. RUIZ:
Nevada State College supports S.B. 438.

Ms. MARTINEZ:
I support S.B. 438.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will close the hearing on S.B. 438 and open a work session for this bill.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 438.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will close the work session on S.B. 438. We will hear A.B. 321.

ASSEMBLY BILL 321 (2nd Reprint): Makes various changes relating to public safety. (BDR 52-753)

CAROLYN TURNER (Nevada Rural Electric Association):
Assembly Bill 321 is about grid reliability and preventing outages. There is a \$7,500 fiscal note from the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada. It is not General Fund-dependent because it is funded by the mill assessment on public utilities.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 321.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

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THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will hear and work session A.B. 328.

ASSEMBLY BILL 328 (1st Reprint): Makes an appropriation to the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic at the William S. Boyd School of Law of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. (BDR S-1058)

MR. THORLEY:
Assembly Bill 328 makes a General Fund appropriation to the Thomas & Mack Clinic at the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV in the amount of \$500,000 in each fiscal year of the upcoming biennium.

SENATOR NEAL MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 328.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:
We will close the work session on A.B. 328. We will hear and work session A.B. 58.

ASSEMBLY BILL 58 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to regional commercial air service in this State. (BDR 18-369)

SUSAN FISHER (Nevada Aviation Association; Nevada League of Cities):
The Nevada League of Cities initially proposed A.B. 58. The League had requested \$10 million over the 2023-2025 biennium to fund the Air Service Development Commission, established through legislation from Senator Goicoechea in 2019. It was never sufficiently funded and never had money to hire an executive director or any of the incentives needed to help develop air service to some of our rural airports. We had Proposed Amendment 3777 (Exhibit P) prepared on the Assembly side, but the Chair of

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the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means asked that we bring the amendment here. We are rolling some provisions into A.B. 58 from another bill that passed unanimously out of committee but has not moved forward because of a desire to put the provisions into A.B. 58.

There is an additional \$2 million over the next biennium for the Air Service Development Fund. This \$2 million will generate \$33 million in matching funds from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This will help with airport improvements, runways and lighting. This will help with business development, air travel, wildfire service and air medical services. It pays for itself with the FAA funds.

CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

I know how important our rural airports are. I think I gave somebody a heart attack in February when I said I heard the Elko Regional Airport was going to close. It is important for us to work on these things.

STEPHEN WOOD (Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities):
We concur with Ms. Fisher's comments.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:
Assembly Bill 58 will go a long way.

MENDY ELLIOTT (Nevada National Guard Association):
We support A.B. 58.

SENATOR NEAL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
A.B. 58 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT 3777, [EXHIBIT P](#).

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We close the work session on A.B. 58. We will hear and work session A.B. 527.

ASSEMBLY BILL 527: Revises provisions relating to state financial administration. (BDR 31-1199)

MR. THORLEY:

Assembly Bill 527 is an Assembly Committee on Ways and Means bill presented by Assembly Fiscal Analyst Sarah Coffman.

This bill makes a couple of changes to the State Budget Act, which is generally found in NRS 353. Under statute, when the Governor proposes the Executive Budget, the Governor is required to maintain a General Fund reserve balance of at least 5 percent and not more than 10 percent of proposed General Fund operating appropriations for that fiscal year.

Changes in section 1 would require the Governor, when preparing the Executive Budget, to also include the proposed budgets by the Judicial Branch and Legislative Branch in conjunction with the Executive Budget when calculating the minimum 5 percent reserve and maximum 10 percent reserve.

Section 2 makes changes to NRS 353.220 that generally involve work program revisions. Under statute, a work program revision of more than \$3,000 or \$30,000 being changed by 10 percent, or \$75,000, is required to have IFC approval; an emergency work program, must at least be submitted to the IFC. The revision in section 2 of A.B. 527 would get rid of the \$30,000 threshold to even be considered, leaving behind the 10 percent or \$100,000 requirement at whatever amount is less in the expenditure category. Section 2 also makes changes to emergency work programs the Governor is authorized to do without reporting to the IFC.

After the fact, the bill would require the Governor to notify the Chair of the IFC of his or her reasons for determining immediate action is necessary for an emergency work program. Assembly Bill 527 would get rid of the 45-day time frame the IFC has to hear regular work programs. There would be no time limit. The legislation revises provisions relating to work programs submitted late. If a work program is submitted after a certain period of time, it would go on the subsequent IFC agenda and not on the upcoming IFC agenda.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 527 and open a work session for this bill.

SENATOR NGUYEN MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 527.

SENATOR NEAL SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I will reserve my right.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I will reserve my right.

SENATOR TITUS:

I will vote to get this out of Committee, but I will reserve my right.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONDERO LOOP:

We will close the work session on A.B. 527. This meeting is adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Joko Cailles,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit Letter	Introduced on Minute Report Page No.	Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	1		Attendance Roster
A.B. 155	C	7	Senator Rochelle T. Nguyen	Proposed Amendment 3748
A.B. 155	D	8	Senator Rochelle T. Nguyen	Proposed Amendment
A.B. 160	E	12	Ashley Garza Kennedy / Clark County	Proposed Amendment
A.B. 22	F	23	Kent Ervin / Nevada Faculty Alliance	Bill Summary
S.B. 10	G	31	Wayne Thorley	Proposed Amendment
S.B. 400	H	32	Wayne Thorley	Conceptual Amendment from Senator Dina Neal
A.B. 119	I	36	Cathy Crockett	Conceptual Amendment
A.B. 286	J	54	Assemblywoman Brittney Miller	Conceptual Amendment
A.B. 386	K	63	Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno	Proposed Amendment from American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
A.B. 386	L	70	Rebecca Wells / Nevada Midwives Association	Letter in Opposition
A.B. 428	M	107	Daniel Stewart / CCEA	Proposed Amendment from Assemblywoman Shea Backus
S.B. 341	N	116	Wayne Thorley	Proposed Amendment 3784
S.B. 510	O	119	James Malone	Proposed Amendment 3786

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A.B. 58	P	125	Susan Fisher / Nevada Aviation Association	Proposed Amendment 3777
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