

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

**Eightieth Session
April 11, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Government Affairs was called to order by Chair David R. Parks at 7:07 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2019, in Room 1214 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 David R. Parks, Chair
Senator Melanie Scheible, Vice Chair
Senator James Ohrenschall
Senator Ben Kieckhefer
Senator Pete Goicoechea

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst
Heidi Chlarson, Committee Counsel
Becky Archer, Committee Secretary

CHAIR PARKS:

We will start the work session with Senate Bill (S.B.) 14.

SENATE BILL 14: Provides for the removal of certain gubernatorial appointees under certain circumstances. (BDR 18-186)

JENNIFER RUEDY (Committee Policy Analyst):

I will give the Committee an overview of S.B. 14 from the work session document ([Exhibit C](#)). There are no amendments.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 14.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

On page 3 of the bill, new language on lines 20 through 27 states:

The Governor may remove any appeals officer or special appeals officer for misconduct in office, incompetence or neglect of duty. The Governor may remove any appeals officer whose license to practice law has become void or has been revoked or suspended.

I am assuming that would only mean if there was some kind of disciplinary action against the attorney and not if the licensee chose to go on inactive status. Does this sound correct?

CHAIR PARKS:

We will check with Legal Counsel.

HEIDI CHLARSON (Committee Counsel):

The language indicates it will apply if the license to practice law has become void or been revoked or suspended. It does not address or contemplate a situation where a license has become inactive at the member's choice. That might be an issue the Committee wants to clarify through an amendment.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

Is this acceptable to the Chair?

SENATOR PARKS:

I will defer to those persons who understand the legal system better than I do.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

I cannot think of a situation in which a license becomes void other than revocation or suspension.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

Perhaps I am worried over nothing. I was concerned if someone has an active license in another jurisdiction but for some reason has a license inactive here, whether he or she would be unable to serve as an appeals officer.

If the bill's intent is primarily to apply to a disciplinary action by the bar association, that will not catch an attorney who voluntarily puts the license on inactive, whether it is for medical reasons or some other reason. Sometimes,

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licenses are placed on inactive to avoid paying bar dues in two or three jurisdictions. If that is the intent, I will vote for it and support it.

CHAIR PARKS:

I invite anyone to pursue the issue further. We can do a Floor amendment when the bill comes up for a vote on the Floor.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PARKS:

We are moving to S.B. 251 in the work session.

SENATE BILL 251: Revises provisions relating to the development of certain golf courses. (BDR 22-60)

Ms. RUEDY:

I will give the Committee an overview of S.B. 251 and, specifically, the amendment in the work session document ([Exhibit D](#)).

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

The definition of "residential golf course" will not be codified in the *Nevada Revised Statutes*. The definition will simply be used for the Interim study. Is that correct?

Ms. CHLARSON:

Pursuant to the description in the amendment, there is no intent to have this definition of residential golf course be codified. The only use of the definition in the bill will be for purposes of directing the study so members know which types of golf courses they are authorized to study.

CHAIR PARKS:

This study will not fall under the typical Interim studies we normally do; three from the Assembly and three from the Senate. It does not take up one of the study slots.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

If it is not a typical Interim study appointed by the Legislative Commission, what is it? Usually studies fall under a Standing Committee if not an Interim study.

CHAIR PARKS:

Other studies take place which do not fall under those categorical studies. The study is more like a working group and constituted in that fashion.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 251.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PARKS:

We will move to S.B. 207 in the work session.

SENATE BILL 207: Revises provisions governing apprentices. (BDR 28-740)

Ms. RUEDY:

I am reviewing S.B. 207 and, specifically, the amendment in the work session document ([Exhibit E](#)). Senator Chris Brooks let us know of one other amendment after the hearing, which is not in the work session document. The additional amendment is to change the effective date from October 1 to January 1, 2020.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

In the original bill draft, what was the required percentage for horizontal construction? I see Senator Brooks in the audience who is indicating three.

The amendment does not help me. The amendment went the wrong way. The amended language now shows 5 percent for horizontal construction. I wanted it lower. I am concerned about the required 15 percent of the total hours in the amended language, especially for the smaller contractors—even if it is not horizontal but vertical. It might impose a hardship on them. I am struggling with the bill.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

I really want to support this bill. I spoke with William Stanley and Paul McKenzie about it briefly. Training of skilled labor is needed in our State. Apprenticeships play a critical role in training. I understand the goal is to increase the number of opportunities for apprentices to work on jobs. I also need to recognize apprenticeship is but one of numerous training options for people in the construction field. In that way, this bill is restrictive.

Mr. Stanley and Mr. McKenzie have indicated a willingness to find ways to expand training opportunities for everybody, which is good because a rising tide floats all boats. The way the bill is crafted, I cannot support it. The intent is certainly pure.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

Thinking back to the hearing, I was impressed by the testimony of the folks who had served time in prison and had since gone through an apprenticeship program. They now have a good job and are able to take care of their families with a living wage and benefits. There was also testimony about the Helmets to Hardhats program which helps veterans get into the building trades through an apprenticeship program. I am impressed with what is going on. This bill will help create more opportunities for people to get a second chance and start over in what can be a great career.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 207.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS GOICOECHEA AND KIECKHEFER VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR PARKS:

We are moving to S.B. 231 in our work session.

SENATE BILL 231: Revises provisions relating to certain construction. (BDR 28-910)

Ms. RUEDY:

I am reviewing S.B. 231 and, specifically, the amendment in the work session document ([Exhibit F](#)). The amendment deletes several sections of the original bill.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 231.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS GOICOECHEA AND KIECKHEFER VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR PARKS:

We are moving to S.B. 462 in the work session.

SENATE BILL 462: Revises provisions relating to constables. (BDR 20-754)

Ms. RUEDY:

I will review S.B. 462 and the one amendment in the work session document ([Exhibit G](#)).

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 462.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

I will vote to support this but reserve my right to change my vote on the Floor. I have some questions that I need more information on.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PARKS:

The final bill in the work session is S.B. 495.

SENATE BILL 495: Creates the Office of the Small Business Advocate. (BDR 18-136)

Ms. RUEDY:

I will review S.B. 495 in the work session document ([Exhibit H](#)). This bill is eligible for exemption, and the fiscal note went up today. There are no amendments.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall indicated she was proposing to increase the number of staff in this office. Does the fiscal note submitted indicate all the staff or just the staff outlined in the bill?

Ms. RUEDY:

The fiscal note indicates all the staff. The fiscal note states the following: In section 9, subsection 2 of the bill, it indicates the office shall also coordinate with local governments. The Lieutenant Governor's Office interprets this section of the bill to merit a local governments program director position and an executive director position who will oversee State agency relations and overall office management. Those two positions will help facilitate a Statewide office with one position being in Las Vegas, the other in Carson City.

The Lieutenant Governor's Office is also requesting an additional full-time equivalent in Year 2 based on conversations with other states that have a similar office and position.

The total is over \$137,000 the first fiscal year, over \$222,000 the second fiscal year and future total of over \$434,000. These figures include those additional positions.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Three positions in the first year and four in the second or two and then three?

Ms. RUEDY:

I did not write that out.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

This bill will go to the Senate Committee on Finance. We will deal with the funding issue there.

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SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 495.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Will this bill go to the Senate Committee on Finance?

SENATOR PARKS:

My understanding is that it will.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

I will vote today in the affirmative but reserve my right to change my vote on the Floor when we review the financial impact.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PARKS:

With no other business being heard, the Senate Committee on Government Affairs meeting is adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Becky Archer,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator David R. Parks, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit / # of pages		Witness / Entity	Description
	A	2		Agenda
	B	4		Attendance Roster
S.B. 14	C	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 251	D	3	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 207	E	5	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 231	F	10	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 462	G	8	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 495	H	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document