

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

**Eightieth Session
April 3, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair James Ohrenschall at 4:26 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3, 2019, in Room 2144 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4412 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 James Ohrenschall, Chair
Senator Yvanna D. Cancela, Vice Chair
Senator Marcia Washington
Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert
Senator Keith F. Pickard

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Stewart, Committee Policy Analyst
Kevin Powers, Committee Counsel
Diane Rea, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wayne Thorley, Deputy Secretary for Elections, Office of the Secretary of State

Chair Ohrenschall opened the work session on Senate Bill (S.B.) 452.

[SENATE BILL 452](#): Revises provisions relating to elections. (BDR 24-1141)

Michael Stewart, Committee Policy Analyst, spoke on his work session document ([Exhibit C](#)), adding there is one amendment ([Exhibit D](#)).

Chair Ohrenschall stated the conceptual amendment has merit because constituents who received the third-party solicitation were confused and thought it was from the County Registrar or Secretary of State.

Senator Gansert said the notice is a good idea but it is conceptual and needed to be briefer.

Chair Ohrenschall deferred to Legal Counsel.

Kevin Powers, Committee Counsel, stated, although this conceptual was drafted so that not only is it informative, it needs to be legally accurate. It has to explain all the different variations because if you have already submitted a request for an absent ballot for a prior election, it is not going to be effective for this current election. So if you just tell someone if you have already submitted an absent ballot that you do not have to do it again, that would be legally inaccurate. In addition, last Session, the Legislature established a provision for someone to essentially receive a permanent absent ballot if they are older than 65 years old or if they are disabled. That is a separate procedure. If you have already submitted that request, then you would not need to submit this request. So it has to address that contingency as well. Although I understand the need for brevity, we also must understand the need for legal accuracy so that no voter is misinformed and no voter fails to request an absent ballot when they need to, or no voter gets confused and understands they do not need to request an absent ballot if they have already done so under these particular circumstances. So, with all due respect, brevity is not intended but legal accuracy is also needed.

Chair Ohrenschall stated he should defer to Legal Counsel even though it is lengthy. There is a question about possible fiscal costs, and he asked Deputy Thorley about that issue.

Wayne Thorley, Deputy Secretary for Elections, Office of the Secretary of State, stated the bill both as introduced and with the conceptual amendment would not have a fiscal impact on the Secretary of State's Office or any county election officials.

Chair Ohrenschall asked for a motion.

SENATOR PICKARD MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
S.B. 452.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

Senator Gansert added there is a lot of language, several paraphrases or pieces which could be removed. Her concern is specifically with it being long and complicated. It is something a voter does not have to fill out if already done before. No one is going to read that far and will continue to be confused. She is in support of the language, but does not feel it will be as effective as it could be if more direct for the voters.

Chair Ohrenschall stated since this is conceptual, Legal Counsel can look at revising the language before the amendment is drafted.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Chair Ohrenschall stated the next bill is Assembly Bill (A.B.) 182.

ASSEMBLY BILL 182: Designates neon as the official state element of the State of Nevada. (BDR 19-670)

Michael Stewart, Committee Policy Analyst, explained Legislators, in addition to those listed on the work session document ([Exhibit E](#)), wish to be added as sponsors to the bill.

SENATOR PICKARD MOVED TO RECONSIDER THE COMMITTEE'S ACTION WHEREBY IT APPROVED A.B. 182 WITH A DO PASS MOTION ON MARCH 20.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Chair Ohrenschall asked for a motion to be able to add additional Legislators who wish to cosponsor the bill.

SENATOR PICKARD MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 182.

SENATOR CANCELA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Chair Ohrenschall adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Diane Rea,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator James Ohrenschall, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit / # of pages		Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	1		Attendance Roster
S. B. 452	C	1	Michael Stewart	Work Session Document
S. B. 452	D	2	Michael Stewart	Proposed Conceptual Amendment
A. B. 182	E	1	Michael Stewart	Work Session Document