

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Seventy-Eighth Session  
May 30, 2015**

The Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair Patricia Farley at 11:10 a.m. on Saturday, May 30, 2015, in Room 2144 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 Patricia Farley, Chair  
Senator James A. Settelmeyer, Vice Chair  
Senator Kelvin Atkinson

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Senator Greg Brower (Excused)  
Senator Tick Segerblom (Excused)

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Michael Stewart, Policy Analyst  
Haley Johnson, Committee Secretary  
Linda Hiller, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Paul Thomsen, Director, Office of Energy, Office of the Governor  
Andrew Zaninovich, Nevada Conservation League  
Shelley Blotter, Deputy Administrator, Division of Human Resource  
Management, Department of Administration

**Chair Farley:**

I will call this meeting to order with Assembly Bill (A.B.) 466.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 466:** Revises provisions relating to the repayment of loans or other distributions of money made from the Renewable Energy Account to an officer or employee of the State. (BDR 23-1154)

**Paul Thomsen (Director, Office of Energy, Office of the Governor):**

This bill allows for State employee payroll deductions through the Governor's Office of Energy. We have an amendment to section 1, subsection 1, paragraph (b) of the bill for *Nevada Revised Statute* (NRS) 281.129 to allow the Director of the Office of Energy to specify and withhold monetary amounts to be paid to the Director for credit to the Renewable Energy Account created by NRS 701A.450.

In section 2, subsection 5, paragraph (b), we incorporate Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) and Legislature staff. Our intent here was to encompass all State employees and maintain the possibility of eventually expanding this program to the LCB.

In section 3, subsection 6, paragraph (b), we specify that this program has to be created through regulation at the Office of Energy.

We want to establish an innovative program called the Direct Energy Assistance Loan Program, through which the Governor's Office of Energy will provide loans with no interest to State employees. This would be used to implement qualified energy upgrades to employees' homes, reducing energy consumption and putting more money back into their pockets.

To provide those zero percent interest loans and mitigate our risk, we are going to require payments out of those employees' paychecks back to our revolving fund so we can make loans to other State employees.

**Andrew Zaninovich (Nevada Conservation League):**

We support A.B. 466.

**Chair Farley:**

I will close the hearing on A.B. 466.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 466.

SENATOR ATKINSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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**Chair Farley:**

I will open Assembly Bill (A.B.) 388.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 388 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions governing certain leaves of absence for military duty for public officers and employees. (BDR 23-180)

**Shelley Blotter (Deputy Administrator, Division of Human Resource Management, Department of Administration):**

This bill pertains to employee leaves of absence for military duty, making corrections to some unintended consequences from previous legislation.

Section 1 provides 15 days of military leave for which an employee would receive full compensation. The 15 days were originally for employees to attend 2 weeks of training if they were in the National Guard or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States.

Over time, it was noticed that employees with a Saturday or Sunday shift did not have a similar benefit because people who work weekdays had their guard or reserve duty on weekends. For 2 weeks a year, they would have training, and if those Guard members worked on Saturday or Sunday, they would have to use some other form of leave to take off for Guard duty. Section 1 clarifies that the allotted 15 days can be used for either training or deployment.

Section 2 intends to correct a situation where employees working a weekend shift received the difference between their State pay and their military pay. If a State employee made \$20 per hour and the military pay was \$15 per hour, under this bill, that employee would receive the difference of \$5 per hour for those additional days. Previously, such employees had received their full pay for those 24 days, which caused a problem for some agencies.

The Office of the Military, receiving federal funding to cover those days, limited the amount of time for which the Office would pay. In other organizations, it resulted in problems. Employees who had previously worked weekdays were now bidding to have weekend work. That caused an overtime problem because every month, those employees were taking time off for military leave.

The change in section 2 provides a differential instead of full pay while the employees' leave accrual or retirement remains the same. If employees are on

military leave for 15 days, they will receive all their annual leave and sick leave accrual. On the days the employees are receiving a differential if their State pay or their military pay is higher—in either situation, they will still receive their full annual leave and sick leave accrual, plus full retirement credit as if they had worked for the State that day.

The other portions of the bill define a work schedule and a workday. This allows the State and public entities to choose the 12-month period when calculating how much leave an employee can receive. The bill has a calendar-year basis, but the military prefers a federal fiscal year basis. We could differentiate.

**Chair Farley:**

I will close the hearing on A.B. 388.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 388.

SENATOR ATKINSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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**Chair Farley:**

Seeing no one wanting to make public comment, I will adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Linda Hiller,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Patricia Farley, Chair

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

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit / # of pages		Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	2		Attendance Roster