

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, LABOR AND ENERGY**

**Seventy-ninth Session
June 2, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy was called to order by Chair Kelvin Atkinson at 9:46 a.m. on Friday, June 2, 2017, in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4412E of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, 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 Kelvin Atkinson, Chair
Senator Pat Spearman, Vice Chair
Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro
Senator Yvanna D. Cancela
Senator Joseph P. Hardy
Senator James A. Settelmeyer
Senator Heidi S. Gansert

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marji Paslov Thomas, Policy Analyst
Bryan Fernley, Counsel
Daniel Putney, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hunter Stern, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Nos. 396 and 1245

CHAIR ATKINSON:

I will open the work session on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 175.

ASSEMBLY BILL 175 (2nd Reprint): Prescribes certain requirements for health benefits for the purpose of determining the minimum wage paid to employees in private employment in this State. (BDR 53-866)

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MARJI PASLOV THOMAS (Policy Analyst):

I will read the summary of the bill and proposed amendment from the work session document ([Exhibit C](#)).

SENATOR SPEARMAN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 175.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR GANSERT:

I agree that there should be strong health benefits provided to employees, but sometimes when the criteria are set high, individuals are priced out of the market. An individual may not be able to afford the insurance described in this bill. I will be voting no.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATORS GANSERT, HARDY AND SETTELMAYER VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR ATKINSON:

I will open the work session on A.B. 328.

ASSEMBLY BILL 328 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to professional licensing boards. (BDR 54-157)

Ms. PASLOV THOMAS:

I will read the summary of the bill and proposed amendments from the work session document ([Exhibit D](#)).

CHAIR ATKINSON:

Margi A. Grein of the State Contractors' Board submitted a proposed amendment to this bill ([Exhibit E](#)). This amendment is not part of the work session document. I would like to hear the Committee members' opinions on this amendment.

SENATOR HARDY:

I suggest amending section 8, which would affect the State Contractor's Board. I would prefer that the Board be allowed to be exempted from the provisions of section 8 rather than simply being exempted.

I have had the opportunity to talk to one of the sponsors of this bill, Assemblyman Keith Pickard, but not Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams, the other sponsor. I will abide by what the Committee would like to do.

CHAIR ATKINSON:

I have not been able to talk to Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams either. I did talk to Assemblyman Pickard this morning, so I know where he stands. He conveyed to me Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams' desires. I would like to amend and do pass as amended this bill with the two amendments we already have, and then we can have a Floor amendment, if necessary. I will work with Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams regarding Ms. Grein's amendment.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

To encourage the acceptance of Ms. Grein's amendment, I will be voting no today, but I plan on voting yes on the Floor with the amendment.

SENATOR HARDY:

I will be doing the same as Senator Settelmeyer.

SENATOR GANSERT:

I will be doing the same as Senator Settelmeyer and Senator Hardy.

SENATOR SPEARMAN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 328.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATORS GANSERT, HARDY AND SETTELMAYER VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR ATKINSON:

I will open the work session on A.B. 405.

ASSEMBLY BILL 405 (1st Reprint): Establishes certain protections for and ensures the rights of a person who uses renewable energy in this State and revises provisions governing net metering. (BDR 52-959)

MS. PASLOV THOMAS:

I will read the summary of the bill and proposed amendments from the work session document ([Exhibit F](#)).

CHAIR ATKINSON:

The work session document contains a chart explaining the changes and noting who they were requested by. Most of the recommendations made it into the reprint of this bill. A lot of work has gone into A.B. 405.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I appreciate all of the work that has gone into this bill. I have talked to six high-profile people who have had direct input into A.B. 405. I am still concerned with the 75 percent aspect, but I do not believe this will happen before next Session or the one after. We will have time to do an analysis. I appreciate the amendment allowing the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada to worry about the effect on ratepayers because I firmly believe there is one. I am okay with the concept of encouraging renewable energy with a small subsidy; it is simply a question of how large that subsidy will be.

If we make a mistake, we can come back; that is the beauty of the legislative process. There was an egregious error in section 24. Somebody could have died as a result of this error. Before, section 24 allowed individuals to connect to the grid without notifying NV Energy. That created a huge problem for me. I would like to hear a lineman talk about the proposed amendment, which is contained in [Exhibit F](#), to this section. Do linemen feel the amendment addresses the safety concerns of section 24?

CHAIR ATKINSON:

I understand your concern with the 75 percent aspect. I had lengthy conversations with Assemblyman Chris Brooks, the sponsor of A.B. 405, about this. This part of the bill was a compromise. I became comfortable with it because like you said, we will not reach the 75 percent before next Session. We will have time in the Interim to address any issues.

HUNTER STERN (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Nos. 396 and 1245):

We submitted the amendment being referenced. We worked with the Chair and Assemblyman Brooks on this amendment. We are now comfortable with this bill.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I appreciate that you are comfortable now, but did you get everything you wanted? Do you have everything you need to be safe?

MR. STERN:

Yes. There is enough recognition of the safe work practices our members follow in the field. If there are problems, the Legislature will know about them.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I do not love this bill, but I can live with it.

SENATOR SPEARMAN:

Are there sufficient measures in place to address any safety issues?

MR. STERN:

Yes. When equipment is installed on a system or behind a meter, which is where most of the new equipment will be installed, we need notice of where such equipment will be. We need nameplates on meters that our members and firefighters can see. This is the kind of notice that is necessary. There are also safety rules our members work by. Following these safety rules is common practice, and they will keep our members safe, but awareness of new equipment is the most important aspect to safety. The amendment addresses this.

SENATOR GANSERT:

I want to acknowledge all of the work that has gone into this bill; we have come a long way. I appreciate the incremental approach to net metering and the consumer protections because these are critical components to A.B. 405. We do not want what happened last time with the uncertainty of consumers to happen again.

SENATOR HARDY MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
A.B. 405.

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SENATOR SPEARMAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR ATKINSON:
I adjourn the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Daniel Putney,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Kelvin Atkinson, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit / # of pages		Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	2		Attendance Roster
A.B. 175	C	1	Marji Paslov Thomas	Work Session Document
A.B. 328	D	2	Marji Paslov Thomas	Work Session Document
A.B. 328	E	2	Margi A. Grein / State Contractors' Board	Proposed Amendment
A.B. 405	F	32	Marji Paslov Thomas	Work Session Document