

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

**Seventy-fourth Session  
June 1, 2007**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary was called to order by Chair Mark E. Amodei at 12:03 p.m. on Friday, June 1, 2007, on the Senate Floor of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. There was no Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Mark E. Amodei, Chair  
Senator Maurice E. Washington, Vice Chair  
Senator Mike McGinness  
Senator Valerie Wiener  
Senator Terry Care  
Senator Steven A. Horsford

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Senator Dennis Nolan (Excused)

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Linda J. Eissmann, Committee Policy Analyst  
Brad Wilkinson, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel  
Lora Nay, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ron Titus, Court Administrator and Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Office of Court Administrator, Nevada Supreme Court  
R. Ben Graham, Nevada District Attorneys Association

Chair Amodei called the meeting to order to discuss Assembly Bill (A.B.) 625 regarding substantive alterations made to the bill through amendments.

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

Chair Amodei explained that the bill changes the distribution of administrative assessments and revises the sunset provisions for biweekly counseling sessions authorized by the courts from 2009 to 2007.

Chair Amodei asked why the sunset provision for the biweekly counseling was changed from 2009 to 2007.

Ron Titus, Administrator and Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Office of Court Administrator, Nevada Supreme Court, explained there had not been sufficient time to conduct a study to determine the effectiveness of the biweekly counseling, so that requirement had been removed.

Chair Amodei suggested deleting section 4 of A.B. 625 and asked Brad Wilkinson, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel, to prepare an amendment for the Committee to consider. He asked Mr. Titus to explain the reasons for changes in funding allocations.

Mr. Titus provided details about the specialty and general funds and reasons why they needed to remain separate. He further clarified that revenues were not generating sufficient funding so it was necessary to reduce the Nevada Supreme Court's share in order to increase revenues to specialty courts.

Senator McGinness questioned the impact of the funding shifts on rural courts which were having difficulty providing biweekly counseling and asked if the rurals will be represented. Mr. Titus affirmed that funding will remain for the rural courts.

Chair Amodei asked Mr. Wilkinson to include the provisions leaving biweekly counseling in the previously requested amendment to section 4. He stated no action would be taken on A.B. 625 until the next legislative day, giving the Committee a chance to digest the information received. He affirmed that bills containing administrative fees of the courts have been and continue to be within the jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

Chair Amodei requested information and help in understanding the amendments to Senate Bill (S.B.) 380.

**SENATE BILL 380 (1st Reprint)**: Makes various changes concerning defendants in criminal actions. (BDR 14-279)

R. Ben Graham, Nevada District Attorneys Association, explained technical wording had been added to S.B. 380 to put procedural safeguards in place in monitoring individuals who were deemed incompetent and may never become competent. These individuals would be tracked for ten years.

Senator Care asked if anything had been defeated or changed when A.B. 369 and A.B. 193 had been combined and if any changes had to do with *Finger v. State*, 117 Nev. 548, 27 P.3d 66 (2001). Mr. Graham said they did not and the only changes were to S.B. 380.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 369 (2nd Reprint)**: Makes various changes to provisions governing the civil commitment of a person found not guilty by reason of insanity. (BDR 14-1155)

**ASSEMBLY BILL 193 (2nd Reprint)**: Makes various changes concerning pleas, defenses and verdicts in criminal actions. (BDR 14-152)

Chair Amodei observed that substantive and policy changes had been made and the Committee has not been provided that information. Senator Care added they had discussed policy and maybe not specific language. Mr. Graham agreed the concepts had been agreed upon, but they were not necessarily reflected in the language.

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Chair Amodei requested that in the future, the Committee be informed of any policy changes, and he adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Lora Nay,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Mark E. Amodei, Chair

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