SENATE BILL NO. 230-COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION (NRS 218.5352))

MARCH 3, 2003

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Makes various changes regarding transportation of pupils. (BDR 34-641)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Yes. Effect on the State: Yes.

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets formitted material is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to the transportation of pupils; requiring charter schools that provide transportation to comply with statutes and regulations governing the transportation of pupils; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt regulations prescribing a safety program for the evacuation of a school bus by pupils with disabilities; requiring the boards of trustees of school districts and the governing bodies of charter schools to establish and provide safety programs for the safe evacuation of a school bus by pupils with disabilities; increasing the minimum education requirements for drivers of school buses and requiring drivers to be certified in the of cardiopulmonary administration resuscitation; requiring the State Board to prescribe qualifications for persons who provide training to drivers of school buses; providing that drivers of school buses who are required to be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation are not liable for civil damages resulting from the administration cardiopulmonary resuscitation under circumstances; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 386.550 is hereby amended to read as follows: 386.550 1. A charter school shall:

- (a) Comply with all laws and regulations relating to discrimination and civil rights.
- (b) Remain nonsectarian, including, without limitation, in its educational programs, policies for admission and employment practices.
- (c) Refrain from charging tuition or fees, levying taxes or issuing bonds.
- (d) Comply with any plan for desegregation ordered by a court that is in effect in the school district in which the charter school is located.
 - (e) Comply with the provisions of chapter 241 of NRS.
- (f) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, schedule and provide annually at least as many days of instruction as are required of other public schools located in the same school district as the charter school is located. The governing body of a charter school may submit a written request to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for a waiver from providing the days of instruction required by this paragraph. The Superintendent of Public Instruction may grant such a request if the governing body demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Superintendent that:
 - (1) Extenuating circumstances exist to justify the waiver; and
- (2) The charter school will provide at least as many hours or minutes of instruction as would be provided under a program consisting of 180 days.
- (g) Cooperate with the board of trustees of the school district in the administration of the achievement and proficiency examinations administered pursuant to NRS 389.015 and the examinations required pursuant to NRS 389.550 to the pupils who are enrolled in the charter school.
- (h) Comply with applicable statutes and regulations governing the achievement and proficiency of pupils in this state.
- (i) Provide instruction in the core academic subjects set forth in subsection 1 of NRS 389.018, as applicable for the grade levels of pupils who are enrolled in the charter school, and provide at least the courses of study that are required of pupils by statute or regulation for promotion to the next grade or graduation from a public high school and require the pupils who are enrolled in the charter school to take those courses of study. This paragraph does not preclude a charter school from offering, or requiring the pupils



who are enrolled in the charter school to take, other courses of study that are required by statute or regulation.

- (j) If the parent or legal guardian of a child submits an application to enroll in kindergarten, first grade or second grade at the charter school, comply with NRS 392.040 regarding the ages for enrollment in those grades.
- (k) Refrain from using public money to purchase real property or buildings without the approval of the sponsor.
- (1) Hold harmless, indemnify and defend the sponsor of the charter school against any claim or liability arising from an act or omission by the governing body of the charter school or an employee or officer of the charter school. An action at law may not be maintained against the sponsor of a charter school for any cause of action for which the charter school has obtained liability insurance.
- (m) Provide written notice to the parents or legal guardians of pupils in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, who are enrolled in the charter school of whether the charter school is accredited by the Commission on Schools of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges.
- (n) Adopt a final budget in accordance with the regulations adopted by the Department. A charter school is not required to adopt a final budget pursuant to NRS 354.598 or otherwise comply with the provisions of chapter 354 of NRS.
- (o) If the charter school provides a program of distance education pursuant to NRS 388.820 to 388.874, inclusive, comply with all statutes and regulations that are applicable to a program of distance education for purposes of the operation of the program.
- (p) If the charter school provides transportation for pupils, comply with the applicable provisions of NRS 392.300 to 392.410, inclusive, and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto.
- 2. A charter school shall not provide instruction through a program of distance education to children who are exempt from compulsory attendance authorized by the State Board pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 392.070. As used in this subsection, "distance education" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 388.826.
 - **Sec. 2.** NRS 392.300 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 392.300 1. As provided in this title, the board of trustees of any school district may furnish transportation for all resident children of school age in the school district attending a public school, including pupils assigned to special schools or programs pursuant to NRS 388.440 to 388.520, inclusive:
- (a) Who are not excused from school attendance by the provisions of this title; and



- (b) Who reside within the school district at such a distance from the school as to make transportation necessary and desirable.
- 2. When the board of trustees of a school district whose population is less than 100,000 furnishes transportation for pupils attending public schools pursuant to subsection 1, the board may also provide transportation for all resident children of school age in the school district attending private schools not operated for profit, over bus routes established for pupils attending public schools. If such transportation is provided, the pupils attending such private schools must be transported, if space is available, to and from the points on the established routes nearest to the schools which they attend.
 - 3. The board of trustees of any school district may:
 - (a) Establish bus routes.

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- (b) Make regulations governing the conduct of pupils while being transported.
- (c) For the safety of pupils being transported, govern the conduct of drivers by making and enforcing regulations not inconsistent with regulations of the State Board [of Education] or with law.
- 4. The governing body of a charter school may furnish transportation for the pupils enrolled in the charter school if the charter school complies with the applicable provisions of NRS 392.300 to 392.410, inclusive, and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto.
 - **Sec. 3.** NRS 392.340 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 392.340 Nothing in this chapter admits or assumes any tort liability to any pupil or the parent or guardian thereof for injury or death resulting from transportation furnished such pupil by the board of trustees of a school district [,] or the governing body of a charter school unless such liability is specifically assumed by law.
 - **Sec. 4.** NRS 392.375 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 392.375 1. [At] Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, at least twice each school year, a school district and the governing body of a charter school that provides transportation for the pupils enrolled in the charter school shall require all the pupils in the school district or the charter school, as applicable, who ride a school bus to practice the evacuation of a school bus for a purpose other than a crisis governed by NRS 392.600 to 392.656, inclusive, and to receive instruction in the responsibility of a passenger of a school bus to use the emergency exit doors on the bus during such an evacuation.
- 2. [Each] Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, each school district and each governing body of a charter school that provides transportation for the pupils enrolled in the charter



school shall adopt a safety program which does not concern a crisis governed by NRS 392.600 to 392.656, inclusive, and which includes, without limitation:

- (a) The procedure for pupils to safely enter and exit a school bus, including entering and exiting with a driver of a school bus as an escort;
- (b) Proper behavior and conduct of pupils while in areas around a school bus where a high risk of danger to pupils exists, including the area that is used to load and unload school buses;
- (c) Behavior and conduct of pupils while on a school bus that will enhance the safety of the pupils;
 - (d) Evacuation of pupils from a school bus; and

(e) The location of emergency equipment on a school

[At] Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, at least annually, a school district and the governing body of a charter school that provides transportation for pupils enrolled in the charter school shall require all pupils who are enrolled in preschool, kindergarten and in grades 1 to 4, inclusive, in the school district or the charter school, as applicable, and who ride a school bus to participate in the safety program created pursuant to this section.

- 3. If a parent or legal guardian enrolls his child in preschool, kindergarten or grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and the child will be riding a school bus for the first time, the school shall provide the parent or legal guardian, upon enrollment, with written information concerning the safety of pupils on a school bus. The information must include, without limitation:
- (a) A description of each location that is designated to load and unload a school bus which is in geographical proximity to the pupil's residence;
- (b) Rules of conduct for pupils on a school bus and at an area that is designated for pupils to enter and exit a school bus;
 - (c) Instructions for the operation of a motor vehicle:
- (1) At school crossing zones and in areas that are designated to load and unload a school bus; and
- (2) When a driver of a school bus operates a system of flashing red lights;
- (d) A description of the area around a school bus that poses a high risk of danger to pupils and other pedestrians; and
- (e) Behavior and conduct for pupils who walk to and from an area that is designated for pupils to enter and exit a school bus that will enhance the safety of the pupils.
- 4. The board of trustees of each school district shall adopt regulations and the governing body of a charter school that provides transportation for pupils enrolled in the charter school



shall adopt policies regarding practices conducted pursuant to subsection 1 and participation in safety programs required by subsection 2, including the requirement of such practices and participation in such programs at the beginning of any field trip by school bus.

- 5. Neither the board of trustees of a school district nor the governing body of a charter school shall require a pupil with a disability who rides a school bus to practice the evacuation required by subsection 1 or participate in the safety program pursuant to subsection 2. The State Board shall, by regulation, prescribe the minimum standards for a safety program for the safe evacuation of a school bus by pupils with disabilities for a purpose other than a crisis governed by NRS 392.600 to 392.656, inclusive. The board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school that provides transportation for pupils enrolled in the charter school shall:
- (a) Establish and provide a safety program which does not concern a crisis governed by NRS 392.600 to 392.656, inclusive, for the safe evacuation of a school bus by pupils with disabilities which meets the minimum standards prescribed by the State Board.
- (b) Require pupils with disabilities who ride a school bus to participate in the safety program established pursuant to paragraph (a).

Sec. 5. NRS 392.380 is hereby amended to read as follows:

392.380 1. No person may be employed by a board of trustees of a school district *or the governing body of a charter school* as a driver of a school bus, station wagon, automobile or other motor vehicle, or mechanically or self-propelled vehicle of any kind which transports pupils to and from school or any other place in connection with school activities unless:

- (a) He is of good, reputable and sober character.
- (b) He is competent and qualified by experience and disposition to operate the particular type of vehicle in a safe and dependable manner.
- (c) He is licensed under the laws of this state to operate the particular type of vehicle.
- 2. Each driver of a school bus or a bus used to transport pupils [for extracurricular activities] must complete a training course approved by the State Board [of Education which includes] and provided by a person who satisfies the qualifications prescribed by the State Board pursuant to subsection 5. The training must include at least [10] 20 hours of training while operating the vehicle [, and 10] and at least 20 hours of training in:
 - (a) The responsibilities of drivers;



- (b) The requirements for drivers of school vehicles;
- (c) The appropriate management and discipline of disruptive pupils who threaten the safety of other pupils or the driver while riding in a school bus;
- (d) The laws affecting the operation of a school bus or a vehicle belonging to a school district;
 - (e) Defensive driving;
 - (f) Emergency procedures; and
 - $\frac{(f)}{(g)}$ First aid.

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- 3. In addition to the training required by subsection 2, each driver of a school bus or a bus used to transport pupils must establish and maintain current certification in the administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Such training must comply with the guidelines established by the American National Red Cross or the American Heart Association for the certification of persons in the administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- 4. Each driver must pass a written test each year approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and administered by the local school district.
- [4. A board of trustees may employ a pupil attending a school under the supervision of the board as a driver when he possesses the qualifications stated in subsection 1 and his guardian or parents first consent to his employment. The board of trustees may arrange or contract, in writing, with the pupil, and with his parents or guardian if he is under the age of 18 years, for his services as a driver upon such terms, conditions and provisions and for such compensation as the board deems most economical and for the best interests of the school district, pupils and other persons.
- 5. Before January 1, 1984, the
- 5. The State Board [of Education shall adopt] shall adopt regulations:
- (a) Prescribing the qualifications required of persons who provide training to drivers of school buses and other buses used to transport pupils.
- (b) Other regulations as it considers necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.
 - **Sec. 6.** NRS 392.400 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 392.400 1. All vehicles used in the transportation of pupils must be:
 - (a) In good condition and state of repair.
- (b) Well equipped, and must contain sufficient room and seats so that the driver and each pupil being transported have a seat inside the vehicle. Each pupil shall remain seated when the vehicle is in motion.



(c) Inspected semiannually by the Department of Public Safety to ensure that the vehicles are mechanically safe and meet the minimum specifications established by the State Board. The Department of Public Safety shall make written recommendations to the superintendent of schools of the school district or the administrative head of the charter school, as applicable, wherein any such vehicle is operating for the correction of any defects discovered thereby.

- 2. If the superintendent of schools *or the administrative head* of the charter school, as applicable, fails or refuses to take appropriate action to have the defects corrected within 10 days after receiving notice of them from the Department of Public Safety, he is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof may be removed from office.
- 3. [Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, all] All vehicles used for transporting pupils must meet the specifications established by regulation of the State Board.
- 4. [Any bus which is purchased and used by a school district to transport pupils to and from extracurricular activities is exempt from the specifications adopted by the State Board if the bus meets the federal safety standards for motor vehicles which were applicable at the time the bus was manufactured and delivered for introduction in interstate commerce.
- 5.] Any person violating any of the requirements of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.
 - Sec. 7. NRS 392.410 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 392.410 1. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, every school bus operated for the transportation of pupils [to or from school] must be equipped with:
- (a) A system of flashing red lights of a type approved by the State Board and installed at the expense of the school district or operator. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the driver shall operate this signal:
 - (1) When the bus is stopped to unload pupils.
 - (2) When the bus is stopped to load pupils.
 - (3) In times of emergency or accident, when appropriate.
- (b) A mechanical device, attached to the front of the bus which, when extended, causes persons to walk around the device. The device must be approved by the State Board and installed at the expense of the school district or operator. The driver shall operate the device when the bus is stopped to load or unload pupils. The installation of such a mechanical device is not required for a school bus which is used solely to transport pupils with special needs who are individually loaded and unloaded in a manner which does not require them to walk in front of the bus. The provisions of this



paragraph do not prohibit a school district from upgrading or replacing such a mechanical device with a more efficient and effective device that is approved by the State Board.

- 2. A driver may stop to load and unload pupils in a designated area without operating the system of flashing red lights required by subsection 1 if [the]:
 - (a) **The** designated area:

[(a)] (1) Has been designated by a school district and approved by the Department;

[(b)] (2) Is of sufficient depth and length to provide space for the bus to park at least 8 feet off the traveled portion of the roadway;

(c) (3) Is not within an intersection of roadways;

[(d)] (4) Contains ample space between the exit door of the bus and the parking area to allow safe exit from the bus;

[(e)] (5) Is located so as to allow the bus to reenter the traffic from its parked position without creating a traffic hazard; and

[(f)] (6) Is located so as to allow pupils to enter and exit the bus without crossing the roadway.

- (b) The driver is individually loading or unloading a pupil with special needs in a manner which does not require the pupil to walk in front of the bus and the driver has determined that the safety of the pupil will not be compromised if the system of flashing red lights is not used.
- 3. In addition to the equipment required by subsection 1, [and except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 of NRS 392.400,] each school bus must be equipped and identified as required by the regulations of the State Board.
- 4. The agents and employees of the Department of Motor Vehicles shall inspect school buses to determine whether the provisions of this section concerning equipment and identification of the school buses have been complied with, and shall report any violations discovered to the superintendent of schools of the school district wherein the vehicles are operating ... or to the administrative head of the charter school, as applicable.
- 5. If the superintendent of schools *or the administrative head* of the charter school, as applicable, fails or refuses to take appropriate action to correct any such violation within 10 days after receiving notice of it from the Department of Motor Vehicles, he is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction must be removed from office.
- 6. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.
 - **Sec. 8.** NRS 41.500 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 41.500 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 41.505, any person in this state who renders emergency care or assistance in an



emergency, gratuitously and in good faith, is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not amounting to gross negligence, by him in rendering the emergency care or assistance or as a result of any act or failure to act, not amounting to gross negligence, to provide or arrange for further medical treatment for the injured person.

- 2. Any person in this state who acts as a driver of an ambulance or attendant on an ambulance operated by a volunteer service or as a volunteer driver or attendant on an ambulance operated by a political subdivision of this state, or owned by the Federal Government and operated by a contractor of the Federal Government, and who in good faith renders emergency care or assistance to any injured or ill person, whether at the scene of an emergency or while transporting an injured or ill person to or from any clinic, doctor's office or other medical facility, is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not amounting to gross negligence, by him in rendering the emergency care or assistance, or as a result of any act or failure to act, not amounting to gross negligence, to provide or arrange for further medical treatment for the injured or ill person.
- 3. Any appointed member of a volunteer service operating an ambulance or an appointed volunteer serving on an ambulance operated by a political subdivision of this state, other than a driver or attendant, of an ambulance, is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not amounting to gross negligence, by him whenever he is performing his duties in good faith.
- 4. Any person who is a member of a search and rescue organization in this state under the direct supervision of any county sheriff who in good faith renders care or assistance in an emergency to any injured or ill person, whether at the scene of an emergency or while transporting an injured or ill person to or from any clinic, doctor's office or other medical facility, is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not amounting to gross negligence, by him in rendering the emergency care or assistance, or as a result of any act or failure to act, not amounting to gross negligence, to provide or arrange for further medical treatment for the injured or ill person.
- 5. Any person who is employed by or serves as a volunteer for a public fire-fighting agency and who is authorized pursuant to chapter 450B of NRS to render emergency medical care at the scene of an emergency is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not amounting to gross negligence, by that person in rendering that care or as a result of any act or failure to act, not amounting to gross negligence, to provide or arrange for further medical treatment for the injured or ill person.



6. Any person who:

- (a) Has successfully completed a course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation according to the guidelines of the American National Red Cross or American Heart Association;
- (b) Has successfully completed the training requirements of a course in basic emergency care of a person in cardiac arrest conducted in accordance with the standards of the American Heart Association; or
- (c) Is directed by the instructions of a dispatcher for an ambulance, air ambulance or other agency that provides emergency medical services before its arrival at the scene of the emergency,

and who in good faith renders cardiopulmonary resuscitation in accordance with his training or the direction, other than in the course of his regular employment or profession, is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not amounting to gross negligence, by that person in rendering that care.

- 7. For the purposes of subsection 6, a person who:
- (a) Is required to be certified in the administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation pursuant to NRS 391.092 ; or 392.380; and
- (b) In good faith renders cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the property of a public school or in connection with a transportation of pupils to or from a public school or while on activities that are part of the program of a public school,
- shall be presumed to have acted other than in the course of his regular employment or profession.
 - 8. Any person who:
- (a) Has successfully completed a course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and training in the operation and use of an automated external defibrillator that were conducted in accordance with the standards of the American Heart Association or the American National Red Cross; and
- (b) Gratuitously and in good faith renders emergency medical care involving the use of an automated external defibrillator in accordance with his training,
- is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not amounting to gross negligence, by that person in rendering that care.
- 9. A person or governmental entity that provided the requisite training set forth in subsection 8 to a person who renders emergency care in accordance with subsection 8 is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not amounting to gross negligence, by the person rendering such care.



10. A business or organization that has placed an automated external defibrillator for use on its premises is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not amounting to gross negligence, by the person rendering such care or for providing the automated external defibrillator to the person for the purpose of rendering such care if the business or organization:

- (a) Complies with all current federal and state regulations governing the use and placement of an automated external defibrillator;
- (b) Ensures that only a person who has at least the qualifications set forth in subsection 8 uses the automated external defibrillator to provide care;
- (c) Ensures that the automated external defibrillator is maintained and tested according to the operational guidelines established by the manufacturer; and
- (d) Establishes and maintains a program to ensure compliance with current regulations, requirements for training, requirements for notification of emergency medical assistance and guidelines for the maintenance of the equipment.
- 11. As used in this section, "gratuitously" means that the person receiving care or assistance is not required or expected to pay any compensation or other remuneration for receiving the care or assistance.
- **Sec. 9.** On or before September 1, 2003, the State Board of Education shall prescribe the qualifications required of persons to provide training to drivers of school buses and other buses used to transport pupils pursuant to section 5 of this act.
- **Sec. 10.** 1. On or before April 1, 2004, the State Board of Education shall adopt regulations pursuant to subsection 5 of section 4 of this act prescribing the minimum standards for a safety program required pursuant to section 4 of this act, and provide a copy of the minimum standards to the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school.
- 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 4 of this act, to the contrary, the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school shall, on or before July 1, 2004, establish the safety programs required pursuant to section 4 of this act and ensure that the programs comply with the minimum standards prescribed by the State Board of Education.
- **Sec. 11.** 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 5 of this act to the contrary, a person who is employed on or before June 30, 2003, by the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school as a driver of a school bus or other bus used to transport pupils is not required, until July 1, 2004, to complete the additional training required by section 5 of this act



and be certified in the administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

- 2. The board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school shall establish a plan to ensure that all drivers of school buses and other buses used to transport pupils who are employed by the board of trustees or the governing body complete, on or before July 1, 2004, the training required pursuant to section 5 of this act and are certified, on or before July 1, 2004, in the administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- 3. On or before September 1, 2003, the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school shall submit the plan required by subsection 2 to the State Board of Education.
- Sec. 12. The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any additional expenses of a local government that are related to the provisions of this act.
 - **Sec. 13.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2003.



