



March 6, 2017

The most noteworthy event of the fourth week in the Nevada Legislature centered on Senate Joint Resolution 2, the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. After impassioned speeches by Senators Nicole Cannizzaro, Becky Harris, and Yvanna Cancela, the measure passed out of the Senate by a 13-8 vote.

In education news, students in the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program visited the legislature on Thursday, attending floor sessions and visiting with legislators to share the successes of the program.

Highlights from Week Four

Monday, February 27

In the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, the committee discussed SB165. This bill, introduced by Senator Mo Denis, requires school districts to conduct a height and body mass index test of a representative sample of students. CCSD testified neutral on the bill but expressed concerns related to student privacy and the cost of equipment.

The Assembly Committee on Education heard two bills – AB110 and AB221. The bill on competency-based education, AB110, allows school districts to apply for funds to pilot a program based on a student's mastery of a subject rather than seat time. Brian Mitchell, Director, Governor's Office of Science, Innovation, and Technology presented the bill on behalf of a group, including CCSD staff, that visited other states implementing competency-based programs over the past year.

AB221 enables charter schools to evacuate to either a middle or high school should there be an emergency on their campus. CCSD and many other school districts testified in support of the bill due to an amendment that provides legal protection for a school district should the school be damaged while providing a safe place for charter school students.

Tuesday, February 28

The Senate Committee on Education heard SB200 on Tuesday which requires instruction in computer education and technology for all students in Nevada. Specifically, the bill expands computer courses into elementary school and allows students in high school to use a computer science class as a substitute for up to one math or science credit in order to graduate. CCSD supported the bill and is continuing to work with the sponsor of the legislation to make sure rolling out this program does not incur undue hardship on the current school curriculum.

Wednesday, March 1

The Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and Senate Committee on Finance Subcommittees on K-12/Higher Education/CIP reviewed a series of K-12 education budgets on Wednesday morning. Dr. Steve Canavero, Superintendent of Public Instruction, reviewed the Distributive School Account (DSA), which provides per-pupil funding to Nevada's 17 school districts. Other budgets presented include the Special Education Contingency Account, the State Supplemental School Support Fund (IP1), and Other State Education Programs. For the full presentation, including descriptions of these budgets, please visit <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017/Meeting/5876?p=3000000&p=6027002>. The next budget hearing for K-12 education is on Tuesday, March 7, when the Nevada Department of Education reviews their budget.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Assembly Committee on Education heard AB78, a bill sponsored by the Clark County School District. The purpose of AB78 is to ensure ongoing communication and consultation between charter schools and their local school district. Moreover, the bill reinforces that charter school sponsors, the Nevada Department of Education, and a local school district work together to provide an evaluation of the needs of a community and to align the application process for incoming charter schools to this evaluation. The bill hearing created a lot of discussion on how all public schools can meet the needs of their students and how to better plan for their needs in the future.

AB85 and AB236 were discussed in the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services. AB85, which was supported by CCSD, requires CPR to be taught in all secondary schools. CCSD already teaches CPR in schools and meets the requirements of this bill. The Committee also reviewed AB236, which aims to provide information sharing between school districts and child welfare agencies. The District is working to clarify some of the requirements of the bill.

Thursday, March 2

The Senate Committee on Education heard three bills on Thursday – SB154, SB212, and SB213. The first bill, SB154, introduced by Senator Hammond, allows elementary schools to apply for matching funds to purchase or create a leadership program for its students. CCSD supported this bill as it allows School Organizational Teams (SOTs) the opportunity to look at their schools' current programming needs and budgets to determine if applying for a grant is beneficial.

Senator Gansert introduced SB212 on the Safe-to-Tell program to include threats of suicide in this emergency notification system. This bill further clarifies and supports the Safe-to-Tell program that began with SB338 introduced in 2015 by Senator Debbie Smith.

Senator Gansert also presented SB213 to the committee. The goal of this bill is to ensure compliance of special education programs within school districts. In addition, paraprofessionals would be subjected to a background check every five years. Additional training would also be required under this bill. After speaking with the sponsor, CCSD testified neutral on this bill and will work with the sponsor to make some minor changes. For a full list of all the bills we are tracking, [click here](#).

Want to Learn More?

Nevada's State Legislative website is more than just a place where you can find your Legislator's email address or find out what bills are being heard. In fact, the site, run by the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB), is considered by most to be an essential tool for anyone interested in Nevada and its robust history. So what sort of interesting things can you find when you visit www.leg.state.nv.us?

- The legislative history of every session going back to 1985. This includes specific bills, their sponsors, and even those who were in support or in opposition. For many of these sessions, they even provide the testimony that was given. So if you do ever testify on a bill, know that LCB will archive your comments and you will always be a part of Nevada's rich history.
- The law library allows you to search all current statutes and any regulations that are currently in place.
- The website lets you watch any archived hearing going back to the 2015 Legislative Session.
- The website also lets you view lobbyist information, visit the online gift shop, and search for the name and contact information of your legislator.
- Under the FYI section, you can the view hot topics of the day, or learn where to go if you need help with Nevada's government. They even have an Oral History Project, that tells the story of Nevada through the words and recordings of important figures throughout the state's history.

So, whether you are new to the legislative process or are a lifetime resident of Nevada, there is always something to learn by visiting the legislature's website.

Coming Up:

Scheduled Meetings for the Week of March 6, 2017

Bill #	Description	Sponsors	Meeting Title	Meeting Date
AB10	Revises provisions relating to state purchasing. (BDR27-430)	Government Affairs	Assembly Committee on Government Affairs	3/3/17 8:30 AM
AB178	Revises provisions concerning employment discrimination. (BDR18-831)	Jauregui, Araujo, McCurdy II and Brooks	Assembly Committee on Government Affairs	3/3/17 8:30 AM
AB99	Revises provisions relating to services for children. (BDR38-144)	Araujo	Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services	3/3/17 11:45 AM
SB150	Revises provisions related to energy efficiency programs. (BDR58-568)	Spearman	Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy, Subcommittee on Energy	3/3/17 1:00 PM
SB209	Revises provisions relating to insurance. (BDR53-485)	Commerce, Labor and Energy	Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy	3/6/17 8:00 AM

Bill #	Description	Sponsors	Meeting Title	Meeting Date
AB249	Requires the State Plan for Medicaid and all health insurance plans to provide certain benefits relating to contraception. (BDR38-858)	Frierson, Bilbray-Axelrod, Sprinkle, Benitez-Thompson and Yeager	Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services	3/6/17 1:00 PM
SB78	Revises provisions relating to local government financial administration. (BDR31-403)	Government Affairs	Senate Committee on Government Affairs	3/6/17 1:00 PM
SB176	Revises provisions relating to public safety. (BDR23-666)	Ford, Atkinson, Spearman, Frierson, Neal and Thompson	Senate Committee on Government Affairs	3/6/17 1:00 PM
AB117	Requires certain educational personnel to take certain actions to ensure pupils in grade 11 in public high schools are college and career ready. (BDR34-292)	Flores	Assembly Committee on Education	3/6/17 3:15 PM
AB144	Creates the Nevada Advisory Commission on Mentoring. (BDR34-31)	Thompson, Neal, Joiner, Flores, Cancela and Ford	Assembly Committee on Education	3/6/17 3:15 PM
AB196	Provides for an endorsement that a teacher, administrator or other educational personnel may obtain in culturally responsive educational leadership. (BDR34-659)	McCurdy II, Diaz, Thompson, Flores and Ratti	Assembly Committee on Education	3/6/17 3:15 PM
SB46	Revises provisions governing background checks of operators, employees and certain adult residents of a child care facility. (BDR38-131)	Health and Human Services	Senate Committee on Health and Human Services	3/6/17 3:30 PM
SB233	Requires the State Plan for Medicaid and health insurance plans to provide certain benefits. (BDR38-817)	Ratti, Cancela, Spearman, Cannizzaro and Woodhouse	Senate Committee on Health and Human Services	3/6/17 3:30 PM
AB170	Extends the requirement for the Office of Economic Development to submit quarterly reports relating to certain economic development incentives. (BDR32-302)	Hansen	Assembly Committee on Taxation	3/7/17 4:00 PM
AB239	Enacts the Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act. (BDR59-687)	Judiciary	Assembly Committee on Corrections, Parole, and Probation and Assembly Committee on Judiciary	3/9/17 8:00 AM

Bill #	Description	Sponsors	Meeting Title	Meeting Date
AB43	Revises provisions governing the partial abatement of taxes levied on residential and other property. (BDR32-441)	Taxation	Assembly Committee on Taxation	3/9/17 4:00 PM
AB94	Repeals the prospective expiration of the NV Grow Program. (BDRS-217)	Neal	Assembly Committee on Taxation	3/16/17 4:00 PM

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CCSD Government Relations