
SENATE BILL NO. 52—SENATOR SCHNEIDER

PREFILED JANUARY 30, 2003

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Makes appropriation to Department of Education to provide grants to school districts to facilitate participation in supplemental science, mathematics and technology programs for certain pupils and teachers. (BDR S-852)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

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

AN ACT making an appropriation to the Department of Education to provide grants to school districts to facilitate participation in supplemental science, mathematics and technology programs for certain pupils and teachers; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

1 WHEREAS, The JASON Foundation for Education, named in the
2 spirit of the Greek myth of Jason and the Argonauts, is a nonprofit
3 educational organization dedicated to inspiring in pupils a lifelong
4 passion to pursue learning in science, mathematics and technology
5 through exploration and discovery; and

6 WHEREAS, The JASON Foundation for Education is the creator
7 of leading educational programs, including the JASON Project, a
8 multi-disciplinary educational program that sparks the imagination
9 of pupils and enhances the classroom experience, and the JASON
10 Academy, an innovative approach to online professional
11 development for teachers, emphasizing the physical sciences; and

12 WHEREAS, The JASON Project is an award-winning
13 supplemental science program for pupils in grades 4 through 9 that
14 began as a dream of Dr. Robert Ballard, the scientist and
15 oceanographer who discovered the wreck of the *RMS Titanic* in
16 1986; and



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1 WHEREAS, Dr. Ballard believed that enabling pupils and their
2 teachers to do fieldwork interactively from the classroom was a
3 powerful concept that could significantly enhance classroom
4 teaching and learning; and

5 WHEREAS, The materials used by the JASON Project integrate
6 mathematics, language arts and social studies into a comprehensive
7 set of teaching and learning tools which comply with Nevada's
8 standards for education; and

9 WHEREAS, The JASON Project will help schools and school
10 districts carry out the federal requirements of the "No Child Left
11 Behind Act of 2001" (Public Law 107-110, 115 Stat. 1425), with
12 high quality, standards based curriculum materials, enhanced
13 student performance and the integration of technology into teaching;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Scientifically based research has proven that
16 participation in the JASON Project significantly enhances the skills
17 that pupils develop in their science, mathematics and technology
18 classes and the project has proven to work well for a wide range of
19 pupils, from those who are at risk of not achieving their fullest
20 academic potential to those who are gifted and talented; and

21 WHEREAS, Through the current participation of Clark County
22 School District in the JASON Project and the JASON Academy,
23 pupils in Clark County have explored from oceans to rain forests
24 and polar regions to volcanoes with leading scientists who worked
25 with them to examine the biological and geological development of
26 the Planet Earth; and

27 WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature hereby finds that these
28 programs should be made available to as many school districts that
29 desire to participate as possible; now, therefore,

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

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34 **Section 1.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State
35 General Fund to the Department of Education to award to school
36 districts for expenses related to participation in the JASON Project
37 and the JASON Academy, including, without limitation, curriculum
38 materials, professional development of teachers and transportation
39 of pupils:

40 (a) For the fiscal year 2003-2004, the sum of \$150,000. The
41 Department of Education shall distribute \$87,000 to Clark County
42 School District for continued participation and the balance to other
43 school districts within this state that elect to participate.

44 (b) For the fiscal year 2004-2005, the sum of \$150,000. The
45 Department of Education shall distribute \$84,000 to Clark County



1 School District for continued participation and the balance to other
2 school districts within this state that elect to participate.

3 2. The money appropriated pursuant to this section must not be
4 used to fund the participation of more than 40,000 pupils and 750
5 teachers during the biennium in school districts other than Clark
6 County. If more than the number that can be fully funded from the
7 appropriation elect to participate, the Department of Education shall
8 develop a method for allocating the money appropriated by
9 paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection 1 equitably among all school
10 districts other than Clark County that elect to participate.

11 3. Any balance of the sums appropriated by paragraphs (a) and
12 (b) of subsection 1 remaining at the end of the respective fiscal
13 years must not be committed for expenditure after June 30 of the
14 respective fiscal years and reverts to the State General Fund as soon
15 as all payments of money committed have been made.

16 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2003.

