

Wednesday, May 27, 2009



Nevada Homeschool Network Legislative Alert

Dear Homeschool Parents and Friends of Homeschooling,

As we near the end of the 2009 Legislative session we wanted to update you on the bills we have been following. Many of the bills listed below are considered dead for this session but because they have an "exemption" on them won't officially die until June 1st, the day the session ends. These bills have been ~~lined out~~ in the active list. Bills still alive are either on the Governor's desk for approval or have been vetoed but could have the veto overridden by the Legislature. By clicking on the bill number in the text body will take you directly to the Legislative information page on that bill.

This session NHN focused on defeating SB292 – Child's "Best Interests" Attorney Bill and SB378 – Early Childhood Education Bill. SB292 died in the Assembly and although SB378 passed both houses we are hopeful for the Governor's veto.

We want to thank everyone who took the time to voice their opinion on the variety of bills heard during this legislative session. Although it was a relatively "safe" session for homeschoolers we must always stay vigilant to make our voices known on all issues that may someday effect us greatly.

Staying informed and active in the Legislative process protects *LIBERTY FOR ALL*.

NHN Officers

Frank Schnorbus, Chair
Elissa Wahl, Secretary
Barbara Dragon, Treasurer
Carl Lucas, Member

Laura Siegal, Member
Kelley Radow, Member
Missy Pique, Member

Assembly Bills

Senate Bills

~~[AB158 Millennium Scholarship](#)~~

[AB162 Autism Health Ins. Coverage](#)

[AB487 Pupils/Middle or Jr. High Schools](#)

~~[AB489 Governance of Charter Schools](#)~~

~~[AB505 Pupils in High Schools](#)~~

[SB77 Mentoring/Public High Schools](#)

~~[SB81 Special Needs Scholarship](#)~~

[SB283 Domestic Partnership Act](#)

~~[SB286 Early Intervention Services](#)~~

[SB317 Financial Literacy/Education](#)

~~[SB330 World Class Education](#)~~

[SB378 Early Childhood Education](#)

~~[SB381 Immunizations Fee Coverage](#)~~

~~[SB385 Govern. of Charter Schools](#)~~

No further action allowed; bills that did not pass out of committee by April 10th:

[AB11 Millennium Scholarship](#) [SB326 Govern. of Public Education](#)

[AB212 Millennium Scholarship](#)

[AB343 Pupils/Entertainment Industry](#)

[AB351 Millennium Scholarship/Loans](#)

[AB211 Local School Board Meetings](#)

[ACR2 Interim Study on Public Schools](#)

[AB184 Gender Identity or Expression](#)

Bills that did not meet the April 21st or May 15th deadline; no further action allowed:

[AB155 Multicultural Education](#)

[SB292 Child's "Best Interests"](#)

Bills in order of importance/interest to homeschoolers:

SB378 Requirements for Early Childhood Education (Comm. on Health & Educ.)

Requires the State Board of Education to develop a plan for early childhood education; requirements for prekindergarten programs and other matters. (Senate H&E)

NHN opposes this bill. The compulsory attendance law covers 7-18 year olds. The state should not develop early childhood education programs; this should remain a function of the private sector and parents. Further, this bill was introduced to apply for money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. What happens when that money runs out? Nevadans will be required to fund public Pre-K and possibly public Pre-school education.

Legislative Action:

Votes

[Senate Final Passage](#) May. 01 Yea 15, Nay 5, Excused 1, Not Voting 0, Absent 0

[Assembly Final Passage](#) May. 19 Yea 27, Nay 14, Excused 1, Not Voting 0, Absent 0

Bill has been delivered to the Governor on 5/22/09.

We have asked the Governor to veto this bill.

SB283 The Nevada Domestic Partnership Act (Parks, Coffin)

Enacts legislation equating "domestic partnerships" with marriage in Nevada.

NHN opposes this bill.

Legislative Action:

Senate Commerce and Labor Apr. 08, 2009 Amend and do pass as amended.

Senate Floor Apr. 21, 2009 Declared an emergency under the Constitution

[Senate Final Passage](#) Apr. 21 Yea 12, Nay 9, Excused 0, Not Voting 0, Absent 0

[Assembly Final Passage](#) May. 15 Yea 26, Nay 14, Excused 2, Not Voting 0, Absent 0

Bill was vetoed by the Governor on 5/25/09 and returned to the Legislature with the Governor's veto message on 5/26/09. Legislature could vote to override the veto.

SB330 World Class Education NV (Horsford)

Revises provisions relating to the Superintendent of Public Instruction; various changes to the Dept. of Education, the election/appointment of State Board of Education members, as well as changes to other counsels and commissions relating to public education.

~~NHN opposes this bill due to the potential this bill has for controlling private schools and homeschools. Specifically:~~

~~The preamble due to terminology that does not specify "public school pupils";~~

~~Section 6 changes the name of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. This title is established in the NV Constitution and therefore should not be changed.~~

~~Section 8 regarding the election/appointment of SBOE members.~~

~~Section 9, number 2 for vagueness.~~

Legislative Action:

There has been no action on this bill since 4/22 when it went to Senate Finance. We expect this bill to die unless parts or all of it were moved into another bill.

Bills affecting the Millennium Scholarship:

AB158 Millennium Scholarships (Cobb)

This bill requires application within 2 years of high school graduation, restricts award to those with incomes less than \$100,000, amount of scholarship scaled based on income/need, changes minimum GPA of 3.0 to retain scholarship.

~~NHN opposes this bill based on the means and need testing since the scholarship is funded from the Tobacco Settlement, not taxpayer dollars and should be made equally available to all academically qualified students.~~

Legislative Action:

Declared EXEMPT

No hearings scheduled as of 4/21/09.

This bill was never heard in committee, no action ever taken. Expected to die.

Bills affecting State Governance of Education:

SB385 Revises provisions governing Charter Schools (Comm. on Health & Educ.)

Creates NV Charter School Institute to sponsor and govern charter schools instead of SBOE. Does not repeal SBOE which continues oversight of public and private schools.

~~NHN supports this bill as far it goes, but favors SB326~~

Legislative Action:

Senate Health & Education Apr. 10, 2009 — Amend, do pass

Assembly Floor — Apr. 21, 2009 — Declared EXEMPT

Senate Final Passage — Apr. 21 — Yea 24, —Nay 0, —Excused 0, —Not Voting 0, —Absent 0

5/27 Bill stuck in Assembly Ways & Means...unlikely to pass this session.

AB489 Revises provisions governing Charter Schools (Comm. on Education)

Creates new Charter Body for sponsorship. Eliminates State Board of Education sponsored charters. Creates the Nevada Charter School Institute would create regulatory control over charters, not Dept. of Ed., or SBOE.

~~NHN supports this bill.~~

Legislative Action:

Eligible for Exemption — Mar. 30, 2009

Assembly Education — Apr. 08, 2009 — Amend, and do pass as amended

2nd read (amended) on floor Apr. 20, 2009 — Rereferred to Ass. Ways & Means Comm.

Assembly Floor — Apr. 21, 2009 — Declared EXEMPT

Bill never made it out of first house and is considered dead.

Bills affecting Public Education:

AB505 Pupils in High School (Repeals three 392 exemptions) (Comm. on Education)

Sets benchmarks for high school students for ease of transition into workplace; Instruction in fiscal responsibility; peer mentoring for transition from jr high to high school; time during school day to remedy deficient credits in time to graduate or advance; ability to report unlawful activity secretly. Sect 16 repeals old NRS #s NRS 392.090, 392.100 and 392.110.

~~NHN opposes Section 16 of this bill as it limits individual options; takes no position on other portions of this bill.~~

Assembly Floor action — Apr. 17, 2009 — Declared EXEMPT

Assembly Floor action — Apr. 17, 2009 — Rereferred to Ass. Ways & Means Comm.

Assembly Final Passage — May. 15 — Yea 40, —Nay 0, —Excused 2, —Not Voting 0, —Absent 0

Bill has been in Senate Health & Education since 5/16 and is unlikely to pass this session.

AB487 Pupils in Middle School/Jr. High School (Comm. on Educ.)

Middle School students-Academic Plan for first year in middle school, separation of initially enrolled students from older students where practicable, peer & adult mentoring in middle school.

NHN opposes this bill as it usurps local control of education.

Legislative Action:

[Assembly Final Passage](#) Apr. 14 Yea 39, Nay 2, Excused 1, Not Voting 0, Absent 0

[Senate Final Passage](#) May. 19 Yea 21, Nay 0, Excused 0, Not Voting 0, Absent 0

Bill delivered to Governor on 5/22/09

SB317 Financial Literacy in Public High Schools (Copening, Parks, Woodhouse...)

This bill requires that “financial literacy” be taught in public high school.

NHN opposes this bill because it usurps local control of education.

Legislative Action:

[Senate Final Passage](#) Apr. 13 Yea 20, Nay 1, Excused 0, Not Voting 0, Absent 0

[Assembly Final Passage](#) May. 18 Yea 40, Nay 1, Excused 0, Not Voting 1, Absent 0

Bill was delivered to the Governor on 5/22/09

SB77 Peer mentoring for Public High School Students (Comm. on Health & Educ)

Authorizes local boards of trustees to establish “teen mentoring” programs in public high schools.

NHN is neutral on this bill.

Legislative Action:

[Senate Final Passage](#) Mar. 24 Yea 21, Nay 0, Excused 0, Not Voting 0, Absent 0

[Assembly Final Passage](#) May. 13 Yea 37, Nay 3, Excused 2, Not Voting 0, Absent 0

Bill was approved by the Governor on 5/22/09 and goes into effect 5/22/09.

Bills affecting special needs children:

SB81 Special Needs Scholarship (Cegasvke)

~~Establishes a special needs scholarship program for certain pupils with disabilities to apply for public funds to attend eligible private schools.~~

~~*NHN supports this bill.*~~

~~Legislative Action:~~

~~Referred to Senate Finance, no hearing yet scheduled~~

~~Declared EXEMPT (from legislative deadlines)~~

No action ever taken on this bill and is considered dead.

SB286 Early Intervention Services (Cegasvke)

~~Establishes early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities that are at risk for developmental delays, in accordance with federal regulations as funds are available.~~

~~*NHN is neutral on this bill.*~~

~~Legislative Action:~~

~~Senate Health and Education~~

~~— Apr. 06, 2009 — 02:30 PM —~~

~~— Amend, and do pass as amended. —~~

~~Declared EXEMPT~~

~~— Apr. 21, 2009~~

~~— Rereferred to Senate Finance~~

Bill died in Senate Finance.

AB162 Autism/health insurance & health care plans (Orenschall, Buckley...)

Requires certain policies of health insurance and health care plans to provide coverage for screening and treatment of Autism. Note: this bill contains an unfunded mandate.

NHN is neutral on this bill. However, NHN recognizes and is sympathetic to the difficulty that parents have in choosing to homeschool their autistic children, often needing the services a public school offers since their insurance doesn't cover needed therapies for the student's progress.

Legislative Action:

Assembly Commerce and Labor Apr. 10, 2009 Amend, and do pass as amended
Bill is eligible for exemption.

Assembly Final Passage Apr. 21 Yea 39, Nay 2, Excused 1, Not Voting 0, Absent 0

Senate Final Passage May. 22 Yea 21, Nay 0, Excused 0, Not Voting 0, Absent 0

Bill delivered to the Governor on 5/22/09.

Bills affecting the General Public:

SB381 Immunizations (Comm on Health & Education)-

~~Requires Medicaid, self insurance plans, and health insurance policies to cover any immunizations recommended by the State Board of Health or the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention for children under age 18. Calls for full coverage without payment of deductibles, co-pays or co-insurance of said immunizations.—~~

~~NHN is neutral on this bill.—~~

~~Legislative Action:~~

~~Senate Health & Education Apr. 10, 2009 Amend, and rerefer~~

~~Senate Floor Apr. 20, 2009 Declared EXEMPT, Referred to Senate Finance~~

Bill dead in Senate Finance.

Bills not making the April 10th cut-off:

AB351 Millennium Scholarships/Loans (Christensen)-

~~Changes name from Millennium Scholarship to the Millennium Scholarship and Loan Program. Establishes criteria for loans and repayment. No interest loan if scholar remains in the state after graduation.—~~

~~NHN supports this bill.—~~

AB212 Millennium Scholarships (Munford, Pierce)-

~~Restricts award of scholarship dollars to students who have been caught cheating 3 or more times while enrolled in public school.—~~

~~NHN is neutral on this bill.—~~

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AB11 Millennium Scholarships (Settlemyer)-

~~This bill would require all applicants to submit a "Free Application for Federal Student Aid" (FAFSA) to prove citizenship.—~~

~~NHN opposes this bill as over-burdensome, proof of citizenship can be required without submitting a loan application to the federal government.—~~

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SB326 Revises governing of Public Education (Cegasvke & Raggio)-

~~Eliminates State Board of Education; restructures Dept of Ed; creates NV Charter School Institute for sponsorship of all charters to this, not SBOE, districts, etc.—~~

~~NHN supports and favors this bill over SB385.—~~

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ACR2 Interim Study on the governance and oversight of public education.

~~NHN is neutral on this bill.—~~

AB211 Meetings of boards of trustees of school districts (Munford)-

~~Requires local school boards to carry out certain actions requested by the general public under certain circumstances.—~~

~~NHN supports this bill.—~~

~~Assembly Education —Mar. 11, 2009 —03:45 PM — No Action—~~

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AB343 Pupils in Entertainment Industry (Manendo)-

~~This bill exempts students enrolled in public school who work in the entertainment industry from minimum number of attendance days if the course work requirements have been completed.—~~

~~NHN supports this bill as "choice" in meeting educational requirements.—~~

AB184 Gender Identity or Expression in the Work Place (Aizley, Segerblom, Ohrenschall...Parks)-

Employers may not discriminate against employees with respect to "gender identity or expression".

~~NHN opposes this bill.~~

~~Assembly Commerce and Labor Mar. 27, 2009 Upon Adjournment No Action~~

- (Pursuant to Joint Standing Rule No. 14.3.1, no further action allowed.)

Bills not making the April 21st cut-off:

~~AB155 Multicultural Education Requirements~~

~~This bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt a program of multicultural instruction and for the local school district to ensure the program is provided to students in grades 2-12. The bill also requires that teachers submit proof of completion of a course in Multiculturalism.~~

~~NHN opposes this bill due to the fiscal implications of the bill on an already over-burdened system as well as on Constitutional grounds.~~

Legislative Action:

~~Assembly Education Apr. 08, 2009 Amend, and do pass~~

~~Assembly Floor Apr. 15, 2009 As amended, rereferred to Ass. Ways & Means~~

~~Not exempt, bill dies Apr. 22, 2009 Pursuant to Joint Standing Rule No. 14.3.2, no further action allowed~~

Bills not making the May 15th cut-off

~~**SB292 Uniform Representation of Children in Abuse, Neglect, & Custody Cases** (Amodei) (Care)* This bill requires and defines advocate or attorney appointed to represent "the best interests of the child" in *alleged* child abuse, neglect, or custody cases.~~

~~NHN opposes this bill and has requested Senator Amodei to withdraw the bill. Sections 35, 48, & 49 will require a judge to appoint a "best interest advocate or attorney" to a child whose parent(s) are *alleged* to have abused or neglected the child. With so many false accusations against legitimate homeschool parents this bill is greatly flawed.~~

~~*Senator Care is sponsoring this bill. Senator Amodei's name was on it in the beginning but either that was in error or he dropped sponsorship, we don't know.~~

Legislative Action:

~~Senate Health and Education Apr. 08, 2009 Do pass~~

~~Not eligible for exemption~~

~~Senate Final Passage Apr. 21 Yea 12, Nay 9, Excused 0, Not Voting 0, Absent 0~~

~~Straight PARTY vote on this one. NHN will continue to oppose.~~

~~Bill moves to the Assembly.~~