

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Eightieth Session  
June 2, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Growth and Infrastructure was called to order by Chair Yvanna D. Cancela at 12:07 p.m. on Sunday, June 2, 2019, in Room 2135 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 Yvanna D. Cancela, Chair  
Senator Chris Brooks, Vice Chair  
Senator Moises Denis  
Senator Pat Spearman  
Senator Marcia Washington  
Senator Joseph P. Hardy  
Senator James A. Settlemeyer

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Senator Scott Hammond

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Assemblyman Howard Watts, Assembly District No. 15

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marjorie Paslov Thomas, Committee Policy Analyst  
Darcy Johnson, Committee Counsel  
Debbie Shope, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Kyle Davis, Nevada Conservation League  
Amanda Brazeau, Tesla  
Jessica Ferrato, Advanced Energy Economies  
Joelle Gutman, Air Quality Management Division, Washoe County Health District

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Jeanette Belz, Nevada Chapter AGC  
Peter Krueger, Nevada Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association;  
Smog Tester Alliance

CHAIR CANCELA:

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

**ASSEMBLY BILL 483 (2nd Reprint)**: Revises provisions relating to motor vehicles. (BDR 43-871)

ASSEMBLYMAN HOWARD WATTS (Assembly District No. 15):

I am here to present A.B. 483 on behalf of the Assembly Committee on Growth and Infrastructure. Briefly, we have had many conversations over the course of this Session regarding funding for our roads, roadways and infrastructure. One of the things we realized is we need additional data to help us make the best possible decisions.

We have seen declines in our highway fund revenue; those are tied to a lot of different things. We have increased efficiency of our gasoline vehicles which has been a major factor, inflation which we have been trying to deal with in our larger counties and have adoption of alternative fuel vehicles as well. —Just to name a few of the factors that have been affecting our funding for infrastructure.

What A.B. 483 looks to do is to direct the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to conduct a pilot program to collect mileage data from passenger vehicles in the State. We have heard considerations of ideas to transition away from a fuel-based system to a mileage or usage-based revenue system. To resolve what system is equitable and how to make sure it works for every community in our State, both urban and rural, we need to figure out how to make adjustments for the different types of fuels and factor in the costs and benefits of those. We need additional information so we can have a data-driven approach. That is what A.B. 483 seeks to do.

Briefly, the bill asks the DMV to collect this information and to compile a report that will go to the Legislature and the Growth and Infrastructure Committees. It will break out some of the mileage of vehicle types, vehicle weights and fuel types. It has an appropriation included of about \$100,000 from the Highway Fund to cover the costs of conducting this pilot program. That is for

programming needed to collect the mileage data. Most of the data will come from emission tests when those are conducted, collecting the odometer readings and transmitting them to DMV; those will be combined with the other data points I mentioned earlier.

KYLE DAVIS (Nevada Conservation League):

We are here in support of A.B. 483. We view A.B. 483 as an important bill to gather the data to address two pressing issues we think the State needs to start dealing with. The first is finding a way we can continue to fund our transportation system. Second is to ensure we are moving to make our transportation system cleaner, more efficient and putting out less pollution. We will move to a place where we are having more of our vehicles at zero emissions, so we can start to reduce that pollution from the transportation sector.

We think A.B. 483 is an important step, so we can have the information we need to make those important decisions.

AMANDA BRAZEAU (Tesla):

Sustainability is the cornerstone of Tesla's values, and this extends to transportation and infrastructure. Tesla is a committed partner with Nevada to work toward adequate and equitable funding for transportation and infrastructure in our State. Assembly Bill 483 is a critical first step to collecting the data necessary to evaluate and develop funding. We look forward to working with Assemblyman Watts on this measure and are here in support.

JESSICA FERRATO (Advanced Energy Economies):

Advanced Energy Economies is here in support of the bill and thanks the sponsor for all his work. We think this is a big step in the right direction in discussions on our transportation funding and infrastructure needs.

JOELLE GUTMAN (Air Quality Management Division, Washoe County Health District):

The data that would be collected would be valuable for us for quality planning purposes. Vehicles are our largest source of emissions in Washoe County. Right now in our partnership with the Regional Transportation Commission, we estimate our carrying capacity of emissions in the Truckee Meadows. Having more accurate data, would be helpful in development purposes.

SENATOR HARDY:

I am curious about the funding mechanism for this. I heard something about it coming from emission checks from vehicles that do not do smog checks.

CHAIR CANCELA:

The funding is a General Fund Appropriation to the DMV. It is not connected to the emission test. The emission test is where the data would come from in terms of the miles traveled by passenger vehicles.

SENATOR HARDY:

Do the people who do the emission tests have a software that reports it to DMV, or how does that work?

MR. DAVIS:

Yes. It is my understanding, having heard this in the Ways and Means Committee in the Assembly. I believe the source of the funding from DMV comes out of the Highway Fund. I believe the funding that comes from the emission tests goes to the Pollution Control Account at DMV. I believe these are two separate accounts. The Highway Fund is primarily gas tax.

SENATOR HARDY:

How much is that going to be, \$100,000 which comes out of the Highway Fund?

MR. DAVIS:

Yes. It is \$121,142 that would come out of the Highway Fund in order to gather the data.

SENATOR WASHINGTON:

In section 6.5 of the bill, it shows it is appropriated from the State Highway Fund to DMV for the sum of \$121,142 for computer programing.

SENATOR SPEARMAN:

I hope that there is a way to merge this information with S.C.R. 3 because it seems like there is a nexus there.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 3 OF THE 80TH SESSION:** Directs the Legislative Committee on Energy to conduct an interim study to consider alternative solutions for transportation system funding in Nevada. (BDR R-779)

MR. DAVIS:

That is certainly our vision, and this information would be complimentary to the efforts we hope would happen under S.C.R. 3 because it is also an important piece of legislation for us to get a handle on this issue.

JEANETTE BELZ (Nevada Chapter AGC):

I missed support testimony and come in as neutral but in support. I believe this is in concert with S.C.R. 3; we just need to get the Assembly to move S.C.R. 3.

PETER KRUEGER (Nevada Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association; Smog Tester Alliance):

I am here in neutral but in support of the bill. I did not get here soon enough. We think this is a good way to look at how we can discuss tax fuels. As this body knows, we have not raised the State fuel tax since 1991, and that is a problem. We are in support and want to be a part of the process during the interim.

CHAIR CANCELA:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 483.

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

SENATOR SPEARMAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS DENIS AND HAMMOND WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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CHAIR CANCELA:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting is adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Debbie Shope,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Yvanna D. Cancela, Chair

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

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit / # of pages		Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	1		Attendance Roster