

March 12, 2021

The sixth week of the 2021 Nevada Legislative Session was a busy one in every aspect. While the Legislative Counsel Bureau continues to work tirelessly ahead of Monday's deadline where all legislator's bills must be introduced, the education committees started moving forward with every bill they currently do have in preparation for the onslaught of new bills. Let's get to it this week with a rundown of bills and the budgets presented this week.

Senate Committee on Education

On Monday's Senate Committee on Education hearing, the committee heard presentations on SB160 and SB172 both revolving around dual credit programs. SB160, presented by Senator Ben Kieckhefer, looks to expand options by allowing schools to enter into cooperative agreements with institutions of higher learning outside the state of Nevada for programs that are not offered in the state. SB172, presented by Senator Mo Denis, tries to standardize dual credit programs in the state such as removing cooperative agreements in order to address differences across different institutions.

During Wednesday's meeting, Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop presented Senate Bill 151, which requires Clark County School District and Washoe County School District to develop a plan to improve the number of school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists.

Assembly Committee on Education

This week in the Assembly Committee on Education, Assembly Bill 88 was heard which requires school districts to adopt a policy on controversial school names or mascots. A hearing also took place on AB109. This bill looks to change the laws related to charter school teachers. Currently, only 70% of teachers have to be licensed by the State of Nevada. If this bill is passed, 100% of teachers must be licensed. Those unable to receive a license by July 1, 2026 will no longer be able to teach in Nevada.

The Committee also voted the following bills out of committee and ordered them to the Assembly floor for a final vote:

- **AB57 - Temporary Suspension of Student Learning Goals**
- **AB38 - Advisory Technical Skills Committees Revisions**
- **AB105 - Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association Membership**
- **AB136 - Uniform Athlete Agents Act Revisions**
- **SB83 - Exam Waivers**

Nevada Department of Education Budget Hearings

On Tuesday morning, the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and Senate Committee on Finance's Subcommittee on K-12/Higher Education met to receive budget briefings from the Nevada Department of Education. During this hearing, the Department provided information about pre-kindergarten programs and its intention to create a statewide per-pupil cost of \$8,410 for these programs. This should allow all districts the opportunity to continue providing pre-kindergarten programs for all students who are currently receiving them. The hearing can be watched [here](#).

Want to Learn More?

On the February 26th edition of the Session Spotlight, we talked about the process a bill goes through in committee hearings. Today we wanted to talk about what happens once a bill passes the committee stage. If you missed Part 1 of Want to Learn More where we discussed how a bill moves through a committee please visit [here](#).

Once a bill leaves its assigned committee, it can go either to the full body of the Assembly or Senate for a vote or to another committee. If the bill has a fiscal note, it will be reassigned to a "money" committee to discuss the costs and whether funding can be included in the budget. If that committee votes out the bill, then it moves to the floor of the appropriate house for a vote. Once a bill does pass its house of origin, it is then sent to the other house to go through the same exact process. One change, however, is that if a bill has already been considered by the "money" committee, it does not have to be referred again unless an amendment was added that changed the fiscal note.

Bills can be amended in the second house and the Nevada Legislature has a process in place to help reconcile the differences. First, if a bill was amended in the other house, it will send notification and the house of origin can accept the changes. If this happens by majority vote, the bill is sent to the Governor's office to be signed. If the changes are not accepted, however, the house of origin will create what is called a Conference Committee where assigned legislators will discuss the details of the bill and the amendments to try to create a single version. If no agreement can be made, the bill is considered dead. If successful, the conferenced bill will go before each house, and with a majority vote, the bill is then processed and sent to the Governor. Once a bill reaches the Governor's desk, he then has 10 days to veto the bill, sign the bill into law, or allow the bill to become law without signature.

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

[Current Scheduled Meetings for the Week of March 15, 2021.](#)

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

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