



# SESSION SPOTLIGHT

**April 30, 2021**

89 days complete and 31 days remain in the 2021 Nevada Legislative Session. Committees are scheduling hearings on a lot of bills that survived the first house with the May 14 second committee passage deadline on the horizon. After that, there are only seven days until bills need to pass the second house or they will die. And after that? The endgame draws near.

In the meantime, the numbers that will shape the next two years of the Nevada budget will be revealed in the much anticipated Economic Forum on May 4 (more on that below). For now, let's get to this week's committee hearings!

## **Nevada Department of Education Budget Hearings**

At [Tuesday's](#) meeting of the Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on K-12/Higher Education/CIP met to close multiple budgets under the Department of Education such as the Office of Early and Development budget or the Teach Nevada Scholarship Program budget. Of note, there were a couple of budget items in which the Senate voted on a different option proposed by the Legislative Counsel Bureau than the Assembly. Both houses will now need to come together to work through the differences which start on May 3 and must finish by May 15.

## **Senate Committee on Education**

The following bills received a hearing this week in the Senate Committee Education:

### **Monday's Hearing**

- AB38 - Revises provisions relating to career and technical education and work-based learning
- AB67 - Revises some language and clarifies definitions in the restorative justice statutes
- AB257 - Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) testing and repairs in schools

### **Wednesday's Hearing**

- AB88 - Requires schools districts to adopt a policy prohibiting the use of certain racially discriminatory identifiers
- AB215 - Revises provisions governing the eligibility requirements for participation in courses for an adult to earn a high school diploma

### **Friday's Hearing**

- AB68 - Makes various changes relating to charter schools
- AB109 - Revises provisions relating to charter schools
- AB419 - Revises provisions governing charter schools
- AB420 - Revising provisions governing educational management organizations

### **Assembly Committee on Education**

The following bills received a hearing this week in the Assembly Committee on Education:

### **Tuesday's Hearing**

- SB36 - Renames the Development Committee which oversees the plans developed for use by schools in responding to crisis the Emergency Operations Plan Development Committee as well as add representation from the health district
- SB102 - Requires that children be at least 5 years old when they enter Kindergarten

### **Thursday's Hearing**

- SB160 - Allows school districts to enter into a cooperative agreement with an out of state institution for courses not offered in Nevada

- SB215 - Mandates that a school district create a plan for distance education in the future

## Want to Learn More?

In case you didn't know: here's some information about what the Economic Forum is and why their role in the legislative session is so important.

Since Nevada's budget is built in two-year cycles, much of how the budget is put together is based on conjecture and speculation about how much revenue the State will collect in the future. These projections are provided by Nevada's Economic Forum. The Economic Forum consists of industry, tax, and financial leaders from across the state. Their job is to look at Nevada's previous economic growth, future possible growth, and expected returns on all the taxes that will be collected over the next two years. The members of the Forum use this information to decide exactly how big or small Nevada's budget will be. Once the Economic Forum provides its projections, the Nevada Legislature cannot pass a budget that goes a penny over what the Economic Forum declares the budget number will be . . . unless they decide to raise revenues to pay for whatever goes above and beyond the Forum's predictions.

The Nevada Legislature has been gradually closing budgets for government agencies to establish exactly how much each piece of the formula will cost. More and more budgets will continue to be closed as members of the Legislature decide the priorities of each of these agencies.

On May 4, Nevada's Economic Forum will meet and will indicate the amount of funding legislators must use to establish their budget. The Legislature will then begin deciding which exempt bills can fit into their budget and what additional monies might be needed to pay for them.

Starting May 3, the Legislature will begin dealing with the budget requests and make their final decisions on agency and priority budgets such as the Distributive School Account, the fund that provides money for all of Nevada's public schools. All of these budget reconciliations must be finished by May 15.

By May 26, all Budget bills must be introduced. These bills will be debated and voted on by both the Senate and Assembly. May 26 is also when all exempt bills must be voted out of Committee. At this point the Legislature will know how much is in the current budget and if money will need to be raised or if programs must be cut to make the budget balance. All action on these decisions must be completed by the end of the 120th day of the session, which is midnight, May 31. Should the body fail to meet this deadline, a special session would need to be called.

The Nevada Economic Forum is not infallible. Through the next two years the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) will be monitoring revenues and expenditures to ensure Nevada's budget stays in balance. IFC is not allowed to raise revenue, they do, however, have the authority to repurpose and spend additional revenues that come in unexpectedly. Thus, Nevada's budgeting process never truly ends and is always evolving with the ebb and flow of the state's economy.

For a list of bills we are tracking click [here](#).

### [Current Scheduled Meetings for the Week of May 3, 2021](#)

The "[Calendar of Meetings](#)" on the Nevada Legislature website provides up to date information regarding meetings.

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