



May 21, 2017

Another legislative deadline means more bills die and in the case of this week, more budgets close. Notable K-12 education bills that died include SB86 on cursive handwriting, SB119 on school organization team immunity, AB120 on school construction, and AB400 on copyrights for instructional materials. However, as we've mentioned before, not every bill that dies is truly dead. In the case of SB119, the immunity language has already passed under AB469.

In an effort to assist committees with long lists of bills to pass, both the Senate and the Assembly suspended the rules this week to allow bills to be heard and voted on in the same meeting. Very few bills actually died after the May 19 deadline, only 26 in the Senate and seven in the Assembly. This is largely due to the fact that nearly 300 bills are exempt from deadlines. This will make the remaining two weeks quite eventful, as most of them still need to get through multiple committees in the next two weeks.

Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means met in a joint hearing on Saturday to close numerous budgets. The Department of Education was among them including the Distributive School Account, Other State Education Programs, Contingency Account For Special Education Services, Teach Nevada Scholarship Program, Professional Development Programs, State Supplemental School Support, Teachers' School Supplies Reimbursement, and Incentives For Licensed Education Personnel. They also closed the various office budgets of the Department. Materials for this budget hearing can be found here: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL//79th2017/Meeting/6714?p=1006714>.

Once in a while there is a fun event in the legislative building. This week "Ben Graham Cookie Day" lightened the mood on deadline day. Ben Graham is a longtime, well-respected lobbyist and an excellent baker. He and his family dedicated their time to making over 1,300 chocolate chip cookies for anyone who crossed the threshold of 401 South Carson Street. Our own Brad Keating got in on the action, lending a hand in the early morning before the regular hearing schedule.



Highlights from Week Fifteen

Monday, May 15

Senate Finance heard SB225, which makes various changes to the bullying law including the addition of private schools. Many parents expressed their opposition to the bill based on this addition. While school districts and education representatives supported the bill, testimony was based on the changes to the law that assist schools in investigating and reporting on bullying incidents.

In the Senate Committee on Government Affairs on Monday, they held a work session on AB154, a bill that changes the rules regarding prevailing wage for K-12 and higher education projects. Specifically, AB154 requires all K-12 building projects that qualify, to pay 100 percent of the prevailing wage, as opposed to 90 percent set by the previous legislative session.

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services passed AB176 in work session on Monday. This bill establishes certain requirements for the operation of seasonal or temporary recreation programs such as having a first-aid kit and an emergency exit plan in place.

The Assembly Committee on Education held a work session on several bills. These bills include SB107, which requires all high schools to offer a course in ethnic studies, and SB322, a bill that requires all high schools to offer a civics exam similar to the one used for naturalization into the United States.

Tuesday, May 16

The Senate Committee on Education passed three bills during their work session on Tuesday, AB188, AB202, and AB275. AB188 is a bill that requires the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to offer scholarships for students to attend community college. The Committee also passed AB202, a bill that creates a study to look at the affordability of attending college across the state and AB275 which aligns state law with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, encouraging state and local education officials to consider Integrated Student Supports as one of the evidence-based programs that can keep low-income students in school and on the path to graduation.

The Assembly passed SB20, the District's bill to remove the requirements for Nevada Law, Nevada Constitution and US Constitution from teacher licensure and to require training in the first year of employment in Nevada Law and Nevada Constitution. The bill is now awaiting signature by the Governor.

In their evening meeting, Assembly Ways and Means passed AB447 after brief discussion regarding the appropriation included in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

Wednesday, May 17

On Wednesday, the Assembly Committee on Education met briefly for a work session on SB164, a bill by Senator Farley allowing school districts to lease a portion of their bus fleet to private events. This bill passed and is awaiting a full vote of the Assembly.

In the late afternoon on Wednesday, a joint hearing of the Assembly and Senate Committees on Education was held for a presentation on SB178 regarding the Weighted Funding Formula. The new version of the bill, which may be the most important one of the session to the education community, is the result of extensive work by legislators and stakeholders to focus the limited funds available over the next biennium on the students with the greatest needs. In order to narrow the scope of the original bill, schools will receive an additional \$1,200 to provide services for students in the following categories:

- Low performance (bottom 25th percentile on state assessments), AND
- English learners or students living in poverty, AND
- Attends a one- to three-star rated school, AND
- Does not attend a Zoom or Victory school.

To view the extensive changes to the bill, please visit:

https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017/ExhibitDocument/OpenExhibitDocument?exhibitId=34094&fileDownloadName=SB%20178%20Proposed%20Amendment%20for%20Work%20Session_Senator%20Mo%20Denis.pdf.

Thursday, May 18

The Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and Senate Committee on Finance, Subcommittee on K-12/Higher Education/CIP met on Thursday and closed the following budgets:

- Achievement School District (101-2674)
- Distributive School Account (101-2610)
- Contingency Account for Special Ed Services (101-2615)
- Other State Education Programs (101-2699)

A budget that is closed by a subcommittee must still be voted on by the members of the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means. As referenced earlier, these budgets were approved by the full committees on Saturday.

The Assembly Committee on Government Affairs held a work session on AB282, a bill that removes the ability to suspend a police officer without pay unless they have committed a criminal act. The bill also clarifies what evidence can be used against a police officer if the evidence was collected inappropriately.

The Senate Committee on Education held a work session and passed 10 bills, including:

- SB178 - Revises provisions relating to the funding formula for K-12 public education.
- SB390 - Extends and revises the Zoom schools program for the 2017-2019 biennium.
- AB77 (R1) - Revises provisions related to teachers and other educational personnel.
- AB117 (R1) - Requires certain educational personnel to take certain actions to review the academic plan of certain pupils in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 in public high schools to ensure that the pupils are college and career ready.
- AB196 (R1) - Provides for an endorsement that a teacher, administrator, or other educational personnel may obtain in cultural competency.
- AB275 (R1) - Requires the establishment of a statewide framework for providing integrated student supports for certain pupils and their families.
- AB292 (R1) - Revises provisions relating to bullying and cyber-bullying in public schools.
- AB312 (R1) - Requires the State Board of Education to develop recommendations for pupil-teacher ratios in certain public schools.
- AB320 (R1) - Revises provisions relating to the statewide performance evaluation system.
- AB372 (R2) - Enacts the Revised Uniform Athlete Agents Act.

On Thursday, the Senate Committee on Transportation voted in unanimous support of AB485, a bill requiring all new school buses to install seat belts beginning in 2019. CCSD supported this bill after working out an amendment.

On Thursday, Senate Finance heard SB418, sponsored by Senator Spearman, which creates a priority list of the legislature to use a portion of future funds to assist school districts in replacing eligible school buses to reduce emission of nitrogen oxides and other hazardous air contaminants. CCSD supported this bill.

Friday, May 19

A number of bills were passed during work sessions for the Assembly Judiciary, Government Affairs, Taxation, Commerce and Labor, and Legislative Operations and Elections committees as well as the Senate Commerce, Labor and Energy, Health and Human Services, and Government Affairs committees. For details, see our tracking list here: <http://ccsd.net/resources/government-affairs/ccsd-legislation-report-5-20-17.pdf>.

Want to Learn More?

One of the very best resources to understand the processes of the Nevada Legislature is the Legislative Manual which can be found here:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Publications/LegManual/2017/>. This manual is the go-to document that is created by the Nevada Legislative Council Bureau (LCB). While it can be a bit dense to get through, the manual will give you all that you need to know about the Nevada Legislature and how it works. However, if you would prefer a more abridged version that can still help you navigate the process, please check out LCB's more general guide: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/General/AboutLeg/Detail/index.html>.

For this week, you may wish to pay attention to the section titled "In Other House and Conference Committees." This will give you a brief rundown of the current actions taking place in the legislative building.

Coming Up:

Floor sessions, lots and lots of floor sessions, as the next deadline for Second House Passage approaches on May 26, 2017.

If you know someone interested in receiving the CCSD Session Spotlight, they can sign up for our newsletter by clicking on the banner on ccsd.net or by emailing their name and email address directly to SessionSpotlight@ccsd.net.

CCSD Government Relations