

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND LABOR**

**Seventy-Third Session
February 9, 2005**

The Committee on Commerce and Labor was called to order at 2:00 p.m., on Wednesday, February 9, 2005. Chairman Barbara Buckley presided in Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. All exhibits are available and on file at the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

Note: These minutes are compiled in the modified verbatim style. Bracketed material indicates language used to clarify and further describe testimony. Actions of the Committee are presented in the traditional legislative style.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Barbara Buckley, Chairman
Mr. John Ocegüera, Vice Chairman
Ms. Francis Allen
Mr. Bernie Anderson
Mr. Morse Arberry Jr.
Mr. Marcus Conklin
Mrs. Heidi Gansert
Ms. Chris Giunchigliani
Mr. Lynn Hettrick
Ms. Kathy McClain
Mr. David Parks
Speaker Richard Perkins
Mr. Bob Seale
Mr. Rod Sherer

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brenda J. Erdoes, Committee Counsel
Diane Thornton, Committee Policy Analyst
Russell Guindon, Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Keith Norberg, Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Barbara Houger, Committee Manager
Vanessa Brown, Committee Attaché
Sarah Gibson, Committee Attaché
Stacy Shaffer, Assistant Committee Manager

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

Chairwoman Buckley:

I'd like to go ahead and call the meeting of Commerce and Labor to order [Roll called]. This is the opportunity for opening remarks, and I'd like to open by saying welcome to the Commerce and Labor Committee. I feel very pleased to have our new members join us, as well as many legislators returning for the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth terms. I think this is one of the committees where we're fortunate to have veterans return year after year. The veterans will be able to provide some history because we see the same bills over and over again. They'll be able to comment on histories of ideas that either never passed, or passed and have had problems or success, and we'll have the newcomers be able to keep the veterans in line by offering fresh perspectives on new issues. I feel very fortunate to have this Committee.

I'd like to first introduce our staff for the Commerce and Labor Committee. First, I don't know how this happened, but we have Brenda Erdoes to be our Legal Counsel. Brenda, would you please explain to us how the most senior legal counsel person gets assigned to staff a committee? Because I really want to know. Just lucky.

For those freshman, Brenda is just the best. She's hardworking, diligent, knows every issue we've dealt with, and has so much experience. Last session in the tax debate, Brenda worked 22 hours a day running through different variations of language every 5 minutes. We don't see a dedication like hers very often, so I feel very privileged to have her sitting with us.

We are also fortunate to have Diane Thornton, who's sitting immediately to my left. Diane's been assigned to principally staff this Committee from the Research Division. She will be our point of contact in helping us research various ideas, issues, legislation, helping us to keep the bills scheduled, the meetings going very well. We're very fortunate to have Diane be our principal staff person.

I'd also like to introduce my legislative assistant and Committee Manager, Barbara Houger. Barbara, if you would please stand. Barbara is at my office downstairs, and she'll be primarily responsible working with Stacy Shaffer. Stacy is the Assistant Committee Manager. They'll be responsible for assisting in the scheduling of bills, notifying of witnesses. If you're personally tracking something or want to make sure someone's notified, they would be the folks that you would go to.

We also have two Committee Attachés. Vanessa Brown is sitting behind being our recording secretary today, and Sarah Gibson. Both of these individuals will help us record meetings, take minutes, and otherwise help us run all our Committee hearings. We also have a Committee Assistant, Casey Bales. Casey, would you also wave? Casey will also be assisting in the Commerce Committee setting up of the meetings.

The first item is the adoption of the Standing Committee Rules ([Exhibit B](#)). I believe everybody has received a copy in their folders. Are there any questions or concerns before I take a motion?

ASSEMBLYMAN OCEGUERA MOVED TO PASS THE STANDING
COMMITTEE RULES.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GIUNCHIGLIANI SECONDED
THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

Chairwoman Buckley:

Next, we have a presentation of a committee brief, which will be brief.

Diane Thornton, Committee Policy Analyst:

Before you is the committee brief ([Exhibit C](#)). This provides background information and summarizes other information that's important to this Committee.

Section 1 summarizes the measures that came before the Committee last session. Last session, a total of 145 measures were considered out of 1,064 bills.

Section 2 lists the Committee's jurisdiction. There have been changes to the jurisdiction of Commerce and Labor this session. The major changes include measures concerning Chapter 338, which is Public Works, which is now being referred to Government Affairs. In addition, this session, Commerce and Labor has jurisdiction over certain measures affecting revenue and taxation.

Section 3 briefly summarizes a few of the individual bills that went through Committee last session.

Section 4 touches on some topics that will come before the Committee. Some of these topics include measures relating to energy, public utilities, insurance, and professional occupational licensure.

Section 5 summarizes some important dates in the 120-Day Legislative Session Calendar.

Section 6 contains a contact list of state agencies that regularly testify before this Committee.

Lastly, in the concluding remarks is just a note for all the Committee members that if anyone needs assistance with research on any topic, the Research staff is available to provide Committee members with information on a confidential basis. Thank you.

Chairwoman Buckley:

I asked that it be brief. I just didn't feel like hearing three hours of the history of commerce and labor in the state of Nevada. I lived it; I didn't want to hear it again.

Just a couple other comments on scheduling. It's my intention to start at 2:00 promptly at each Committee hearing. I have three people assigned to make sure I'm in my seat by 1:55. So I'm going to gavel at 2:00. I'd ask everybody to be here at 2:00. A lot of times people will sit in their office, watch TV until the Committee starts, but we are going to start at 2:00.

It's my aim to not schedule Friday hearings until we need to. The need to will depend on the volume of the bills. We only have six bills so far referred to

Commerce and Labor. We've already scheduled four of the six of them for next Monday. When the volume picks up, we will schedule Friday hearings, and we schedule them for immediately upon adjournment of the Floor. We won't wait until 2:00. We'll do it closer probably to noon or whenever we're finished. We won't break for lunch; we'll come right up here to have our meeting. I would expect within a few weeks that will be necessary.

[Chairwoman Buckley, continued] As we did last session, if we meet between 12:00 and 3:00, we'll probably kick out most of the bills, so we'll do the same thing as we did last time. I would like everybody to be on time, if they can, to the meetings.

Are there any questions, or do any legislators want to make any opening comments for our Committee?

[Chairwoman Buckley, continued] The only presentation I might add is one next week. We may hear from the Renewable Energy Task Force. We may schedule a presentation on that, as well as we may ask for some testimony about the taped recording of the Enron officials with the Nevada Cogeneration Plant asking them to shut down the power plant to contribute to the energy crisis. I may ask for some independent testimony on that, separate and apart from bills. It's pretty embarrassing when your state shuts down a power plant, and I'd like to find out a little bit more about how it happened and what we're doing about it.

With that, thank you very much. We're adjourned [at 2:17PM].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Vanessa Brown
Committee Attaché

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Barbara Buckley, Chairman

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

Committee Name: Commerce and Labor

Date: 2/9/05 **Time of Meeting:** 2:00 pm

[illegible]