

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**Seventy-Third Session
March 1, 2005**

The Committee on Government Affairs was called to order at 8:12 a.m., on Tuesday, March 1, 2005. Chairman David Parks presided in Room 3143 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.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. David Parks, Chairman
Ms. Peggy Pierce, Vice Chairwoman
Mr. Kelvin Atkinson
Mr. Chad Christensen
Mr. Jerry D. Claborn
Mr. Pete Goicoechea
Mr. Tom Grady
Mr. Joe Hardy
Mrs. Marilyn Kirkpatrick
Mr. Bob McCleary
Mr. Harvey J. Munford
Ms. Bonnie Parnell
Mr. Scott Sibley

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susan Scholley, Committee Policy Analyst
Eileen O'Grady, Committee Counsel
Michael Shafer, Committee Attaché

OTHERS PRESENT:

Charles "Chuck" Fulkerson, Executive Director, Office of Veterans Services, State of Nevada

Chairman Parks:

[Called the meeting to order. Roll called.] Today, we have two bills on our agenda, Assembly Bill 130 and Assembly Bill 131. We'll go ahead and lead off with A.B. 130.

Assembly Bill 130: Revises provisions governing filling of certain vacancies on Nevada Veterans' Services Commission. (BDR 37-755)

Assemblyman Tom Grady, Assembly District No. 38, Storey County, Lyon County, Carson City (Part), Churchill County (Part):

[Introduced himself and read from Exhibit B.]

With me is Chuck Fulkerson, Executive Director of the Nevada Office of Veterans Services. Today, we have two bills which make changes to this Office in order to assist and better serve our veterans. Assembly Bill 130 makes only one change—Page 2, section 1, subsection 8, lines 29 and 30: The Veterans Office was formerly under the State National Guard. They now have their own identity. This change removes the Adjutant General from submitting names to the Governor for appointment to the Nevada Veterans Services Commission and gives this responsibility to the Executive Director of the Office of Veterans Service. Senator Terry Care and Assemblywoman Kathy McClain presently represent the Legislature on the Commission. I have discussed this with Lisa Foster of Governor Guinn's office, and Mr. Fulkerson has also sent this proposed legislation to the Governor's Office. We know of no opposition.

Assemblyman McCleary:

The National Guard is in support of this, correct?

**Charles "Chuck" Fulkerson, Executive Director, Office of Veterans Services,
State of Nevada:**

[Introduced himself.] I discussed this briefly with General Giles Vanderhoof. He had no problem with it.

Assemblyman Grady pretty much said it all. It's very direct ([Exhibit C](#)). All this does is complete the transition that was started in the 1999 Session. Obviously, it was overlooked, and we just picked it up and thought we tidied it up.

Chairman Parks:

It is pretty straightforward. Is there anyone in the audience who would like to speak to Assembly Bill 130? Not seeing any, I'd like to go ahead and close the hearing on Assembly Bill 130 and open the hearing on Assembly Bill 131.

**Assembly Bill 131: Eliminates requirement for joint meetings of Advisory
Committee for a Veterans' Cemetery in Northern Nevada and Advisory
Committee for a Veterans' Cemetery in Southern Nevada. (BDR 37-754)**

**Assemblyman Tom Grady, Assembly District No. 38, Storey County, Lyon
County, Carson City (Part), Churchill County (Part):**

Assembly Bill 131 addresses the Veterans Memorial Cemetery boards in both northern and southern Nevada. The current legislation calls for each board to meet four times per year, meeting jointly at least twice at alternate locations. This was helpful when the boards first started, but it serves no purpose now. The boards have seven members from veterans' organizations in the state of Nevada. Presently, Senator Mike McGinness and I, Assemblyman Tom Grady, serve on the northern board, and Assemblyman Mark Manendo and Senator Hardy serve on the southern board. We are requesting changes to Section 1, subsection 4, lines 16 and 17. The changes would retain four meetings per year but do away with the provision of joint meetings. However, the Executive Director or, if necessary, the Boards could call for joint meetings. The requested change would save travel expenses, and the reports would still go to the Executive Director as they do now.

Charles "Chuck" Fulkerson, Executive Director, Office of Veterans' Services:

I would like to say that the committee members are busy people and they take time out of their lives to serve on these committees, and they felt that the aftertime it took to get together wasn't really productive. The way I have it set up now, the two cemetery managers report to my deputy director in Las Vegas, Steve Long, and I think there's plenty of oversight. We both attend both

committee members' meetings, and there's a lot of give-and-take in cross talk between the two committees that way ([Exhibit D](#)).

Chairman Parks:

I'd like to talk just for a moment about line 18. Relative to 18 through 20, it deals with legislators and their term. I know there is always a question as to whether if someone does not run for reelection or is defeated, do they continue to serve? This will continue the practice that they will serve until the convening of the next session of the Legislature. Has that been any problem that you've experienced? Because there seems to be confusion with not just this assignment, but appointments in general for those individuals who are either defeated or choose not to run, but their appointment continues on the term of their office.

Charles Fulkerson:

I've been in six years, and that confused me when I first started out, but there doesn't seem to be any problem in rollover. Roy Neighbors is the first one I think of. He attended the meetings until the Speaker appointed someone new, and it was the same way when Senator Jacobson retired. He continued until Senator Care was appointed by the Senate, and the way I figured it out is part of the housekeeping that's done just before the Legislature starts.

Assemblyman Hardy:

I had that same question about another board and asked staff if they could do some research. I suspect that our staff has some knowledge about that, if they were willing to share that sometime.

Chairman Parks:

Later, thank you. Further questions or comments? I'm not seeing anything from anyone. I think it's a good piece of legislation. Hopefully, we can get it passed. Any, we'll close the hearing on Assembly Bill 131. Is there any public comment anyone would have that they'd like to make? Not seeing any, we are adjourned [at 8:24 a.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Michael Shafer
Committee Attaché

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman David Parks, Chairman

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

Committee Name: Government Affairs

Date: March 1, 2005 **Time of Meeting:** 8:12 a.m.

Bill #	Exhibit ID	Witness	Dept.	Description
N/A	A	Agenda	Government Affairs	Agenda
AB 130 & 131	B	Assemblyman Grady	Government Affairs	Written Testimony
AB 130	C	Chuck Fulkerson	Office of Veterans Services	Letter to Chairman Parks regarding <u>AB 130</u> .
AB 131	D	Chuck Fulkerson	Office of Veterans Services	Letter to Chairman Parks regarding <u>AB 131</u> .

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