

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**Seventy-Fourth Session
May 30, 2007**

The Committee on Ways and Means was called to order by Chair Morse Arberry Jr. at 8:04 a.m., on Wednesday, May 30, 2007, in Room 3137 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/. 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 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
Assemblyman David R. Parks
Assemblywoman Debbie Smith
Assemblywoman Valerie E. Weber

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark W. Stevens, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Christine Bashaw, Committee Secretary
Patricia Adams, Committee Assistant

Chairman Arberry opened the hearing on Assembly Bill 625.

**Assembly Bill 625: Makes certain changes concerning court programs.
(BDR 14-1514)**

Mark Stevens, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analyst Division, said that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 625 was drafted based on the closing recommendations of the Joint Subcommittee on General Government. In closing the Judicial Branch budgets, there was a discussion on the appropriate funding source for the specialty courts, and General Fund appropriations had been requested. The Joint Subcommittee on General Government discussed with the Supreme Court whether using some of the regular administrative assessment revenue in lieu of General Fund was acceptable. Mr. Stevens indicated that the Court did not



disagree so the Joint Subcommittee developed the amount of money to be included in the specialty courts, and then recommended that the percentage of the administrative assessment reviewed by the Judicial Branch be reallocated. Mr. Stevens said that currently the Supreme Court receives 60 percent of the administrative assessments that were allocated to the Judicial Branch. Mr. Stevens stated that A.B. 625 would change that to 48 percent effective in the second year of the biennium. The 12 percent difference would be utilized to finance the specialty courts. The bill provided less revenue to the Supreme Court because the money was transferred to the specialty courts. The Joint Subcommittee of General Government and the Committee on Ways and Means approved replacing that revenue with General Fund support for the Supreme Court.

Mr. Stevens said, in addition, there was a position that was requested in the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) that was related to legislation that had passed previously that had reporting requirements and duties which were assigned to AOC. The Joint Subcommittee on General Government agreed that the requirement should be removed so there was not that obligation on the Office's staff resources.

In response to a question from Assemblyman Marvel, Ron Titus, Director, AOC, said the amounts received from administrative assessments were increasing and projections were readjusted at the request of the Subcommittee.

Mr. Titus concluded that he supported of A.B. 625.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MCCLAIN MOVED THE COMMITTEE DO
PASS A.B. 625.

ASSEMBLYMAN MARVEL SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Arberry opened the hearing on A.B. 626.

Assembly Bill 626: Establishes for the next biennium the amount to be paid to the Public Employees' Benefits Program for group insurance for certain active and retired public officers and employees. (BDR S-1511)

Mark Stevens, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analyst Division, said that each legislative session the Legislature passes a bill that sets the group insurance rates for state employees each fiscal year of the biennium and the base rate for the retiree subsidy. That is what Assembly Bill (A.B.) 626 was to accomplish. Mr. Stevens said the amounts included in the bill were based on the closing made by the Senate Finance Committee and the Committee on Ways and Means. Unless this bill was processed, the amount of money needed to be placed in the Public Employees' Benefit Program budget would not materialize. Mr. Stevens recommended do pass on this bill.

ASSEMBLYMAN MARVEL MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DO
PASS A.B. 626.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN LESLIE SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Stevens said that was all the business for this morning, but recommended that the Committee recess rather than adjourn this meeting.

Chairman Arberry recessed the meeting at 8:11 a.m.

Chairman Arberry adjourned the meeting on May 31, 2007, at 8:20 am.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Christine Bashaw
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman Morse Arberry Jr., Chair

DATE: _____

<u>EXHIBITS</u>			
Committee Name: <u>Committee on Ways and Means</u>			
Date: <u>May 30, 2007</u>		Time of Meeting: <u>8:04 a.m.</u>	
Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster