



February 25, 2017

As the Legislature gained momentum, week three proved to be eventful, especially for education policy followers. In Assembly Ways and Means, a passionate and sometimes riotous meeting occurred when they reviewed the State Treasurer's requested budget. One of the most controversial issues of the 2017 session is the \$60 million budget appropriation for Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). Tuesday's hearing proved just that as several hours of public testimony was heard in both support and opposition to ESAs.

As the State Treasurer presented his budget, legislators on both sides of the aisle expressed their outrage for his handling of the Office's budget accounts. Accusations that the Treasurer's Office used public dollars on only the programs the Office found valuable, instead of how the law directed the money to be spent, angered many members on the Committee.

Specifically, the biggest concern brought forward by the Committee was the Treasurer's use of money that was originally appropriated to go to hire staff, and instead, was used for advertising ESAs, a purpose not approved by the Legislature. Other legislators had concerns that the Treasurer's Office continued to spend money on the program even after a judge put an injunction on ESA's shortly after the program began to be implemented.

At the end of the hearing, Governor Sandoval's budget director notified the Committee that the Governor is submitting a bill to align Education Savings Accounts with the \$60 million budget appropriation.

Highlights from Week Three

Monday, February 20

Although a holiday for many people, the Legislature was in full swing on President's Day. The Assembly Committee on Education held their first work session and voted out two bills, AB1 and AB24. In addition, they held hearings on two bills, AB166 and AB225. Both bills seek to change school start times. AB166 mandates school start times for all elementary, middle and

high schools as well as adds 45 minutes to the school day for Breakfast After the Bell and requires additional recess time for students. AB225 mandates only high school start times. The Clark County School District (CCSD) testified in opposition to both bills based on the need for local control in order to efficiently allocate limited resources and provide the necessary services to each individual local school precinct.

Tuesday, February 21

On Tuesday, February 21st, the Senate Finance Committee considered SB89, the Education Stabilization Fund sponsored by Senator Joyce Woodhouse. SB89 is a priority for both CCSD and the Nevada Association of School Superintendents through their platform, iNVEST, <http://www.ccsd.net/resources/government-affairs/invest-2017-final-web.pdf>. During the bill presentation, Jeremy Aguero of Applied Analysis provided background on the reversions, rescissions, and appropriations that have been made over the years to the education funding accounts. For an explanation of how it works, you can view Mr. Aguero's presentation at: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017/Meeting/5759?p=4000000&p=7004784&p=7704784&p=6026382>.

The Committee also heard SB49, a bill to remove the cap on special education funding presented by the Washoe County School District. After a full discussion on the policy and the funding, the bill was rereferred to the Senate Committee on Education for another hearing.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture presented Senate Bill 3. This bill revises the current Breakfast After the Bell provisions to remove the requirement of schools from filling out a corrective action plan if their school shows a yearly increase in participation of breakfast meals. Clark County School District spoke in support of this bill.

In the Senate Committee on Education, members heard two of Senator Farley's bills, SB166 and SB164. SB166 requires school districts to administer a student survey on the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol. The survey is anonymous, computer adaptive and designed to learn more about specific drugs being used/abused in Nevada.

SB164 allows local school districts to contract out school buses to private vendors for large-scale events such as Electric Daisy Carnival, NASCAR, etc. CCSD testified on this bill to state its concerns with ensuring the buses are kept in good working condition, cleaned thoroughly, and to determine police jurisdiction.

Wednesday, February 22

In Assembly Education on Wednesday, Dr. Tammy Malich presented on CCSD's efforts to provide a safe and respectful learning environment through bullying prevention, discipline programs, and social workers. Representatives from the state's Office of Safe and Respectful

Learning Environments and Washoe County School District discussed efforts to reduce bullying and to improve school climate throughout the state.

Thursday February 23

On Thursday, the Senate Committee on Education heard three bills that may affect the Clark County School District. First, SB112 requires school districts to provide information to students in health class about the benefits of organ donation and how to become a donor if a student chooses. CCSD supported this bill.

Second, SB132 changes some of the requirements for students to complete in order to graduate. Sponsored by Senator Becky Harris, the bill allows for additional time for students to earn a diploma and requires school districts to create an individual graduation plan for students if they are credit deficient and/or show a need for remediation based on their score on a career and college readiness assessment. CCSD spoke in favor of the bill and offered an amendment to help clarify the remediation process.

The final bill discussed was SB143, a bill sponsored by Senator Becky Harris to require a certified librarian in every school. The bill also stipulates that the Nevada Department of Education determines the amount of books, types of materials, electronic equipment, and the minimum size of each library. While CCSD certainly supports our librarians, it is our belief with the re-organization efforts currently taking place, these types of decisions should be made at the local level. As the plan for the re-organization was developed, we heard from community members and parents about the need for increased flexibility in school-based decisions.

Want to Learn More?

There are many ways to interact with Legislators during the 2017 Legislative Session. Of course, testifying on a bill can be effective but there isn't always the time to travel to Carson City or to the Grant Sawyer Building in Las Vegas to express your opinion. Over the last decade, the Legislature has made strong efforts to provide tools for constituents to access and affect the legislative process by making full use of the Internet. Here are a few ways you can let legislators know how you feel:

1. Send an email or hard copy mail. Go to www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Legislator/A/Senate/ and www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Legislator/A/Assembly/ to get contact information for legislators. Email addresses, office addresses, phone numbers (sometimes even personal cell phone numbers!) are listed.
2. If you don't know who your legislators are, visit <http://mapserve1.leg.state.nv.us/whoRU/>. Type in your address and you'll get a list of the senate, assembly, congressional and board of regents district you're in, as well as a link to the elected officials in those offices.

3. Use the “share your opinion” option on the Nevada Legislature website: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Opinions/79th2017/A/>. On this website you can identify the bill number, indicate whether you are for or against it, and type in comments.

Coming Up:

Scheduled Meetings for the Week of February 27, 2017

Bill	Description	Sponsor	Next Meeting	Date
SB69	Revises provisions governing state agencies, boards and commissions that regulate occupations and professions.	Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy	Senate Commerce, Labor and Energy	2/27/17 8:00 AM
SB175	Designates November 12 as Asian Culture Day in Nevada.	Senators Hammond, et al	Senate Government Affairs	2/27/17 1:00 PM
AB113	Requires an employer to make certain accommodations for a nursing mother.	Spiegel	Assembly Health and Human Services	2/27/17 1:00 PM
AB149	Revises provisions relating to noncompete provisions in employment contracts.	Carrillo	Assembly Commerce and Labor	2/27/17 1:30 PM
AB211	Revises provisions governing compensation and wages.	Jauregui, Fumo and McCurdy II	Assembly Commerce and Labor	2/27/17 1:30 PM
AB110	Revises provisions governing education. (Competency-based Education)	Committee on Education	Assembly Education	2/27/17 3:15 PM
AB221	Requires a school district to allow pupils and employees of a charter school to evacuate to a public school in the district during a crisis or emergency.	Bilbray-Axelrod	Assembly Education	2/27/17 3:15 PM
SB84	Makes various changes relating to ethics in government.	Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections	Senate Legislative Operations and Elections	2/27/17 3:30 PM
SB115	Revises provisions concerning the prohibition against carrying or possessing certain weapons while on certain property.	Senator Denis; Assemblywoman Bilbray-Axelrod	Senate Judiciary	2/28/17 1:30 PM
AB230	Authorizes the use of supplemental stop lamps on motor vehicles.	Assemblywoman Woodbury; Senator Hardy	Assembly Transportation	2/28/17 3:15 PM
SB153	Revises provisions relating to graduation from high school.	Spearman	Senate Education	2/28/17 3:30 PM
SB200	Revises provisions relating to instruction in computer education and technology.	Senators Woodhouse, Denis, Ford, Spearman, Cancela, Atkinson, Cannizzaro, Gansert,	Senate Education	2/28/17 3:30 PM

		Manendo, Parks, Ratti and Segerblom; Assemblymen Carlton, Frierson and Fumo		
SB66	Revises provisions relating to internship programs.	Committee on Education	Senate Education -- Work Session Item	2/28/17 3:30 PM
SB76	Revises provisions governing the investment of money held by the State or certain political subdivisions of the State.	Committee on Education	Senate Education -- Work Session Item	2/28/17 3:30 PM
SB12	Repeals certain provisions relating to governmental administrative tasks.	Committee on Revenue and Economic Development	Senate Revenue and Economic Development	2/28/17 3:30 PM
SB119	Provides immunity from civil liability to certain volunteers who serve on an organizational team established by the principal of a public school as part of the reorganization of the school district.	Ford	Senate Education -- Work Session Item	2/28/17 3:30 PM
	K-12 Education Budget Hearing		Senate Finance	3/1/17 8:00 AM
SB102	Authorizes the possession of a handgun in a vehicle that is on the property of certain educational entities or child care facilities in certain circumstances.	Settelmeyer	Senate Judiciary	3/1/17 1:30 PM
AB213	Revises provisions relating to dental care.	Ohrenschall	Assembly Commerce and Labor	3/1/17 1:30 PM
AB49	Makes various changes relating to charter schools.	Committee on Education	Assembly Committee	3/1/17 3:15 PM
AB78	Revises provisions relating to the establishment of charter schools.	Committee on Education	Assembly Education	3/1/17 3:15 PM
AB32	Revises provisions governing pest control.	Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining	Assembly Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining	3/2/17 1:30 PM
SB54	Authorizes certain smaller counties to approve additional uses of the proceeds of a tax for infrastructure.	Committee on Revenue and Economic Development	Senate Revenue and Economic Development	3/2/17 3:30 PM
SB147	Authorizes tax credits for employers who assist employees in finding and paying for day care.	Spearman	Senate Revenue and Economic Development	3/2/17 3:30 PM
AB44	Requires the waiver of certain fees for certain veteran-owned businesses.	Committee on Judiciary	Assembly Taxation	3/2/17 4:00 PM

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