

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Eighty-First Session
May 13, 2021**

The Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair Brittney Miller at 4:06 p.m. on Thursday, May 13, 2021, Online and in Room 3142 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, 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/81st2021.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Brittney Miller, Chair
Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui, Vice Chair
Assemblywoman Jill Dickman
Assemblyman Jason Frierson
Assemblywoman Cecelia González
Assemblyman Glen Leavitt
Assemblyman Andy Matthews
Assemblyman Richard McArthur
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno
Assemblywoman Clara Thomas
Assemblywoman Selena Torres

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pepper Sturm, Committee Policy Analyst
Kathleen M. Norris, Committee Counsel
Bonnie Borda Hoffecker, Committee Manager
Jordan Green, Committee Secretary
Trinity Thom, Committee Assistant



OTHERS PRESENT:

None

Chair Miller:

[Roll was called. Committee rules and protocol were explained.] Today, we have many items on our work session. We will be taking a few items out of order. We will begin with Assembly Bill 443 and then move to Senate Bill 176 (1st Reprint), Senate Bill 82, Senate Concurrent Resolution 5, Senate Joint Resolution 6, and Senate Joint Resolution 11.

Pepper Sturm, Committee Policy Analyst:

As your committee policy analyst and Legislative Counsel Bureau staff, I cannot advocate for or against legislation. I am just here to walk you through the work session document.

**Assembly Bill 443: Revises the interim committee structure of the Legislature.
(BDR 17-1045)**

Pepper Sturm, Committee Policy Analyst:

[Mr. Sturm read from the work session document, [Exhibit C](#).] Assembly Bill 443 was presented by Assemblyman Yeager and was sponsored by the Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections.

Assembly Bill 443 repeals several statutory committees on which legislators serve throughout the biennium and establishes joint interim standing committees that parallel certain standing committees established by the Legislature during its regular sessions. The powers and duties of certain repealed statutory committees are reassigned to the corresponding joint committees. The membership of other statutory committees is altered to reference legislators who are members of the joint committees of jurisdiction. Each joint committee consists of eight regular members and five alternate members. To the extent practicable, at least five of the members appointed to a joint committee must have served on the corresponding standing committee during the preceding regular session of the Legislature, and the joint committee will consist of not more than five members of the same political party. It also provides for meetings of the joint committees, and it authorizes joint committees to review matters within the jurisdiction of their corresponding standing committees and to conduct studies directed by the Legislature and the Legislative Commission. The joint committees are required to report on their activities, findings, and any recommended legislation to each session of the Legislature.

There were several amendments to this bill. Assemblyman Yeager proposed the following two amendments, with additional detail and his intent included on the next page [page 2, [Exhibit C](#)]:

1. Require that the Joint Interim Standing Committee on the Judiciary also consider juvenile justice issues, either as part of its regular work or through the appointment of a subcommittee. An additional five bill draft requests will be allocated and earmarked specifically for juvenile justice issues; and
2. Require that the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services also consider child welfare issues, either as part of its regular work or through the appointment of a subcommittee. An additional five bill draft requests will be allocated and earmarked specifically for child welfare issues.

In discussions with Chair Miller, the following amendment is proposed in coordination with a proposed amendment to [Senate Bill 176 \(1st Reprint\)](#):

3. Amend the bill to authorize the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections to consider issues relating to governmental purchasing, including, without limitation, consideration of those recommendations for legislation included in a report prepared by the Commission to Study Governmental Purchasing created by *Nevada Revised Statutes* 332.215. Further, include a provision to require the Commission to Study Governmental Purchasing to prepare and transmit a biennial report to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections. Such a report must include, without limitation, recommendations for legislation relating to governmental purchasing.

Chair Miller:

Are there any questions? [There were none.] I will take a motion on [Assembly Bill 443](#).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
[ASSEMBLY BILL 443](#).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

The motion is to include all three amendments. Is there any discussion on the motion?

Assemblyman Frierson:

I believe that this bill is going to result in fewer pieces of legislation, fewer duplicate pieces of legislation, greater efficiency with our limited staff, and a much more streamlined process for us to vet bills and provide more continuity from the interim into the next session. Quite frankly, I think it is something we have talked about for years. That is the epitome of modernization—to make government more efficient. I am happy that we have gotten this far.

Chair Miller:

I feel the same way with the continuity and streamlined approach. I know some of us experienced the difficulties of wondering what happened during the interim to discover that there was not an interim committee for some of our standing committees. I am in full agreement. Are there any other comments?

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

I will assign the floor statement to Assemblywoman Torres. We will move to the next bill, which is Senate Bill 176 (1st Reprint).

Senate Bill 176 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to the Commission to Study Governmental Purchasing. (BDR 17-512)

Pepper Sturm, Committee Policy Analyst:

[Mr. Sturm read from the work session document, [Exhibit D.](#)] Senate Bill 176 (1st Reprint) was sponsored by the Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections on behalf of the Sunset Subcommittee of the Legislative Commission that met during the interim. It was presented by Jim Haining [Member, Commission to Study Governmental Purchasing] on behalf of Senator Spearman. We heard the bill on May 6, 2021.

Senate Bill 176 (1st Reprint) expands the scope of study for the Commission to Study Governmental Purchasing to include best practices for awarding contracts to companies that represent the diversity of the state or that are located within communities served by the governing body awarding the contract. The measure also authorizes the Commission to request, for each regular session of the Legislature, the drafting of not more than one legislative measure which relates to matters within the scope of the Commission.

There are two amendments to the bill. In discussions with Chair Miller, the following amendments complement what was proposed in the amendments to [Assembly Bill 443](#):

1. Delete sections 1 and 2 from the bill relating to the bill draft request of the Commission to Study Governmental Purchasing; and

I have a correction for the second amendment—to amend section 2.5 and not section 3.

2. Amend section 2.5 of the bill to remove the last sentence of subsection 2 relating to the Commission submitting recommendations to the Legislature. Such recommendations are duplicative with the proposed amendment seen in the work session document for [A.B. 443](#) [[Exhibit C](#)].

I would note that if the Committee wishes to process these changes, the motion should include "with the correction noted by staff."

Chair Miller:

Are there any questions? [There were none.] I will take a motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
SENATE BILL 176 (1ST REPRINT).

Does that include the technical correction from staff?

Assemblywoman Jauregui:

Yes, it does.

Chair Miller:

Do I have a second?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TORRES SECONDED THE MOTION.

Are there any comments?

Assemblyman Matthews:

I am going to be a yes today in Committee, but I reserve my right to change my vote.

Assemblyman McArthur:

I am going to be yes today also, but I want to be able to read those amendments, so I want to reserve my right.

Chair Miller:

I would like to make a comment to explain what is happening. I believe that most of us felt the same way with S.B. 176 (R1). We had a lot of questions, and we had a robust hearing. There were a lot of questions around the structure and the operation of the Commission to Study Governmental Purchasing. It was not necessarily a resistance to provide the Commission a bill draft request (BDR) but questions around the structure of it. From discussions with Vice Chair Jauregui and with Legal Division [Legislative Counsel Bureau] staff, that is where the amendment came from; that is why we amended another bill [Assembly Bill 443] to be able to do this.

It will provide more structure and transparency because, again, the goal is for effective government. We would be able to see the parameters around this and then, with the report, we would have better information about what is going on and have the ability to grant the Commission the BDR. I feel that got most of us there who had some concerns on the bill. I appreciate everyone considering the amendment and their willingness to work with the Commission so we can keep moving forward.

Assemblyman Leavitt:

I want to express my appreciation to you and the Vice Chair for clarifying the concerns that we had and adding structure to the Commission.

Chair Miller:

Are there any other comments? [There were none.]

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

I will assign the floor statement to Assemblywoman González.

Senate Bill 82: Makes changes to various provisions of the Charter of the City of Sparks. (BDR S-489)

Pepper Sturm, Committee Policy Analyst:

[Mr. Sturm read from the work session document, [Exhibit E](#).] Senate Bill 82 was sponsored by Senator Ratti and heard by the Committee on April 27, 2021.

Senate Bill 82 amends the Charter of the City of Sparks to clarify the manner in which municipal candidates appear on the primary or general election ballot. If only one candidate has filed for office by the close of candidate filing, that candidate must be declared elected to that office and no election shall be held. If more than twice the number of candidates to be elected have filed, the names of those candidates must appear on the primary election ballot. A candidate at the primary election who receives the majority of the votes cast must be declared elected. If no candidate receives the majority of votes cast, the names of the two candidates who receive the most votes must be placed on the general election ballot.

Senate Bill 82 also provides that if not more than twice the number of candidates to be elected have filed for office, no primary election is held, and those candidates must be placed on the general election ballot.

Finally, S.B. 82 clarifies that an elected officer enters office at the first regular meeting of the City Council [City of Sparks] following the meeting at which the canvass of the election returns is made.

There were no amendments proposed for this bill.

Chair Miller:

Are there any questions? I will entertain a motion.

[Assemblywoman Jauregui made a motion to do pass.]

Assemblywoman Dickman:

It is my city. May I?

Assemblywoman Jauregui:

Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DICKMAN MADE A MOTION TO DO PASS
SENATE BILL 82.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Are there any comments on the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

I will assign the floor statement to Assemblywoman Dickman.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 5: Urges certain actions to address the public health crisis in Nevada. (BDR R-966)

Pepper Sturm, Committee Policy Analyst:

[Mr. Sturm read from the work session document, [Exhibit F](#).] Senate Concurrent Resolution 5 was sponsored by Senator Spearman and heard by the Committee on May 4, 2021. The resolution declares that systemic racism and structures of racial discrimination constitute a public health crisis magnified by the disproportionately high impact of the Coronavirus Disease of 2019 on communities of color. The resolution also:

- Affirms a commitment to incorporate issues related to systemic racism and structures of racial discrimination into the regular business of the Legislature;
- Requests that federal funding be distributed equitably based on the percentage of members of Black, Indigenous, and other persons of color communities to address issues that disproportionately affect such persons in direct proportion to their disadvantages by individual racial category; and
- Urges support for local, state, regional, and federal initiatives to understand, address, and dismantle systemic racism and its impact on economic development, public safety, and the delivery of human and social services.

There were no amendments for this measure.

Chair Miller:

Are there any questions? [There were none.] I will entertain a motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 5.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TORRES SECONDED THE MOTION.

Are there any comments on the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED. (ASSEMBLYMEN DICKMAN,
LEAVITT, MATTHEWS, AND MCARTHUR VOTED NO.)

I will assign the floor statement to Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno.

Senate Joint Resolution 6: Expresses support for the creation of a retirement plan for spouses of members of the military. (BDR R-384)

Pepper Sturm, Committee Policy Analyst:

[Mr. Sturm read from the work session document, [Exhibit G.](#)] Senate Joint Resolution 6 was sponsored by the Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections on behalf of the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs. It was presented by Senator Spearman.

Senate Joint Resolution 6 expresses support for the creation of a retirement plan that addresses the loss of retirement benefits for military spouses due to frequent relocations. The resolution further urges the federal government to implement such a retirement plan that is funded by the Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

There were no amendments for this measure.

Chair Miller:

Are there any questions? [There were none.] I will entertain a motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI MADE A MOTION TO DO PASS
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 6.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TORRES SECONDED THE MOTION.

Committee members, are there any comments on the motion? [There were none.] I would like to make a comment. One of my favorite parts of the bill presentation was when the Senator acknowledged that we would be the first state to actually send this type of resolution to Congress. I think that is very indicative of our state—where we know that we are over 10 percent veterans and military families. They are such an integral and ingrained part, in population and culture here, of Nevada. I always say that we should be the state that is really

for veterans, so the fact that we are the first state that would submit this type of request is indicative of who we are as Nevadans. That is something very special to many of us.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

I will assign the floor statement to Assemblywoman Thomas.

Senate Joint Resolution 11: Urges Congress to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. (BDR R-969)

Pepper Sturm, Committee Policy Analyst:

[Mr. Sturm read from the work session document, [Exhibit H](#).] Senate Joint Resolution 11 was sponsored by Senator Spearman and heard on May 4, 2021. Very simply, S.J.R. 11 expresses the Nevada Legislature's support of the elimination of discrimination against women and urges the United States Congress to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

There were no amendments proposed for this measure.

Chair Miller:

Do we have any questions? [There were none.] I will entertain a motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI MADE A MOTION TO DO PASS
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 11.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GONZÁLEZ SECONDED THE MOTION.

Are there any comments on the motion?

Assemblyman Leavitt:

I am going to vote yes out of Committee, but I am going to seek further clarification on some of the ramifications that may occur.

Chair Miller:

Are there any other comments? [There were none.]

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMEN DICKMAN, MATTHEWS,
AND MCARTHUR VOTED NO.)

I will take the floor statement.

I will close the work session items and move to our next item, which is public comment. Everyone will have up to two minutes to make public comment on something that is under the purview of this Committee. Do we have anyone on the line to make public comment?

[There was no one.] We will give it another moment. Is anyone on the line? [There was no one.] I will close public comment.

Just so we have an idea what the next few days look like, we are meeting at the call of the Chair for tomorrow—do anticipate being notified of that. This came up in another committee, especially for those who are new to the Assembly: we are not done with committees just because there is a deadline. There are still many bills that are in the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means or the Senate Committee on Finance that will eventually make their way out from the other house. I will notify you when our next meeting for next week is—if there will be one scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, or Thursday, May 20. With that, we have covered all our business for today. This meeting is adjourned [at 4:30 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Jordan Green
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Brittney Miller, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

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

[Exhibit C](#) is the Work Session Document for [Assembly Bill 443](#), submitted and presented by Pepper Sturm, Principal Policy Analyst, Committee and Policy Research Services, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit D](#) is the Work Session Document for [Senate Bill 176 \(1st Reprint\)](#), submitted and presented by Pepper Sturm, Principal Policy Analyst, Committee and Policy Research Services, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit E](#) is the Work Session Document for [Senate Bill 82](#), submitted and presented by Pepper Sturm, Principal Policy Analyst, Committee and Policy Research Services, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit F](#) is the Work Session Document for [Senate Concurrent Resolution 5](#), submitted and presented by Pepper Sturm, Principal Policy Analyst, Committee and Policy Research Services, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit G](#) is the Work Session Document for [Senate Joint Resolution 6](#), submitted and presented by Pepper Sturm, Principal Policy Analyst, Committee and Policy Research Services, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit H](#) is the Work Session Document for [Senate Joint Resolution 11](#), submitted and presented by Pepper Sturm, Principal Policy Analyst, Committee and Policy Research Services, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.