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Senate Bill 7: Repealer/Telegraph Lines \* Senator Valerie Wiener \* 4-21-03

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. For the record, I am State Senator Valerie Wiener, representing Clark County District 3. I am here today to seek your support for Senate Bill 7, which would repeal various obsolete provisions relating to telegraphs.

As you will recall, I appeared before your committee in the 1999 session with a similar repealer bill—Senate Bill 27. That bill, which was signed into law by the governor on May 18, 1999, revised various provisions governing telegraphs, telephones, and community antenna television systems. With that law, I thought the job of getting rid of antiquated references to telegraphs was done. However, during the 2001 session, a bill that was heard by the Legislative Affairs Committee had a reference to telegraph lines. That's why I am here today. . . to ask your support to clean up a repealer bill.

The original version of SB-7 comprised 68 sections. However, the day the bill was scheduled for a floor vote, members of the Senate received an e-mail in opposition to the bill from Roger J. Meyers, the COO of Nevadacom.

SB-7 went on the Secretary of the Senate's desk on February 11 to give us the opportunity to resolve Mr. Meyers' issues. He provided several packets of materials supporting his concerns about the unintended consequences that SB-7 might impose. On March 27—44 days after SB-7 went on the Secretary's desk—a much abbreviated version of the original bill was passed by the Senate.

What you have before you in SB-7 is now a seven-section bill that simply changes any antiquated reference to "telegraph" to the more appropriate reference—"telegram."

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, for the past three legislative sessions, I've utilized one of my bill drafts to repeal an antiquated statute. In addition to this repealer, I'm also sponsoring Senate Bill 37, which will be heard in the Assembly Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics on April 29.

If passed, SB-37 will require the legislative counsel and the research director to work collaboratively to develop recommendations for elimination of obsolete or antiquated provisions in the Nevada Revised Statutes. They will make these recommendations to the Legislative Commission before July 1 of each even-numbered year. Then, if the commission deems any of the recommendations important, it can request a bill draft.

With SB-37, such bills as SB-27 of the 1999 session and SB-7, which is before you, will not depend on a legislator who is particularly interested in "cleaning up" our statutes. Rather, "accountability" for review of our statutes for the ones that might be redundant, outdated, irrelevant, or unnecessary would be the REGULAR charge of the LCB and Research Division.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 7. I urge your support of the measure, and would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

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