

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

**Seventy-ninth Session
May 24, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair Nicole J. Cannizzaro at 4:03 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2017, in Room 2144 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4404B 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 Nicole J. Cannizzaro, Chair
Senator Tick Segerblom, Vice Chair
Senator Kelvin Atkinson
Senator James A. Settelmeyer
Senator Heidi S. Gansert

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Aaron D. Ford, Senatorial District No. 11

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Stewart, Policy Analyst
Jan Brase, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Todd Ingalsbee, Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada
Danny Thompson, Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada
Ryan Beaman, Clark County Firefighters Local 1908
Mike Ramirez, Las Vegas Police Protective Association Metro, Inc.
Tom Dunn, District Vice President, Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada
Michael Sean Giurlani, President, Nevada State Law Enforcement Officers' Association
Rick McCann, Nevada Association of Public Safety Officers

Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections
May 24, 2017
Page 2

Priscilla Maloney, American Federation of State, County and Municipal
Employees Local 4041, AFL-CIO Retiree Chapter
Peggy Lear Bowen

CHAIR CANNIZZARO:

We will open the meeting on Senate Bill (S.B.) 540.

SENATE BILL 540: Directs the Legislative Commission to authorize the construction or installation of a memorial to Nevada firefighters on the Capitol Complex. (BDR S-1221)

SENATOR AARON D. FORD (Senatorial District No. 11):

Senate Bill 540 is the result of several years of hard work, planning and collaboration. The bill authorizes the construction of a memorial to firefighters on the State Capitol Complex. On September 11, 2001, nearly 350 firefighters died at the World Trade Center. Nationwide, firefighter fatalities have ranged from between 60 and 105 every year. These sad and disturbing statistics include line-of-duty deaths and job-related nonincident-specific deaths and show how dangerous this noble occupation can be.

Our firefighters serve in local areas, in wildland fires on public lands and as volunteers. The sacrifices made by our firefighters are worthy of our recognition. They protect personal property, serve as first medical responders, educate the public about fire safety, respond to various emergencies and are a comforting presence during difficult and dangerous times.

As many of you know, Nevada has a firefighters' memorial in Carson City at Mills Park. The memorial was constructed in 1994 and contains more than 80 names of professional, military, federal and volunteer firefighters. An annual ceremony commemorating Nevada's fallen firefighters is held there on the last Saturday of National Fire Prevention Week each October. You may be wondering, if there is a memorial at Mills Park, why should one be constructed on the Capitol Mall?

The Mills Park memorial is subject to vandalism. The aging memorial is in need of a facelift. If S.B. 540 is approved, all names for the Mills Park memorial will be transferred to the new memorial. Volunteers have been working with the families of the fallen firefighters to either relocate the existing memorial plaques

or transfer the names to the new memorial in a respectful and ceremonious manner.

Senate Bill 540 is a simple bill with a profound impact. The measure requires the Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada, in conjunction with other firefighters in Nevada, to submit to the Legislative Commission three alternative designs for the memorial. The Commission shall review the designs and select the one considered most appropriate for the Capitol Complex. After the selection is made, the Commission shall permit the Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada to construct or install the memorial in an appropriate location on the Capitol Complex. Senate Bill 540 specifies that no public funds may be spent for the design, construction or installation of the memorial.

Nevada's fallen firefighters deserve a place on our Capitol Mall, much like the Nevada law enforcement officers' memorial, where we can recognize and commemorate our heroes who have fallen in the line of duty or died as a direct result of their selfless service.

TODD INGALSBEE (Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada):

We support S.B. 540. A memorial to firefighters on the Capitol Complex can be recognition of our fallen firefighters and can be viewed by the many visitors to the Capitol grounds and the Legislative Building. We have been in contact with firefighter organizations who support the bill, and we will work together to make the memorial an asset to the grounds. The process is moving forward.

SENATOR FORD:

We have received Proposed Amendment 4957 ([Exhibit C](#)). The amendment proposes that before submitting a design to the Legislative Commission, the Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada shall consult with professional and volunteer firefighter organizations which are not represented by the Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada.

DANNY THOMPSON (Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada):

In the Sixty-fifth Legislative Session, I introduced a bill as an Assemblyman authorizing the construction of the police memorial on the Capitol Complex. It is appropriate to include a memorial to our fallen firefighters. We support S.B. 540. No public funds were spent on the police memorial.

RYAN BEAMAN (Clark County Firefighters Local 1908):

We support S.B. 540. We recognize our fallen brothers and sisters in October every year. It is a special event for their families. If the memorial is located on Capitol grounds, families can recognize their loved ones and see our government in action at the same time. This location would provide security not available at Mills Park.

MIKE RAMIREZ (Las Vegas Police Protective Association Metro, Inc.):
We support S.B. 540.

TOM DUNN (District Vice President, Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada):
Firefighters go into harm's way every day. Firefighters respond to fire scenes and vehicle accidents and to all hazard incidents such as wildland and interface fires. They respond to hazmat calls, perform urban search and rescue, respond to incidents of terrorism and serve on bomb squads as paramedics. They protect airports, federal facilities, wildlands and forests. A memorial on the Capitol grounds is important to all serving firefighters and to those whose names appear on the memorial at Mills Park. We support S.B. 540.

MICHAEL SEAN GIURLANI (President, Nevada State Law Enforcement Officers' Association):

The memorial at Mills Park was well intended, but it is in a poor location. Many years ago, Keith Lemmons, a firefighter with the Bureau of Land Management, was killed while responding to the Mound House Fire. Our firefighters deserve to be recognized. We support S.B. 540.

RICK McCANN (Nevada Association of Public Safety Officers):

We support S.B. 540. Law enforcement has pride and is honored by our memorial on the Capitol Complex. Our firefighting brothers and sisters deserve the same. It would be fitting to combine memorials to all public safety personnel near the building that represents the people. They take care of the people.

PRISCILLA MALONEY (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 4041, AFL-CIO Retiree Chapter):

We support S.B. 540.

PEGGY LEAR BOWEN:

Nevadans and visitors to our Capitol Complex will appreciate our Nevada values when they see memorials to police officers and firefighters. Firefighters need a home on our Capitol Mall.

SENATOR SEGERBLOM MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 540 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT 4957.

SENATOR ATKINSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATOR GANSERT WAS EXCUSED FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR CANNIZZARO:

I will open the work session on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 21.

ASSEMBLY BILL 21 (1st Reprint): Makes various changes relating to elections.
(BDR 24-2)

MICHAEL STEWART (Policy Analyst):

Assembly Bill 21 was proposed by the Secretary of State's Office and relates to candidate qualifications and residency requirements. The bill provides a number of remedies if the candidate fails to meet qualifications required for office or knowingly and willfully files a declaration or acceptance of candidacy that contains a false statement. Two conceptual amendments have been offered and are outlined in the work session document ([Exhibit D](#)).

SENATOR SETTELMAYER MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 21.

SENATOR SEGERBLOM SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATOR GANSERT WAS EXCUSED FOR THE VOTE.)

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Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections
May 24, 2017
Page 6

CHAIR CANNIZZARO:

I will open the work session on A.B. 309.

ASSEMBLY BILL 309 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to the employment of veterans and certain widows and widowers by the State. (BDR 23-762)

MR. STEWART:

Assembly Bill 309 provides additional preference points to any open competitive examination in classified State service as it relates to veterans. A proposed conceptual amendment has been offered by the sponsor and is outlined in the work session document ([Exhibit E](#)).

SENATOR ATKINSON MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
A.B. 309.

SENATOR SEGERBLOM SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATOR GANSERT WAS EXCUSED FOR THE VOTE.)

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Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections
May 24, 2017
Page 7

CHAIR CANNIZZARO:
I will adjourn the meeting at 4:29 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Jan Brase,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit / # of pages		Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	2		Attendance Roster
S.B. 540	C	3	Senator Aaron D. Ford	Proposed Amendment 4957
A.B. 21	D	2	Michael Stewart	Work Session Document
A.B. 309	E	3	Michael Stewart	Work Session Document