

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES AND EDUCATION**

**Seventy-third Session
March 23, 2005**

The Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education was called to order by Chair Maurice E. Washington at 2:36 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23, 2005, in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4412, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, 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 Maurice E. Washington, Chair
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske, Vice Chair
Senator Dennis Nolan
Senator Joe Heck

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Bernice Mathews (Excused)
Senator Valerie Wiener (Excused)
Senator Steven Horsford (Excused)

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Tom Grady, Assembly District No. 38

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leslie K. Hamner, Committee Counsel
Marshellah D. Lyons, Committee Policy Analyst
Patricia Vardakis, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ace Tan, Administrative Services Officer, Office of Executive Director for Veterans' Services, Office of Veterans' Services

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Daryl Mobley, Nevada Veterans' Services Commission, Office of Veterans' Services

Nancy K. Ford, Administrator, Welfare Division, Department of Human Resources

Miki Allard, Staff Specialist, Welfare Division, Department of Human Resources

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

We will open the hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 130 and A.B. 131.

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

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):

Assembly Bill 130 and Assembly Bill 131 make changes to existing legislation that will assist and better serve our veterans. There is one change in A.B. 130 which is on page 2, lines 29 and 30. The Office of Veterans' Services was formerly under the State National Guard. The Office of Veterans' Services now has its own identity. This change removes the Adjutant General from submitting names to the Governor for appointment to the Nevada Veterans' Service Commission and gives this responsibility to the Executive Director of the Office of Veterans' Services. Presently, Senator Terry Care and Assemblywoman Kathy A. McClain represent the Legislature on the commission. The proposed legislation has been discussed and has been sent to the Office of the Governor. There has been no opposition to this change in legislation.

Assembly Bill 131 addresses the Advisory Committee for a Veterans' Cemetery in both northern and southern Nevada. The current legislation calls for each advisory committee to meet four times a year, meeting jointly at least twice at alternate locations. This was helpful when the advisory committees first started, but it serves no purpose now.

The advisory committees each have seven members. One member is appointed by the majority leader in the Senate, one member appointed by the speaker of the Assembly and five members from veterans' organizations in the State of Nevada. Presently, Senator Mike McGinness and I serve on the northern

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advisory committee. Senator Warren B. Hardy II and Assemblyman Mark A. Manendo serve on the southern advisory committee.

We are requesting changes to lines 16 and 17, on page 2 of A.B. 131. The four meetings per year would be retained, but the provision for joint meetings would be removed. The executive director could call for joint meetings. The requested change would save travel expenses and the reports would still go to the executive director.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

I recall when the joint meetings of the advisory committees were instituted.

ACE TAN (Administrative Services Officer, Office of Executive Director for Veterans' Services, Office of Veterans' Services):

The verbiage we seek to change in A.B. 130 dates back to when the Office of Veterans' Services was under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Adjutant General. This no longer is applicable.

The advisory committees operate independently. The two advisory committees are in constant communication. The mandatory joint meetings are a wasteful drain on our limited resources, therefore A.B. 131 is necessary.

DARYL MOBLEY (Nevada Veterans' Services Commission, Office of Veterans' Services):

The Veterans of Foreign Wars agree with A.B. 130 and A.B. 131.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

There does not appear to be any objection to the bills presented. We will vote on these bills at our next meeting.

We will close the hearing on A. B. 130 and A.B. 131. We will now hear testimony on A.B. 13.

ASSEMBLY BILL 13: Revises qualifications of State Welfare Administrator of Welfare Division of Department of Human Resources. (BDR 38-239)

NANCY K. FORD (Administrator, Welfare Division, Department of Human Resources):

Assembly Bill 13 makes changes to the qualifications of the State welfare administrator. This bill was requested by the Department of Human Resources and was submitted to the Legislature through the Governor's Office. The intent of the bill is to align the qualifications for the state welfare administrator with the actual skills necessary to be a more efficient administrator for the Welfare Division.

The existing statutory language has been in effect since 1949. It provides a narrow description of the qualifications for the state welfare administrator. We are seeking to update the language and qualifications so that we could have a broader candidate pool for this position. The proposed language indicates the director of the Department of Human Resources will give preference to a candidate who has a degree in a field of social science, public administration, business administration or a related field; has experience in directing a public agency; and possess qualities of leadership.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

Michael J. Willden, Administrator, Department of Human Resources, has spoken to the Committee about this change.

Have caseloads decreased?

MS. FORD:

Caseloads in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program have decreased. Food stamps and Medicaid continue to increase, but not at a fast rate. The new personnel allotted to the Department of Human Resources last Legislative Session has given us the opportunity to keep up with the caseload and case-processing times.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

You are probably at a level where clients are difficult to place.

MS. FORD:

Approximately 37 percent of our mandatory work population has barriers due to domestic violence, mental health, or drug and alcohol issues. They are difficult to serve.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

Do you have a low Medicaid return rate?

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MS. FORD:
The return rate is low.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:
The U.S. Congress has approved new appropriations for TANF.

MS. FORD:
We have been extended through June 30, 2005, on a continuing resolution, and they are considering TANF reauthorization after the spring break.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:
It looks as though the measure will pass.

MS. FORD:
I believe that it will pass this year.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:
Ms. Allard, are you in support of A.B. 13? In what capacity do you work?

MIKI ALLARD (Staff Specialist, Welfare Division, Department of Human Resources):
I am in support of A.B. 13. I am a staff specialist and work with the administrator.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:
Would this change affect you?

MS. ALLARD:
There is a potential that the change could affect me.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:
There does not appear to be any opposition or controversy concerning A.B. 13. We will vote on this bill at our next meeting.

We will address A.B. 13, A.B. 130 and A.B. 131 during our next meeting. We have three bill draft requests (BDRs) for introduction.

BILL DRAFT REQUEST 38-372: Revises provisions governing abuse or neglect of children. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 296](#).)

SENATOR NOLAN MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR 38-372.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS MATHEWS, WIENER AND HORSFORD WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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BILL DRAFT REQUEST 38-168: Makes various changes concerning family resource centers and funding of certain public welfare services. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 297](#).)

SENATOR NOLAN MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR 38-168.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS MATHEWS, WIENER AND HORSFORD WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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BILL DRAFT REQUEST 38-692: Requires Department of Human Resources under certain circumstances to enter into agreement with Federal Government to determine eligibility for Medicaid at same time Federal Government determines eligibility for Supplemental Security Income Program. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 298](#).)

SENATOR NOLAN MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR 38-692.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS MATHEWS, WIENER AND HORSFORD WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR WASHINGTON:

There being no other issues before us today, the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education will adjourn at 2:54 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Patricia Vardakis,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Maurice E. Washington, Chair

DATE: _____