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SENATE BILL NO. 216—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

MARCH 2, 2011

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Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Establishes Reading Skills Development Centers.  
(BDR 34-1098)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included  
in Executive Budget.

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

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AN ACT relating to education; establishing a Reading Skills Development Center at the University of Nevada, Reno, and at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; setting forth the duties of the Centers; making an appropriation for the use of each Center; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 **Section 1** of this bill establishes a Reading Skills Development Center at the  
2 University of Nevada, Reno, and at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, to assist  
3 school districts in the assessment of reading and literacy problems and language  
4 acquisition barriers for pupils in grades 1, 2 and 3, and to provide instructional  
5 intervention to enable those pupils to overcome such problems and barriers. While  
6 the assessment and intervention services provided by the Centers must focus  
7 primarily on pupils in grades 1, 2 and 3 to correct any detected problems by the  
8 completion of grade 3, such services must also be made available to pupils of all  
9 ages in the public schools in this State. Each Center is also required to provide  
10 school districts with a professional development program for teachers in reading,  
11 literacy and language acquisition. **Sections 2 and 3** of this bill make an  
12 appropriation of \$1,000,000 to the University of Nevada, Reno, and an  
13 appropriation of \$1,000,000 to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, for the use of  
14 their respective Reading Skills Development Centers in carrying out the  
15 requirements of this bill. The money is appropriated from the State Supplemental  
16 School Support Fund created by NRS 387.191.

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

1       **Section 1.** Chapter 396 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3       1. *There is hereby established a Reading Skills Development*  
4 *Center at the University of Nevada, Reno, and at the University of*  
5 *Nevada, Las Vegas.*

6       2. *Each Reading Skills Development Center shall:*

7       (a) *Assist school districts in the assessment of reading and*  
8 *literacy problems and language acquisition barriers for pupils in*  
9 *grades 1, 2 and 3; and*

10       (b) *Provide instructional intervention to enable those pupils to*  
11 *overcome such problems and barriers.*

12       3. *The assessment and intervention services provided by each*  
13 *Reading Skills Development Center must:*

14       (a) *Focus primarily on pupils in grades 1, 2 and 3 to correct*  
15 *any detected problems by the completion of grade 3;*

16       (b) *Be made available to pupils of all ages in the public schools*  
17 *in this State; and*

18       (c) *Be available at the Center, at a public school or through*  
19 *the use of interactive technology.*

20       4. *Each Reading Skills Development Center shall provide*  
21 *school districts with a professional development program for*  
22 *reading, literacy and language acquisition that allows teachers to*  
23 *participate in the program through:*

24       (a) *Programs taught on-site at local schools;*

25       (b) *Distance education with videotapes and other electronic*  
26 *forms of instruction and on-site facilitators; and*

27       (c) *Interactive delivery of classes by computer through the use*  
28 *of video recordings.*

29       5. *The professional development program provided pursuant*  
30 *to subsection 4 must be:*

31       (a) *Designed to enable each school district to place at least one*  
32 *reading specialist or language acquisition specialist in each*  
33 *elementary school in the school district; and*

34       (b) *Developed in consultation with the Commission on*  
35 *Professional Standards in Education to qualify a teacher who*  
36 *completes the program to be eligible to apply for an endorsement*  
37 *on his or her teaching license.*

38       6. *Each Reading Skills Development Center shall provide*  
39 *school district administrators and school administrators,*  
40 *principals and teachers with the most current research-based*  
41 *knowledge about reading and reading instruction through*



1 *nationally and internationally recognized reading researchers and*  
2 *instructional specialists.*

3 **Sec. 2.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State  
4 Supplemental School Support Fund to the University of Nevada,  
5 Reno, the sum of \$1,000,000 for the use of the Reading Skills  
6 Development Center at the University of Nevada, Reno, in carrying  
7 out the requirements of section 1 of this act notwithstanding any  
8 conflicting provisions of NRS 387.191.

9 2. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by  
10 subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30,  
11 2013, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity  
12 to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise  
13 transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated  
14 money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after  
15 September 20, 2013, by either the entity to which the money was  
16 appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently  
17 granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State  
18 Supplemental School Support Fund on or before September 20,  
19 2013.

20 **Sec. 3.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State  
21 Supplemental School Support Fund to the University of Nevada,  
22 Las Vegas, the sum of \$1,000,000 for the use of the Reading Skills  
23 Development Center at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in  
24 carrying out the requirements of section 1 of this act  
25 notwithstanding any conflicting provisions of NRS 387.191.

26 2. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by  
27 subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30,  
28 2013, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity  
29 to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise  
30 transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated  
31 money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after  
32 September 20, 2013, by either the entity to which the money was  
33 appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently  
34 granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State  
35 Supplemental School Support Fund on or before September 20,  
36 2013.

37 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2011.



