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Office of the Governor

June 2, 2025

The Honorable Steve Yeager
Speaker of the Nevada State Assembly
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: Assembly Bill 155 of the 83rd Legislative Session

Dear Speaker Yeager:

I am forwarding to you, for filing within the time limit set forth in the Nevada Constitution and without my approval, Assembly Bill 155 ("AB 155"), which is titled as follows:

AN ACT relating to public employees; revising the scope of the mandatory subjects of collective bargaining to include the ratio of pupils per licensed teacher for each classroom and the ratio of pupils per each type of specialized instructional support personnel in public schools; revising the requirement that a school district consider the recommendations developed by the State Board of Education when establishing the ratio of pupils per licensed teacher and specialized instructional support personnel; revising provisions concerning the development of a plan to improve set ratios of pupils to specialized instructional support personnel in certain school districts; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Decreasing class sizes plays a critical role in improving Nevada's education system. That said, while AB 155 is admirably well-intended, it would lead to untenable results. First, nothing in current law prohibits teachers' unions from raising concerns regarding class sizes during collective bargaining. Second, if teachers' unions were able to successfully bargain to decrease class sizes, it is unclear how school districts could feasibly execute that contract provision. Would school districts be required, under the terms of a collective bargaining agreement, to build new schools, create new transportation routes, and hire

more teachers? If a district knew it could not afford the infrastructural requirements of a new school, will it be argued that any negotiations related to a new building were held in bad faith because the district could not have had a genuine intent to reach a mutually acceptable agreement? If a district was unable to complete construction on a new building during the contract period, might it face legal challenge for failing to decrease class sizes during the term of the agreement? What if a district did complete construction on a new school but was unable, through no fault of its own, to hire sufficient teachers and staff to fill that school, so it could not decrease class sizes? Might the district still face legal challenge because it failed to perform its end of the bargain by decreasing class sizes?

This bill leaves too many questions, including some implicating potential legal challenges, unanswered. Nevada families cannot risk their school districts diverting critical funding toward litigation that would be better spent in classrooms. I cannot support AB 155.

For these reasons, I veto this bill and return it without my signature or approval.

Respectfully submitted,



JOE LOMBARDO

Governor of Nevada

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Stavros Anthony, President of the Senate (without enclosure)
The Honorable Nicole Cannizzaro, Senate Majority Leader (without enclosure)
The Honorable Francisco Aguilar, Secretary of State (without enclosure)
Brendan Bucy, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)
Bonnie Borda Hoffecker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)
Diane Thornton, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Director (without enclosure)
Asher Killian, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)