

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

**Seventy-Eighth Session
March 16, 2015**

The Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair Patricia Farley at 3:34 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 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 Greg Brower
Senator Kelvin Atkinson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Tick Segerblom (Excused)

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Pete Goicoechea, Senatorial District No. 19

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Stewart, Policy Analyst
Brenda Erdoes, Legislative Counsel
Linda Hiller, Committee Secretary
Haley Johnson, Committee Secretary

Chair Farley:

Our work session today is on two bills. We have requested to hold Senate Bill 19 until a later work session.

SENATE BILL 19: Authorizes the board of trustees of a school district to place an advisory question on the ballot at a general election. (BDR 24-477)

Chair Farley:

We will begin with Senate Joint Resolution (S.J.R.) 2.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2: Urges Congress to require the sharing of federal receipts from commercial activity on certain public lands with the State of Nevada and its counties. (BDR R-452)

Michael Stewart (Policy Analyst):

You will recall that the Committee heard S.J.R. 2 on February 23 ([Exhibit C](#)). The bill sponsor, Senator Pete Goicoechea, is with us today. This resolution urges Congress to enact legislation to require the sharing of federal receipts from all commercial activity on public lands in the State of Nevada. It requires that the receipts are shared with the State and the necessary counties.

The bill states that the federal government receives significant income from sales and lease of these public lands from royalties related to commercial activity. There were no specific amendments offered and there was no testimony offered in opposition.

Chair Farley:

I will close the work session on S.J.R. 2.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER MOVED TO DO PASS S.J.R. 2.

SENATOR BROWER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Chair Farley:

I will now open the work session on S.J.R. 3.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3: Proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to provide for the Lieutenant Governor to be elected jointly with the Governor. (BDR C-486)

Mr. Stewart:

Senate Joint Resolution 3 was brought to us by Lieutenant Governor Mark Hutchison. You recall we first heard S.J.R. 3 on March 2. The resolution proposes to amend Article 5, section 17 of the *Constitution of the State of Nevada* to change the way that the Lieutenant Governor is selected ([Exhibit D](#)).

Specifically, the Lieutenant Governor would be elected jointly with the Governor. Voters will cast a single vote for the candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor because they will run together.

During testimony on S.J.R. 3, Lt. Governor Hutchison presented Proposed Amendment 9713, [Exhibit D](#), which clarifies when a candidate for Governor must designate who the candidate for Lieutenant Governor will be. The amendment also provides guidance related to campaign finance reporting.

The amendment does four things. One, it provides that if a primary election is held, the successful candidates for Governor will have no more than 7 days or not later than the first Tuesday after the election to announce his or her selection for Lieutenant Governor.

Two, if no primary election is held, candidates for Governor would be required to announce their respective selections for Lieutenant Governor no later than 7 days after the close of candidate filing.

Three, it specifies that no person shall accept a campaign contribution for the office of Lieutenant Governor unless that person has been so designated as a candidate.

Four, it clarifies that candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor must receive contributions separately for the purpose of campaign contribution limits set forth in the Nevada Constitution, but it also provides that the contribution expenditures for both positions must be reported jointly.

You will recall from testimony that according to the National Lieutenant Governor's Association, 26 states elect their governors and Lieutenant Governors jointly. If this constitutional amendment is approved in identical form both this Session and in the 2017 Session, S.J.R. 3 will appear before the voters in 2018 for consideration.

Chair Farley:

I will close the work session on S.J.R. 3.

SENATOR BROWER MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
S.J.R. 3 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT 9713.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER SECONDED THE MOTION.

Senator Atkinson:

I am in favor of parts of S.J.R. 3, but we need to take a second look at this. As Mr. Stewart said, 26 states elect the governor and Lieutenant Governor jointly, but not all 26 do this exactly the way that we would do it.

I just have a few concerns. I will vote no today and reserve my right to change my vote when it comes down to the Senate Floor.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATOR ATKINSON VOTED NO.)

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Chair Farley:

The floor statement will be given by Senator Brower. I would like to see that we get the concerns that Senator Atkinson has worked out.

Senator Brower:

If Senator Atkinson can get comfortable with the bill, I hope that he can vote yes.

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Chair Farley:

I adjourn this meeting at 3:42 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Haley Johnson,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Patricia Farley, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit		Witness or Agency	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	1		Attendance Roster
S.J.R. 2	C	1	Michael Stewart	Work Session Document
S.J.R. 3	D	2	Michael Stewart	Work Session Document