

Legislative Update

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 18, 2015

Highlights from Week 11:

This week's report will be brief. Since Tuesday, April 21, is another major deadline – First House Passage – the emphasis of the past week was more on floor sessions than on committee hearings. Bills that survived the First Committee Passage deadline were sent to the floor of their respective houses for approval. While some committee meetings were held, they were generally shorter than usual, with fewer bills on the agenda.

For those following floor sessions via Internet, try not to be too frustrated! Floor sessions seldom start at the time stated on the legislative website, and even when they do, the proceedings often come to an abrupt halt when a “one-minute recess” is called or when the body leaves the chamber “at the call of the chair.” While sometimes a “one-minute recess” really is a quick break to clarify an issue, some “one-minute recesses” lead to impromptu caucus meetings that can last considerably longer than one minute. Additionally, sometimes floor sessions are delayed while waiting for bill drafters to finalize language for amendments before the body can vote on a measure, so members are excused to leave the floor until they are recalled (“at the call of the chair”) to continue working. The really great thing about the Nevada Legislature website is that within 24 hours, the video version of floor sessions and committee meetings are available, making it possible to follow the proceedings of the group, even if a bit delayed.

When the Senate adjourned on Friday, the majority leader announced they have 50 bills left to process by Tuesday's deadline and that he plans to tackle 25 bills on Monday and 25 on Tuesday. The Assembly did not indicate how many bills they have left, but the floor leader did indicate he expects to have long floor sessions on both Monday and Tuesday. You'll see from the upcoming meetings schedule, below, that most committee meetings are not meeting until after the deadline to make way for these lengthy floor sessions.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

Senate Finance

- ~ **SB236** was heard by the Senate Finance Committee. This bill, sponsored by Senator Joyce Woodhouse, extends the work of the STEM Council and provides for two events to recognize student work in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The bill was previously heard in the policy committee – Senate Education – but since it has a modest appropriation attached to it, the bill then had to be heard by the money committee, as well.

Senate Education

- ~ **AB27** was presented by the Department of Education. This bill removes the requirement that a school district demonstrate that a shortage of teachers exists in a particular subject area and provides that a school district can demonstrate that any shortage of teachers exists to request the Superintendent to issue a license to a person who is not a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States but who is otherwise entitled to work in the United States pursuant to federal laws and regulations.
- ~ **AB30** makes various changes to the accountability reports that schools are required to complete and send to the Department of Education.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

Assembly Ways and Means

- ~ **AB190**, sponsored by Assemblyman Randy Kirner, was considered in a four-hour hearing. The bill proposes changes to the PERS system to create a hybrid system that would provide a defined contribution plan, rather than the current defined benefit plan, for new employees starting on or after July 1, 2016. The PERS Board, AFSCME Retiree Chapter, NSEA, and others opposed the bill. The bill presentation and other exhibits from the hearing can be viewed here: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Meeting/3568?p=3000000&p=6014062>.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

Senate Education

- ~ In a brief meeting, two bills related to the Millennium Scholarship (AB411 and AB150) were heard.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

Senate Finance

- ~ **SB503**, *Breakfast After the Bell*, requests a \$2M appropriation for startup costs. Funds for this program are included in the Governor's Recommended Budget. Like SB 236 that went before Senate Finance on Tuesday, SB503 had already been heard by the policy committee, but came before Senate Finance for consideration of the fiscal aspect of the bill.
- ~ **SB504**, the Governor's bill dealing with bullying, has several fiscal notes related to the social worker program expected to support the bill's requirements. This appropriation is also included in the Governor's Recommended Budget. Both bills will be held until after the committee passes the budget accounts that include the appropriations.

Coming Up:

To keep current about hearings that are scheduled (and sometimes rescheduled) during the session, it's important to utilize the "Calendar of Meetings" link on the Nevada Legislature website (www.leg.state.nv.us). There you will find the most accurate list of committee meeting dates and times as well as the bills scheduled to be heard.

Upcoming Meetings

April 20 – 24, 2015

Bill #	Description	Next Meeting Title	Next Meeting Date
AB112	Revises provisions governing the policy concerning a safe and respectful learning environment for children enrolled in public schools throughout the State. (BDR 34-220)	Senate Committee on Education	4/21/2015 3:30 PM
AB117	Authorizes a school district to lease school buses or vehicles belonging to the school district in certain circumstances. (BDR 34-510)	Senate Committee on Education	4/21/2015 3:30 PM
SB176	Revises provisions governing certain dangerous or deadly weapons. (BDR 15-87)	Assembly Committee on Judiciary	4/22/2015 8:00 AM
AB93	Revises provisions relating to the continuing education required to renew certain licenses. (BDR 54-27)	Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy	4/22/2015 8:30 AM
SB25	Revises provisions relating to public schools. (BDR 34-316)	Assembly Committee on Education	4/22/2015 3:15 PM
SB205	Revises provisions relating to plans to be used by a school in responding to a crisis or emergency. (BDR 34-404)	Assembly Committee on Education	4/22/2015 3:15 PM
SB47	Makes various changes relating to the Consolidated Local Improvements Law. (BDR 22-421)	Assembly Committee on Government Affairs	4/23/2015 8:30 AM
SB444	Revises provisions governing civil actions. (BDR 3-1137)	Assembly Committee on Judiciary	4/24/2015 8:00 AM

Attachments

This update references the following materials which are attached to the email:

- *CCSD Legislation Status Report 4-17-15*

Want to Learn More?

In case you didn't know: how to understand the budget.

What is the "Governor's Recommended Budget"? Each January prior to a legislative session, the Governor submits his Executive Budget to the legislature. This budget includes the amount requested by each state agency for their various work programs and the amount that the Governor recommends (referred to as "Gov Rec") for the same programs. The legislature may adopt the Governor's recommended amount or may decide on a different level of funding for a program when they close each budget account. Budget presentations are made throughout the session to the money committees. However, the accounts are usually closed closer to the end of session when revenue levels have been determined.

The State of Nevada adopted performance based budgeting practices in 2011 with the passage of AB248. The Priorities and Performance Based Budget (PPBB) developed by the Budget Division at the direction of Governor Sandoval advances the activity-based budgeting structure that was introduced during the 2011 legislative session. The goal of the PPBB is to improve transparency to decision makers and the public. Essentially, the state is required to identify the services it provides, demonstrate how agencies measure their effectiveness, and provide clear results for evaluation.

Objectives are developed for each of the following Core Functions of state government:

- Business Development and Services
- Education and Workforce Development
- Health Services
- Human Services
- Infrastructure and Communications
- Public Safety
- Resource Management
- State Support Services
- Legislative Branch
- Judicial Branch
- Public Employees Retirement System

To learn more about the process and see the objectives for each Core Function, visit:

http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Budgets/PPBB/PPBB_ExecBudget_2015-17.pdf

To see the Priorities and Performance Based Budget for the Department of Education, go to:

http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Budgets/PPBB/30_300.pdf

For funding details on the 2015-17 Executive Budget, see

http://budget.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/budgetnv.gov/content/StateBudget/2016-2017/Nevada_Executive_Budget_2015-2017.pdf. This budget includes a number of new initiatives for education. The Governor's Major Budget Initiatives for education include:

- Full-day kindergarten expansion
- Zoom schools expansion
- Victory schools
- Safe and Respectful Learning Environment Office and Social Workers Grant Program
- Nevada Ready 21 Technology Plan
- Great Teaching and Leading Fund
- Read by Three

For funding details on these initiatives, see pages 59-72 of the Executive Budget.