

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

**Seventy-Ninth Session
March 8, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair Nicole J. Cannizzaro at 3:38 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 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 Nicole J. Cannizzaro, Chair
Senator Tick Segerblom, Vice Chair
Senator Kelvin Atkinson
Senator James A. Settelmeyer
Senator Heidi S. Gansert

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Stewart, Policy Analyst
Kevin Powers, Counsel
Janae Johnson, Committee Secretary

CHAIR CANNIZZARO:

I will open the meeting with a work session on Initiative Petition (I.P.) 1. The Legislature has a 40-day window under which to decide to act on this proposal.

[INITIATIVE PETITION 1](#): Revises provisions relating to voter registration.

MICHAEL STEWART (Policy Analyst):

On March 6, we heard I.P. 1 which revises provisions relating to automatic voter registration through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). I have submitted the work session document ([Exhibit C](#)).

CHAIR CANNIZZARO:

According to the Nevada Constitution, this is a situation where we pass the initiative petition or take no action. We will not be considering any amendments at this time.

SENATOR SEGERBLOM MOVED TO DO PASS I.P. 1.

SENATOR ATKINSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR GANSERT:

There are number of issues with this bill. There is contradictory language on the form where you opt out, while at the same time it states that you will be registered. If the DMV recognizes an individual is a green card holder, DMV still has to forward the information. There is not an automatic notification whether someone is qualified to vote. There is so much information moving forward under the assumption that everyone is eligible to register to vote.

SENATOR ATKINSON:

I am not sure where your question is leading up to. This is the way the process is today. If people sign up at a grocery store, DMV or any other location, it is assumed that they are eligible to vote.

CHAIR CANNIZZARO:

I do believe the information that comes from the DMV will go to the Secretary of State and the county clerks to be verified. If the information is verified, then they would be registered.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

The DMV said people mark whether they have a green card, and DMV still has to accept the voter registration form. I find this troubling, but that is the process. From the testimony on Monday, the DMV is implementing this program. It really comes down to whether it is a passive or active declination to opt in or opt out. I do not think it is proper to change the system. It is better for people to confirm that they would like to participate in the voter registration process and opt in with regard to the form issues that were discussed. If a person checks the box confirming he or she does not want to vote but the form is filled out and has to be accepted, that is problematic for me. This is the current law. This initiative will make the problem worse. I will be voting no on this proposal.

CHAIR CANNIZZARO:

We will be taking a vote on the motion to do pass.

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THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS GANSERT AND SETTELMAYER
VOTED NO.)

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Chair Cannizzaro:
Seeing no further business, I adjourn this meeting at 3:46 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Janae Johnson,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit / # of pages		Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	1		Attendance Roster
I.P. 1	C	3	Michael Stewart	Work Session Document