

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

**Eightieth Session
April 22, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary was called to order by Chair Nicole J. Cannizzaro at 8:08 a.m. on Monday, April 22, 2019, in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4412E 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 Dallas Harris, Vice Chair
Senator James Ohrenschall
Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop
Senator Melanie Scheible
Senator Scott Hammond
Senator Ira Hansen
Senator Keith F. Pickard

GUEST LEGISLATOR PRESENT:

Assemblyman Steve Yeager, Assembly District No. 9

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patrick Guinan, Committee Policy Analyst
Nicolas Anthony, Committee Counsel
Jeanne Mortimer, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michael Alonso, Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers
Marcus Prater, Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers
Paul Moradkhan, Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce

CHAIR CANNIZZARO:

We will begin the meeting with a hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 221.

ASSEMBLY BILL 221 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to gaming employees. (BDR 41-716)

ASSEMBLYMAN STEVE YEAGER (Assembly District No. 9):

I am here to present A.B. 221. The bill is transformative for Nevada. Historically, there has been a prohibition against anyone under 21 years of age being employed as a gaming employee. There is an exception for an employee who is under the age of 21 working in a counting room. This bill does not change that provision.

Assembly Bill 221 allows 18- through 20-year-olds to be employed as a gaming employee, as long as the employee is employed by and works at the business premises of a licensed gaming manufacturer or distributor. The employee has certain duties enumerated in the bill in section 1, subsection 2, subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c). This bill allows 18- through 20-year-olds to develop skills in coding and design as well as learning how to fabricate, assemble or modify gaming devices and equipment. This will boost our technology workforce as well as help gaming equipment manufacturers fill their employment needs in this area. This bill is a win for every entity involved.

MICHAEL ALONSO (Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers):

We have submitted written testimony by Dan Reaser, who is the regulatory counsel for the Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers (AGEM) ([Exhibit C](#)). We support A.B. 221.

MARCUS PRATER (Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers):

I have submitted written testimony ([Exhibit D](#)). We support A.B. 221.

MR. ALONSO:

In A.B. 221, section 1, subsection 1, subparagraph (c) provides for an exception to the general prohibition. The exception is outlined in subsection 2, which provides certain requirements for employees. Under this section, the employee must work at the place of business of the licensee; work duties are also outlined.

Section 1, subsection 3 addresses gaming employees. There are many entities who have provided written testimony that support A.B. 221. This bill will help the economy in Nevada.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

It is a great idea to employ young people who are technologically savvy. With regard to the language in section 1, subsection 2, paragraph (b), will this language preclude the fact that the employee would be working at the casino?

MR. ALONSO:

Yes. The intention is for the employee to conduct this type of work at the business premises of the manufacturer or distributor, not at the casino premises.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

Are the terms casino and business premises interchangeable?

MR. ALONSO:

No. The terms are not interchangeable.

SENATOR HANSEN:

This bill is strictly limited to manufacturing of gaming devices and will not allow employment on the casino floor by anyone under the age of 21. Will A.B. 221 allow 18-year-olds to deal cards inside the casino?

MR. ALONSO:

No, 18-year-olds will not be permitted to work on the casino floor.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

With regard to other gaming states or countries that manufacture gaming devices, do they allow persons under the age of 21 to work in manufacturing or distribution?

MR. ALONSO:

To my knowledge, Nevada is the only state that defines a gaming employee that applies to employees at a manufacturer, distributor or supplier.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

This bill will bring Nevada in line with what other states and countries permit.

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SENATOR PICKARD:

This is a great bill to encourage employment in Nevada. Coding and computer science courses are important.

PAUL MORADKHAN (Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce):

This bill has many advantages for our economy. There are many employment opportunities for students in Nevada. We support A.B. 221.

ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER:

Aristocrat has opened up its headquarters in Assembly District No. 9 and has jobs the company is unable to fill. The company currently recruits out of state, and this bill will allow companies like this to recruit Nevadans. I urge your support for A.B. 221.

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CHAIR CANNIZZARO:
The meeting is adjourned at 8:23 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Jeanne Mortimer,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro, Chair

DATE: _____

| EXHIBIT SUMMARY | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Bill | Exhibit / # of pages | | Witness / Entity | Description |
| | A | 1 | | Agenda |
| | B | 3 | | Attendance Roster |
| A.B. 221 | C | 4 | Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers | Written Testimony by Dan R. Reaser |
| A.B. 221 | D | 2 | Marcus Prater / Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers | Written Testimony |