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**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION**



WORK SESSION DOCUMENT

March 17, 2003

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L 1/4

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION

DATE: 3/26/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT L

SUBMITTED BY: CAROL STONEFIELD

TAB

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Sponsor: Assemblymen Goldwater, by request

The *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 392.930 currently makes it illegal for a student in grades kindergarten through 12 to have a cellular phone or beeper on a school campus. The statute does not grant jurisdiction to the local board of trustees to control except if the parents and student receive express authorization to do so.

Assembly Bill 138 proposes to repeal NRS 392.930.

Proponents:

The bill was introduced upon request of the students at Becker Middle School. The bill is part of the Project Citizen, supported by the Center for Civic Education and the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Many students have cell phones at the direction or approval of their parents, who want to be able to contact them after school.

- o After the Columbine incident in Colorado, many parents are concerned about school safety.
- o The current school policy is that if a cell phone rings during class the teacher has the authority to take it away. The teacher then turns it in at the school administrative office. The parents must claim the cell phone in person.
- o Pay phones are available but there are not enough. Students have to wait in line, which can be limiting since they also must be off school grounds within 15 minutes of the end of the school day.
- o The administrative offices will not deliver messages because personnel have no way to verify that the person sending the message is a parent or guardian.

A representative of the Center for Civic Education said that the students picked the project because they were concerned that so many of them are doing something illegal.

Opponents:

Concern was expressed that repealing the statute would leave the school district without any legal means to control the use. Students could use them to disrupt classes and to compromise tests by calling each other during class.

Fiscal Impact: None

Proposed Amendments:

A representative of the Washoe County School District offered an amendment to section 2 of the bill. The amendment would authorize the use of the electronic communication device if the student uses it according to the guidelines adopted by the local board of trustees.

The subcommittee recommended an amendment modeled after Kentucky Revised Statutes Annotated § 158.165.

Subcommittee Report:

A subcommittee met with the sponsor and the primary proponents and agreed to recommend that the committee amend AB 138 to authorize local boards of trustees to develop a policy to control the use of electronic communication devices on school grounds and at school-related functions.