

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**Seventy-ninth Session  
May 22, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Government Affairs was called to order by Chair David R. Parks at 2:09 p.m. on Monday, May 22, 2017, in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4412 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 David R. Parks, Chair  
Senator Mark A. Manendo, Vice Chair  
Senator Julia Ratti  
Senator Joseph P. Hardy  
Senator Pete Goicoechea

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jennifer Ruedy, Policy Analyst  
Heidi Chlarson, Counsel  
Suzanne Efford, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mechelle Merrill, Chief, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation Division, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation  
Jeffrey Haag, Administrator, Purchasing Division, Department of Administration  
Edward Guthrie, Opportunity Village

CHAIR PARKS:

We will open the hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 483.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 483:** Revises provisions governing the Program to Encourage and Facilitate Purchases by Agencies of Commodities and Services From Organizations. (BDR 27-911)

MECHELLE MERRILL (Chief, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation Division, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation):  
I have submitted my written testimony on A.B. 483 ([Exhibit C](#)).

JEFFREY HAAG (Administrator, Purchasing Division, Department of Administration):

We recognize the conflict within the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR). We look forward to the transfer of the Preferred Purchase Program to the Purchasing Division. We can accommodate it within our staffing model and begin to grow it. We support this bill.

CHAIR PARKS:  
Will staff be transferred?

MR. HAAG:  
No full-time equivalent (FTE) is allocated to this program within DETR. It is a shared responsibility in DETR, so no staff would be transferred. However, as noted in the testimony, the nonprofit organizations that are awarded these contracts are charged a 1 percent fee. Therefore, funds that have accumulated from the fee will be transferred.

MS. MERRILL:  
We spent a total of 92 hours servicing the Preferred Purchase Program in fiscal year 2016 as it was being downsized because of the conflict. Therefore, it did not require an FTE.

CHAIR PARKS:  
You spoke about 119 Preferred Purchase contracts totaling \$764,440. Are some of those vending contracts? We are familiar with some of them. Would you comment on a few of them?

MS. MERRILL:  
I have a list of the 119 Preferred Purchase contracts ([Exhibit D](#)) which I am happy to provide. Many of them are in Clark County buildings for maintenance and janitorial work. Others are Division of Welfare and Supportive Services contracts. Most of them are for small amounts such as \$15, \$47 and \$90. There are a few larger ones, but they are not huge amounts individually and they are mostly in State buildings.

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EDWARD GUTHRIE (Opportunity Village):  
I have submitted written testimony supporting A.B. 483 ([Exhibit E](#)).

SENATOR HARDY MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 483.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

Remainder of page intentionally left blank; signature page to follow.

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CHAIR PARKS:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 483. Having no further business to come before the Senate Committee on Government Affairs, we are adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Suzanne Efford,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator David R. Parks, Chair

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

<b>EXHIBIT SUMMARY</b>				
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Exhibit / # of pages</b>		<b>Witness / Entity</b>	<b>Description</b>
	A	1		Agenda
	B	2		Attendance Roster
A.B. 483	C	1	Mechelle Merrill / Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation	Written Testimony
A.B. 483	D	3	Mechelle Merrill / Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation	List of Preferred Purchase Contracts
A.B. 483	E	2	Edward Guthrie / Opportunity Village	Written Testimony