

# Legislative Update

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 25, 2015

## Highlights from Week 12:

Tuesday, April 21 was a major deadline for the Nevada State Legislature – First House Passage. Most committees did not hold meetings on Monday and Tuesday of this week, making time for lengthy floor sessions so both bodies could engage in debate and then cast their votes for hundreds of bills. Both houses completed their work well within the midnight deadline; the Senate adjourned shortly after 4:00 p.m., and the Assembly adjourned a little before 9:00 p.m. Unless they have been declared exempt, bills that were not passed out of their house of origin by the deadline are now considered dead. Unlike the first major deadline (First Committee Passage) where around 80 bills on our tracking list were lost, this deadline resulted in only four bills on our tracking list falling away. We now have 190 bills we are tracking. The four Bills that failed to meet the First House Passage deadline are:

- AB306, sponsored by Ellen Spiegel, -- the “nursing mothers” bill – would have required public employers to provide an employee who is the mother of a child under 1 year of age with a reasonable break time, with or without compensation, for the employee to express breast milk for the child each time the employee needs to express such milk and a clean, private place, other than a bathroom, where the employee may express such milk.
- AB336, sponsored by Teresa Benitez-Thompson and John Hambrick, would have required public high schools and other establishments to post a sign in each women’s restroom containing the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline number.
- AB381, sponsored by Marilyn Kirkpatrick, addressed the residency requirement for elected officials and would have changed the deadline for an elector to file a written challenge this requirement to the last Monday immediately preceding the first day of early voting for any general election. The bill would also have changed the law to reflect the Supreme Court holding regarding a candidate’s principal permanent habitation.
- SB178, in its original form, would have required schools to teach PE in grades K-11 not less than 30 minutes each school day. The bill was sponsored by Senators Hardy and Hammond and was significantly amended prior to failing the deadline.

Policy has been the central focus of the Nevada Legislature for the past few weeks; bill deadlines basically force both legislative bodies to work through their legislative priorities. However, as we draw closer to the end of the session, much of the focus will shift to the budget. Over 200 bills are exempt from the committee and house passage deadlines (visit <http://leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/Reports/exempt.cfm> to see the current list of exempt bills). These bills mostly have fiscal notes attached to them; this is where the budgeting process really begins.

Think of each exempt bill as a priority that will need to be funded in the budget that will be passed by the end of the 120-day session. With only so much money to go around, it is up to the legislature to decide which priorities are essential, which are worth funding, and which programs we simply cannot afford.

These priorities make up only a percentage of Nevada’s operating budget. It takes money to run government itself. Thus, a large part of Nevada’s budget is used to fund the numerous agencies that provide essential services to residents across the state. Numerous agencies like the Nevada Department of Education, Department of Transportation, and the Department of Human and Social Services all provide vital services to Nevada citizens, and require funding to operate. Simply put, the budget math goes something like this:

**Agency ongoing costs + New Programs = 2016 & 2017 biannual budget**

While this formula looks pretty simple, getting to the end of the equation can prove quite challenging.

### Next Major Deadlines:

- **Friday, May 1:** Economic Forum meets to report revenue forecasts
- **Monday, May 4:** Money committees start resolving budget differences
- **Friday, May 15:** Committee Passage, Second House

In spite of the focus on budget, hearings based on policy also continue. Bills that survived the First House Passage now transfer to the other house and begin the hearing, amendment, and approval process all over again with the second body. These bills need to be approved by the Second House Committee by May 15 in order to survive.

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22**

#### Assembly Education

- ~ **SB25**, presented by the Nevada Department of Education, is a “cleanup” bill, which ironically includes repealing a section of NRS pertaining to environmentally safe cleaning products. The bill also addresses agreements among school districts and charter schools pertaining to distance education courses for students.

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 23**

#### Senate Education

- ~ **AB112** - a bill regarding safe and respectful learning environments at school. Specifically, the bill addresses bullying in instances that occur between adults within a school site. Should the bill pass, AB112 will update the legislative intent regarding bullying and that it does include adults as well as requires the Nevada Department of Education to come up with regulations on reporting and support for bullying that may go on between teachers, administrators, and other educational staff.
- ~ **AB117** - a bill that would allow private companies to lease school buses from the local school district for large-scale public events. The bill requires that, if a school district wishes, they may enter into a contract with an entity to use the bus as long as all school district markings are covered up, it is driven by a licensed professional, and the notification lights are not used except for emergencies. School districts would be protected from liability, and may charge fees to cover all maintenance, mileage, fuel, and other costs that may exist.
- ~ **AB351** – A bill that would expand the number of charter schools that could utilize the bonding authority provided by the 2013 Legislature for school construction.

### **FRIDAY, APRIL 24**

#### K-12 Joint Subcommittee

The Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Funding met to start the process of closing the budget for the Distributive School Account and other education related funding priorities. The subcommittee covered several topics and asked several questions regarding the programs and their purposes. The subcommittee did not complete the entire agenda for the work session in spite of a three-hour meeting and decision-making about which programs to fund have not yet been made. The following topics were discussed:

- **Special Education Funding:** The Governor’s budget includes a weighted per-pupil allocation for students with special needs, which includes an increase in funding within the Distributive School Account of \$25 million dollars in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the biennium. This is especially significant because it is the first step toward a weighted funding formula, a vital change to determining per pupil funding. The committee also created a \$5 million special education contingency fund for those special cases where service for the child is extremely expensive.
- **English Language Learners:** The Governor’s budget seeks additional funding to double the number of Zoom schools. Zoom schools would be able to use the funding for professional development, teacher recruitment incentives, and parent involvement programs. The funding would also expand Zoom programs to a small number of middle and high schools.
- **At-Risk Student Populations:** The Governor is proposing \$25 million for each year in the upcoming budget for the creation of Victory Schools. Victory schools would be designated by the Nevada Department of Education to help serve students at risk due to poverty. The funding would pay for programs similar to those implemented at Zoom schools, but with a wider variety of programs and more flexibility. It was noted that some of the needed services would be provided through community partnerships because many of the challenges our at-risk students face are not just academic, but are both social and economic as well.
- **Full Day Kindergarten:** The Governor proposes funding for full-day Kindergarten in every Nevada elementary school by the 2016-2017 school year. The Committee had an in-depth discussion on the implementation of this plan and how to determine which schools to serve first. No decisions were made at this time but the point was clearly made that the state needs to be careful with the implementation to avoid any legal issues that may come forward if the implementation is not equalized.
- **Harbor Master Fund:** The Harbor Master Fund is a program that would appropriate \$20 million over two years to a non-profit organization that would use the funds to incentivize Charter School Management Organizations to come to Nevada. The Committee specifically questioned how the non-profit would be selected, and whether

Nevada should be spending \$20 million on charter school businesses that aren't actually in Nevada, when the need for funding in the schools that currently reside here is so great.

- **Technology Grant:** The Governor's budget priority regarding technology in schools would allocate \$23.2 million each year in the biennium to create a 1-to-1 computer device program. The 1-to-1 program would put a portable computer device in every student's hand starting with Nevada's middle school students. There is also a \$1 million grant program which would be used to help upgrade Nevada's school district computer infrastructure to accommodate all the new devices that would be coming online over the next two years.
- **Professional Development:** The committee discussed the Governor's proposal to create the Great Teachers and Leaders Fund. This fund would be available for numerous groups to apply to in order to provide high quality professional development to Nevada's educators. The Department of Education would ultimately decide what professional development is needed and the Nevada State Board of Education will decide which proposals would ultimately receive funding. School districts, out-of-state providers, and the Regional Professional Development Programs would all be able to apply for this funding. The Department of Education is also tasked with hiring an external evaluator to measure the success of the programs and report back to the legislature.

### 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](http://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

### Upcoming Meetings Week of April 27 – May 1, 2015

Bill #	Description	Status/Location	Next Meeting Title	Next Meeting Date
SB405	Expands the program of Zoom schools and the provision of programs and services to children who are limited English proficient in certain other schools. (BDR S-887)	Finance	Senate Committee on Finance	4/27/2015 8:00 AM
SB432	Makes an appropriation to be distributed to certain public schools designated as Victory schools. (BDR S-1187)	Finance	Senate Committee on Finance	4/27/2015 8:00 AM
SB474	Creates the Great Teaching and Leading Fund. (BDR 34-1183)	Finance	Senate Committee on Finance	4/27/2015 8:00 AM
SB491	Makes an appropriation to provide a grant for the recruitment of persons to establish and operate high quality charter schools to serve families with the greatest needs. (BDR S-1189)	Finance	Senate Committee on Finance	4/27/2015 8:00 AM
SB508	Provides for long-term modernization of the Nevada Plan. (BDR 34-1184)	Finance	Senate Committee on Finance	4/27/2015 8:00 AM
AB378	Revises provisions governing the financial support of charter schools. (BDR 34-807)	Ways and Means	Assembly Committee on Ways and Means	4/27/2015 8:30 AM
AB394	Creates an advisory committee and a technical committee to develop a plan to reorganize the Clark County School District. (BDR S-900)	Ways and Means	Assembly Committee on Ways and Means	4/27/2015 8:30 AM
AB395	Revises provisions relating to the State Public Charter School Authority. (BDR 34-902)	Ways and Means	Assembly Committee on Ways and Means	4/27/2015 8:30 AM
AB448	Revises provisions relating to education. (BDR 34-746)	Ways and Means	Assembly Committee on Ways and Means	4/27/2015 8:30 AM
SB448	Revises provisions governing the deposit of certain public money in insured institutions. (BDR 31-1141)	Government Affairs	Assembly Committee on Government Affairs	4/27/2015 9:00 AM

AB19	Revises provisions governing the timing of the adoption of tentative budgets by certain local governments. (BDR 31-456)	Government Affairs	Senate Committee on Government Affairs	4/27/2015 1:00 PM
SB13	Revises provisions relating to the provision of public education to pupils with disabilities. (BDR 34-311)	Education	Assembly Committee on Education	4/27/2015 3:15 PM
SB75	Revises provisions governing the administration of certain examinations. (BDR 34-472)	Education	Assembly Committee on Education	4/27/2015 3:15 PM
SB313	Authorizes the governing body of a private school or a university school for profoundly gifted pupils to provide a program of distance education. (BDR 34-1032)	Education	Assembly Committee on Education	4/27/2015 3:15 PM
SB390	Revises provisions relating to charter schools. (BDR 34-78)	Education	Assembly Committee on Education	4/27/2015 3:15 PM
AB52	Revises provisions governing the persons responsible for a child's welfare. (BDR 38-192)	Health and Human Services	Senate Committee on Health and Human Services	4/27/2015 3:30 PM
AB456	Abolishes certain committees, boards, funds and panels. (BDR 38-551)	Health and Human Services	Senate Committee on Health and Human Services -- Work Session Item	4/27/2015 3:30 PM
SB164	Revises provisions prohibiting certain discriminatory acts. (BDR 18-59)	Government Affairs	Assembly Committee on Government Affairs	4/28/2015 8:30 AM
AB107	Revises provisions relating to reports of accountability for public schools. (BDR 34-407)	Education	Senate Committee on Education	4/28/2015 3:30 PM
AB178	Revises provisions governing the discipline of pupils. (BDR 34-248)	Education	Senate Committee on Education	4/28/2015 3:30 PM
AB205	Requires the Legislative Committee on Education to consider matters relating to certain mentorship programs. (BDR S-116)	Education	Senate Committee on Education	4/28/2015 3:30 PM
AB321	Revises provisions relating to school police officers .(BDR 34-925)	Education	Senate Committee on Education	4/28/2015 3:30 PM
SB56	Revises provisions governing graffiti. (BDR 15-479)	Judiciary	Assembly Committee on Judiciary	4/29/2015 8:00 AM
SB138	Revises provisions governing the forfeiture of property. (BDR 14-222)	Judiciary	Assembly Committee on Judiciary	4/29/2015 8:00 AM
SB339	Authorizes the Nevada System of Higher Education to impose additional restrictions relating to the use of tobacco. (BDR 15-873)	Judiciary	Assembly Committee on Judiciary	4/29/2015 8:00 AM
AB89	Makes various changes to provisions relating to certain professions. (BDR 53-295)	Commerce, Labor and Energy	Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy	4/29/2015 8:30 AM
AB115	Revises provisions governing audiologists, speech-language pathologists and hearing aid specialists. (BDR 54-165)	Commerce, Labor and Energy	Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy	4/29/2015 8:30 AM
AB106	Revises provisions related to public works. (BDR 28-244)	Government Affairs	Senate Committee on Government Affairs	4/29/2015 1:30 PM
AB170	Revises provisions governing general obligations. (BDR 30-917)	Government Affairs	Senate Committee on Government Affairs	4/29/2015 1:30 PM

SB137	Enacts provisions governing stand-alone dental benefits and policies of health care. (BDR 57-575)	Commerce and Labor	Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor	4/29/2015 1:30 PM
SB159	Revises provisions relating to insurance. (BDR 57-829)	Commerce and Labor	Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor -- Work Session Item	4/29/2015 1:30 PM
SB217	Revises provisions relating to policies of health insurance. (BDR 57-836)	Commerce and Labor	Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor -- Work Session Item	4/29/2015 1:30 PM
AB50	Revises provisions concerning the solicitation of contributions. (BDR 7-447)	Judiciary	Senate Committee on Judiciary	4/30/2015 1:00 PM

## Attachments

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

- *CCSD Legislation Status Report 4-24-15*

## Want to Learn More?

In case you didn't know: here's some information about what the Economic Forum is and why their role in the legislative session is so important.

Since Nevada's budget is built in two-year cycles, much of how the budget is put together is based on conjecture and speculation about how much revenue the State will collect in the future. These projections are provided by Nevada's Economic Forum. The Economic Forum consists of industry, tax, and financial leaders from across the state. Their job is to look at Nevada's previous economic growth, future possible growth, and expected returns on all the taxes that will be collected over the next two years. The members of the Forum use this information to decide exactly how big or small Nevada's budget will be. Once the Economic Forum provides its projections, the Nevada Legislature cannot pass a budget that goes a penny over what the Economic Forum declares the budget number will be . . . unless they decide to raise revenues to pay for whatever goes above and beyond the Forum's predictions.

The Nevada Legislature has been gradually closing budgets for government agencies to establish exactly how much each piece of the formula will cost. More and more budgets will continue be closed as members of the Legislature decide the priorities of each of these agencies.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, Nevada's Economic Forum will meet and will indicate the amount of funding legislators must use to establish their budget. The Legislature will then begin deciding which exempt bills can fit into their budget and what additional monies might be needed to pay for them.

Starting May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Legislature will begin dealing with the budget requests and make their final decisions on agency and priority budgets such as the Distributive School Account, the fund that provides money for all of Nevada's public schools. All of these budget reconciliations must be finished by May 21<sup>st</sup>.

By May 27<sup>th</sup>, all Budget Bills must be introduced. These bills will be debated and voted on by both Senate and Assembly. May 27<sup>th</sup> is also when all exempt bills must be voted out of Committee. At this point the Legislature will know how much is in the current budget and if money will need to be raised or if programs must be cut to make the budget balance. All action on these decisions must be completed by the end of the 120<sup>th</sup> day of the session, which is midnight, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Should the body fail to meet this deadline, it is likely that a special session will be called.

The Nevada Economic Forum is not infallible. Through the next two years the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) will be monitoring revenues and expenditures to ensure Nevada's budget stays in balance. IFC is not allowed to raise revenue, they do, however, have the authority to repurpose and spend additional revenues that come in unexpectedly. Thus, Nevada's budgeting process never truly ends and is always evolving with the ebb and flow of the state's economy.