

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

**Seventy-Fourth Session  
May 4, 2007**

The Joint Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance was called to order by Senator Raggio, Chair, at 8:11 a.m., on Friday, May 4, 2007, in Room 4100 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).

**SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Assemblyman Morse Arberry Jr., Chair  
Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, Vice Chair  
Assemblywoman Barbara E. Buckley  
Assemblyman Mo Denis  
Assemblywoman Heidi S. Gansert  
Assemblyman Tom Grady  
Assemblyman Joseph P. (Joe) Hardy  
Assemblyman Joseph Hogan  
Assemblywoman Ellen Koivisto  
Assemblyman John W. Marvel  
Assemblywoman Kathy McClain  
Assemblywoman Debbie Smith  
Assemblywoman Valerie E. Weber

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Assemblyman David R. Parks



**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Gary Ghiggeri, Senate Fiscal Analyst  
Mark W. Stevens, Assembly Fiscal Analyst  
Larry Peri, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst  
Steve Abba, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst  
Carol Thomsen, Committee Secretary  
Patricia Adams, Committee Assistant

Chairman Raggio indicated that the Joint Committee was being held pursuant to Assembly Concurrent Resolution 1, Rule No. 17, which required that the first joint meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and the Assembly Standing Committee on Ways and Means to consider agency budgets must be held on or before the 89th calendar day of the regular session.

Chairman Raggio asked whether staff would like to comment prior to explaining budget differences.

Mark Stevens, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), stated that he would like to explain the situation surrounding budget closures for the Joint Committee.

Mr. Stevens stated that the various joint subcommittees had closed approximately 75 percent of the budgets assigned to them for consideration. Overall, approximately 70 percent of the entire budget had been closed, but because most of that activity had been discussed and acted upon by subcommittees, and because subcommittee reports had not yet been presented to the full committees, those differences were not included in the reports currently before the Joint Committee.

Mr. Stevens indicated that the only differences currently being considered were in the budgets that had been closed by the full committees. He explained that 7 percent to 8 percent of the budgets had been closed by the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means at the full committee level and approximately 75 percent of the budgets had been closed at the subcommittee level. According to Mr. Stevens, the chairs of the various subcommittees would commence presentation of closing reports to the full committees during the upcoming week.

Gary Ghiggeri, Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, pointed out that in addition to [Exhibit C](#), the members of the Joint Committee were in possession of [Exhibit D](#), an 11-page document entitled "Full Closing Report," which depicted the full budget closings of the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means.

Chairman Raggio stated that the Joint Committee would consider a limited number of issues, and he asked staff to review [Exhibit C](#), "Differences Closing Report," beginning with Budget Account (BA) 1005.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**  
**HIGH LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE (101-1005)**  
**BUDGET PAGE – ELECTED-11**

Mr. Ghiggeri explained that the Senate closed BA 1005 accepting the first round budget cuts as recommended by the Governor, which reflected a reduction in General Fund appropriation of \$259,232 in the first year of the biennium and

\$255,901 in the second year of the biennium. The Assembly closed the budget as recommended by the Governor with the second round of budget cuts.

Chairman Raggio asked whether there were suggestions from the Senate or Assembly regarding BA 1005. He believed that the Senate Committee on Finance should review other changes recommended by the Governor.

Mr. Ghiggeri explained that the second round reduction recommended by the Governor eliminated some of the budget cuts and reduced the initial recommendation from \$259,232 to \$136,034 in FY 2008 and to \$37,308 in FY 2009.

Chairman Raggio stated that the Senate Committee on Finance would like the opportunity to further review the second round reductions, and he suggested that BA 1005 be held for further review.

Chairman Raggio asked staff to commence with differences regarding BA 2941.

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS**  
**MUSEUMS AND HISTORY (101-2941)**  
**BUDGET PAGE – CULTURAL AFFAIRS-8**

Mr. Ghiggeri stated that the only difference in the closure of BA 2941 was that the Senate Committee on Finance closed as recommended by the Governor under Maintenance Unit 750 (M750), and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means removed the deferred maintenance costs with the intention of placing the costs in a separate piece of legislation.

Mr. Stevens explained that in a number of budgets within the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means removed the deferred maintenance funding in M750 that was recommended by the Governor for possible inclusion in a one-shot appropriation prior to the determination that there would not be sufficient one-time monies to fund the deferred maintenance. Mr. Stevens noted that since the May 2007 meeting of the Economic Forum, there was an approximate \$20 million reduction in revenues in the current fiscal year, and the likelihood of additional one-shot monies available to fund the deferred maintenance costs had diminished greatly.

Assemblyman Arberry offered the following motion:

ASSEMBLYMAN ARBERRY MOVED THAT THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS CONCUR WITH THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE IN CLOSURE OF DEFERRED MAINTENANCE UNITS (M750) IN THE BUDGET ACCOUNTS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS: BA 2941, MUSEUMS AND HISTORY; BA 2870, NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY; BA 2940, STATE MUSEUM, CARSON CITY; AND BA 4216, STATE RAILROAD MUSEUMS.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN LESLIE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Parks was not present for the vote.)

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**CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (101-2870)**

**BUDGET PAGE—CULTURAL AFFAIRS-17**

Mr. Ghiggeri indicated that the motion put the committees in agreement with the majority of the budget accounts within the Department of Cultural Affairs. The only difference in the Nevada Historical Society, BA 2870, was that the Senate Committee on Finance closed as recommended by the Governor and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means eliminated the purchase of newspapers on microfilm.

Mr. Stevens said there were at least two rounds of Governor's reductions, and the Assembly closed the budget during the original round of reductions.

Chairman Raggio indicated that Assemblyman Arberry requested that the other closing issues in BA 2870 be held for further review.

Chairman Raggio emphasized that the Senate and Assembly Committees were in concurrence regarding decision unit M750, deferred maintenance, within BA 2941, BA 2870, BA 2940, and BA 4216. However, other budget differences remained in BA 2870, Nevada Historical Society, and that budget would be held for further review by the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means.

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**STATE MUSEUM, CARSON CITY (101-2940)**

**BUDGET PAGE—CULTURAL AFFAIRS-22**

Mr. Ghiggeri explained that with the action previously taken on M750, the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means were in concurrence on BA 2490.

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY (101-2943)**

**BUDGET PAGE—CULTURAL AFFAIRS-28**

Mr. Ghiggeri reported that the Senate closing action on BA 2843 reflected an anticipated February 1, 2009, opening of the facility in Las Vegas, and the Assembly closing action reflected an April 1, 2009, opening and the elimination of the public information officer and grants analyst positions.

Chairman Raggio stated that budget closing issues would be held at the request of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means.

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**STATE RAILROAD MUSEUMS (101-4216)**

**BUDGET PAGE—CULTURAL AFFAIRS-33**

Mr. Ghiggeri stated that with the action previously taken on M750, the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means were in concurrence on BA 4216.

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS**  
**ARCHIVES AND RECORDS (101-1052)**  
**BUDGET PAGE—CULTURAL AFFAIRS-54**

Mr. Ghiggeri indicated that BA 1052 was related to BA 2943 because Archives and Records was scheduled to move into the vacated Lorenzi Park site when the State Museum and Historical Society relocated. The budget closing by the Senate Committee on Finance reflected the February 1, 2009, opening and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means budget closing reflected an April 1, 2009, opening and the elimination of a supply assistant position.

Chairman Raggio commented that the budget differences in BA 1052 were similar to those in BA 2943, and further consideration would be held at the request of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means.

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS**  
**NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL (101-2979)**  
**BUDGET PAGE—CULTURAL AFFAIRS-71**

Mr. Ghiggeri explained that the Senate Committee on Finance closed BA 2979 as recommended by the Governor, and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means closed without approval of the conversion of a part-time clerical contract position to a full-time administrative assistant position.

Chairman Raggio concurred with Assemblyman Arberry that action on BA 2979 would be held for further review.

Chairman Raggio pointed out that there were closing differences in the joint subcommittee budget closings that had not been presented to the respective full committees. The Joint Committee would be meeting frequently to resolve budget closing issues.

Chairman Raggio asked whether there was further business to come before the Joint Committee and, there being none, declared the meeting adjourned at 8:22 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Carol Thomsen  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator William Raggio, Chair

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

**Committee Name:** Assembly Committee on Ways and Means/Senate Committee on Finance

**Date:** May 4, 2007 **Time of Meeting:** 8:00 a.m.

Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
* * *	A		Agenda
* * *	B		Attendance Roster
* * *	C	LCB	Differences Closing Report
* * *	D	LCB	Full Closing Report