



SESSION SPOTLIGHT

February 12, 2021

With week two of the 81st Nevada Legislative Session coming to a close, everyone from legislators to the public are getting familiar with the virtual and interactive nature of the process. While some bills have received a hearing, much of the Education Committees time in both houses has been spent listening to presentations regarding educational issues facing K-12 and higher education. This included a second presentation by Clark County School District (CCSD) Superintendent Dr. Jesus F. Jara Monday in the [Senate Committee on Education](#) regarding CCSD's COVID-19 response similar to the [presentation he gave last week](#) in the Assembly Committee on Education.

SB2 Efficiencies in Education

On Wednesday's [Senate Committee on Education](#), Government Relations Director, Brad Keating, and Coordinator, Leonardo Benavides, presented CCSD's Senate Bill 2 (SB2), which looks to provide relief for educators by removing duplicative reporting, unfunded mandates, adjusting budget timelines, and removing tasks that take away from the classroom. Through collaborative work with the Southern Nevada Health District, and the Nevada Department of Education (NDE), a couple of conceptual friendly amendments were presented that will be incorporated into the bill.

The Body Mass Index Testing that the Health District uses to study obesity rates among children and apply for federal grants will now only take place every other year and be limited to 4th and 7th grade (removing the 10th grade requirement). In addition, to reduce the time students are taken out of class, this will now be completed at the same time that scoliosis exams are already undertaken by school nurses. In a second friendly amendment, the State Board of Education will now take a look at potential replacements for using the Brigance exam as the Kindergarten readiness screener.

Multiple stakeholders testified in support of SB2 and now the process begins to incorporate these friendly amendments before the bill is brought back to the Senate Committee on Education for a vote.

SB27 Superintendent Licensure Investigations and Paraprofessional Licensing

In Monday's Senate [Committee on Education](#), NDE presented SB27 that touches upon multiple areas. Two areas in particular in which NDE worked with school districts to amend the bill were the authority the Superintendent had in investigations of school district employees, and requiring all paraprofessionals to get licensed.

Through the state's collaborative work with school districts, the bills were amended to address concerns with this language. The bill will now be amended to clarify that the Superintendent can conduct an investigation on a licensed employee if the act being investigated may potentially affect their educator licensure. The second amendment removes the requirement for a paraprofessional to apply and pay for a license as all employees already undergo a background check with school districts for employment. With these amendments accepted, CCSD testified in support of the bill.

Want to Learn More?

In case you did not know:

The [Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System \(NELIS\)](#) is a tool on the Nevada legislative website that will assist you in navigating the 2021 Legislative Session. With hundreds of bills being proposed, NELIS helps organize information so you can stay on top of the issues that matter most to you. NELIS is useful because it houses all legislative and committee information in one place making it easy to find and navigate the business of the Nevada Legislature.

NELIS is also very useful as a research tool. You can revisit hearings from previous legislative sessions, read the minutes of the meeting, and review any documentation that was provided as support material. Many current bills build on the actions of previous legislative sessions, and NELIS is the portal you can use to fully inform yourself on the issues of yesterday and today.

Specifically, NELIS has several important components to help you keep track of the 120-day session. They include:

Meetings and Floor Session Tab: This section will give you up to the minute information on the daily meetings occurring during the legislative day. This includes both committee and floor sessions.

Legislation Tab: This section allows you to search any bill or Bill Draft Request (BDR) that has been proposed during the Legislative Session. All you need to know is the bill number, the bill name, or who sponsored the bill. Not only can you get the bill language but you can see which committee will hear it next, how much the bill will cost, and any backup material other interest groups may have provided during their testimony.

Committee Tab: This section allows you to search any hearing or bill that is assigned to a specific committee. It will also give you information on who sits on the committee and when it meets.

Budget Tab: For those interested in the financial side of government, this section lets you view, down to the dollar, the fiscal makeup of Nevada's government. Here you can view the Governor's proposed budgets as well as the budget of any state agency.

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

The "[Calendar of Meetings](#)" on the Nevada Legislature website provides up to date information regarding meetings.

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CCSD Government Relations