



# SESSION SPOTLIGHT

## April 2, 2021

Today is day 61 of the 81st Nevada Legislative Session, so that means we have officially reached the halfway point of session. With less than two months left until sine die (conclusion of session), the pace will really start to pick up as the time between deadlines gets shorter and the budgets get closed. As mentioned before, the next deadline to note is the First Committee Passage next Friday, April 9. If the deadline is not suspended, expect to see many committees hold evening sessions over the next week as they try to move as many bills as possible.

### Senate Committee on Education

The Senate Committee on Education, in [Monday's](#) meeting, heard presentations on SB194 and SB215 while they also passed SB173 out of committee. SB194 creates a State Seal of Civics Program for students. SB215 creates more flexibility in regards to instruction time for students in distance learning as well as requiring reporting from school districts on a plan for distance learning. SB173, the summer school bill, passed with amendments clarifying the bill is only in effect for this year and removes the reversion of unused funds to the state.

On [Wednesday](#), the committee heard three bills: two on mental health from Senator Dondero Loop, and the third bill related to the Nevada System of Higher Education from Senator Dallas Harris. SB230 requires a report from school districts on the effects of distance education on the mental health of students as well as require all school employees to receive training on social and emotional trauma. Meanwhile, SB249 allows students to take three mental health days away from schools and also requires student identification cards to have contact information for a local or national suicide prevention hotline. Finally, SB287 designates University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and Desert Research Institute as state land grant institutions.

In its first [Friday](#) meeting, the Senate Committee on Education also heard a presentation on SB353 which requires the Nevada Department of Education to review all assessments in the state and promulgate regulations to limit the amount of time and exams to be given each year. School Districts would have to apply for a waiver for any exam that exceeds these requirements.

### Assembly Committee on Education

The Assembly Committee on Education also heard a plethora of bills this week. On [Tuesday](#), AB255 was heard which alters the school board structure in Clark and Washoe County into a hybrid format with three appointed positions and the remaining elected with the districts to be divided by their respective county commissions. The committee also heard AB206 which allows military members to pre-enroll their children into distance education as soon as they find out

they will be stationed here, and AB367 which adds disciplinary skills as a core academic subject in American Government. Another bill that was heard was AB257 which requires school districts to use federal funds toward certified technicians to update HVAC systems at schools.

Finally, on Tuesday, the committee also voted out AB67 which updates the restorative justice bill, AB194 regarding the appeals process for suspensions and expulsions, and AB109, which now requires 80% of teachers in charter schools to be licensed.

On [Thursday](#), the committee heard AB231, AB261, and AB417. AB231 establishes a standard of content for instruction related to the Holocaust and other genocides. AB261 requires districts to provide diversity and inclusivity in the academic standards and curriculum. AB417 removes criminal penalties if defects found on a school bus during an inspection are not addressed within 10 days, however, a Superintendent may still be removed for failing to address any such issues.

### **Want to Learn More?**

During any given legislative session, hundreds of people will register to lobby a particular issue or to represent an organization. The State of Nevada has very strict lobbying laws that require everyone to register in order to ensure transparency. Certain responsibilities go along with being a registered lobbyist including filing expenditure reports, abiding by a certain code of conduct, and being trained on the lobbying law of the State. To register as a lobbyist, please visit <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Lobbyist/>.

Not everyone who is advocating for an issue needs to register as a lobbyist. For specific information on whether or not to register or to view the list of lobbyists for the current session, please visit <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Lobbyist/>.

For a list of bills we are tracking click [here](#).

### **[Current Scheduled Meetings for the Week of April 5, 2021](#)**

The "[Calendar of Meetings](#)" on the Nevada Legislature website provides up to date information regarding meetings.

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