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WORK SESSION DOCUMENT

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SENATE BILL**

SENATE BILL 34.....TAB A
SENATE BILL 150.....TAB B
SENATE BILL 234.....TAB C
SENATE BILL 253.....TAB D

~~114~~
E 114

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION
DATE: 5/12/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT E
SUBMITTED BY: CAROL STONEFIELD

TAB

D

E 2/4

Sponsor: Senator Cegavske and Assemblywoman Giunchigliani

The measure provides that the days on which a pupil is absent from school with the approval of the teacher or principal must be credited toward the required days of attendance if the pupil completes the course-work requirements. A pupil can have up to 10 such absences in one school year. If a pupil is denied credit or promotion because of excessive absences, the pupil and a parent or guardian may request a review. The principal shall review the reasons for each absence. Based upon the review, the principal shall credit toward the required days of attendance each absence that can be justified because the pupil was physically or mentally unable to attend and the pupil has made up the coursework. The pupil and parent may appeal the principal's decision to the board of trustees.

Proponents: Under NERA, a school is responsible for average daily attendance at 90% of enrollment in order to be considered demonstrating adequate achievement. But pursuant to NRS 392.122, a student can be absent for an unlimited number of times if it is due to physical or mental inability to attend. The school district cannot limit the number of absences.

Prearranged absences are acceptable. When a student hits the maximum number of non-prearranged absences and the student has been denied credit because of the absences, a review may be requested.

Opponents: None

Fiscal Impact: None

Proposed Amendments: The sponsor offered the attached amendment.

E 3/4

Proposed Amendment

Amend Section 1.1, page 2, lines 3-19 as follows:

2. ~~If a pupil is denied~~ If a pupil is under consideration for denial of credit or promotion to the next higher grade for failure to comply with the attendance requirements prescribed pursuant to subsection 1, the pupil and his parent or legal guardian may request a review of the denial of credit or promotion must be notified and informed of their right to a review of the absences and the procedures to request a review. Upon such a request, the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled or his designee shall review the reason for each absence of the pupil that led to the denial of credit or promotion for the pupil. Based upon the review, the principal shall credit towards the required days of attendance each day of absence for which:

(a) There is evidence or a written affirmation by the parent or legal guardian of the pupil that the pupil was physically or mentally unable to attend school on the day of the absence; and

(b) The pupil has completed course-work requirements.

SB 253 Statement of Intent

- a) The school board sets the minimum number of days of attendance for credit or promotion purposes (which defines the maximum number of absences);
- b) Prearranged absences up to 10 in a year are credited to the required number of days of attendance if course-work is completed;
- c) When a pupil nears or exceeds the maximum number of non-prearranged absences and if the school is considering denying credit or promotion to the next higher grade, the parent/guardian must be notified and informed of the right to request a review of the absences;
- d) If the pupil and parent/guardian then request a review of the absences, the principal or his designee must review the causes of the absences;
- e) Absences for which there is confirmed evidence or written affirmation by the parent that the pupil was physically or mentally unable to attend school are credited toward the required days of attendance if course-work is completed;
- f) The pupil and parent/guardian may appeal a denial of credit or promotion based on this section to the board of school trustees.