

Death Penalty Study Endorsed

Studies Have Said Capital Punishment Costs More Than Life In Prison

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CARSON CITY, Nev. -- A plan to study the costs of the death penalty in Nevada, amended to delete an execution moratorium while the study is being completed, won approval on a 30-12 state Assembly vote.

The vote sending AB190 to the Senate for final legislative action was along party lines, with all but two of the 14 Assembly Republicans opposing the plan.

Assemblyman Ty Cobb, R-Reno, termed AB190 "a waste of money," adding that any such study also should look for cost savings created by having the death penalty as an option for prosecutors.

Several studies have said that the cost of capital punishment is greater than the cost of life in prison without parole. Some estimates are that prosecution and appeals for death penalty cases amount to \$3 million to \$4 million per inmate -- about three times the cost of life-in-prison sentences.