

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Seventy-Eighth Session
May 28, 2015**

The Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair Lynn D. Stewart at 4:23 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2015, in Room 3142 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/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015. In addition, copies of the audio or video of the meeting may be purchased, for personal use only, through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (email: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775-684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Lynn D. Stewart, Chair
Assemblywoman Shelly M. Shelton, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Elliot T. Anderson
Assemblywoman Michele Fiore
Assemblyman John Moore
Assemblyman Harvey J. Munford
Assemblyman James Ohrenschall
Assemblywoman Victoria Seaman
Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson
Assemblyman Glenn E. Trowbridge

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None



STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carol M. Stonefield, Committee Policy Analyst
Kevin Powers, Committee Counsel
Patricia Hartman, Committee Secretary
Olivia Lloyd, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

Chair Stewart:

[Roll was taken. Committee protocol was reviewed.] We are having a work session today on Senate Bill 360 (1st Reprint), and I will turn the time over to Ms. Stonefield.

Senate Bill 360 (1st Reprint): Provides for an interim study concerning energy efficiency programs and the financing of clean energy in this State. (BDR S-41)

Carol M. Stonefield, Committee Policy Analyst:

Senate Bill 360 (1st Reprint) was heard in this Committee on May 27, 2015, and was presented by Senator Patricia Spearman. The bill directs the Legislative Committee on Energy to conduct a study in the next interim concerning energy efficiency programs and the viability of establishing green banks and similar entities to assist in the financing of clean energy programs.

The Committee shall consult with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, the Office of Energy of the Office of the Governor, the Office of the State Treasurer, and other entities with knowledge of matters relevant to energy efficiency programs. The bill sets out a list of issues the Committee shall study. The Committee shall submit its report and any recommendations to the 79th Session of the Legislature. There are no amendments. [Work session document ([Exhibit C](#)).]

Chair Stewart:

I understand this bill will be assigned to the interim Legislative Committee on Energy. Do I hear a motion to do pass S.B. 360 (1st Reprint)?

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMPSON MADE A MOTION TO DO PASS
SENATE BILL 360 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYMAN ELLIOT T. ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Stewart:

Is there any discussion? [There was none.]

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Stewart:

Mr. Thompson will present the floor statement.

I will entertain a motion to reconsider Senate Bill 421 (2nd Reprint).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIORE MADE A MOTION TO RECONSIDER
SENATE BILL 421 (2ND REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SEAMAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMEN ELLIOT T. ANDERSON,
OHRENSCHALL, SHELTON, AND THOMPSON VOTED NO.)

Chair Stewart:

We will now hear an explanation of the bill by Mr. Powers.

Senate Bill 421 (2nd Reprint): **Makes various changes relating to statewide primary elections. (BDR 24-1148)**

Kevin Powers, Committee Counsel:

For those of you who have been here before, this will probably be familiar to you. This is the mock-up that was first submitted to the Committee on May 26, and the Committee also had an overview of the mock-up on May 27.

Sections 1 through 6 of the mock-up are similar changes to the political party organization, structure, and operation that are in sections 1 through 6 of Assembly Bill 302 (1st Reprint). The main points of the mock-up are that the bill proposes having a primary election in February for all state and local offices. This mock-up would remove that provision so the primaries for state and local offices would be held in June, as they are now, under existing law.

The thrust of the bill then goes to the Presidential preference primary election which would be held on the last Tuesday in February. However, a major political party could opt out of that Presidential preference primary election. If the Presidential preference primary election is held, candidates can file declarations of candidacy. The county clerks would not issue sample ballots or conduct early voting; however, voting could be conducted by absentee ballot and military overseas ballots, so the clerks would have to conduct voting by

those two types of ballots. There would just be one day of a Presidential preference primary election where the polls would be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and anyone who is a registered voter in the county and of that party could vote at any polling place in the county in the Presidential preference primary election. The cost of that election would be a charge against the state and paid for from the statutory reserve for contingency account. That, Mr. Chair, is the overview of the mock-up.

Chair Stewart:

Do I hear a motion to amend and do pass Senate Bill 421 (2nd Reprint)?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SEAMAN MADE A MOTION TO AMEND AND
DO PASS SENATE BILL 421 (2ND REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIORE SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Stewart:

Is there any discussion?

Assemblyman Elliot T. Anderson:

I want to clarify—are we voting on the mini mock-up as well, or is the mini mock-up inside of the main mock-up, which I believe had the provision where the party gets to pick who is on the ballot pursuant to the rules?

Kevin Powers:

If I understand the motion before the Committee, it is to vote only on the main mock-up, which would not include the mini mock-up discussed on May 26.

Chair Stewart:

That is correct. Is there any other discussion?

Assemblyman Thompson:

I will continue to be a no on this bill. We had some very solid testimony from the registrars of voters and the clerks who would have to implement this, and for them to tell us how problematic it would be to train and recruit people to work at the polls around various times of the year, and a plethora of other issues, I think these are things we truly should be looking at, so I will be voting no.

Assemblyman Elliot T. Anderson:

I will be a no again. My particular concern is that the decision to opt out is at the discretion of the national party chairman, and I think that lets the national parties play games with Nevada, which could risk our early state

caucus. That is problematic. We should have control of our own destiny with our state party processes. I personally trust our state party but I do not trust the Democratic National Committee when it comes to early state leapfrogging. I think we are opening ourselves up to national mischief.

Assemblyman Ohrenschall:

I share Assemblyman Elliot T. Anderson's concerns. I remember back in the days when our caucus was twenty-third or twenty-sixth down the line and the nominees of the parties had already been decided by the time they got to Nevada. We did not get the national candidates coming here and meeting our constituents. I am concerned about jeopardizing the first-in-the-west, third-in-the-nation status. I appreciate the effort to try to get more turnout, but I am concerned about what that will do, and the ability of Nevadans to meet the future leader of the free world.

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMEN ELLIOT T. ANDERSON,
OHRENSCHALL, SHELTON, AND THOMPSON VOTED NO.)

Chair Stewart:

Assemblywoman Seaman will present the floor statement.

Is there any public comment? [There was none.] The meeting is adjourned [at 4:31 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Patricia Hartman
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman Lynn D. Stewart, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

Committee Name: Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

Date: May 28, 2015

Time of Meeting: 4:23 p.m.

Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster
S.B. 360 (R1)	C	Carol M. Stonefield, Committee Policy Analyst	Work session document