

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE TRUTH IN SCIENCE INITIATIVE

FINANCIAL IMPACT – YES

OVERVIEW

The Truth in Science Initiative (Initiative) proposes to add a new section to the Constitution regarding how evolution is to be taught in the state's schools. Under the Initiative, students must be informed that although most scientists agree that Darwin's theory of evolution is well supported, a small minority of scientists do not agree.

The Initiative specifies several areas of disagreement about the theory of evolution. The Initiative requires that all students must be taught the strengths and weaknesses of the theory of evolution with regard to these specified areas of disagreement before the end of the 10th grade.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE INITIATIVE

Based on information provided by the Nevada Department of Education, the Fiscal Analysis Division estimates the Initiative would require expenditures of approximately \$66,000 per year to produce and provide instructional materials to the teachers and students to comply with the provisions of the Initiative. The estimated cost per year represents the amount needed for all seventeen school districts and charter schools within the state.

Unless the \$66,000 per year in estimated costs due to the Initiative can be absorbed within school budgets, the additional costs would be financed by the State of Nevada with funding allocated to school districts and charter schools through the State Distributive School Account.

Prepared by the Fiscal Analysis Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau – March 10, 2006