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**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION**



**WORK SESSION DOCUMENT**

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Q 1/3

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION  
DATE: 4/9/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT Q  
SUBMITTED BY: CAROL STONEFIELD

**TAB**

**D**

Sponsor: Assemblyman Perkins

The board of trustees of a local school district shall ensure that high school libraries are open to the public on a year-round basis. Any member of the general public who holds a library card issued from a public library may use the school district library.

The board of trustees may enter into cooperative agreements with any public library governing boards or authorities for staffing and resources. The board may not request reimbursement for the costs associated with use of the library by the general public.

Proponents: The sponsor indicated that this bill is the result of a competition that he sponsors in high schools in his district. The group of students who presented the bill won the competition with this proposal.

Proponents said that keeping existing school libraries open would be less expensive than building new ones. The last vote on increasing property taxes for public libraries failed. The distance to public libraries is prohibitive for some students. This proposal might be eligible for grant funding through No Child Left Behind. High school libraries are not open long enough after school so that students can complete assignments. If high school libraries were open in the summer, students could accomplish reading assignments from English teachers.

Opponents: Opponents cited cost of operations. These issues included: One person cannot staff a library that is open to the public. Schools do not have convenient outside access for the general public. The physical plant of schools is not designed to heat or cool a single room, such as the library. The library collection of a school is designed to meet the needs of a high school curriculum and not the reading interests of the general public. Automation systems of school libraries are different from those of public libraries.

This is an unfunded mandate. Nevada should fund school libraries adequately.

Fiscal Impact: Local governments: varies by district

Proposed Amendments: None