

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 165—COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

(ON BEHALF OF THE OUTDOOR EDUCATION
ADVISORY WORKING GROUP)

PREFILED JANUARY 31, 2025

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to outdoor education.
(BDR 35-633)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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

AN ACT relating to outdoor education; establishing the Outdoor Education Council within the Division of Outdoor Recreation of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; prescribing the membership and duties of the Council; requiring the Council to establish and administer a program to award designations relating to outdoor education; authorizing the Council to adopt certain regulations relating to the program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 During the 2023 Legislative Session, the Legislature enacted Assembly Bill
2 No. 164, which required the Division of Outdoor Recreation of the State
3 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to establish an Outdoor
4 Education Advisory Working Group during the 2023-2024 interim to study
5 approaches to incorporate outdoor recreation into the curriculum of the public
6 education system of this State and authorized the Working Group to request the
7 drafting of not more than 1 legislative measure which relates to matters within the
8 scope of the Working Group. (Section 1.7 of Assembly Bill No. 164, chapter 77,
9 Statutes of Nevada 2023, at page 393)
10 **Section 3** of this bill establishes the Outdoor Education Council within the
11 Division and prescribes the membership of the Council. **Section 4** of this bill sets
12 forth the duties of the Council, including a requirement for the Council to establish
13 and administer a program to award a designation to: (1) schools in this State which
14 provide to pupils outdoor education programs that meet certain standards developed
15 by the Council pursuant to **section 5** of this bill; and (2) a teacher in this State as
16 Outdoor Educator of the Year. **Section 5** requires the Council, in administering



17 such a program, to provide a nonmonetary award to a teacher recognized as
18 Outdoor Educator of the Year and authorizes the Council to provide to schools
19 awarded a designation pursuant to **section 4** an award of money to be used to
20 support outdoor education programs of the school.

21 **Section 4** requires the Division to provide the Council with such administrative
22 support as is necessary to support the Council in carrying out its duties and
23 authorizes the Division to accept gifts, grants and donations from any source to
24 support the work of the Council.

25 **Section 6** of this bill authorizes the Council to adopt regulations necessary to
26 carry out the provisions of **sections 4 and 5**. **Section 7** of this bill applies
27 definitions in existing law relating to the Division of Outdoor Recreation and the
28 definition of "Council" set forth in **section 2** of this bill to the provisions of
29 **sections 2-6**.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 407A of NRS is hereby amended by
2 adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 6, inclusive,
3 of this act.

4 **Sec. 2.** *"Council" means the Outdoor Education Council*
5 *created by section 3 of this act.*

6 **Sec. 3. 1.** *The Outdoor Education Council is hereby*
7 *created in the Division. The Council consists of:*

8 *(a) The following eight voting members:*

9 *(1) One member who is a representative of the Division*
10 *appointed by the Administrator;*

11 *(2) One member who is a representative of the Department*
12 *of Education appointed by the Superintendent of Public*
13 *Instruction;*

14 *(3) One member who is a representative of the Department*
15 *of Wildlife appointed by the Director of the Department of*
16 *Wildlife;*

17 *(4) One superintendent of a school district appointed by the*
18 *Nevada Association of School Superintendents;*

19 *(5) Two members who are licensed teachers appointed by*
20 *the Governor; and*

21 *(6) Two members who are providers of nature-based*
22 *education, one of whom must primarily serve a historically*
23 *underserved community, appointed by the Governor; and*

24 *(b) One nonvoting member who is a pupil enrolled in a public*
25 *school in this State appointed by the Governor.*

26 **2.** *Each member of the Council serves a term of 3 years.*
27 *Members may be reappointed for an additional term of 3 years in*
28 *the same manner as the original appointment. Any vacancy*
29 *occurring in the membership of the Council must be filled in the*



1 *same manner as the original appointment for the remainder of the*
2 *unexpired term.*

3 *3. A majority of the members of the Council constitutes a*
4 *quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority of a*
5 *quorum present at any meeting is sufficient for any official action*
6 *taken by the Council.*

7 *4. At the first meeting of the Council and annually thereafter,*
8 *the members of the Council shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair*
9 *from among the members of the Council.*

10 *5. Each member of the Council serves without compensation.*

11 *6. Any member of the Council who is an officer or employee*
12 *of the State or a political subdivision of this State must be relieved*
13 *from his or her duties without loss of regular compensation to*
14 *prepare for and attend meetings of the Council and perform any*
15 *work necessary to carry out the duties of the Council in the most*
16 *timely manner practicable. A state agency or political subdivision*
17 *of this State shall not require an officer or employee who is a*
18 *member of the Council to:*

19 *(a) Make up the time he or she is absent from work to carry*
20 *out his or her duties as a member of the Council; or*

21 *(b) Take annual leave or compensatory time for the absence.*

22 *7. As used in this section, "historically underserved*
23 *community" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 704.78343.*

24 **Sec. 4. 1. The Council shall:**

25 *(a) Establish and administer a program to award a designation*
26 *to:*

27 *(1) Schools in this State which provide to pupils outdoor*
28 *education programs that meet the standards developed pursuant to*
29 *section 5 of this act; and*

30 *(2) A teacher in this State as Outdoor Educator of the Year.*

31 *(b) Provide opportunities for educators to receive training*
32 *concerning outdoor education by developing such training or*
33 *identifying and making available to schools information*
34 *concerning opportunities for such training.*

35 *(c) Provide technical assistance to support schools and school*
36 *districts interested in developing initiatives for outdoor education.*
37 *In providing such assistance, the Council shall prioritize schools*
38 *with the least access to nature.*

39 *(d) Identify sources of federal money and grants to support*
40 *outdoor education in this State.*

41 **2. The Division:**

42 *(a) Shall provide the Council with such administrative support*
43 *as is necessary to assist the Council in carrying out its duties; and*

44 *(b) May accept gifts, grants and donations from any source to*
45 *support the work of the Council.*



1 **Sec. 5. 1. In administering the program established**
2 **pursuant to section 4 of this act, the Council:**

3 (a) *Shall develop voluntary standards for outdoor education*
4 *programs provided to pupils by schools, including, without*
5 *limitation, standards:*

6 (1) *Which provide for an interdisciplinary approach for a*
7 *curriculum of outdoor education; and*

8 (2) *Concerning the development and use of living*
9 *schoolyards which are climate-resilient.*

10 (b) *In addition to any grant of money provided pursuant to*
11 *NRS 407A.600 to 407A.620, inclusive, may, to the extent that*
12 *money is available, provide to schools recognized pursuant to*
13 *section 4 of this act, an award of money to be used to support*
14 *outdoor education programs of the schools.*

15 (c) *Shall provide a nonmonetary award to a teacher recognized*
16 *pursuant to section 4 of this act as Outdoor Educator of the Year.*

17 2. *For the purposes of this section, "living schoolyard"*
18 *means an outdoor environment at a school that strengthens local*
19 *ecological systems and serves as a resource for hands-on*
20 *education, including, without limitation, trees, gardens, outdoor*
21 *meeting areas and other areas designed for such purposes.*

22 **Sec. 6. The Council may adopt such regulations as necessary**
23 **to carry out the provisions of sections 4 and 5 of this act.**

24 **Sec. 7.** NRS 407A.500 is hereby amended to read as follows:
25 407A.500 As used in NRS 407A.500 to 407A.620, inclusive,
26 *and sections 2 to 6, inclusive, of this act,* unless the context
27 otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 407A.510,
28 407A.515 and 407A.525 *and section 2 of this act* have the
29 meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

