

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**Seventy-third Session
May 27, 2005**

The Senate Committee on Finance was called to order by Chair William J. Raggio at 8:11 a.m. on Friday, May 27, 2005, in Room 2134 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file at the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary L. Ghiggeri, Senate Fiscal Analyst
Bob Guernsey, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Jo Greenslate, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott K. Sisco, Interim Director, Department of Cultural Affairs
Peter Barton, Museum Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Commission for Cultural Affairs, Division of Museums and History, Department of Cultural Affairs
Peter Bandurraga, Ph.D., Nevada Historical Society, Division of Museums and History Department of Cultural Affairs
Robert Nylen, Nevada State Museum, Division of Museums and History, Department of Cultural Affairs
Allen Newberry, Chief of Operations and Maintenance, Division of State Parks, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

CHAIR RAGGIO:

I would like to suggest to the Committee that we request a bill draft to reduce the payroll tax implemented last session from 0.65 percent to 0.64 percent, a 0.01 percent reduction.

SENATOR BEERS MOVED TO REQUEST A BILL DRAFT (BDR) TO REDUCE THE PAYROLL TAX IMPLEMENTED LAST SESSION FROM 0.65 PERCENT TO 0.64 PERCENT, A 0.01 PERCENT REDUCTION.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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GARY L. GHIGGERI (Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau):

I want to bring to the Committee's attention, when doing some final tune-ups to the Predatory Animal and Rodent Control budget; we discovered the transfer from the Department of Wildlife was overstated by approximately \$138,000 a year. Staff will make the adjustment to that account, but wanted to let you know what the cost would be. It was a one-sided transaction built into the Base Budget. There was revenue coming in from the Department of Wildlife, but there was no corresponding adjustment in the Wildlife budget to accommodate that.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

I will open the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 516.

SENATE BILL 516: Makes appropriation to Department of Cultural Affairs for purchase of state artifacts. (BDR S-1470)

SENATOR COFFIN:

I would like to thank Chair Raggio and the Committee for requesting this bill draft so that we could study the special needs that come up occasionally in what we now call the Department of Cultural Affairs, but we think of as the museums and historical societies. We occasionally have an opportunity to buy important, one-of-a-kind items that must be purchased at that time or they might go off the market for another 50 to 100 years. We all have a copy of the Department's presentation titled Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs S.B. 516, Division of Museums and History Significant Artifacts Acquisition ([Exhibit C](#)).

SCOTT K. SISCO (Interim Director, Department of Cultural Affairs):

The package we provided, [Exhibit C](#), will walk you through the nine or ten items included in S.B. 516. There is a suggested amendment included in the packet because your instructions were to draft the bill without the \$1.2 million Legends Hall of Fame collection. Since that had to be removed, we also corrected a few other errors in the bill.

The first item, on page 3 of [Exhibit C](#), allows for transportation of a GE 80-ton locomotive from the Nevada test site. This locomotive has been offered to us many times over the last several years, and we have never had the money to hire a crane, pick it up, put it on a truck, transport it to the Railroad Museum in Boulder City and put it into play.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Is it operational?

MR. SISCO:

Yes, it is operational. It would probably need a little work, but our interest in it is that it is the locomotive used to take the nuclear devices from the testing stages to the setup stages, and it is a significant piece of Nevada's history concerning that aspect. Whether or not we would actually operate it is yet to be seen. Mainly we would like to transport and preserve it within the Museum.

SENATOR BEERS:

Is it electric?

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PETER BARTON (Museum Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Commission for Cultural Affairs, Division of Museums and History, Department of Cultural Affairs):

It is a diesel electric locomotive. Diesel is the prime mover in terms of generating power to the wheels.

MR. SISCO:

Page 4 of [Exhibit C](#) describes the Grosh Papers.

PETER L. BANDURRAGA, PH.D. (Nevada Historical Society, Division of Museums and History, Department of Cultural Affairs):

The Grosh Papers represent, along with the papers of Carson County now held at the State Archives, some of the earliest documentary history of our state. The Grosh brothers came to California in 1849 and participated in the Gold Rush. Before the rush to Washoe of people coming to look for gold and silver in Nevada, they made one of the earliest silver strikes on the Comstock and then tragically died, which adds some cache to their work. One of the brothers put a pick ax through his foot and died of infection; the other set out over the mountains to California a few months later, in December, was frostbitten and died of gangrene. The family has had the papers and they live in New Jersey. They put the papers on the market a few years ago. We have been dealing with them since then. We have raised approximately \$40,000 in pledges toward the \$200,000 price, and we are asking for the balance.

Other repositories that are interested are places such as Yale University and the Huntington Library. We believe this significant collection should remain in Nevada.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Where are these papers?

DR. BANDURRAGA:

Currently, we have them in our collections area, but we do not own them.

The next item, on page 5, of [Exhibit C](#), is the Virginia City steam locomotive, Railroad No. 1251.

MR. SISCO:

This is a proposal to acquire a significant steam locomotive. The Southern Pacific Railroad built, in their Sacramento shops, 132 yard-switching locomotives, the most of a single class of locomotive built by the railroad. This particular class of locomotive served in the Reno-Sparks yard from about 1923 until the close of the steam era, approximately 1957. This particular locomotive was then placed on static display in Stockton, California, was purchased and put in private ownership and moved to Virginia City about 15 years ago. This proposal would provide funding to acquire, subsequently move and cosmetically repair the locomotive for public display.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Where is it currently?

MR. BARTON:

It is now in Virginia City. It is on the Virginia and Truckee (V&T) Railroad in Virginia City. It is not an operating locomotive.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Why is it in Virginia City? This locomotive was never used in Virginia City.

MR. BARTON:

It was acquired by the owner of that railroad about 15 years ago. I believe he had designs to restore it to operating condition.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Did they plan to operate the locomotive on the V&T Railroad?

MR. BARTON:

Yes, that is my understanding.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Was this type of locomotive ever used on the V&T Railroad?

MR. BARTON:

No, it was not, but it is of the size that suits that operation nicely.

MR. SISCO:

Page 6 shows the mining equipment and technology model collection. As you will recall, we are about to add a building that will connect the Nevada State Museum to the bank building we bought many years ago, and part of that is going to be to extend the mine out from under the museum. The mine is the museum's most popular exhibit. With the available hallway space approaching the elevator for the Americans with Disabilities Act access to the lower level, we will have an opportunity to display this mining collection. It consists of about 14 unique models that are detailed, intricate and clearly show the entire process of mining. It will add to that particular educational component of the state mine quite well.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

What size scale are the models?

MR. SISCO:

I apologize, I do not know. I can get that information to you.

SENATOR BEERS:

Did Mr. John Falkowski make the models for fun or were they part of another exhibit somewhere?

ROBERT NYLEN (Nevada State Museum, Division of Museums and History, Department of Cultural Affairs):

This was a hobby he had along with a great love of Nevada's mining history. He has produced many different types of models. He collects all the materials he uses, ages it and then cuts it and makes it to fine scale as you can see from the photographs on page 6 of [Exhibit C](#).

SENATOR BEERS:

Where does he live?

MR. NYLEN:

He lives in Mound House.

MR. SISCO:

On page 7 of [Exhibit C](#), there is a picture of the Washoe basket by Ms. Tootsie Dick Sam. This is a particular basket weaver whose work we do not have. It would be an important addition to our collection. The Nevada State Museum, as well as the Historical Society, has baskets by Dat So La Lee. This particular basket would be an important addition to understanding Nevada's history.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Who owns the basket?

MR. SISCO:

I believe it is a dealer in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

SENATOR COFFIN:

I am naïve about Native American baskets. I have not heard of Tootsie Dick Sam. Everyone knows of Dat So La Lee. What makes Ms. Lee's baskets especially collectable?

DR. BANDURRAGA:

There were a number of Washoe women about the same generation as Dat So La Lee. She, in many ways, led the way, but several others, including Tootsie Dick Sam, took a survival skill and created an art form. Her shape, the Degikup, is the most typical shape. They all have their own styles. Tootsie Dick Sam was one of the exceptional Native American basket weavers of perhaps a dozen, and when their examples come on the market, it is quite rare.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

What material was used to weave these baskets?

DR. BANDURRAGA:

They used willow.

MR. SISCO:

Page 8 of [Exhibit C](#) tells about a minerals collection for the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas. Currently, the Las Vegas Museum does not have, or has an almost non-existent, rocks and minerals collection of Nevada. The Museum is requesting approximately \$5,000 to put together an exhibit and purchase the necessary pieces for the exhibit.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Do you not have many mineral collections?

MR. SISCO:

We have a respectable mineral collection in the north, but we have very little in the south as far as items specific to that area.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

From whom would you purchase this?

DR. BANDURRAGA:

There are a number of collectors. We would go into the market to look for them.

SENATOR BEERS:

I think they have basements full at the Kech Museum in Reno. They have been gathering Nevada rocks for 100 years. I know they have a collection they have loaned out to the Governor.

DR. BANDURRAGA:

The Kech Museum is extremely extensive. Whether it extends to southern Nevada, I could not say.

MR. SISCO:

We would work with the Kech Museum, and this minimal amount would help to prepare the minerals for exhibition in the Las Vegas Museum.

Page 9 of [Exhibit C](#) tells about trying to do something with the natural history collection in Las Vegas. Most of the collections are approximately 22 years old. The big horn sheep was vandalized by a group of schoolchildren a few years ago. Much of the exhibit is in a state of disrepair. The requested \$7,000 will help us work with the Department of Wildlife to update the pieces before they further deteriorate.

Page 10 of [Exhibit C](#) displays a slot machine of the era the Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas would like to purchase. The Las Vegas Museum currently owns only two antique slot machines. The Museum is requesting \$10,000 to purchase two or three additional slot machines. The particular era they are seeking is from the 1930s to the 1950s. Gaming plays a big role in our state's history, and we have limited examples of gaming history in the state museums.

The last item, on page 11 of [Exhibit C](#), is the Frederick Dellenbaugh's 1876 painting of the Las Vegas Ranch. The painting has been on and off the market for many years, and we are hoping to be in a position, the next time it comes on the market, to purchase the painting as part of the state's history.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

I have not heard of this artist. Who is he?

DR. BANDURRAGA:

Mr. Frederick Dellenbaugh was a young man in New York who signed on with Mr. John Wesley Powell's expedition down the Colorado River in 1871. Although untrained, he worked as an artist and a photographer. He took many of the famous photographs of Mr. Powell and southern Paiute Indians. He returned to New York, was educated at the New York Art Institute and a couple of other places and came out west again. In 1876, he came into the Las Vegas valley and made this painting, which is about our only visual record of southern Nevada in those days or the entire 19th century. Although he is not one of the major artists of the century, he is prominent, and this is, for its artifact value, incredibly significant.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Is the painting available for purchase?

DR. BANDURRAGA:

I do not know specifically. As Mr. Sisco said, from time to time it comes on the market.

MR. SISCO:

When approaching the artifact owners, we had to be careful. When you asked us to prepare a list, we were afraid when they heard State, they would think deep pockets and raise the price. For two of the items in [Exhibit C](#), we took the most recent appraised approximate value. Until we had money and were able to approach the owners and start negotiating, we were afraid we would drive the price up if they knew we were asking the Legislature for funds.

There is a suggested amendment included in [Exhibit C](#). The amendment was primarily prepared due to the fact the bill did not come out as you instructed and it still had the \$1.2 million, but we were also recommending a language change that would allow us a little flexibility. For example, if one item costs \$2,000 more and another item costs \$2,000 less, we would like to be able to proceed. If something major happened, we would recommend coming to the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) and requesting permission to change the amounts spent on specific items.

SENATOR TITUS:

I visited the northern Nevada Railroad Museum in Ely, and they have many papers that would make wonderful dissertations and history; it is an incredible collection. They are sitting in wooden drawers next to the potbellied stove. They are not archived and are unprotected.

DR. BANDURRAGA:

Actually, it is better than it has been. When that facility first came into state possession, we had concerns about theft and other problems. We removed the collection and brought it to Reno for a number of years. That proved to be impractical because there is considerable use on that collection primarily from former employees of the Nevada Northern Railway looking for social security information and things of that nature, plus the plans and other things. We returned the collection as we had staff at the site. At that point, we had to put it into an outdoor closet, so if they brought it back into the building, it is an improvement. The most logical solution for taking care of the collection is going through the state library to obtain a substantial grant through the Library Services and Training Act (LSTA), which is federal funding for this type of collection, in the next cycle or two.

SENATOR TITUS:

Are you working on that?

DR. BANDURRAGA:

We will be in the next cycle. The cycle is finishing for this year.

SENATOR TITUS:

What about using metal file cabinets? It seems that for a small amount of money a better way to store the collection could be found.

DR. BANDURRAGA:

Filing cabinets are remarkably expensive, and if we are going to go in that direction, we might as well use archival supplies, proper archivists, of which it would take at least two. It is a huge collection, at least 100 boxes including approximately 100 huge ledgers. Space and the proper pH-neutral supplies would be needed.

SENATOR TITUS:

It would be great to have it ideal, but it would also be nice to have it a little better. Do you agree?

DR. BANDURRAGA:

I agree.

MR. SISCO:

Senator Titus, because of your questions during the last hearing, I looked into it after we left here. One thing I learned is the Railroad Museum is receiving the biggest chunk of deferred maintenance funding included in the budget. It is approximately \$600,000, and we hope to receive the LSTA grant funding in order to digitize the records. The museum personnel have done a remarkable job of preserving the collection. However, it is a difficult situation because there are only two employees and they can only do so much.

SENATOR TITUS:

Those papers seem to be so valuable. I was going to put money into the bill for cabinets if I could get the votes, but you do not seem to want that.

DR. BANDURRAGA:

I would suggest a moderate amount for supplies; it would take us quite a ways down the road. Generally, in the profession, we shy away from metal cabinets because if you jam too many documents into them, it can do damage. It is easier to deal with individual boxes.

SENATOR TITUS:

How much would that be, \$10,000?

DR. BANDURRAGA:

Ten thousand dollars would go a long way.

SENATOR MATHEWS:

What about putting the collection into archival storage boxes and buying a small storage shed to store the boxes?

DR. BANDURRAGA:

Actually, I believe there would be enough space within the depot building, if there were proper materials to store the papers.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Is the depot building still open to tourists?

DR. BANDURRAGA:

Yes, it is.

SENATOR COFFIN:

We need to consider approving this request. One reason Senator Titus does not hear requests for such things as storage cabinets is that agencies have learned not to request anything that is not in the budget. We ought to add \$10,000 to this bill for archival storage at Ely.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

I will close the hearing on S.B. 516 and open the hearing on S.B. 517.

SENATE BILL 517: Makes various changes to provisions providing funding for state parks. (BDR S-1473)

ALLEN NEWBERRY (Chief of Operations and Maintenance, Division of State Parks, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources):

Please refer to a memorandum I distributed from Mr. Steve Weaver to Mr. Mike Nolan dated February 9, 2005, titled Park Improvements Program Carryover Legislation List ([Exhibit D](#)). This is carryover legislation for three specific uncompleted projects. One is for Buckland Station for General Funds of \$4,470. This project was delayed due to archeological work discovered on the property. The project had to be shut down while an archeological dig was performed on the property.

Project 2 is at Lake Tahoe Sand Harbor State Park. It is the building maintenance project where we are rebuilding a 40-year-old facility. The funds are from tourism room tax. The third project is \$261,000 carryover for a paving project. We just built a new visitors center and installed a new underground water system. We delayed the paving so we could install the utilities without having to tear up the new paving and repave it.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Is the information in [Exhibit D](#) still current?

MR. NEWBERRY:

Yes, it is.

SENATOR BEERS:

Did Buckland Station grounds flood in 1997?

MR. NEWBERRY:

Fort Churchill partially flooded, but Buckland Station did not. The lower part of the grounds flooded, but not the building itself.

SENATOR BEERS:

What was the archeological project?

MR. NEWBERRY:

It was a privy.

SENATOR BEERS:

Did the archeologists find anything interesting?

MR. NEWBERRY:

Yes, they did. They found bottles, coins and other miscellaneous artifacts. They will be on display when the facility is open.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

We can process S.B. 517 if the Committee wishes.

SENATOR BEERS MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 517.

SENATOR COFFIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CHAIR RAGGIO:
We can look at S.B. 374.

SENATE BILL 374: Makes appropriation to Nevada Commission on Sports for costs relating to submission of application to host Winter Olympic Games in 2014. (BDR S-1097)

In view of the actions we took yesterday on Tourism, this bill can be indefinitely postponed.

SENATOR BEERS MOVED TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE S.B. 374.

SENATOR MATHEWS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CHAIR RAGGIO:
In my absence, you heard a number of bills. We need to look at Assembly Bill (A.B.) 299.

ASSEMBLY BILL 299 (2nd Reprint): Authorizes exchange of land with Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and construction of new restitution center for Department of Corrections. (BDR S-820)

SENATOR BEERS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 299.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CHAIR RAGGIO:
You also heard A.B. 533 in my absence.

ASSEMBLY BILL 533 (1st Reprint): Extends date for reversion of appropriation made by 2003 Legislature for state radio systems. (BDR S-1037)

SENATOR BEERS MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 533.

SENATOR COFFIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR RAGGIO:

Senate Bill 463 is the bill that contains the \$8 million from the unclaimed property from the Millennium Scholarship program.

SENATE BILL 463 (1st Reprint): Makes various changes concerning use of revenues from disposition of unclaimed property. (BDR 30-578)

SENATOR BEERS MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 463.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR RAGGIO:

Senate Bill 165 was heard on April 25, 2005, in this Committee. It dealt with fees for the State Department of Agriculture to carry out provisions pertaining to petroleum products weights and measures. Is there an amendment to the bill?

SENATE BILL 165 (1st Reprint): Specifies permissible uses by State Department of Agriculture of certain fees and other money. (BDR 50-1136)

MR. GHIGGERI:

If the Committee desires to process this legislation, staff would suggest that it be amended to be effective July 1, 2007, so that we do not have to reopen the Department of Agriculture's budgets. If it were processed with the current effective date of July 1, 2005, it would necessitate revising the Department of Agriculture's budgets because the funding that is currently flowing into the General Fund of approximately \$560,000 a year would flow to the Department of Agriculture.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Is this regarding the inspection fees?

MR. GHIGGERI:

Yes, it is regarding petroleum inspection fees.

SENATOR RHOADS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 165 TO MAKE THE EFFECTIVE DATE JULY 1, 2007.

SENATOR BEERS SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR BEERS:

I would also point out that we learned, over the course of the budget hearings and investigating this bill, this was much more awash than it first appeared because we frequently have additional appropriation bills for equipment for this agency that in some years equals the amount of General Fund contribution it makes. It sounds like a \$1 million General Fund appropriation over the biennium, but it is probably not nearly that severe.

SENATOR TITUS:

I am looking at the last paragraph of the Legislative Counsel's Digest on page 1 where it mentions imposing an inspection fee for motor vehicle fuel or lubricating oil that is transported into the state. Does this mean we are raising the gasoline tax? Could we put into the record how that works? I do not want to vote on something that would raise the gasoline tax.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

I do not believe it changes the gasoline tax.

SENATOR BEERS:

No, the bill is about the existing fee.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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SENATOR MATHEWS:

Could we consider S.B. 203? It is the bill dealing with the police and fire officers' occupational diseases.

SENATE BILL 203: Revises various provisions relating to industrial injuries and occupational diseases of certain police officers and firefighters. (BDR 53-1078)

CHAIR RAGGIO:

Did we ever get the fiscal note revised on that? I was inviting the Committee to look at the bills so that we would know which ones we might be able to process out of the Senate.

SENATOR MATHEWS:

Senate Bill 203 is exempt.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

By Monday, I would like to look at processing some of the bills we would like to see collectively passed out of the Senate.

SENATOR TITUS:

Senate Bill 14 is a special license plate bill, and the feeling is that we are not going to offer additional special license plates. I have talked to Chair Dennis Nolan of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security, and we have been working on this bill. We have a Commission on Special License Plates that limits the number of special license plates to 25. Some of the special license plates on the list are not selling, but something has to move off the list before a new plate may be added. The signatures have been collected to add a Red Rock plate and there is a lot of interest in that plate.

Could we use this as a vehicle to change the number of allowed special license plates from 25 to 30 to give the Commission more leeway to reprioritize some of the special plates on the waiting list?

SENATE BILL 14: Revises provisions relating to certain special license plates (BDR 43-322)

CHAIR RAGGIO:

So that we all understand, those wanting a new special license plate must apply to the Commission on Special License Plates. Is that correct?

SENATOR TITUS:

That is correct. The requester must have 1,000 signatures on a petition in order to authorize a new special plate. Currently, the Commission is limited to 25 special plates. However, some of the special plates are old and not many are being sold. If we could raise the number to 30, it would give the Commission more leeway to consider some that have already collected the required number of signatures, of which the Red Rock plate is one.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

During the years I sat on the Senate Committee on Transportation, I recall we did sunset some of those license plates. We added a provision that if the license plate did not receive enough signatures by a certain date, they would be taken off the list.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

I suggest we request a proposed amendment that would increase the number of special plates allowed to 30, and, in the meantime, find out if there is a need to do that.

SENATOR COFFIN:

Senate Bill 161 has a fiscal note of approximately \$80,000. Senate Bill 355 has amendments and a fiscal note to put some certainty into the cost and remove the biennium cost for future years. I know it is a lot of money, but as we think about bills this weekend, we should think about these two bills, particularly, because it is Memorial Day weekend. I cannot think of a better salute to our National Guard and Reserves who are serving than to pass these two bills out of this Committee and out of the Senate. I request we take that action on Monday.

SENATE BILL 161: Creates Nevada War on Terrorism Medal. (BDR 36-705)

SENATE BILL 355: Provides for bonus to be paid to certain members of Nevada National Guard and Reserves called to active duty to combat terrorism. (BDR 36-704)

CHAIR RAGGIO:

First, we need to see what we come up with on the list. Staff's latest numbers indicate the onetime funding that appears to be available at this time is approximately \$44 million for this year. That does not include the request on the University and Community College System of Nevada Capital Improvement Program project list of \$92 million, \$25 million of that being for the "transplant" facility that is not connected to the University of Nevada Medical School. In fiscal year (FY) 2006, there is \$31 million of onetime money, and in FY 2007, there is \$75 million of onetime money. You need to be mindful there are

reasonable limits to what is available to fund what both the Senate and the Assembly suggest. I am suggesting we act in a reasonable fashion and pick out the ones we believe serve the public interest to the highest level.

SENATOR COFFIN:

I could not agree with you more. I appreciate all these cautionary tales to our Committee because we have to be mindful of what we do with this money. The public is also mindful of the hundreds of millions of dollars sitting out there in surplus, and I know the public will be watching to see, once session is over, just how we spent that money. I am also reminded that while the Governor may propose a budget, the Legislature disposes of it. It may or may not be in agreement with the Governor. The Governor has the right to veto legislation if he chooses and that would naturally include appropriations. I, myself, do not feel hindered by the opinion of the Governor as to exactly what is available to the Legislature. It seems to me we need to assert ourselves and do what we think is right for the public. I know we will ultimately make the right decisions.

CHAIR RAGGIO:

I agree, but would point out it is a process that requires the approval of both the Legislature and the Governor.

I will recess this Committee at 9:02 a.m. until the call of the Chair.

The meeting was subsequently adjourned at 4:45 p.m. upon the call of the Chair.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Jo Greenslate,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator William J. Raggio, Chair

DATE: _____