



March 11, 2017

In celebration of Women's Month, the Nevada Legislature introduced several bills addressing women and family issues this week. Both the Senate and Assembly brought forth legislation addressing insurance coverage for women. The Equal Rights Amendment moved to the Assembly this week for ratification and they also addressed pay discrimination, domestic violence, and workplace protections.

The Nevada Legislature also considered many issues important to public education including the K-12 budget, property tax, and numerous academic policy issues.

Highlights from Week Five

Monday, March 6

The Assembly Committee on Education heard AB117, a bill designed to assist counselors, students, and parents in planning for graduation and for the future after high school. The bill received no opposition and the Clark County School District was able to propose an amendment to use the PSAT in addition to the ACT to assist in earlier planning for graduation.

Chairman Thompson presented his bill, AB144, creating the Nevada Advisory Commission on Mentoring. This bill reinforces the work of the many mentoring efforts happening in schools and throughout the community and received widespread support from many advocates.

The Assembly Committee on Education also heard AB196, a bill that creates a voluntary endorsement on an educator's license in culturally responsive leadership. Most of the education community testified in support of the bill, including the Clark County School District. The Nevada Department of Education testified neutral on the bill in the hopes to further discuss technicalities within the bill that will better align how educators would earn the endorsement.

Tuesday, March 7

On Tuesday, State Superintendent Steve Canavero presented a plan for Nevada to become the fastest improving state in the nation for K-12 achievement to the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and Senate Committee on Finance, Subcommittee on K-12/Higher Education/CIP. He also covered budgets for the Nevada Department of Education including the Educational Trust Fund (Family Engagement, Teacher of the Year, Graduate Student), Educator Licensure (licensure study and new licensure system), Standards and Instructional Support, and Assessments and Accountability.

The Nevada Association of School Superintendents, led by Superintendent Skorkowsky, presented iNVEST 2017 to the Senate Committee on Education on Tuesday. Chair Denis noted the alignment of priorities with several of the bills introduced this session. iNVEST is the platform for all 17 Nevada school superintendents, and endorsed by every school board, which introduces seven priorities for the 2017 Legislative Session. For more information, please visit <http://ccsd.net/resources/government-affairs/invest-2017-final-web.pdf>.

The Senate Committee on Education also discussed two bills – SB167 and SB224. Senator Farley introduced SB167, a bill that provides grant funding to schools for the creation and maintenance of school gardens. Green Our Planet presented their work in Clark County schools during the bill introduction and shared the K-5 curriculum that they have developed. CCSD supported this voluntary program and applauded efforts to provide funding for school gardens throughout the state.

SB224, a bill sponsored by Senator Becky Harris, requires cameras to be installed in certain special education classrooms. In working with the bill sponsor, CCSD provided a friendly amendment to only allow for cameras to be installed in classrooms in which a majority of students demonstrate significant nonverbal speech and language impairments and are assigned to a classroom within the school to receive special education services for at least 50 percent of the instructional day. The amendment includes changing the implementation date to allow a two-year phase-in period for identified elementary classrooms beginning July 1, 2018, followed by an additional two-year period for middle and high schools beginning July 1, 2020.

Wednesday, March 8

The Assembly Committee on Government Affairs heard AB154, a bill that requires all public works projects to provide for 100 percent of the prevailing wage for construction. During the 2015 legislative session, the Nevada Legislature approved a rollover for school bonds approved by voters in 1998 in order to build more schools across Clark County. The discussion in 2015 included a debate on prevailing wage that resulted in approval of a bill that required all schools to be built at 90 percent of the prevailing wage. AB154 will return the wages to 100 percent.

The superintendents returned to the Nevada Legislature on Wednesday to present iNVEST 2017 to the Assembly Committee on Education. The Committee asked a number of questions about school building needs, property tax revenues, and academic programs.

The Assembly Committee on Education also heard one bill in addition to the presentation, AB139. This bill provides for grant funding to expand dual language immersion programs in school districts throughout the state. The State Board of Education will establish regulations on which languages the program will include but they must at least allow schools to offer Spanish, French, and Mandarin Chinese.

Thursday, March 9

The Senate Committee on Education heard SB173, a bill that requires that any additional construction on a school taken over by the Achievement School District must be done under the prevailing wage laws. Currently, charter schools do not have to follow prevailing wage requirements, however, this bill, as well as AB154 heard the previous day in Assembly Government Affairs, would require all charter schools in the state to offer prevailing wage on their construction projects.

In Assembly Taxation, the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) presented AB43. This bill proposes to stabilize this critical funding source for municipalities and school districts. A secondary cap on property taxes passed by the Nevada Legislature in 2005 took effect in fiscal year 2017 and caused the property tax revenue growth to slow to 0.2 percent, rather than at the rates of 3 percent on residential and 8 percent on commercial properties reflected in the primary caps. For a description of how this issue impacts school districts, please look at the iNVEST document in the link above.

Friday, March 10

On March 10, 2017, the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services met in a work session on AB85, a bill that allows for all secondary schools to teach students how to provide CPR and use an AED in case of an emergency. As CCSD already teaches this to secondary students, the District is in support of this bill.

For a complete list of all the bills we are tracking, [click here](#).

Want to Learn More?

It is at this point in the Nevada Legislative Session where bills begin working their way through the committee process. The process itself may seem complicated, so this week's Want to Learn More? is aimed to help clear up any confusion as to how the Committee process works.

Bill Draft Request

A Bill Draft Request (BDR) is the initial start of what will, eventually, become a bill. BDRs are usually assigned a number and will have a sentence or two explaining the purpose of a future bill. Some BDRs will have very concise language and others will simply state the issue or topic the future bill plans to address.

Bill Introduction

Once a BDR has been submitted there are very strict timelines on when legislative language must be submitted to the Legislative Council Bureau. This is to ensure there is plenty of time to certify the bill is written properly and meets legal muster. However, once the bill is introduced, the language is made public and the bill is assigned to a legislative committee and is now ready for a hearing.

Hearing

Once a Committee schedules a bill, it will be notified on an agenda. Most bills will be noticed a few days before the hearing, though as we approach the 120-day deadline, timelines become shorter and shorter. The hearing is meant to be the public's opportunity to discover the purpose of the bill, why it's needed, and to put on public record those in support or in opposition. On rare occasions the bill will be voted on immediately. The majority of bills, however, will have the hearing closed and be readied for a future meeting, otherwise known as a work session.

Work Session

A work session is a specific time during a Committee meeting where the Chairperson will bring bills back for further discussion. Work sessions are open to the public to watch, though they may not participate in the debate unless called upon by a member of the Committee. Results of a work session may vary. Bills can be voted up or down, the former sending them to the Senate or Assembly floor for full consideration. The Committee may recommend that additional work needs to be done and will schedule another work session to hammer out those details. The Committee may also recommend the bill to another Committee if they feel issues in the bill are necessary for additional input. Bills that don't receive approval from the committee do not continue through the legislative process.

This is the general process of how a bill moves through a committee. In next week's [Want to Learn More?](#), we will explore what happens to a bill once it leaves committee and heads to the floor.

Coming Up:

Scheduled Meetings for the Week of March 13, 2017

Bill #	Description	Sponsors	Next Meeting Title	Next Meeting Date
AB85	Requires instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator in certain schools. (BDR 34-569)	Health and Human Services	Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services	3/10/17 11:45 AM
AB211	Revises provisions governing compensation and wages. (BDR 53-764)	Jauregui	Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor	3/10/17 1:30 PM
AB117	Requires certain educational personnel to take certain actions to ensure pupils in grade 11 in public high schools are college and career ready. (BDR 34-292)	Flores	Assembly Committee on Education	3/13/17 3:15 PM
AB144	Creates the Nevada Advisory Commission on Mentoring. (BDR 34-31)	Thompson, Neal, Joiner, Flores, Cancela and Ford	Assembly Committee on Education	3/13/17 3:15 PM
AB188	Revises provisions governing the eligibility requirements for grants awarded under the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program. (BDR 34-869)	Diaz	Assembly Committee on Education	3/13/17 3:15 PM
AB221	Requires a school district to allow pupils and employees of a charter school to evacuate to a public school in the district during a crisis or emergency. (BDR 34-594)	Bilbray-Axelrod	Assembly Committee on Education	3/13/17 3:15 PM
SB113	Revises provisions relating to elections. (BDR 24-452)	Farley	Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections	3/13/17 3:30 PM
AB26	Revises provisions governing the dissemination of certain records of criminal history to certain persons by the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History. (BDR 14-138)	Corrections, Probation, and Parole	Assembly Committee on Corrections, Parole, and Probation	3/14/17 8:00 AM
AB246	Revises provisions relating to the creation of a local improvement district and tax increment area. (BDR 22-705)	Kramer	Assembly Committee on Government Affairs	3/14/17 8:30 AM
SB54	Authorizes certain smaller counties to approve additional uses of the proceeds of a tax for infrastructure.	Revenue and Economic Development	Senate Committee on Revenue and Economic	3/14/17 3:30 PM

Bill #	Description	Sponsors	Next Meeting Title	Next Meeting Date
	(BDR 32-341)		Development	
AB118	Revises provisions governing the issuance of permits to carry concealed firearms. (BDR 15-572)	Daly	Assembly Committee on Judiciary	3/15/17 8:00 AM
SB46	Revises provisions governing background checks of operators, employees and certain adult residents of a child care facility. (BDR 38-131)	Health and Human Services	Senate Committee on Health and Human Services	3/15/17 3:30 PM
SB165	Makes various changes concerning the prevention and treatment of obesity. (BDR 40-791)	Denis	Senate Committee on Health and Human Services	3/15/17 3:30 PM
AB94	Repeals the prospective expiration of the NV Grow Program. (BDR S-217)	Neal	Assembly Committee on Taxation	3/16/17 4:00 PM
SB14	Revises the duties of the Investigative Division of the Department of Public Safety. (BDR 43-259)	Transportation	Senate Committee on Finance	3/17/17 8:00 AM

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