

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**Eightieth Session
March 11, 2019**

The Committee on Government Affairs was called to order by Chair Edgar Flores at 9:12 a.m. on Monday, March 11, 2019, in Room 3137 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Edgar Flores, Chair
Assemblyman William McCurdy II, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Alex Assefa
Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod
Assemblyman Richard Carrillo
Assemblywoman Bea Duran
Assemblyman John Ellison
Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow
Assemblyman Gregory T. Hafen II
Assemblywoman Melissa Hardy
Assemblyman Glen Leavitt
Assemblywoman Susie Martinez
Assemblywoman Connie Munk

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Sarah Peters, Assembly District No. 24
Assemblyman Skip Daly, Assembly District No. 31



STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jered McDonald, Committee Policy Analyst
Asher Killian, Committee Counsel
Kirsten Oleson, Committee Secretary
Trinity Thom, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Will Durham, Private Citizen, Carson City, Nevada
Tyler Varner, Private Citizen, Carson City, Nevada
Devyn Kellner, Private Citizen, Carson City, Nevada
Sadie Brown, Private Citizen, Carson City, Nevada
Rob McCoy, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Neon Museum, Las Vegas,
Nevada
Kathy Clewett, Legislative Liaison, City of Sparks
Lisa Gianoli, representing Washoe County
Dylan Shaver, Director of Policy and Strategy, City of Reno
Alexis Motarex, Government Affairs Manager, Nevada Chapter, The Associated
General Contractors of America, Inc.
Mendy Elliott, representing City of Fernley
Steve Walker, representing Douglas County, Storey County, Lyon County, and
Carson City

Chair Flores:

[Rules and protocol were explained.] We have a work session and two bill hearings. We are going to take the agenda in reverse. We will do the work session documents first and then move into the bill hearings in the order they appear. We will begin with Assembly Bill 7.

Assembly Bill 7: Revises provisions governing contracts with independent contractors executed by the Department of Transportation. (BDR 27-364)

Jered McDonald, Committee Policy Analyst:

Assembly Bill 7 revises provisions governing contracts with independent contractors executed by the Department of Transportation ([Exhibit C](#)). It was sponsored by this Committee on behalf of the Department of Transportation. It was heard on March 7, 2019. Assembly Bill 7 exempts all contracts for services executed between an independent contractor and Nevada's Department of Transportation from the requirement to obtain approval of the State Board of Examiners before becoming effective. This measure does not apply to certain contracts with current or former employees of the department. There are no amendments.

Chair Flores:

At this time I will entertain a motion to do pass A.B. 7.

ASSEMBLYMAN ELLISON MOVED TO DO PASS ASSEMBLY BILL 7.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MUNK SECONDED THE MOTION.

Is there any discussion? [There was none.]

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Flores:

Assemblywoman Gorelow will handle the floor statement. Next we have Assembly Bill 31.

Assembly Bill 31: Revises provisions concerning an application for a certificate as a community manager or registration as a reserve study specialist. (BDR 10-223)

Jered McDonald, Committee Policy Analyst:

Assembly Bill 31 revises provisions concerning an application for a certificate as a community manager or registration as a reserve study specialist (Exhibit D). This bill was sponsored by this Committee on behalf of the Real Estate Division of the Department of Business and Industry. It was heard in Committee on March 7, 2019. The bill requires a background investigation of an applicant seeking a certificate or registration to engage in the management of a common-interest community or the management of an association of a condominium hotel. As part of the application process, the applicant must submit fingerprints to the Real Estate Division or the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History to allow the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct an investigation. There are no amendments for this bill.

Chair Flores:

I would like to entertain a motion to do pass this bill.

ASSEMBLYMAN LEAVITT MOVED TO DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 31.

ASSEMBLYMAN McCURDY SECONDED THE MOTION.

Is there any discussion? [There was none.]

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Flores:

I will assign Assemblywoman Munk the floor statement. Next we have Assembly Bill 136.

**Assembly Bill 136: Makes various changes relating to public construction.
(BDR 28-145)**

Jered McDonald, Committee Policy Analyst:

Assembly Bill 136 makes various changes relating to public construction ([Exhibit E](#)). It was sponsored Assemblymen Frierson, Benitez-Thompson, Carlton, McCurdy, and Daly. It was heard in this Committee on March 8, 2019. Assembly Bill 136 makes changes to provisions regarding public administration and the application of prevailing wage including:

- Removes the provision allowing school districts and the Nevada System of Higher Education to pay wages at 90 percent of the prevailing wage rate on construction projects;
- Lowers the threshold at which prevailing wage law applies to a public project from \$250,000 to \$100,000;
- Eliminates language prescribing the manner in which the labor commissioner must determine the prevailing wage in certain circumstances; and
- Applies prevailing wage requirements to projects built by charter schools.

Finally, the bill does not apply to projects awarded before the effective date of the bill, which is July 1, 2019. There are no amendments.

Chair Flores:

I will entertain a motion to do pass A.B. 136.

ASSEMBLYMAN McCURDY MOVED TO DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 136.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BILBRAY-AXELROD SECONDED THE MOTION.

Is there any discussion?

Assemblyman Ellison:

I am going to vote no, but I would like to change my vote on the floor. The reason is because I still think there is room to discuss some of the rural counties. Another big thing is the charter schools. I am hoping that we can have some discussion prior to this going to the floor.

Assemblyman Leavitt:

I am in the same position as my colleague. I would like to be able to change my vote on the floor, if an agreement can come forth.

Assemblywoman Hardy:

I am in agreement with both of my colleagues on this. I would like to be able to change my vote.

Chair Flores:

Is there any other discussion? [There was none.]

THIS MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMEN ELLISON, HAFEN,
HARDY, AND LEAVITT VOTED NO).

Chair Flores:

I will assign the floor statement to Assemblyman Carrillo. With that, we will move onto the bill hearings. We will take them as they appear. We will begin with Assembly Bill 182.

**Assembly Bill 182: Designates neon as the official state element of the State of Nevada.
(BDR 19-670)**

Assemblywoman Sarah Peters, Assembly District No. 24:

I am so pleased to be here today and working with this group of students to designate neon as the state element. My esteemed colleagues here from Carson Montessori Public Charter School approached me to bring forth this idea to the Assembly. I was excited as a scientist to see interest in something such as a state element. I was also excited by the fact that I believe neon is so significant to the cultural value of the state of Nevada and what it means to be a Nevadan.

Each of us, I am sure, has a favorite neon sign we think of that brings joy or a joyful memory to us. That is what I think about when I think about designating neon as the state element. I am going to pass the presentation off to Will Durham, who is the teacher of this wonderful class of fifth and sixth graders. He will be joined by Tyler Varner, Sadie Brown, and Devyn Kellner who will also testify.

Will Durham, Private Citizen, Carson City:

We are proposing neon as the official state element. We are asking that neon join the bristlecone pine, desert bighorn sheep, and the ichthyosaur as an official state symbol. Neon is an element that is located on the periodic table alongside the other noble gases. We are not just recognizing neon but also the pioneering men and women who used this invisible gas to define our skylines and personify our maverick personality across the globe.

The heyday for neon in most of the United States was between the 1920s and 1950s. Neon was ubiquitous across the landscape as America began its love affair with the automobile. Neon was the most visible element of our new roadside culture. Neon was, and still is, a sign of American exuberance, optimism, and drive for a brighter future. It was found on restaurants, motels, grocery stores, florists, bakeries, big cities, and small towns—everywhere. Nevadans equally dressed their hotels, casinos, and restaurants in neon. One of our first neon signs was at the People's Market in Elko, Nevada, in the late 1920s.

In most parts of the country, neon started to decline in the late 1950s and early 1960s. This was due in part to two reasons. There were new types of signs being made—backlit, plastic signs. They were meant to signify a more modern future. Also, the

Beautification Act was passed. The act was championed by Lady Bird Johnson—it was later renamed Lady Bird's Bill. This was meant to clean up the nation's highways and main streets. One of the tenets of the bill was to get rid of neon signs. Most parts of the nation accepted it, but Nevada did not. It was as if Nevada did not hear the message, and we just doubled down. We started building bigger and more elaborate signs. We built signs that were hundreds of feet tall with literally miles of neon.

It was not just neon spectaculars and giant circus clowns outlined in neon. Nevada's skyline started to be populated by neon cowboys, cowgirls, buffalo, owls, hearts, thunderbirds, fish, giant guitars, stars, stardust, and even a neon senator [pages 6-17, ([Exhibit F](#))]. It was not just Cactus Jack that welcomed tourists and locals to our cities, we also have two world-famous monument signs: the "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas" sign—which is probably the most famous sign in the world; there is constantly a line of people taking pictures with it—and the Reno Arch. These do not just welcome tourists and locals, they also welcome Nevada into the future.

Neon is not a dead art. It is still used and prominent throughout the state. If you look at the Las Vegas Lights—it is a soccer team in Las Vegas—they are not only honoring our tradition of neon, but their badge is neon. Neon is so ingrained in our culture and heritage that it is picked up by some public safety officers. The Reno Police Department has a badge made of neon. Some of our fire departments also have neon. Current advertising in Las Vegas has neon signs. Lyft has an art park in downtown Las Vegas. Pabst had this neon sign commissioned [page 22] to be down on Fremont Street. This would only make sense in a place like Nevada. If you look, they are constantly filming car commercials in Las Vegas. Mercedes recently filmed a commercial in the Neon Boneyard—the Neon Museum.

It is part of our modern history as well. In our most recognized special event in the state, Burning Man, the man is dressed in neon every year. What is most significant about neon in Nevada is how it is honored and interpreted. The very important book, *Learning from Las Vegas*—which looked at Las Vegas as a modern American city—claimed that our signs are Nevada's contribution to architecture. Also, downtown Las Vegas in the Fremont Street area requires at least 50 percent of all the signs to contain neon. There is a neon museum in downtown Las Vegas—the Neon Museum. They restore and interpret local Las Vegas neon signs. This is a picture of the docents of the museum showing the world-famous Stardust sign [page 25, [Exhibit F](#)]. They do night tours now. They have tours going almost 24 hours a day. They also recently relit the guitar that we saw earlier. In northern Nevada we had a show at the Nevada Museum of Art. It was the first fine art show to feature neon. Also, the Western Folklife Center in Elko has had neon in its cowboy poetry shows for the past 12 years. Personally, I think this is something that is very important.

Neon has risen above just an advertising medium. It is something that is really ingrained in our culture. Last semester at the University of Nevada, Reno there was a course called "Neon Reno: Modernist Icons of the American West." I thought it was very significant because we are starting to look at this and the impact it has had on our culture. Today we ask

that you vote to make neon an official state symbol and, in doing so, recognize the significant impact it had on our cultural heritage.

Tyler Varner, Private Citizen, Carson City, Nevada:

Good morning, my name is Tyler Varner and I am a sixth grader at Carson Montessori School and a member of the student legislative team. I would like to speak for a minute about the importance of state symbols. Each state brings forth its own symbols that represent that state's cultural heritage and the individual national treasures that each state has. States work to find those unique symbols that are specifically theirs. They are that perfect fit for that particular state. For example, Hawaii has surfing as its state sport. Vermont has an official flavor and it is maple. The state aircraft of New Mexico is the hot-air balloon. Because Nevada likes to be different, we would be the first state in the Union to have a state element; Assembly Bill 182 is perfect.

Did you know that the majority of state symbols are proposed by schoolchildren, which is why we are here today with A.B. 182. Some members of the Legislature have questioned why we did not make gold the state element. Here is a fact: Gold is both a mineral and an element. We would be happy to come back the next session and propose that gold be the state mineral, but right now, our focus is on neon. Nevada definitely is known for its neon in the Reno Arch, Carson Senator, Las Vegas Glitter Gulch, and the fact that people still look out of airplane windows to see the glow of those orange neon lights below. Please help us make Nevada the only state in the Union that has a state element. Help us make neon Nevada's state element with A.B. 182.

Devyn Kellner, Private Citizen, Carson City, Nevada:

I am a fifth-grade student at Carson Montessori and a member of the student legislative team. I want to talk a little neon science for a minute. There is a common misunderstanding about the energy efficiency of neon. Some people say that it should be replaced because it is old-fashioned and uses too much energy. The fact is that neon is actually a green source of illumination. It is significantly more efficient than fluorescent lights and incandescent bulbs. As a matter of fact, the average life span of a neon tube is noticeably longer than a strip of LED. There are documented cases of neon tubes lit continuously for over 70 years.

Neon works well for advertising because it is visible both day and night; of course, we all know that Nevada is a 24-hour state. We do not roll up the sidewalks at 10 p.m. Neon is not a lost art here in Nevada. Not only do we celebrate the neon icons of our past, but Nevada is actively adding and returning more beautiful neon to our landscape. The Neon Museum in Las Vegas is building its collection and relighting important pieces from Las Vegas history. They recently had a relighting ceremony for the amazing Hard Rock Cafe neon guitar. The Nevada Neon Project is planning a Nevada Neon Museum in Reno. There are neon workshops at the University of Nevada, Reno. Meanwhile, rural communities are restoring their neon history. Neon definitely is not a lost art; it is alive and thriving. Please help us to keep it that way with A.B. 182.

Sadie Brown, Private Citizen, Carson City, Nevada:

I am in fifth grade at Carson Montessori School and a member of the student legislative team. My family's roots go back in Nevada to before it was a state. When we are traveling in Nevada after dark, there is something I always notice. It is that familiar soft orange glow of neon that still illuminates the sky in the middle of the desert—before you reach a city. I have learned that glow is not nearly as much as it once was, but I assure you, it is still there.

Hawthorne was the first community to unite to preserve their iconic neon Hawthorne sign. They are now united to repair it after it was recently destroyed by a windstorm. Ely has a neon night run. The neon presence is in Elko, Eureka, Fallon, Wendover, Carson City, Reno, and, of course, in Las Vegas. You just heard from Devyn that some people feel neon is dwindling. I want to assure you that it has been a key part of each of the communities that I just mentioned. It continues to be part of their culture and heritage.

Did you know that these colorful neon signs that have been the face of the Silver State for so long are mostly made in Nevada? It is local Nevadans who are salespeople, craftsmen, and designers. They have created this beautiful, glowing backdrop for our daily lives. The world-famous Reno Arch was designed and fabricated in the Young Electric Sign Company, or YESCO, in Reno. Neon is a Nevada thing. Assembly Bill 182 is a very short and efficient bill. It is only three sentences long. There is absolutely no cost to it, and it is a bipartisan unifier. Thank you for this opportunity to let Carson Montessori students participate in such a powerful civics lesson. Please, vote in favor of A.B. 182.

Chair Flores:

That was a great presentation. We have a couple of questions.

Assemblywoman Bilbray-Axelrod:

Thank you for being here today. I have a comment. I wanted to let you know that I love this bill. I am a cosponsor on it. My father had a conversation with the astronaut John Glenn, who orbited the earth. John told my father that because of the neon in Vegas—I guess we can also include Carson City and Reno—it is the brightest city in the world, both day and night. I thought it was pretty neat that you could see it from space. Thank you for bringing this in.

Assemblyman Carrillo:

Thank you for bringing this forward. I did not see anywhere in the bill where it talked about the atomic number of the element. Does anyone have that information?

Tyler Varner:

The number is 10 on the periodic table.

Assemblyman Carrillo:

What is the symbol of the element?

Tyler Varner:

The symbol is NE.

Chair Flores:

Mr. Carrillo, I do not appreciate that you are asking those tough questions. Luckily we have a very trained team that is ready to answer.

Assemblyman Leavitt:

I also appreciate that you are bringing this bill forward. I have a sixth grader at home in southern Nevada. I think she would be happy to join on with you guys if she were given the opportunity. I feel a great deal of pride right now. I do have one proposed amendment. I would like to amend the bill so that I could sign on to it.

Assemblyman Ellison:

Several years ago I went back to Elko and purchased a plaza from my family. I wrapped the buildings in blue neon. By doing that, we had so many people taking pictures that the gas station changed back to the old neon signs. Once we planted the seeds, it grew. Neon is very popular, beautiful, bright, and it glows. I think it is a good bill.

Assemblywoman Martinez:

I was very fortunate to meet Mr. Durham's students the other day. I wanted to thank Mr. Durham for bringing them. I am very impressed. When I went home on Friday, I spoke to my family about how impressive your children were. Thank you for bringing them to teach them the whole process.

Chair Flores:

I do not think we have any other questions. Those wishing to speak in support of this bill, please come forward.

Rob McCoy, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Neon Museum, Las Vegas, Nevada:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you briefly today with regard to A.B. 182. I was asked last week if I wanted to present visuals with my remarks this morning. I decided against it because I am sure each one of you has a romantic image of neon art or a neon sign that is burned into your memory. That is the power of neon as an element. It also speaks to the power of how we uniquely applied neon with overwhelming success in our great state.

Less than a half-mile from where I am testifying this morning sits the crown jewel of Las Vegas, The Neon Museum. This year nearly a quarter of a million people from every state and from around the world will visit us at the Museum. Like you and me, they, too, have a visual imprint of Las Vegas and neon. In fact, I think we can make a pretty good case that without neon, the Las Vegas of today would look very different. Make no mistake: this is the Silver State and it always will be. I think there is a significant case to be made that neon has been a more powerful business additive to the Nevada economy than silver and gold combined. Just two recent examples of the power of neon in people's lives. You may have

seen that we now have the original Hard Rock guitar sign, fully restored and at The Neon Museum. We raised more than \$230,000 from individuals in 43 states and 13 countries. Our Facebook audience now numbers more than 850,000 people. That is twice the size of the Getty Center and Los Angeles County Museum of Art. That is the power of neon. It is not an inanimate element. It has the power to persuade and the power to entertain.

French inventor Georges Claude is often credited with the first commercially viable neon sign in 1910. We believe, however, that neon—at least in its modern form—is indigenous to Nevada. By 1939, there were an estimated 2,000 neon sign companies operating in the United States. Neon had become an unparalleled medium for advertising and downtown business districts—like Las Vegas and Reno—that began to glow and grow. Produced by skilled craftsmen, neon became an art form. Fabrication was a handcrafted process that allowed for a wide range of individuality by the fabricator. Very little neon was mass-produced—a practice that continues today. Technological advances in new materials during World War II had a profound effect on neon signage and, as a result, neon lighting began a steady decline by the 1950s. Las Vegas, however, was different. Las Vegas is always different.

As demand for neon began to wane nationwide in the '50s, in Las Vegas neon began to realize greater heights of grandeur than had ever been attempted. Ever since, neon has been a vital element of the city's image and economy. Yes, neon put the "fabulous" in the "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas" sign, but the light form, the element, captured the nation's and the world's imagination. Las Vegas has consistently reinvented itself to keep tourists coming. This led to a high degree of turnover in the look of our city. Casino resorts have come and gone. Those that have lasted have had numerous renovations to satisfy public demand and changing demographics. In the wake of this, sadly, many of our neon masterpieces were replaced or lost. Local interest in rescuing these retired signs began in the 1970s with historic preservation groups. In the 1980s a committee of the Allied Arts Council began actively saving the signs. Out of that commission the Neon Museum was born. The Museum was officially incorporated as an independent, nonprofit organization in 1997. It was dedicated to collecting, preserving, studying, and exhibiting iconic neon for educational, historical, arts, and cultural enrichment. Since opening as a full-fledged museum in 2012, we have restored 27 signs, conducted regular tours for students, and hosted numerous educational lectures, family events, and panel discussions on the importance and the value of neon. Designers behind them also help to ensure the craftsmanship they exhibit will never be forgotten.

In closing, let me reiterate we fully support Assembly Bill 182. On a personal note, if I may, nothing would please this native son more than the official designation for neon as the official state element. Thank you for your time and I hope you have a productive 80th Session.

Chair Flores:

Just so the record can be reflected adequately, if you are here to support A.B. 182 but do not wish to speak, please stand up. We have an audience full of very talented students. I count

45 people in the audience in support of A.B. 182. If you are here for opposition, please come forward. Seeing no one, is there anyone here wishing to speak in the neutral position? Seeing no one, are there any closing remarks?

Assemblywoman Peters:

It was a joy to work with these kids. I have sent them out on their own. They have been going around to offices. Assemblywoman Martinez said if you have not seen them, they are on their way. They have been a pleasure. Their passion for learning about the legislative process has also been really wonderful. I appreciate you guys considering this bill. I hope that you can take this onto the floor. We look forward to seeing you there.

Chair Flores:

At this time I would like to close out the hearing on A.B. 182. We do not typically do this, but I would like to consider suspending Assembly Standing Rule 57.4. It is a rule that says we have to wait 24 hours before we hold a work session and vote on something to go to the floor. Since you are all here now, I would like to entertain a motion to suspend the rule.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BILBRAY-AXELROD MOVED TO WAIVE
ASSEMBLY STANDING RULE 57.4.

ASSEMBLYMAN ELLISON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Members, is there any discussion?

Assemblyman Assefa:

I wanted to make a statement and say how impressed I am with all the students who are here. Tyler, I hope you run for office in the future. You speak very eloquently. To the Assemblywoman from District 24, thank you for doing this. Thank you to the teacher for coordinating this. This is very impressive, not just for this bill but also for the fact that the students are seeing how the legislative process works and how things are made—which will be their future. Essentially, we are making their future. Keep an eye on us.

Chair Flores:

Thank you, Assemblyman Assefa. I appreciate the spirit of your comments; however, this is just comment on waiving the rules. Does anyone have any comment on waiving the rules? [There was no response.]

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Flores:

Now that we have unanimous consent, I would like to entertain a motion to do pass A.B. 182.

ASSEMBLYMAN McCURDY MOTIONED TO DO PASS ASSEMBLY
BILL 182.

ASSEMBLYMAN HAFEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Are there any comments? [There were none.]
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Flores:

Assemblywoman Peters, would you handle the floor statement? To the comment from the testifier in Las Vegas, this element is very persuasive. Next, I would like to open up the hearing on Assembly Bill 240.

Assembly Bill 240: Requires certain counties to meet jointly and prepare reports addressing the orderly management of growth in their region. (BDR S-1043)

Assemblyman Skip Daly, Assembly District No. 31:

Assembly Bill 240 is a second attempt to provide a platform to begin looking at long-term planning on a regional basis for the five northern Nevada counties, which include Carson City, Douglas County, Lyon County, Storey County, and Washoe County.

After my first attempt at this with Assembly Bill 153 of 79th Session, this bill takes a different approach to the issue. This bill is modeled after the Regional Planning Coalition established in Clark County under *Nevada Revised Statutes* 278.02528. Unlike the Clark County coalition, there is no requirement to do anything more than examine the regional growth. First we will take the individual county perspective, then we will meet as a five-county group and look at each other's concerns and issues. Afterwards, we will produce an annual report with recommendations for the identified issues from a five-county regional perspective. It will then be given to the Legislative Commission.

I will walk you through the bill. First, due to the nature of this proposal, it cannot be set up under general law; it requires a special act. The establishment of incorporated cities and airport authorities are a couple of examples of entities which are creations of the Legislature; therefore, they are only authorized to exist by a special act of the Legislature.

Section 1, subsection 1, paragraphs (a) through (d) state the Legislature's finding and declarations. Section 1, subsection 2 requires each county to prepare a report identifying the issues in paragraph (a), subparagraphs (1) through (5) and under paragraph (b) provides recommendations regarding those issues. Section 1, subsection 3 lists the other entities that a county may engage to help prepare the report under subsection 2. Section 1, subsection 4 requires the five counties with their individual county reports to meet and review the issues identified from a regional perspective and prepare a single comprehensive report regarding those issues. Section 1, subsection 5 requires that report with recommendations to be presented to the Legislative Commission. Section 1, subsection 6 defines the region as the five counties of Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, Storey, and Washoe. Section 2 gives the effective date of July 1, 2019, and a sunset date of December 31, 2023.

Prior to introducing this bill, I had a meeting with the stakeholders to get their input on what this proposal would look like. I told them that I was interested in their suggestions. One

suggestion was limiting the second meeting to the county managers; another was putting a sunset on this. I took both of those suggestions.

Since then, the cities, which will have a friendly amendment to introduce to include the incorporated cities in the first and second tier discussion, and report process that has been, as far as I know, agreed to by the counties. I would also say that the more they start to communicate, make progress, and work together, the farther away from this I will get—from a legislative perspective. The goal here is to try to get them to communicate and start looking at things on a regional basis—similar to what took place in Clark County. Finally, I have a conceptual amendment to subsection 5 in addition to the Legislative Commission and the annual five-county regional report. It should also be distributed to each legislator who covers any part of the five counties. Hopefully, more eyes will see it and it will get read.

Assemblyman Leavitt:

Is there any regional planning going on right now? How the communication currently taking place as far as regional planning is concerned?

Assemblyman Daly:

My best experience is with Washoe County. In Washoe County, each city has a planning commission. They also have a regional planning and governing board in Washoe County. It is part of the long, drawn-out process with the arguments between the three entities that have culminated in that. It seems to be working pretty well, but only Washoe County is doing that. Storey has three county commissioners. I am assuming they have a planning agency. Lyon, Douglas, and Carson City do that themselves. My understanding is the four rural counties—Douglas, Carson, Storey, and Lyon—meet regularly on some of the issues that are included in the bill, but not all of them. I do not know if they are looking at anything together on a regional basis. Washoe County talks to them, but they do not have any formal process. This would just strengthen that process. We will see where it goes after four years. Hopefully, they make progress and they find it useful and want to keep it after that.

Assemblyman Carrillo:

I believe Assemblyman Leavitt answered my question. I would like to make a comment: if we ever need a room cleared, we can always call on the Assemblyman from District No. 31.

Chair Flores:

Members, are there any additional questions? Seeing none, is there anyone wishing to speak in support of the bill?

Kathy Clewett, Legislative Liaison, City of Sparks:

I am happily here today in support of and with a friendly amendment to A.B. 240. You all have copies of this amendment ([Exhibit G](#)). I worked with Assemblyman Daly and the regional entities. It is a friendly amendment just to make sure that the intent is clear for the cities. The other entities are in the room. They are available to answer any questions if I cannot answer it from the City of Sparks' perspective. Also, Assemblyman Daly is correct about the regional planning within Washoe County. All three entities have their own

planning commissions that they do within specific boundaries. There is the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Authority that, as part of their board, has elected officials from all three entities. There is regional planning that goes on in Washoe County. The submitted amendment does three things. It makes sure the cities within the counties can be involved, if they choose to do so. It clears the language as to land-use developments. It takes out planning commissions as a separate entity to be consulted with. Under the cities' purviews, they have authority over the planning commission. You are better off dealing with the cities because they oversee everything within the city—as to planning or anything else that happens in the city.

Assemblyman Hafen:

I have a question on the proposed amendment. Are all the incorporated cities onboard with the amendment?

Kathy Clewett:

I have spoken to two others besides myself. I have not had the opportunity to speak with the City of Yerington.

Chair Flores:

Assemblyman Daly, just so we are all clear, you have adopted the amendment and it is part of your presentation.

Lisa Gianoli, representing Washoe County:

I just want to go on record saying that Washoe County supports the bill with the changes that Assemblyman Daly mentioned as well as the changes that Sparks brought forward.

Dylan Shaver, Director of Policy and Strategy, City of Reno:

We are the "Biggest Littlest City in the World" and home to—this may scuttle the bill—the Mountain West Conference regular season champion basketball Wolf Pack. We also echo the comments of Ms. Gianoli.

Alexis Motarex, Government Affairs Manager, Nevada Chapter, The Associated General Contractors of America, Inc.:

We are here in support of the bill. We are always in support of a more regional approach, rather than the arbitrary lines that define our cities and counties, so that we can be prepared for infrastructure, housing, and other services.

Mendy Elliott, representing City of Fernley:

We support the bill with the two amendments as presented.

Chair Flores:

Is there anyone wishing to speak in opposition? Seeing no one, is there anyone wishing to speak in the neutral position?

Steve Walker, representing Douglas County, Storey County, Lyon County, and Carson City:

We are neutral. We think this is something that could work for us. Our four counties work extremely well together. Twenty years ago, we formed a Western Nevada Legislative Coalition. During session we meet once every two weeks. During the interim we meet every two months. We share lots of services. We have implemented regional solutions for juvenile treatment facilities, sheriff, fire, mental health, and we even share water across our boundaries. If you can share water, then you can get along with almost anybody. Again, we are supportive of the amendments by the cities, and we are neutral on the bill.

Chair Flores:

Is there anyone else in neutral? Seeing no one, Assemblyman Daly, please come up for closing remarks.

Assemblyman Daly:

I worked with the City of Sparks over the weekend. We emailed them about their amendments. If they are coming to consensus, then I am not going to stand in the way of what I consider progress. With the conceptual amendment, it will not only be distributed by the Legislative Commission, but also to the legislators.

Chair Flores:

We have a few more questions.

Assemblyman Ellison:

Apparently the meetings have to be open. Do you invite people such as regional transportation officials to some of these meetings to bring comments forward? Is that how you perceive doing this?

Assemblyman Daly:

The meetings are within the individual counties—obviously Washoe County has more of those types of agencies. It says that they may reach out to them. If they are going to do a comprehensive plan, recommendation, or review, then they would have to speak with all the stakeholders. It would be different in Carson City. They do not have a regional transportation commission. Everybody will have a school district they should reach out to. Regarding the open meeting provisions, it depends whether it is required under the statute. I am sure they will comply with the statute, but they are not really making decisions. They are doing reviews and producing reports. I think all counties will look at it and see if they are even required to be under the open meeting provisions.

Chair Flores:

Are there any additional questions? Seeing none, I am going to close out the hearing on Assembly Bill 240. Is there anyone here for public comment? Seeing no one, I appreciate everyone working unanimously to put a smile on those kids' faces. This meeting is adjourned [at 10:07 a.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Kirsten Oleson
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman Edgar Flores, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

[Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster.

[Exhibit C](#) is the Work Session Document on [Assembly Bill 7](#), dated March 11, 2019, presented by Jered McDonald, Committee Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit D](#) is the Work Session Document on [Assembly Bill 31](#), dated March 11, 2019, presented by Jered McDonald, Committee Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit E](#) is the Work Session Document on [Assembly Bill 136](#), dated March 11, 2019, presented by Jered McDonald, Committee Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit F](#) is a copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled "AB182: Neon as Nevada's Official State Element," presented by Will Durham, Private Citizen, Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit G](#) is a proposed amendment to [Assembly Bill 240](#), presented by Kathy Clewett, Legislative Liaison, City of Sparks.