

# A Leg Up

The Weekly Legislative Update for the Clark County School District

May 10, 2013

With just over three weeks left before *sine die* and facing a major deadline next Friday, the upcoming week will be hectic and unpredictable for legislators and lobbyists and observers of the process. Friday is the deadline by which all bills (unless they are exempt) must be passed out of the second house if they are to continue on toward passage. Watch the legislative home page [<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Calendar/A/>] for the most up to date schedule. It changes frequently during the day, so if you're following a specific bill, monitor it closely.

The following bills of interest were heard this week:

## Monday – Ways and Means

- SB 344 provides an allocation for a student in a mental health hospital that provides educational services under a private school license.
- SB 350 revises provisions relating to the issuance of general obligations by school districts.
- SB 477 revises provisions relating to the basic support guarantee per pupil for school districts and the allocation of special education program units.

## Monday – Assembly Education

- SB 305 provides for the approval by the board of trustees of internship programs.
- SB 382 delays the implementation of fire suppression components in school buses until 2016 and provides additional options for districts.
- SB 442 eliminates existing mandates placed on school districts by the Nevada Revised Statutes. This bill eliminates several requirements, however, nothing in the bill prevents school districts from continuing any these programs upon their choosing.

## Monday – Senate Education

- AB 230 expands the requirements for teaching sex education in schools. The hearing of this bill on the Senate side took nearly double the amount of time as it did on the Assembly side and may have set a legislative record for the longest hearing on a single bill – six hours.

## Tuesday – Nicolas Cage Day

- OK, this item doesn't really fit under the heading of "bills of interest" that were heard this week, but the buzz of the day was a visit to the legislature by actor/director/producer Nicolas Cage as he testified before the Senate Finance committee on a bill that would provide tax credits to the film industry.

## Wednesday – Assembly Health and Human Services

- SB 453 requires schools to stock epinephrine autoinjectors (Epi-pens) and for school nurses to train staff in the identification of allergic and anaphylactic reactions and administration of epinephrine.

## Wednesday – Senate Education

- AB 288 replaces the high school proficiency exam with end of course exams for graduation and requires a college and career readiness exam. An amendment was proposed to change the

statutory reference to the “general education development” (GED) to a more general reference of “high school equivalency assessment.”

- AB 459 allows school districts to donate surplus property to other school districts.
- AB 460 makes necessary changes to align the statutes with Nevada’s approved ESEA waiver and requires the collection of data on violations of the honor code.

### **Wednesday – Assembly Education**

- SB 311 introduces a “Parent Trigger” law that provides several steps including the formation of a school advisory team, petition for conversion to an empowerment model and petition for conversion to a charter school.

### **Friday – Assembly Judiciary**

- SB 314 provides that the right of parents to make choices regarding the upbringing, education and care of their children is a fundamental right.

**Friday – Senate Education (Work Session)** The following list of bills were passed out of committee on Friday, putting them one step closer to final passage:

- AB 17 revises conditions related to school district employees working at a facility operated by the Department of Corrections.
- AB 205 requires a written performance framework for charter schools and creates charter schools to meet certain performance measurements as a condition of operation.
- AB 210 revises provisions related to hearing impaired students.
- AB 259 expands the membership of the P-16 Advisory Council to include a member with expertise in Pre-K, and changes the name of the Council to the “P-20W Advisory Council” to reflect the pre-kindergarten to workforce scope of the group.
- AB 337 encourages public schools to establish and participate in programs that promote the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables by children.
- AB 459 allows school districts to donate surplus property to other school districts.
- AB 460 makes necessary changes to align the statutes with Nevada’s approved ESEA waiver and requires the collection of data on violations of the honor code.

### **Here’s a Tidbit**

The Nevada Legislature website [<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/>] contains so much information that sometimes you may wonder what the best method is to find out specific information about a bill. Two links on the front page are especially useful in getting a quick update on any piece of legislation, “Bill Info” and “NELIS.” Both links are found on the right hand column of the page.

**“Bill Info:”** The third bullet, “Bill Info” (with the bright yellow “New!” cloud next to it) takes you to the legislative website page with links to all types of information about bills. (This page is a great resource; sometime while you’re listening to a hearing just click around on the various links and be amazed at how much information is available to you!) But for quick information on a specific piece of legislature, at the top of the page is a link titled “History of Specific Legislation.” When you click on that link, it takes you to a pull down menu where you can select the kind of bill you want, type in the number of the bill, and then hit “find.”

So, for example, if you want to learn more about the status of AB 288, you would select “Assembly Bill” from the pull-down menu, then type “288” in the “Number” box. When you hit “find,” you are directed to the website page for that specific bill. At a glance, it’s easy to see where the legislation is (“Most Recent History Action”) as well as information about past hearings, links to the text of the bill and its amendments, and the voting history of the bill. As you might expect, all of the [blue](#) words are links that take you to additional information. For example, if you click on the “Assembly Final Passage” under the “Final Passage Votes” link, you get a list of every member of the Assembly and how they voted on that particular measure.

**“NELIS:”** The first bullet on the right-hand column of the legislative home page takes you to the Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System, or NELIS. Again, using AB 288 as an example, you can find additional information about this bill by clicking on the “BILLS” button in the top left hand corner, then clicking on “Assembly Bills,” then scrolling down until you get to AB288. Click on AB288, and you’ll go to the NELIS page for that bill where you’ll find information that is very similar to the content found under “Bill Info.” However, NELIS has an additional link that provides detailed information from the hearings that cannot be found on the previous website. Click on “Meetings” on the top right corner and it will take you to a list of the meetings when this bill was on the agenda. On this page you have access to the backup documents that were presented to the committee, including the work session documents (marked by “WS”) which are the official materials prepared by the Legislative Counsel Bureau staff. These are documents that were previously available only to persons who were able to attend a hearing in person. This is a great resource that makes it even easier for you to follow issues that are important to you.

Explore and learn!