

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES AND EDUCATION**

**Seventy-third Session
March 25, 2005**

The Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education was called to order by Chair Maurice E. Washington at 10:45 a.m. on Friday, March 25, 2005, in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4412, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file at the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Maurice E. Washington, Chair
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske, Vice Chair
Senator Dennis Nolan
Senator Joe Heck
Senator Bernice Mathews
Senator Valerie Wiener
Senator Steven Horsford

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Bob Beers, Clark County Senatorial District No. 6

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leslie K. Hamner, Committee Counsel
Marsheilah D. Lyons, Committee Policy Analyst
Cynthia Cook, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Craig Kadlub, Clark County School District
Anne K. Loring, Washoe County School District
Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education

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CHAIR WASHINGTON:

I ask for committee introductions for the following bill draft requests (BDRs):

BILL DRAFT REQUEST 34-1092: Revises provisions regarding professional development of teachers and administrators. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 368](#).)

BILL DRAFT REQUEST 34-617: Revises provisions governing education of suspended and expelled pupils. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 367](#).)

SENATOR CEGAVSKE MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR 34-1092 AND BDR 34-617.

SENATOR NOLAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS MATHEWS, WIENER AND HORSFORD WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

We will open the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 212.

SENATE BILL 212: Limits time for commencement of certain morning classes in high school. (BDR 34-729)

SENATOR BOB BEERS (Clark County Senatorial District No. 6):

In June 2004, 19 percent of Clark County High School seniors were denied diplomas because they failed a proficiency examination. The Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) informed me that for the Washoe County School District the number was 3 percent and for the Carson City School District the number was 1.5 percent. In Clark County, the starting time is just after 7 a.m. and continues until just after 1 p.m. In Carson City, the starting time is 8 a.m. and continues until 2 p.m. According to research, the brain chemical melatonin, which is responsible for sleepiness, is secreted from 11 p.m. until 8 a.m. from puberty until the late teen years. Data collected from two Minneapolis-area school districts that changed their start times provided information there was a significant reduction in school dropout rates, less depression and students reported earning higher grades.

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SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

My sister's children attend middle school and high school in Minnesota. The later start time has resulted in an improvement in their grades.

SENATOR HECK:

The intent of the bill is to allow the early classes, if so elected, to start at the earlier time. Those could be classes required for graduation. The new wording on page 2 is confusing.

SENATOR BEERS:

I requested the LCB draft a bill stating the first-period class could not start earlier than 8 a.m. If a student wants to take a class at 7 a.m., it would be considered an early class.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

For graduation purposes, the language should be clear.

SENATOR NOLAN:

The Committee also should be careful that mandated and required classes are not shifted to 7 a.m.

CRAIG KADLUB (Clark County School District):

I believe the mandated and required classes could be adjusted in a satisfactory manner. However, my testimony ([Exhibit C](#)) will describe the reasons the Clark County School District (CCSD) is unable to support S.B. 212.

ANNE K. LORING (Washoe County School District):

The Washoe County School District (WCSD) has concerns about section 1 of S.B. 212. Washoe County School District has 12 neighborhood high schools. Six of them begin first period at 8 a.m. The other six start first period between 7:40 a.m. and 7:55 a.m. Eleven high schools offer what is defined as a "zero period." Zero period begins before first period. The subjects offered for zero periods include physical education classes, electives and many core classes. The classes are optional for the students, and that is the distinction. Students enrolled in zero-period classes must provide their own transportation. The classes are used extensively. Reno High School has seven zero-period classes including advanced placement physics, government, algebra 3 and 4, trigonometry, English 7 and 8, jazz band and advanced weights. All except jazz band and advanced weights are required classes. That is where the wording of

the bill is important to us. They are technically required, but the student has the choice of whether they want to take them at that hour. I think the intention of the bill is to deal with core requirements, but a student must take electives in order to receive enough credits to graduate. These classes, especially the mathematics classes, are very popular. Additionally, we have had requests to offer zero-period regular government and history classes next year. Many students attend college classes or they have jobs. These students prefer to start early. If we could not offer those classes, it would be devastating for our high schools. It is the only way to house all of our students and make sure our advanced placement students can take classes they need.

Another issue to consider is overcrowding. Having the ability to allow students to come earlier relieves some of the congestion throughout the day. When we had our most serious overcrowding problems, we extended high school schedules intentionally. I believe the intent is to try to fix the wording in the bill so that a zero period, even with required classes, would still be permitted. There are rare times when schools may need to start earlier. We have six high schools that start before 8 a.m. and go beyond 2 p.m. The reason a number of schools have extended time to their school day, still keeping within the contracted time for teachers, is they are adding minutes in order to get more instructional time. For a school where that works, there would no longer be that flexibility.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

I would like to request Senator Beers, Mr. Kadlub and Ms. Loring work together to address some of the concerns that have been brought forward today.

SENATOR BEERS:

I will be glad to work with Mr. Kadlub and Ms. Loring.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 212 and open the hearing on S.B. 202.

SENATE BILL 202: Revises manner in which school districts schedule contingent school days. (BDR 34-1111)

DR. KEITH RHEAULT (Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education):

The Department of Education supports S.B. 202. The school districts are authorized to make some decisions if they exceed three contingent school days. At one time, the WCSD had five days where the entire district was closed, and the plan proposed by WCSD indicated they would like to have added some minutes to each day to make up for the missed days. Subsection 6 of section 1 of the bill states each school district shall schedule three contingent days or its equivalent if the school district is able to operate under an alternative schedule.

SENATOR HECK:

What is the duration of the high school period?

DR. RHEAULT:

The periods are usually 50 minutes. The requirement is 330 total minutes for a full day.

SENATOR HECK:

The bill indicates that at least 30 minutes must be added to the school day. Using that number, you may have to split a period between two days.

DR. RHEAULT:

This requirement does say that at least 30 minutes must be added. Ninth, tenth and eleventh grade students are required to take six periods a day so it would probably add five minutes to each class of the day. It would then take eleven days to make up for one missed day.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

How might that impact teacher preparation?

DR. RHEAULT:

If a teacher had a preparation period of 55 minutes, it would be extended to 60 minutes. We define this further in regulations which say if over 70 percent of the schools are closed in a district, contingent days apply. We have a number of schools that close because of mechanical failure, but there are other regulations to address individual school closures.

MS. LORING:

The WCSD supports S.B. 202.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 202.

SENATOR WIENER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

We will open the hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 13. The bill revises the qualifications of Nevada's Welfare Administrator. The Committee heard testimony on this bill on Wednesday, March 23, 2005.

ASSEMBLY BILL 13: Revises qualifications of State Welfare Administrator of Welfare Division of Department of Human Resources. (BDR 38-239)

SENATOR CEGAVSKE MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 13.

SENATOR WIENER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATOR MATHEWS:

I voted in favor of the motion, but I may vote against it on the floor of the Senate.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

We will open the hearing on A.B. 130. The Committee also heard testimony concerning this bill on Wednesday, March 23, 2005.

ASSEMBLY BILL 130: Revises provisions governing filling of certain vacancies on Nevada Veterans' Services Commission. (BDR 37-755)

MARSHEILAH D. LYONS: (Committee Policy Analyst):

The measure assigns responsibility for recommending qualified nominees to the Governor for appointment to the Nevada Veterans' Service Commission. The bill

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transfers responsibility from The Adjutant General of Nevada to the Executive Director of the Office of Veterans' Services.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 130.

SENATOR MATHEWS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

The next bill for Committee consideration is A.B. 131.

Ms. LYONS:

This measure eliminates the requirement that the Advisory Committee for a Veterans' Cemetery in Northern Nevada and the Advisory Committee for a Veterans' Cemetery in Southern Nevada hold two joint meetings each year. Testimony indicated they stay in communication in other ways.

ASSEMBLY BILL 131: Eliminates requirement for joint meetings of Advisory Committee for a Veterans' Cemetery in Northern Nevada and Advisory Committee for a Veterans' Cemetery in Southern Nevada. (BDR 37-754)

SENATOR CEGAVSKE MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 131.

SENATOR WIENER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR WASHINGTON:

There being no other issues before us today, this meeting of the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education will now adjourn at 11:30 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Cynthia Cook,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Maurice E. Washington, Chair

DATE: _____