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Exhibit I

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
FOR
SENATE BILL 34
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Senate Bill 34 is another measure from the interim Legislative Committee on Education. This bill deals with two issues:

- ❖ Early admission of pupils into kindergarten;
- ❖ A technical correction concerning student promotion to 8th grade.

Kindergarten Admission

Current statutes limit entrance to kindergarten and first grade to children reaching a certain age by September 30 and provide for no exceptions. There is no appeals process for parents in this regard. Parents desiring individual consideration for their children who wish to enter school at an earlier age routinely contact legislators. The Legislative Committee on Education noted that current research indicates that children develop at different rates, and wished to address the lack of an appeal process in this matter.

The major changes contained in this measure may be found in subsections 7 and 8 of Section 1, beginning on pages 3. These subsections would permit parents of children with a birthday up to six months after the September 30th cut-off date to ask the school district to consider their child for early admission to kindergarten or first grade. You will note the developmental screening concept already exists in current law under existing language in subsection six near the bottom of page 2.

Under subsection 9, beginning at the bottom of page 3, at the request of a parent and the school district would conduct a developmental screening to determine if the child was ready for school despite having a birthday after the cut-off date.

Of the other states that allow for exceptions, a few use this same approach, while some, like Arizona and Delaware, make the admission permissive and another state—North Dakota – allows early admission of students that demonstrate special talents or abilities.

EXHIBIT I Committee on Finance

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Retention in Eighth Grade

This next provision was submitted to the Legislative Committee on Education as a technical cleanup of two potentially conflicting statutes.

In 1999, the Legislature enacted a law that stopped social promotion from 8th grade into high school. Instead, Nevada students were required to pass a certain number of credits in reading and mathematics in middle school to be promoted to high school.

It was brought to the Committee's attention that this statute conflicted with another statute that prohibits retaining a student in a grade for more than one year. Although the Nevada Attorney General's office has issued a legal opinion reconciling the two statutes that upholds the requirements for promotion into high school, the Committee recommended that the statutes be amended to resolve the conflict

Therefore, **Section 2** of the bill clarifies that the requirements to be promoted to high school supersede the prohibition against retention in a grade for more than one year.

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