

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

**Seventy-Fourth Session
February 21, 2007**

The Committee on Commerce and Labor was called to order by Chair John Oceguera at 1:36 p.m., on Wednesday, February 21, 2007, in Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/74th/committees/. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (email: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775-684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman John Oceguera, Chair
Assemblyman Marcus Conklin, Vice Chair
Assemblywoman Francis Allen
Assemblyman Bernie Anderson
Assemblyman Chad Christensen
Assemblywoman Heidi S. Gansert
Assemblyman William Horne
Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick
Assemblyman Garn Mabey
Assemblyman Mark Manendo
Assemblyman David R. Parks
Assemblyman James Settelmeyer

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Assemblyman Morse Arberry, Jr. (excused)
Assemblywoman Barbara E. Buckley (excused)



STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brenda Erdoes, Committee Counsel
Dave Ziegler, Committee Policy Analyst
Earlene Miller, Committee Secretary
Gillis Colgan, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

John P. Sande, III, Attorney at Law, representing Reno-Sparks
Convention and Visitors Authority
Tony F. Sanchez, III, Attorney at Law, representing Las Vegas
Convention and Visitors Authority
Stephen C. Woodbury, MPA, Deputy Director, Nevada Commission
on Tourism

[The roll was called and a quorum was present.]

Chair Ocegüera:

I am opening the hearing on Assembly Bill 101. Does anyone wish to testify in favor of A.B. 101?

**Assembly Bill 101: Revises provisions governing the Commission on Tourism.
(BDR 18-772)**

**John P. Sande, III, Attorney at Law, representing Reno-Sparks Convention and
Visitors Authority:**

The Commission on Tourism is composed of the Lieutenant Governor and appointees of the Governor. Chief executive officers from the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (RSCVA) and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA) serve on the board, but are non-voting, ex-officio members. This bill would allow the ex-officio members, because of their expertise and the fact that they attend meetings, to vote and express the opinions of their respective convention and visitors authorities. There is an amendment proposed by the Nevada Commission on Tourism to clarify the law so there will be 11 voting members. The bill erroneously stated there would be 12 members, and it would be a minor change. We support the amendment in its entirety.

**Tony F. Sanchez, III, Attorney at Law, representing the Las Vegas Convention
and Visitors Authority:**

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority support Mr. Sande's comments. We feel giving voting rights to the ex-officio members encourages a

more integrated approach to the promotion and coordination of tourism throughout the State. Stakeholders throughout the State would have a vote and input, as well as providing additional oversight to the Commission. We are also in support of the amendment.

Chair Ocegüera:

Mr. Sanchez, tell me how this changes the Commission.

Tony F. Sanchez:

Currently, the Executive Directors of the two largest Convention and Visitor Authorities serve in an ex-officio, non-voting status. This would give them a vote.

Chair Ocegüera:

Are the rest of the members voting members?

Tony F. Sanchez:

That is correct.

Chair Ocegüera:

Are there any questions from the Committee?

Assemblywoman Gansert:

I am trying to determine who is appointed to the commission. I am looking at page 2, line 26. Can you give me an outline of the qualifications of those who are appointed by the Governor?

Tony F. Sanchez:

One member is the Lieutenant Governor. In the amendment, one member would have to be a resident of a county with a population of 400,000 or more; another member would have to be a resident of a county with a population is 100,000 or more, but less than 400,000. Two members would be from counties with populations of less than 100,000, and four members would be residents of any county in the State.

Chair Ocegüera:

Are there any further questions? Are there any others wishing to testify in favor of the bill? Are there any who would like to testify in opposition to the bill? Is there anyone who would like to testify from a neutral position?

Stephen C. Woodbury, MPA. Deputy Director, Nevada Commission on Tourism:

The Commission is proposing to amend A.B. 101 ([Exhibit C](#)) to define the composition of the Commission to include 11 members—the Lieutenant

Governor, eight members appointed by the Governor, and the Executive Directors of the Convention and Visitors Authorities for the two counties paying the highest amount of lodging tax. This has been the composition of the Commission since 1999, when the composition was last addressed. The amendment retains a provision in A.B. 101 to make the commissioners from the LVCVA and the RSCVA voting members. The amendment also corrects the title of the Director of the Nevada Commission on Tourism as recommended by a study by the Department of Personnel in 2005.

Chair Oceguera:

Are there any questions from the Committee?

Assemblyman Anderson:

I have a question for Mr. Sande. If we expand the size of the Commission from eight to eleven, are we going to include the convention authorities as a matter of course in the larger body?

John P. Sande:

The size of the Commission will not be any larger. Eight members are appointed by the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor is a member. There are two ex-officio members, the Executive Directors of the two convention authorities. There will be the same number of members, but the two ex-officio members will be able to vote.

Assemblyman Anderson:

So, individuals who are concerned about recreation, parks, and other types of similar issues, do not have a representative.

John P. Sande:

That is correct. The Governor appoints members based upon the county where they reside.

Assemblyman Anderson:

Is it only limited by the size of the county population?

John P. Sande:

The Governor is to provide members who are informed on, or have experience in travel and tourism, including the business of gaming. That is the existing law.

Assemblyman Anderson:

It is likely, that in the two larger counties those appointees would be on the Convention and Visitor Authorities. Would this increase the Convention and

Visitor Authorities authority because the ex-officio members are now voting members?

John P. Sande:

I appeared before the Tourism Commission recently, and none of the members were members of the RSCVA, nor were they ever on the Commission. I believe the same thing is true for southern Nevada.

Chair Ocegüera:

Are there any further questions from the Committee? I will close the hearing on A.B. 101. Is there any other business to come before the Committee?

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Earlene Miller
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman John Ocegüera, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

Committee Name: Committee on Commerce and Labor

Date: February 21, 2007

Time of Meeting: 1:30 p.m.

Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster
AB 101	C	Stephen C. Woodbury, MPA Deputy Director, Nevada Commission on Tourism	Summary Sheet and Amendment