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ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS, PROCEDURES, AND ETHICS



WORK SESSION DOCUMENT

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ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, PROCEDURES, & ETHICS DATE: 3-27-03 ROOM: 3/38 EXHIBIT BB
SUBMITTED BY: Michelle Van Geel



PREPARED BY RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU Nonpartisan Staff of the Nevada State Legislature

WORK SESSION

Assembly Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics

March 27, 2003

Assembly Bill 235	
Assembly Bill 293	
Assembly Bill 328	



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WORK SESSION

Assembly Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics

March 27, 2003

The following measures will be considered for action by the Assembly Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics during a work session on Thursday, March 27, 2003:

ASSEMBLY BILL 235

Provides Voters' Bill of Rights. (BDR 24-270)

Sponsored by:

Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics (on behalf of the Office of

the Secretary of State)

Discussion

Assembly Bill 125 was heard by the Committee on March 11, 2003. Renee Parker, Chief Deputy Secretary of State, presented the bill on behalf of the Office of the Secretary of State. Ms. Parker indicated the intent of providing a Voters' Bill of Rights is to help voters understand their rights, reduce complaints by voters, and decrease disenfranchisement. This measure also complies with part of the requirements of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

Proposed Conceptual Amendments

- 1. Section 3, subsection 3, add the words "threatened and coerced" following intimidated (proposed by Assemblywoman Giunchigliani).
- 2. Section 3, subsection 5, remove "to the election board" (proposed by Alan Glover).
- 3. Section 3, subsection 10, remove "system" and replace it with "standard", "process", or "procedure" (proposed by Larry Lomax and Renee Parker).
- 4. Section 4, delete subsection 3, which requires the Voters' Bill of Rights to be printed on each sample ballot (proposed by Larry Lomax).
- 5. Section 4, add language requiring the Office of the Secretary of State to post the Voters' Bill of Rights on its website (proposed by Assemblywoman Giunchigliani).

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ASSEMBLY BILL 293

Revises provisions relating to appointment of committees to prepare arguments advocating and opposing certain ballot questions. (BDR 24-312)

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Harry Mortenson

Discussion

Assembly Bill 293 was heard by the Committee on March 25, 2003. Assemblyman Mortenson presented the bill to the Committee. The bill provides that if a ballot question is placed on the ballot by certain entities, including some quasi-public corporations, in counties with 100,000 population or more and cities with 60,000 population or more, committees must be appointed to prepare arguments advocating and opposing a ballot question. Many people testified in support of the bill and offered various amendments.

Proposed Conceptual Amendments

- 1. Add language to Section 1 clarifying that the County Commission will appoint committees only for countywide initiatives or petitions, and in other circumstances requiring the governing body of the jurisdiction potentially affected by an initiative or petition to appoint the committees (proposed by Larry Lomax).
- 2. Remove new language in Sections 1(b) and 2(b) and insert specific districts to which this bill should apply, for example school, library, and water districts (proposed by Assemblywoman Giunchigliani and Larry Lomax).
- 3. Allow the registrar of voters or the county clerks to establish and maintain a list of people who are willing to volunteer to serve on committees to prepare arguments advocating and opposing ballot questions (proposed by Assemblywoman Giunchigliani).

ASSEMBLY BILL 328

Requires Secretary of State to submit advisory question to voters concerning regulation of sale and use of fireworks in all counties of State of Nevada. (BDR S-787)

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Vonne Chowning

Discussion

Assembly Bill 328 was heard by the Committee on March 25, 2003. Assemblywoman Chowning presented the bill to the Committee. The bill requires the Secretary of State to submit an advisory question to voters concerning the regulation of the sale and use of fireworks in all counties of the State of Nevada.

Proposed Conceptual Amendments

In the language for the ballot question, delete the word "fireworks" and add the phrase "consumer fireworks (former Class C fireworks)" (proposed by Assemblywoman Giunchigliani and Dave Bowman, Assistant State Fire Marshal).