

SENATE BILL NO. 500—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

MARCH 25, 2013

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Creates the Task Force on K-12 Public Education Funding. (BDR S-1100)

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 education; creating the Task Force on K-12 Public Education Funding to recommend a plan for funding public schools based upon a weighted formula that takes into account the individual educational needs and demographic characteristics of pupils; prescribing the membership and duties of the Task Force; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Under existing law, the Nevada Plan for School Finance provides for the  
2 financial support of the school districts, charter schools and university schools for  
3 profoundly gifted pupils. The formula in the Nevada Plan is expressed as: State  
4 financial aid to school districts equals the difference between school district basic  
5 support guarantee and local available funds produced by mandatory taxes minus all  
6 the local funds attributable to pupils who reside in the county but attend a charter  
7 school or a university school for profoundly gifted pupils. (NRS 387.121) The basic  
8 support guarantee for each school district is computed by multiplying the basic  
9 support guarantee per pupil that is established by law for the school district for each  
10 school year by pupil enrollment and adding funding for special education program  
11 units. (NRS 387.1221-387.1233; *see, e.g.*, chapter 370, Statutes of Nevada 2011, p.  
12 2139) This bill creates the Task Force on K-12 Public Education Funding to  
13 recommend a plan for implementing a funding formula that takes into account the  
14 needs of, and the costs to educate, pupils based upon the individual educational  
15 needs and demographic characteristics of pupils, including, without limitation,  
16 pupils from low-income families, pupils with disabilities and pupils who have  
17 limited proficiency in the English language.



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

1       **Section 1.** The Nevada Legislature hereby finds and declares  
2 that:

3       1. It is the intended goal of the Legislature to equitably fund  
4 public education in this State and ensure that the public education  
5 funding formula properly accounts for the needs of, and the costs to  
6 educate, pupils based upon the individual educational needs and  
7 demographic characteristics of pupils, including, without limitation,  
8 pupils from low-income families, pupils with disabilities and pupils  
9 who have limited proficiency in the English language.

10       2. The Legislature seeks to revise the formula used to fund  
11 public education in Nevada to account for pupils with varying  
12 educational needs and demographic characteristics in each school  
13 district in this State.

14       **Sec. 2.** 1. The Task Force on K-12 Public Education  
15 Funding is hereby created. The Task Force consists of:

16       (a) The Superintendent of Public Instruction or his or her  
17 designee;

18       (b) The President of the Nevada Association of School  
19 Superintendents or his or her designee;

20       (c) The President of the Nevada Association of School Boards  
21 or his or her designee;

22       (d) The President of the Nevada Association of School  
23 Administrators or his or her designee;

24       (e) A teacher in a public school in this State, appointed by the  
25 Majority Leader of the Senate from a list of names submitted by the  
26 Nevada Parent Teacher Association;

27       (f) A parent of a pupil enrolled in a public school in this State,  
28 appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly from a list of names  
29 submitted by the Nevada State Education Association;

30       (g) Three members appointed by the Governor, who must be  
31 current or former licensed educational personnel;

32       (h) Two members appointed by the Majority Leader of the  
33 Senate as follows:

34               (1) One Senator; and

35               (2) One person who is a current or former licensed teacher or  
36 administrator; and

37       (i) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly as  
38 follows:

39               (1) One Assemblyman or Assemblywoman; and

40               (2) One person who is a current or former licensed teacher or  
41 administrator.



1 2. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Task Force  
2 must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment not  
3 later than 30 days after the vacancy occurs.

4 3. The Task Force shall hold its first meeting as soon as  
5 practicable on or after July 1, 2013, upon the call of the Governor.  
6 At the first meeting of the Task Force, the members of the Task  
7 Force shall elect a Chair, who must be either a Senator or an  
8 Assemblyman or Assemblywoman.

9 4. Including the first meeting held pursuant to subsection 3, the  
10 Task Force shall meet not more than six times each year at the call  
11 of the Chair.

12 5. A majority of the members of the Task Force constitutes a  
13 quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority of those  
14 members present at any meeting is sufficient for any official action  
15 taken by the Task Force.

16 6. The Chair may appoint such subcommittees of the Task  
17 Force as the Chair determines necessary to carry out the duties of  
18 the Task Force.

19 7. The members of the Task Force serve without  
20 compensation.

21 8. The Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau shall  
22 provide administrative support to the Task Force.

23 **Sec. 3.** 1. The Task Force on K-12 Public Education  
24 Funding created by section 2 of this act shall:

25 (a) Conduct a review of the report entitled "Study of a New  
26 Method of Funding for Public Schools in Nevada" published by the  
27 American Institutes for Research on September 25, 2012;

28 (b) Survey the weighted pupil public education funding  
29 formulas which are used in other states;

30 (c) Develop a plan for revising and implementing Nevada's  
31 public education funding formula in a manner which equitably  
32 accounts for the needs of, and the costs to educate, pupils based  
33 upon the individual educational needs and demographic  
34 characteristics of pupils, including, without limitation, pupils from  
35 low-income families, pupils with disabilities and pupils who have  
36 limited proficiency in the English language through a weighted  
37 funding formula; and

38 (d) Not later than June 30, 2014, prepare a written report to the  
39 Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for  
40 transmittal to the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature which  
41 includes recommendations for implementing the plan developed  
42 pursuant to paragraph (c) for Nevada's public education funding  
43 formula in the executive budget prepared for the 2015-2017  
44 biennium.



1        2. The Task Force or a subcommittee of the Task Force may  
2 seek the input, advice and assistance of persons and organizations  
3 with the knowledge, interest or expertise relevant to the duties of the  
4 Task Force.

5        **Sec. 4.** As soon as practicable after the effective date of this  
6 act but not later than July 1, 2013, the members of the Task Force  
7 on K-12 Public Education Funding must be appointed as prescribed  
8 by section 2 of this act.

9        **Sec. 5.** This act:

10       1. Becomes effective upon passage and approval for the  
11 purpose of appointing members to the Task Force on K-12 Public  
12 Education Funding created by section 2 of this act and on July 1,  
13 2013, for all other purposes.

14       2. Expires by limitation on June 30, 2015.

