

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**Seventy-Fourth Session  
April 26, 2007**

The Committee on Transportation was called to order by Chair Kelvin Atkinson at 1:36 p.m., on Thursday, April 26, 2007, in Room 3143 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, 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/](http://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](mailto:publications@lcb.state.nv.us); telephone: 775-684-6835).

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Assemblyman Kelvin Atkinson, Chair  
Assemblyman Mark Manendo, Vice Chair  
Assemblyman David Bobzien  
Assemblyman John C. Carpenter  
Assemblyman Jerry D. Claborn  
Assemblyman Ty Cobb  
Assemblywoman Susan Gerhardt  
Assemblyman Ed Goedhart  
Assemblyman Pete Goicoechea  
Assemblyman Joseph Hogan  
Assemblywoman RoseMary Womack

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Senator Valerie Wiener, Clark County Senatorial District No. 3

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marjorie Paslov Thomas, Committee Policy Analyst  
Sharon Wilkinson, Committee Counsel  
Kelly Troescher, Committee Secretary  
Matt Mowbray, Committee Assistant

Minutes ID: 1093



**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Tim Tetz, Executive Director, Office of Veterans' Services  
Fred Wagar, National Service Officer, Disabled American Veterans  
Mark Froese, Administrator, Research and Development Division,  
Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles

**Chair Atkinson:**

[Meeting called to order. Roll called.] We have a quorum. We have three Senate Bills up for consideration today: Senate Bill 17, Senate Bill 175, and Senate Bill 481. We are going to take them in that order. I see that the sponsor for S.B. 17 is here. We will invite her to the table to begin her testimony.

**Senate Bill 17: Revises provisions relating to certain special license plates for veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States. (BDR 43-68)**

**Senator Valerie Wiener, Clark County Senatorial District No. 3:**

I appear before you today to urge your support for Senate Bill 17, which would revise the *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) to allow certain veterans of our armed forces to apply for, and receive, an additional set of license plates commemorating their status.

My interest in this particular bill was inspired by a disabled veteran in my district who wanted to purchase a second set of license plates for a second vehicle. He was informed that the law limited him to one set of plates. When I requested the bill draft request (BDR) to address his concerns, I learned about the inconsistencies in the issuance of plates to people connected with military service to our country. There are currently three groups who have military service that are permitted to receive two sets of plates: members of the Nevada wing of the Civil Air Patrol, members of the Nevada National Guard, and recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. I am here before you to seek your support to include other groups of American heroes in this privilege, who are currently excluded.

Senate Bill 17 would allow the purchase of two sets of license plates by others who have served our country, including disabled veterans, Pearl Harbor survivors, ex-prisoners of war (POW), and Purple Heart recipients. Therefore, I urge your support for S.B. 17.

**Assemblyman Hogan:**

As one who lives in Senate District 3 and is also a military veteran, I find this an excellent idea. I am glad you brought it forward. I will have no trouble supporting your legislation.

**Chair Atkinson:**

I have a clarifying question. In reading the bill and looking at the background information, State law currently allows for one set of plates. There is no other mechanism by which they can get another plate. We are able to get a multiple number of our Assembly and Senate member plates, but veterans cannot. Is that correct?

**Senator Wiener:**

Ms. Wilkinson helped me with this bill. It is a sort of fluke in the law because I mentioned the three groups, including the group of the Congressional Medal of Honor winners, who are allowed to get another set of plates. It would be a second set of plates with another number. It is not as though we are expanding "Senate 10" to five vehicles.

Let us say a disabled veteran had a second car or truck. They are limited to have one set of plates that would have that designation. This would allow them to have a second set of plates with different numbers for the second vehicle. The law does not allow that at this time.

**Assemblyman Manendo:**

Does this bill include all different types of veteran plates?

**Senator Wiener:**

In research, Ms. Wilkinson found things I did not know. This would provide the privilege to include those who are already excluded. The groups represented would be disabled veterans, Pearl Harbor survivors, ex-POWs, and Purple Heart recipients. They are currently limited to one set.

**Assemblyman Manendo:**

It was my understanding that it would just be a Purple Heart plate, which is fine, but it gave me concern. My father was a disabled veteran. He was proud of that. When we had two cars, he had the plate on one car and not on the other. In being disabled, he had the plate as a marker for when he needed to park in a handicapped spot. He was limited to which car he could use, depending on where he was going. I am glad this is expanding to include all veterans.

**Senator Wiener:**

When I first brought forth the BDR, it was on behalf of a disabled vet who was forlorn that the law prevented him from having a second vehicle with the plate. When Ms. Wilkinson and I started working on the drafting, we determined there were three other veterans' categories that were also missed in this opportunity.

**Assemblyman Manendo:**

I am glad we are getting everybody. Depending on what particular plate you have, they are all deserving of two.

**Tim Tetz, Executive Director, Office of Veterans' Services:**

[Spoke from prepared text ([Exhibit C](#)). Handout ([Exhibit D](#)).]

**Fred Wagar, National Service Officer, Disabled American Veterans:**

I service both the Reno and Las Vegas offices. I am also the commander for Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 1 in Sparks. I am here today to represent the nearly 8,000 members of the DAV in Nevada regarding S.B. 17, which would allow veterans to receive a second, specially designed license plate.

The one thing I would like to point out is although the numbers are few, for those eligible veterans who would receive these, the meaning is tremendous. This morning I was fortunate enough to have a Pearl Harbor survivor in my office submitting a claim to the Veterans' Administration (VA). He came in walking with two canes. He survived Pearl Harbor and the torpedoing of the USS Minneapolis. This is a true hero that we have here in Nevada. It is people like this that deserve this bill to be passed. They should be honored by allowing them to have a second plate. We would appreciate your favorable vote on this bill.

I went through the bios of each of you before coming to this Committee, and I would like to recognize the United States Navy Officer who has served: Assemblyman Hogan. I appreciate your service. We saw a number of other people in the bios who said they had done a number of things for veterans. We just ask you to support veterans one more time. It is not all disabled veterans—it is disabled veterans who are 100 percent disabled. These are people who you see getting out of their cars at the supermarket with oxygen tanks, walkers, or wheelchairs. We need to honor these people and let them realize that if they have a second car, they should be entitled to the same thing that you, as Assemblymen and Senators, receive for license plates.

**Chair Atkinson:**

Are there any other questions for the witnesses at the table? [There were none.] Is there anyone else who wants to testify on S.B. 17, in favor, opposition or neutral? [There were none.] I will close the hearing on S.B. 17. We will bring this back in a work session.

I will open the hearing on Senate Bill 175.

**Senate Bill 175:** Revises provisions governing the contents and use of license plates for motor vehicles. (BDR 43-645)

**Mark Froese, Administrator, Research and Development Division,  
Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles:**

[Spoke from prepared text ([Exhibit E](#)).]

**Assemblywoman Womack:**

Why were they excluded in the first place?

**Mark Froese:**

I do not know, but my guess would be that the letter "Q" could be confused with the letter "O," and the letter "I" could be confused with the number "1."

**Chair Atkinson:**

Are there any other questions on this part of the bill? [There were none.]

**Mark Froese:**

[Spoke from prepared text ([Exhibit E](#)).]

**Chair Atkinson:**

I need you to explain that again. Let us say we have someone who bought a new car and has a temporary placard. What is the law going to do if they leave town and did not register, and when they came back, it is past the number of allotted days? Is that what we are addressing?

**Mark Froese:**

Yes. They would be charged late fees. They would not have the option to use the affidavit for non-operation.

**Chair Atkinson:**

Okay. Are they currently able to use the affidavit?

**Mark Froese:**

No, they are not.

**Assemblyman Goicoechea:**

Is there still the ability to do a non-operational affidavit if you have mechanical failure of a vehicle and you do not register it?

**Mark Froese:**

I believe that is correct.

**Chair Atkinson:**

Are there any other questions from the Committee members? [There were none.] Is there anyone wishing to speak on Senate Bill 175? [There were none.] I will close the hearing on Senate Bill 175.

I will now open the hearing Senate Bill 481.

**Senate Bill 481: Revises requirements for the issuance of special license plates for motor vehicles. (BDR 43-863)**

Marji Paslov Thomas, who staffs the Commission on Special License Plates, is going to briefly explain the bill. I was also a member of the Commission on Special License Plates, so I will assist her.

**Marjorie Paslov Thomas, Committee Policy Analyst:**

I served as the staff person for the Commission on Special License Plates, which meets during the interim period. There were three meetings. At the second meeting, the Commission approved five BDRs. Senate Bill 481 would amend the duties of the Commission on Special License Plates to require the Commission to approve or disapprove any application for a special license plate authorized by an act of the Legislature. Further, the Legislature pledges that if a new special license plate is authorized by an act of the Legislature after January 1, 2007, the license plate may not be issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) unless the Commission approves the application for the new plate.

There are currently two avenues in which to approve special license plates: an act of the Legislature, or, during an interim period, a person can petition the DMV and the Commission on Special License Plates to approve that special license plate.

**Chair Atkinson:**

I have nothing to add because that is what it does.

**Assemblyman Goicoechea:**

Technically, there is no plate that can be ordered without going through the Commission?

**Chair Atkinson:**

That is correct.

**Assemblyman Goicoechea:**

Are they still going to require the \$5,000 up front?

**Chair Atkinson:**

That is a different bill.

**Assemblyman Goicoechea:**

If it passes?

**Chair Atkinson:**

Yes, if it passes, that is exactly what will happen.

Are there any other questions from the Committee members? [There were none.] Does the DMV have anything to add? [They did not.] Does anyone else wish to be heard on this bill? [There were none.]

I will close the hearing on S.B. 481.

Is there any other business to come before the Committee? Our next meeting is next Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. The meeting is adjourned. [2:08 p.m.]

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Kelly Troescher  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Assemblyman Kelvin Atkinson, Chair

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

**EXHIBITS**

**Committee Name:** Committee on Transportation

**Date:** April 26, 2007

**Time of Meeting:** 1:30 p.m.

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Witness / Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>
	A	Committee on Transportation	Agenda
	B	Committee on Transportation	Attendance Roster
S.B. 17	C	Tim Tetz, Office of Veterans' Services	Prepared text
S.B. 17	D	Tim Tetz, Office of Veterans' Services	S.B. 17 Talking Points
S.B. 175	E	Mark Froese, Department of Motor Vehicles	Prepared text