

## DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or [library@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:library@lcb.state.nv.us).

Senate Bill 57—juvenile restitution work program  
Senator Valerie Wiener  
February 11, 2003

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, for the record, I am State Senator Valerie Wiener, representing Clark County, District 3. Today, I am here to urge your support for Senate Bill 57, which revises certain provisions governing juvenile restitution work programs.

SB 57 reflects an “evolutionary process” toward developing opportunities for juveniles to participate in a restorative justice program. I first introduced legislation in 1999 to enable counties to create work programs for juveniles in the mode of “restorative justice.” These programs would help juvenile delinquents learn work ethics and employability skills, as well as accountability for their actions. They would be employed to earn restitution money to compensate victims of their delinquent behaviors. Last session, I amended the bill to allow juveniles to keep 50 percent of the money—while paying 50 percent to their victims—to utilize the program as a dual learning experience. They would develop accountability for their acts AND earn money for a job well done.

I would like to add that, since I first introduced this legislation in 1999, it has taken a while for it to be implemented in Clark County. Last session, I told members of this committee that I would come back in 2003 with “good news” about the success of the program in Clark County. Finally, with the commitment of Kirby Burgess and his office, the REAL Program—which stands for Restitution Earned, Accountability Learned—IS a REALity! He and his REAL coordinator are attending this hearing from Las Vegas to testify about the details of the program.

SB 57 offers two modest changes that should improve the program and further help the juveniles who participate in it.

The first change, in Section 1, subsection 3 (a) (2) would allow certain youths, currently prohibited from participating in the program, to participate, if their probation officer(s) determines that they would benefit from the program.

The second change, in Section 2, subsection 3 (b) (2) changes the formula of compensation to the juvenile. Currently, all juveniles in the program, whether they find their own jobs or the program finds them, get to keep 50 percent of their paycheck, and the victim receives 50 percent. Under SB 57, a juvenile who finds his or her own employment—subject to approval of the director or probation officer—will get to keep 50 percent of his or her wages earned in the program. The other 50 percent will continue to go to the victim. However, if the program secures the employment for the juvenile, that juvenile will keep 40 percent of his or her paycheck, with 60 percent going to the victim. I call it the “incentive plan.”

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I have believed in this concept since 1998 when I first learned about a similar program in the Florida Attorney General’s Office. Since then I have been committed to a Nevada version of that highly successful restorative justice program. Mr. Chairman and committee members, we’re finally there. And, with your support of SB 57, we will have an even stronger restitution program through work that will benefit our juveniles, their victims, and our communities. Thank you.