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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21—SENATORS TIFFANY,  
CEGAVSKE, RAWSON, COFFIN, RAGGIO AND RHOADS

MARCH 17, 2003

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Referred to Committee on Legislative Affairs and Operations

SUMMARY—Directs Legislative Commission to conduct interim study concerning reconfiguration of school districts in this state. (BDR R-56)

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

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study concerning the reconfiguration of school districts in this state.

1 WHEREAS, Public education plays a crucial role in producing  
2 well-informed, educated and productive members of society; and  
3 WHEREAS, The current organizational system of public  
4 education in Nevada was established in 1956, wherein county  
5 school districts were created, the boundaries of which are  
6 coterminous with the boundaries of the counties of this state; and  
7 WHEREAS, When the system of county school districts was  
8 established in 1956, the intended goal of the Legislature was to  
9 provide a uniform system of high-quality education and educational  
10 programs and to address problems with inequitable financing  
11 associated with overlapping school district boundaries and the  
12 complete lack of school district boundaries in other areas; and  
13 WHEREAS, The population of the State of Nevada in 1956 was  
14 240,100, with Clark County accounting for 40 percent of the  
15 population, Washoe County accounting for 29 percent of the  
16 population, and Esmeralda and Storey Counties each accounting for  
17 less than 0.01 percent of the population; and  
18 WHEREAS, The population of the State of Nevada has  
19 dramatically increased during the past 46 years so that Nevada now  
20 has a population of nearly 2.3 million, with Clark County  
21 accounting for over 71 percent of the population, Washoe  
22 County accounting for over 15 percent of the population, Esmeralda



1 County accounting for .0005 percent of the population and Storey  
2 County accounting for .002 percent of the population; and

3 WHEREAS, As a result of the increasing population and changing  
4 demographics in this state, a great disparity has occurred in the  
5 number of pupils enrolled in the various county school districts with  
6 a large concentration of pupils in certain school districts; and

7 WHEREAS, The Clark County School District, with a pupil  
8 enrollment of over 255,328, accounts for 70 percent of the pupils  
9 enrolled in the public schools in this state and, according to the  
10 United States Department of Education, is the 6th largest school  
11 district in the nation; and

12 WHEREAS, The Washoe County School District, with a pupil  
13 enrollment of over 60,388, accounts for 16 percent of the pupils  
14 enrolled in the public schools in this state, and, according to the  
15 United States Department of Education, is the 71st largest school  
16 district in the nation; and

17 WHEREAS, The Carson City School District has a total  
18 enrollment of 8,763 pupils; the Churchill County School District has  
19 a total enrollment of 4,724 pupils; the Douglas County School  
20 District has a total enrollment of 6,989 pupils; the Elko County  
21 School District has a total enrollment of 9,847 pupils; the Esmeralda  
22 County School District has a total enrollment of 89 pupils, and is the  
23 smallest school district in this state; the Eureka County School  
24 District has a total enrollment of 285 pupils; the Humboldt County  
25 School District has a total enrollment of 3,616 pupils; the Lander  
26 County School District has a total enrollment of 1,355 pupils; the  
27 Lincoln County School District has a total enrollment of 1,014  
28 pupils; the Lyon County School District has total enrollment of  
29 7,046 pupils; the Mineral County School District has a total  
30 enrollment of 774 pupils; the Nye County School District has a total  
31 enrollment of 5,279 pupils; the Pershing County School District has  
32 a total enrollment of 898 pupils; the Storey County School District  
33 has a total enrollment of 480 pupils; the White Pine County School  
34 District has a total enrollment of 1,464 pupils; and

35 WHEREAS, The Esmeralda, Eureka, Mineral, Pershing and  
36 Storey County School Districts combined account for less than .007  
37 percent of the total pupils who are enrolled in the public schools in  
38 this state; and

39 WHEREAS, The Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Elko,  
40 Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Nye and White Pine County  
41 School Districts taken together account for 14 percent of the total  
42 number of pupils who are enrolled in the public schools in this state;  
43 and

44 WHEREAS, A study of the reconfiguration of school districts in  
45 this state is necessary to address the disparate growth between this



1 state's county school districts and to ensure that this state's system  
2 of public education can more effectively educate its pupils and be  
3 responsive to the concerns of residents of the schools districts; now,  
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE  
6 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That, the Legislative Commission is  
7 hereby directed to appoint an interim committee, composed of three  
8 members of the Assembly and three members of the Senate, one of  
9 whom must be appointed as Chair of the committee, to conduct a  
10 study of the reconfiguration of the school districts in this state; and  
11 be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Chair of the committee shall appoint an  
13 advisory committee of not more than three persons, who are not  
14 Legislators and are nonvoting members, as follows:

- 15 1. One person who is regularly employed as bond counsel for a  
16 school district;
- 17 2. A financial officer with governmental experience; and
- 18 3. A financial officer who is familiar with the operation of  
19 school districts with an enrollment of fewer than 1,000 pupils; and  
20 be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the committee shall develop a plan that  
22 includes an analysis of the:

- 23 1. Reconfiguration of the school districts in this state,  
24 including, without limitation, the division of existing school districts  
25 that have a high number of pupils enrolled and increasing pupil  
26 enrollment into smaller school districts; and
- 27 2. The feasibility of combining school districts with a low  
28 number of pupils enrolled and declining enrollments; and be it  
29 further

30 RESOLVED, The committee shall address the following issues in  
31 its plan:

- 32 1. The geographic boundaries of the proposed new school  
33 districts;
- 34 2. The liability for the outstanding bonded indebtedness of a  
35 school district if that school district is divided into more than one  
36 school district or combined with one or more school districts;
- 37 3. The manner in which the assets of a school district will be  
38 assigned if that school district is divided into more than one school  
39 district or combined with one or more school districts;
- 40 4. The effect of the plan on the educational effectiveness of the  
41 public schools in this state;
- 42 5. The effect of the plan on the racial and ethnic composition of  
43 the public schools in this state;
- 44 6. The organizational structure of the proposed new school  
45 districts;



- 1 7. The composition of the boards of trustees of the proposed  
2 new school districts and the manner of election;
  - 3 8. The manner in which the licensed teachers and other  
4 educational personnel who are currently employed by a school  
5 district will be assigned or reassigned as a result of the division of  
6 the school district or the combining of the school district;
  - 7 9. The effect of the plan on the community, including, without  
8 limitation, whether increased participation by parents, legal  
9 guardians or other members of the community is likely as a result of  
10 the division of an existing school district or the combining of school  
11 districts;
  - 12 10. The effect of the plan on the financial equity of the public  
13 schools within each school district that is proposed to be divided  
14 and each school district that is proposed to be combined with one or  
15 more school districts;
  - 16 11. The ability of the proposed new school districts to generate  
17 money for the costs of the maintenance, repair and construction of  
18 school buildings and facilities; and
  - 19 12. The number of pupils enrolled in each new school district;  
20 and be it further
- 21 RESOLVED, That the plan developed by the committee must:
- 22 1. Ensure that a uniform system of education will continue to  
23 be offered throughout this state in accordance with Section 2 of  
24 Article 11 of the Constitution of the State of Nevada; and
  - 25 2. Set forth the actions necessary to carry out the plan and a  
26 timeline to carry out the plan; and be it further
- 27 RESOLVED, That the committee may accept gifts and grants  
28 from any source for the purpose of carrying out its study; and be it  
29 further
- 30 RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the  
31 committee must be approved by a majority of the members of the  
32 Senate and a majority of the members of the Assembly appointed to  
33 the committee; and be it further
- 34 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission shall submit a  
35 report of the results of the study, including, without limitation, the  
36 plan developed by the committee, and any recommendations for  
37 legislation to the 73rd Session of the Nevada Legislature.

