

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**Seventy-Eighth Session
February 26, 2015**

The Committee on Transportation was called to order by Chair Jim Wheeler at 3:18 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2015, in Room 3143 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4406 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, 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 Jim Wheeler, Chair
Assemblywoman Jill Dickman, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Nelson Araujo
Assemblyman Richard Carrillo
Assemblywoman Victoria A. Dooling
Assemblywoman Michele Fiore
Assemblyman Edgar Flores
Assemblyman Brent A. Jones
Assemblywoman Marilyn K. Kirkpatrick
Assemblyman P.K. O'Neill
Assemblyman Stephen H. Silberkraus
Assemblywoman Ellen B. Spiegel
Assemblyman Michael C. Sprinkle
Assemblywoman Melissa Woodbury

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None



GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson, Assembly District No. 17

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michelle L. Van Geel, Committee Policy Analyst
Melissa N. Mundy, Committee Counsel
Henri Stone, Committee Secretary
Trinity Thom, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Raymond McAllister, President, Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada
William High, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada
John Fudenberg, Assistant Coroner, Government Affairs, Office of the
Coroner/Medical Examiner, Clark County

Chair Wheeler:

[Roll was taken and Committee rules and protocol were reviewed.] We have changed the agenda and are going to Assembly Bill 155 first.

Assembly Bill 155: Revises provisions governing the issuance of special license plates for retired professional firefighters. (BDR 43-619)

Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson, Assembly District No. 17:

Assembly Bill 155 revises provisions governing the issuance of special license plates for those in fire service. I would like to note that this is not the creation of a new license plate. Currently the law specifically states that these license plates may only be issued to current or former professional full-time salaried firefighters employed in this state or to those who retired as professional firefighters after completing at least 10 years of creditable service as firefighters within this state. That is in *Nevada Revised Statutes* 482.3753.

Assembly Bill 155 will allow the issuance of this license plate to any person who retires as a professional firefighter after completing at least 10 years of creditable service in any jurisdiction in the United States within a fire department or a federal or state agency where the duties involved the prevention and suppression of fires, including the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior and the Division of Forestry of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Some of the benefits include the additional funds to support the Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada Benevolent Association. There is a pot of money there for fallen firefighter

families, annual scholarships for students in our communities, and assistance with the recruitment of prospective firefighters.

I will walk you through the bill starting with section 1, subsection 3(b). We will add the verbiage of "or any other jurisdiction." Currently, the bill is intended only for firefighters who have served in Nevada. Section 1, subsection 4(c) adds "An identification card issued by a professional firefighters or chiefs organization or association from any other jurisdiction that is acceptable to the Department." Again, we must be able to verify that people from other jurisdictions have actually served. This would be an identification card that would be acknowledged by the department.

Section 1, subsection 4(d)(3) adds "A professional firefighters or chiefs organization or association from any other jurisdiction that is acceptable to the Department." Section 1, subsection 4(d)(4) again adds the verbiage "or any other jurisdiction." Section 1, subsection (9)(a) adds that "Any other jurisdiction means any governmental or quasi-governmental entity within the United States which employs professional full-time salaried firefighters and includes without limitation any city, county, state, territory, Indian tribe or branch of the Armed Forces of the United States." Lastly, section 1 subsection 9(b) adds the term "professional" and it also adds "or any other jurisdiction."

With me today in support, I have Mr. Rusty McAllister. He is the president of the Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada. In Las Vegas I will have testimony from a retired New York Fire Department firefighter, Mr. William High. I just want to share with you that this is the power of people in the community. He came up to me literally as soon as I was appointed in 2013 and asked if I would bring this forth. However, I came the last 40 days and I could not present a bill, so I wanted to keep my word and am glad that we are here today.

Raymond McAllister, President, Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada:

We support this bill. I was contacted last session by Mr. High, but it fell through the cracks. Mr. Thompson contacted me and asked if we could do this. We certainly do not have a problem recognizing other people who have served as full-time salaried firefighters in other jurisdictions. Chairman Wheeler, your area has quite a large enclave of retired Los Angeles City and County firemen that live over in Gardnerville and Douglas County.

Chair Wheeler:

Yes, we are passing this today.

Raymond McAllister:

They have expressed that they would also like to have access to these plates. I just had a conversation with one of the directors at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). However we can accommodate them by getting the identification requirements taken care of, we would be more than happy to do. Currently, if there are firefighters that are full-time professionals in the state that are not members of our organization and would like a plate, if they contact us with a list of their members we will provide members with an identification card from our organization so that they can get the plates and get them renewed with minimal disruption to the DMV. It works better that way. The DMV has been very vigilant in making sure they follow the rules, which is good. We even have some of our members who have lost their card and try to walk in with a badge saying, I am a member of the fire department. The DMV says, Sorry, but you must have a letter or an identification (ID) card. From that standpoint we are happy to help them in any way possible. Are there any questions?

Assemblyman O'Neill:

How about if they were fired for misconduct? Do you still give them an ID card? Is there something that exempts them or prevents them?

Raymond McAllister:

I would imagine if someone was terminated or fired from their job, they would not get an ID card stating they had left in good stead. I know that our members from my fire department do not get a retirement badge and an ID when they leave the job under nefarious circumstances.

Assemblyman O'Neill:

I may have misunderstood you. I thought they had to contact you to get the ID card and have you validate that they were a professional firefighter for 10 years in good standing. I was curious about the good standing part. That is what concerned me.

Raymond McAllister:

We do that. I get the reference letters from their departments. For example, Boulder City, Mesquite, and the Nevada Test Site have firefighters. Their chief will send me a letter verifying that specific members of his department are members in good standing.

Chair Wheeler:

I have a question for Assemblyman Thompson regarding the actual funds from the license plate. We are going to be hearing some bills later in this session that deal with how the funds are distributed. Do all of these funds collected stay in

Nevada since these firefighters will be coming from different areas—New York, California, et cetera?

Assemblyman Thompson:

My understanding is that the way the bill is written all monies collected will go into the Benevolent Fund here in Nevada. A lot of the people have served out of the jurisdiction but they call Nevada their home.

Chair Wheeler:

Are there any further questions? Mr. High in Las Vegas, please testify.

William High, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I have been a retired resident in the state of Nevada for the last 15 years. In those years I have seen a number of firefighters from various jurisdictions from around the country that have also retired here and have asked what is the opportunity for being able to share in the license plate. That is what has inspired me to make this inquiry. On behalf of the bill I would like to make one short statement. I would like to say that retired professional people are a resource in this state and when they can be identified by a special plate they become an asset.

Chair Wheeler:

Is there any testimony in favor of A.B. 155 from Las Vegas? or Carson City?

John Fudenberg, Assistant Coroner, Government Affairs, Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner, Clark County:

We support this bill.

Chair Wheeler:

I will open the floor for testimony in opposition in Las Vegas. [There was none.] In Carson City? Seeing none, is there any neutral testimony in Carson City? Las Vegas? [There was none.] We will close the meeting on A.B. 155.

I am going to take a vote of the Committee. Would you like to suspend the rule and move A.B. 155 today? All in favor, say aye. Anyone opposed? [The aye vote was unanimous.] We will open the work session on A.B. 155.

Michelle L. Van Geel, Committee Policy Analyst:

Assembly Bill 155 was just heard a few moments ago. I will not go through the summary. I think it is fresh on everyone's mind.

Chair Wheeler:

I will entertain a motion to do pass.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DICKMAN MOVED TO DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 155.

ASSEMBLYMAN SILBERKRAUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Wheeler:

Assemblyman Thompson, will you please do the floor statement on this? We will now open the work session on Assembly Bill 21.

Assembly Bill 21: Extends the maximum period of maturity for certain special obligation bonds issued to provide funding for highway construction projects. (BDR 35-375)

Michelle L. Van Geel, Committee Policy Analyst:

Assembly Bill 21 was heard in Committee on February 5, 2015 ([Exhibit C](#)). It extends the maximum period of maturity for special obligation bonds that provide funding to complete pending and currently projected highway construction projects from not more than 20 years to not more than 30 years. No amendments were offered on this bill.

Chair Wheeler:

I will entertain a motion to do pass.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED TO DO PASS ASSEMBLY BILL 21.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SPIEGEL SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Wheeler:

Is there any discussion?

Assemblyman Jones:

My only concern with this is that it could be construed as a potential tax increase since we are extending the obligation from 20 years to 30 years. I will vote in favor, reserving the right to potentially change my vote on the floor.

Chair Wheeler:

Is there any further discussion?

Assemblywoman Dooling:

I will also vote to pass it through, but will reserve my right to change if I see necessary.

Chair Wheeler:

Is there further discussion?

Assemblywoman Dickman:

I second what Assemblywoman Dooling said. I reserve the right to change my vote although I will vote for it now.

Chair Wheeler:

Assemblywoman Fiore?

Assemblywoman Fiore:

Ditto.

Chair Wheeler:

I want to remind the Committee that you always have that right. We just want to know beforehand. Is there any further discussion on this bill?

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Wheeler:

Mr. Sprinkle, would you please do the floor statement? I will now open the floor to public comment. Is there anyone in Carson City or Las Vegas? Seeing no one, we will close the meeting of the Assembly Committee on Transportation. Meeting is adjourned [at 3:37 p.m.]. [Exhibits not mentioned previously include the Fire Fighters License Plate example ([Exhibit D](#)).]

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Henri Stone
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman Jim Wheeler, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

Committee Name: Committee on Transportation

Date: February 26, 2015

Time of Meeting: 3:18 p.m.

Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster
A.B. 21	C	Michelle L. Van Geel	Work Session Document
A.B. 155	D	Raymond McAllister, Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada	License Plate Sample