

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING  
OF THE  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
AND THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**Seventy-Third Session  
May 6, 2005**

The joint meeting of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and Senate Committee on Finance was called to order at 8:18 a.m., on Friday, May 6, 2005. Vice Chairwoman Chris Giunchigliani 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.

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Chris Giunchigliani, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Mo Denis  
Mrs. Heidi S. Gansert  
Mr. Lynn Hettrick  
Mr. Joseph M. Hogan  
Mrs. Ellen Koivisto  
Ms. Sheila Leslie  
Mr. John Marvel  
Ms. Kathy McClain  
Mr. Richard Perkins  
Mr. Bob Seale  
Ms. Valerie Weber

**SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator William J. Raggio, Chairman  
Senator Bob Beers, Vice Chairman  
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske  
Senator Bob Coffin  
Senator Bernice Mathews  
Senator Dean A. Rhoads  
Senator Dina Titus

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Morse Arberry Jr., Chairman  
Mrs. Debbie Smith

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Gary Ghiggeri, Senate Fiscal Analyst  
Mark Stevens, Assembly Fiscal Analyst  
Bob Guernsey, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst (Senate)  
Steve Abba, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst (Assembly)  
Carol Thomsen, Committee Attaché  
Connie Davis, Committee Attaché

Vice Chairwoman Giunchigliani called the meeting to order and, for the benefit of new members, explained that the Joint Committee would review budget closing sheets, which depicted the differences between the budget closures of the Senate and the Assembly. When the funding level was different within the budget closures, there would be a discussion to ascertain whether a motion would be forthcoming from either the Senate or Assembly to close the budget as closed by the other House. The other option would be to hold the budget for further review.

Mark Stevens, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), advised the Joint Committee that, either by subcommittee or full committee, two-thirds of the budgets had been closed. The current closing sheet for review by the Joint Committee reflected only closures by the full committee. He explained that most of the work had been done by the subcommittees and had not yet been brought back to the full committees for review. Mr. Stevens noted that the current closing sheet only represented accounts where the Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance had closed differently.

**HIGH LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE (BA 1005)**  
**ELECTED-10, Volume I**

Mr. Stevens explained that the closure by the Assembly eliminated the Nevada Protection Fund (E-350), and transferred the \$2 million that was recommended in The Executive Budget for the first year of the biennium to the High Level Nuclear Waste account. Mr. Stevens stated that the Senate also eliminated the Nevada Protection Fund, but transferred \$1 million rather than \$2 million to the High Level Nuclear Waste account to support litigation activities related to Yucca Mountain.

Gary Ghiggeri, Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, stated that Mr. Stevens was correct, the Senate did eliminate the Nevada Protection Fund and instead of transferring the \$2 million, the Senate recommended continuing the funding at the \$1 million level.

Vice Chairwoman Giunchigliani suggested that the Assembly close the budget in accordance with the Senate closure, and indicated she would accept a motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN MARVEL MOVED TO CLOSE BA 1005 IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH THE SENATE CLOSURE.

ASSEMBLYMAN HETTRICK SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Titus, Chairman Arberry, and  
Assemblywoman Smith were not present for the vote.)

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**ENERGY CONSERVATION (BA 4868)**  
**ELECTED-22, Volume I**

Mr. Stevens indicated that the Assembly had closed BA 4868 with minor changes. The Committee on Ways and Means had approved the new deputy director position that was recommended in The Executive Budget for financing via the General Fund. Mr. Stevens said that in E-250, the Committee on Ways and Means had accessed some additional federal dollars to the maximum

extent possible in order to offset the General Fund obligation. Other than minor changes, that was the only change made by the Assembly.

Senator Raggio explained that the Senate had eliminated the requested new deputy director position. Because of the recent unexpected demise of Mr. Burdette, a member of the Governor's staff, Senator Raggio believed that the Senate should reconsider its closure of the budget.

SENATOR COFFIN MOVED TO CLOSE BA 4868 IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH THE ASSEMBLY CLOSURE.

SENATOR RHOADS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH SENATOR BEERS VOTING NO.  
(Chairman Arberry and Assemblywoman Smith were not present  
for the vote.)

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**AG MEDICAID FRAUD (BA 1037)**  
**ELECTED-52, Volume I**

Mr. Stevens stated that the Assembly closed BA 1037 with minor adjustments. The General Fund appropriation in the account was higher than had normally been recommended in The Executive Budget based on information from the agency, which indicated that recoveries were down because of litigation work in the pharmacy area. Testimony from the agency indicated that it needed the funds over the upcoming biennium to continue, since recoveries would be below the amount needed to match federal dollars. Mr. Stevens noted that the Senate had received testimony that indicated the agency would be able to make the federal match without the General Fund dollars, and that recoveries would be sufficient.

Vice Chairwoman Giunchigliani believed the Committees had received different information and her suggestion would be to close with the Senate.

SPEAKER PERKINS MOVED TO CLOSE BA 1037 IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH THE SENATE CLOSURE.

ASSEMBLYMAN DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Chairman Arberry and Assemblywoman  
Smith were not present for the vote.)

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**AG, VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (BA 1042)**  
**ELECTED-90, Volume I**

Mr. Stevens stated that the Assembly only made minor changes in BA 1042 and had approved the ombudsman position to be supported with General Fund dollars.

Mr. Ghiggeri stated that the Senate had recommended continuing to fund the ombudsman position with federal funds, as had been done in the past. Testimony had been provided that indicated there was no federal requirement to transition from federal funds to General Fund dollars for that position.

Vice Chairwoman Giunchigliani asked whether the federal funding was secure. Mr. Ghiggeri replied that, as far as testimony provided to the Senate, yes, it was secure funding.

ASSEMBLYMAN MARVEL MOVED TO CLOSE BA 1042 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SENATE CLOSURE.

ASSEMBLYMAN SEALE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Chairman Arberry and Assemblywoman Smith were not present for the vote.)

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**CONTROLLER'S OFFICE (BA 1130)**  
**ELECTED-99, Volume I**

Mr. Stevens explained that there had been a proposal to provide a two grade increase for certain accounting positions within the Controller's Office. The Assembly had approved a one grade increase, which was the difference in Enhancement Unit E-808. Mr. Stevens stated there had been a recommendation in the budget account for additional space in the Grant Sawyer Building in Las Vegas, and that recommendation had not been approved by the Assembly.

Senator Raggio stated that the Senate believed the case had been made for the additional space. He indicated that the Joint Committee should hold closure, particularly regarding the grade increases for positions, to ensure the action was comparable to the treatment being given to similar positions.

Vice Chairwoman Giunchigliani indicated that the Assembly would concur with holding the budget account for further review.

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION (BA 2892)**  
**CULTURAL-1, Volume I**

Mr. Stevens said the only closing difference was the funding for holocaust education, which was recommended in The Executive Budget at \$75,000 in the first year of the biennium. The Assembly Committee on Ways and Means had approved \$75,000 for that purpose in the second year of the biennium as well.

SENATOR TITUS MOVED TO CLOSE BA 2892 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ASSEMBLY CLOSURE.

SENATOR MATHEWS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH SENATOR BEERS VOTING NO. (Chairman Arberry and Assemblywoman Smith were not present for the vote.)

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With no further business to come before the Joint Committee,  
Vice Chairwoman Giunchigliani adjourned the hearing at 8:29 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Carol Thomsen  
Committee Attaché

APPROVED BY:

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Chris Giunchigliani, Vice Chairwoman  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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Senator William J. Raggio, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Finance

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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## EXHIBITS

**Committee Name: Joint Hearing Committee on Ways and Means  
and Senate Finance**

**Date:** May 6, 2005

**Time of Meeting: 7:30 a.m.**

Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda