



# SESSION SPOTLIGHT

## February 26, 2021

It is hard to believe the first month of the 2021 Legislative Session is already complete! The Legislative Counsel Bureau continues to review many bills ahead of the March 15 deadline for individual legislator bill introductions. Committees are trying to hear as many bills as possible as many more will be introduced in the coming weeks. Let's touch upon what was heard this week.

### **SB66 - Bridging the Digital Divide**

On Wednesday afternoon's [Senate Committee on Education meeting](#), the Clark County School District (CCSD), alongside the Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT), presented their second bill draft SB66, which seeks to bridge the digital divide. OSIT will work alongside school districts to gather data on student connectivity each year in order to put together a "gap analysis" of the connectivity needs in the state and eventually a fiscal plan that the state can adopt. This can also potentially be used to help draw down federal funding in the future to help address these inequities.

This bill received the support of all school districts, Cox Communications, and the Vegas Chamber. It is anticipated that the Committee will hold a work session (see below) on this bill early next week in order for it to go to the full Senate floor for a vote.

### **Interscholastic Sports**

On Thursday's [Assembly Committee on Education meeting](#), the committee heard presentations on AB105 and AB136. AB105, presented by Assemblyman Tom Roberts, requires that the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association include at least two parents or guardians as well as for any advisory board to include at least two members who are pupils participating in a sanctioned sport. AB136, presented by Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray Axelrod, revises the Uniform Athlete Agents Act such as prohibiting a sports agent from giving students anything of value that may affect their eligibility to participate in their chosen sport unless certain conditions are met as well as for another individual acting on the agents behalf.

### **Want to Learn More?**

As mentioned above, bills go through multiple hearings before there is a full vote on the Senate and Assembly floor. That generally includes both a regular hearing and a work session, but what is the difference between them, read below to find out!

## ***Hearing***

Once a Committee schedules a bill, it will receive a hearing. The hearing is meant to be the public's opportunity to hear the purpose of the bill, why it's needed, and to put on the record who supports or opposes it. Legislators can call up witnesses for additional information and may question any person who comes to "the table" to testify. After the debate, very rarely does a bill get voted on immediately. Usually only bills that are simple in nature and are non-controversial will receive an immediate vote. The majority of others bills will have their hearing closed, and will 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 back bills which were previously heard to amend, ask additional questions, and then, in most cases, vote on. Work sessions are open to the public to watch, however, they may not participate in the debate unless asked to 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 in the legislative process.

This two-step process allows for considerable deliberation both from the public and those who will eventually vote on the bill. It's an opportunity for lobbyists and special interests to work with legislators on amendments to make the bill better (or worse!). Work sessions are clearly noted on agendas once they are scheduled.

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

[Current Scheduled Meetings for the Week of March 1, 2021.](#)

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

## **Refer a friend!**

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