

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**Seventy-fourth Session
April 18, 2007**

The Senate Committee on Government Affairs was called to order by Chair Warren B. Hardy II at 2:26 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18, 2007, in Room 2149 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Warren B. Hardy II, Chair
Senator Bob Beers, Vice Chair
Senator William J. Raggio
Senator Dina Titus
Senator Terry Care

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Randolph J. Townsend (Excused)
Senator John J. Lee (Excused)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Eileen O'Grady, Committee Counsel
Michael J. Stewart, Committee Policy Analyst
Olivia Lodato, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kim R. Wallin, State Controller, Office of the State Controller
Mark Taylor, Assistant State Controller, Office of the State Controller
John Wiles, Senior Attorney, Division of Industrial Relations, Department of Business and Industry

Chair Hardy opened the Committee hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 16. He asked Ms. Wallin to explain the problem addressed in the bill and the proposed solution.

ASSEMBLY BILL 16: Revises the authority of the State Board of Examiners concerning bad debts. (BDR 31-82)

Kim R. Wallin, State Controller, Office of the State Controller, said the bill requested an amendment to *Nevada Revised Statute* (NRS) 353C.220. She said the amendment allowed the Clerk of the State Board of Examiners to designate small debts below \$50 as bad debt. She said currently the entire Board of Examiners had to say debts were bad. The bill stopped that process and allowed the Clerk to declare bad debts. She said it was an administrative bill and had no fiscal impact.

Chair Hardy asked Ms. Wallin if there was a provision to write off debt if it was an overpayment in salary. Ms. Wallin replied Chair Hardy was correct.

Senator Beers asked Ms. Wallin how many bad debts existed.

Ms. Wallin replied the State Board of Examiners had written off 1,121 accounts under \$50. She said the combined total was \$18,364. She said that amount represented approximately \$16 per account. Ms. Wallin said the amounts could be bad checks, fines, even overpayment on a check of 4 cents or less.

Senator Beers asked about the process involved in getting bad debts to the Board of Examiners.

Ms. Wallin replied an agency attempted to collect the debt following certain prescribed procedures. Those procedures included sending a letter after 30 days, sending another letter after 60 days and then turning the debt over to the Controller's Office. The Controller's Office forwarded the debt to a collection agent. She said after a certain length of time, the uncollectible debt was sent to the Board of Examiners.

Chair Hardy asked Ms. Wallin about the process for writing off a bad debt with an amount over \$50.

Ms. Wallin replied the same collection process was used for amounts over \$50.

Mark Taylor, Assistant State Controller, Office of the Controller, said the bill was meant as a cleanup, housekeeping bill. He said the agency wanted to streamline the process.

Chair Hardy closed the hearing on A.B. 16 and opened the discussion on A.B. 28.

ASSEMBLY BILL 28: Revises provisions governing the Advisory Council of the Division of Industrial Relations of the Department of Business and Industry. (BDR 18-555)

John Wiles, Senior Attorney, Division of Industrial Relations, Department of Business and Industry, said A.B. 28 was designed to correct a meeting requirement put in statute years ago. He said the Division of Industrial Relations needed oversight and advice from an advisory council when the Division was first formed. He said the Advisory Council existed today, but the twice yearly meeting requirements were difficult to arrange. He said the Division of Industrial Relations was cited in an audit for failure to have two meetings a year. He said it was decided it was appropriate to ask the Legislature to change the mandatory meeting to once a year. He said the Advisory Council could call a meeting whenever they needed to do so. He said the bill was a housekeeping measure to assist and facilitate the Advisory Council in the performance of its duties.

Senator Raggio asked Mr. Wiles the purpose of the Advisory Council. He said the Legislature created councils over the years and then lost track of the purpose of the council.

Mr. Wiles replied the Council was comprised of three members from labor, three from management and one from the general public. He said the Council had many uses. Council members advised the Division of Industrial Relations of actions in certain areas of regulatory activities. He said the information facilitated their work. He said in terms of duties and responsibilities pursuant to statute, the Council was charged with writing off debt for the agency and reviewing, by statute, the record of oral complaints made to the State Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Mr. Wiles added the Council served in an advisory capacity in areas of regulatory activity. He cited, as an example, the development of crane regulations. He said members talked to the Division about the needed regulations.

Chair Hardy asked if meetings of the Council could occur more often than once a year at the call of the chair of the Advisory Council. Mr. Wiles replied he was

correct. He said the chair, a majority of the Council or the administrator could schedule the meeting.

Chair Hardy asked if there were additional questions concerning A.B. 28. He closed the hearing on the bill.

Chair Hardy said another item of business involved Senate Bill (S.B.) 516.

SENATE BILL 516: Revises provisions governing the compensation of certain elected county officers. (BDR 20-225)

Chair Hardy said when S.B. 516 passed in Committee, the wage increase asked for by the proponents of the bill was approved. He said there was discussion of a 2007 cost-of-living increase. He said the amendment was written including the cost-of-living raise. He planned to propose an amendment on the floor removing the cost-of-living increase in 2007. He said the bill cannot be reconsidered at this time.

Senator Raggio asked Chair Hardy if he preferred a Committee amendment.

Chair Hardy asked Eileen O'Grady, Committee Counsel, to check if it was permissible for the amendment to be made by the Committee.

Senator Care said he voted against the bill but agreed to a Committee amendment.

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Chair Hardy asked if there was any further business for the Committee. As there was none, he adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Olivia Lodato,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Warren B. Hardy II, Chair

DATE: _____