

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

**Eighty-First Session
February 18, 2021**

The Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair Brittney Miller at 4:01 p.m. on Thursday, February 18, 2021, Online. 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
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno
Assemblywoman Clara Thomas
Assemblywoman Selena Torres

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Assemblyman Richard McArthur (excused)

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marsheilah D. Lyons, Committee Policy Analyst
Kathleen M. Norris, Committee Counsel
Bonnie Borda Hoffecker, Committee Manager
Jordan Green, Committee Secretary
Trinity Thom, Committee Assistant



OTHERS PRESENT:

Vinson Guthreau, Deputy Director, Nevada Association of Counties
Wesley Harper, Executive Director, Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities
Jamie Rodriguez, Government Affairs Manager, Office of the County Manager,
Washoe County
Randy Robison, Deputy Director, Government and Community Affairs, City of
Las Vegas
Marla McDade Williams, representing Churchill County
Alex Ortiz, Assistant Director, Department of Administrative Services, Clark County
Steven Cohen, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada

Chair Miller:

[Roll was called. Committee protocol and rules were explained.] We will open the hearing on Assembly Bill 1, which revises provisions relating to the training of newly elected legislators. It will be presented by the Deputy Director of the Nevada Association of Counties, Vinson Guthreau.

Assembly Bill 1: Revises provisions relating to training for Legislators. (BDR 17-438)

Vinson Guthreau, Deputy Director, Nevada Association of Counties:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Assembly Bill 1 on behalf of the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO), whose members are all of Nevada's 17 counties.

Currently, all newly elected legislators are required to take new legislator training, which is administered by the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). Assembly Bill 1 proposes an addition to the curriculum that is currently outlined in *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 218A.285. Because Nevada is what is called a Dillon's Rule state, the Legislature dictates through NRS much of what local governments can do. Many of the policy changes and budget decisions that each of you will work on throughout your time as legislators will impact local governments. This legislation would ensure that legislators are provided training on the structure, scope, and responsibilities of local government.

I took the liberty of providing the Committee a list of state and county service providers [[Exhibit C](#)]. It has been color coded to denote the services that are provided by the state, the counties, and those for which we partner. I thought that would be helpful for Committee members to understand the breadth of services that are provided by local government.

I would also like to play a short video [[Exhibit D](#)] that further highlights the things counties do, especially during COVID-19. Thank you for indulging me. Part of the reason we produced that video was to thank the county employees whom you all have come to know here.

Continuing on, Nevada has a diverse and unique citizen legislature. Most of the members of this body do not come up through local government as they do in other states. Given the critical nature of the partnership between county and state governments, the Board of Directors of NACO believes that additional information on local governments would be helpful for you all to have, including an overview of local government services, authority, and finances.

As I mentioned, A.B. 1 proposes to make the very simple change to NRS 218A.285, which requires training for newly elected legislators. Section 1, subsection 3, paragraph (d), adds to that curriculum a discussion of local governments, including the structure and authority, the financial administration, and the services provided by our state's counties and cities. This legislation would become effective January 1, 2022—before the 2023 Session of the Nevada Legislature. It is a simple update, and I thank you for indulging me. I am available to take questions.

If it is all right with you, we have Wesley Harper here. He is the Executive Director of the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities. He joined the Zoom meeting and is supporting this legislation. It might be helpful for him to share his perspective on the bill.

Chair Miller:

Mr. Harper, is this part of the bill presentation, or is this testimony of your position on the bill?

Wesley Harper, Executive Director, Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities:

This is testimony on my position on the bill.

Chair Miller:

We are going to ask questions first, and then we will move to testimony.

Vinson Guthreau:

I was not sure how you wanted to handle that, but I did want to highlight our partnership on this. I am happy to take questions.

Assemblyman Leavitt:

As much as I love presentations from Mr. Guthreau, will this eliminate the need for the presentations that we endlessly receive in the first two weeks of session on this very subject, or is this on top of that? Are we going to receive dual presentations for the newly elected legislators and the rest of us? It seems like we receive presentations those first two weeks regardless.

Vinson Guthreau:

I cannot answer for what committees would like to do. I will say that those presentations tend to be at the 10,000-foot view, and I think this would be more in-depth training on some specific items, but I would leave that up to LCB. The bill calls for LCB to administer that

through the new legislator training. As far as I can tell, it would be up to the committees to decide how they want to structure their presentations. I am not trying to delve into that, but I understand what you are saying.

Assemblyman Leavitt:

The other question I have may be for staff. Is this presentation structure going to add a substantial amount of time to the new member orientation? Is it going to add a whole day, or is it just going to be worked into the existing timeline? How will that work?

Marsheilah D. Lyons, Committee Policy Analyst:

My understanding is that this will be added to what is already taking place and will not add to the total amount of time. That is my reading of the bill. Ms. Norris may have more information, but my reading of the bill is that this would be incorporated into the current framework.

Kathleen M. Norris, Committee Counsel:

The only requirement in statute is that the training cannot exceed ten days—that is the only time frame set out in statute. How staff would choose to get all the requirements within ten days is up to the staff.

Chair Miller:

Assemblyman Leavitt, does that answer your question?

Assemblyman Leavitt:

Yes, the premise is the length of orientation. I think mine was two days. I know that we allocate funds to the newly elected legislators for attending, so if we add a day, that may add to the allocation. That was my only thought—if we add another day, then we add another day of allocation where we are spending taxpayer money to train legislators.

Chair Miller:

Does this conclude your questions?

Assemblyman Leavitt:

Yes, thank you.

Assemblyman Frierson:

Obviously, this is a NACO bill, but I feel compelled to make sure the record is clear about this. The presentations that we get in the Assembly committees are for the entire committee. Assembly Bill 1 is dealing with newly elected legislators. If you have been in the Assembly for eight years, I doubt you are going to remember your freshman training, so the committees have presentations to refresh legislators who have not covered topics in a long time, or to go deeper in depth. In A.B. 1, we are talking about new legislators only, and I want to make sure that we were not confusing the public about whether or not we all have to do this training and then also have a presentation during session. Correct me if I am wrong. I want to make sure because I do not want the public under the false impression that we are

carelessly proposing to duplicate efforts. My experience has been that the committee presentations are much more in-depth than what brand-new legislators get the one time when they are first elected.

Chair Miller:

Thank you for that. Mr. Guthreau, would you like to chime in because I know that I interpret it the same way.

Vinson Guthreau:

I think that that is accurate. Assembly Bill 1 addresses new legislator training which, of course, you would receive one time as a new legislator, so that is correct making that distinction.

Chair Miller:

Is it true that according to the bill, the training you desire is more on the actual structure of county government? Often the presentations that we see during our committees the first week of session are more issue-based, and this would be more about the actual structure and the way that the counties are set up. The bill also discusses funding—how funding flows through, as well as the different services that the county governments provide. Is that more accurate?

Vinson Guthreau:

That is correct. Obviously, we have not developed any specific curriculum, but that is the structure of what the curriculum would look like. You are accurate in that.

Assemblywoman Dickman:

As I understand it, LCB puts these training sessions together. I was wondering if there has been any discussion about who would do the actual training? Would LCB do the training, or would you have someone from outside—like maybe someone from NACO—do the training?

Vinson Guthreau:

This is LCB's training to newly elected legislators—and we specifically put it together this way so that we are not stepping on toes—but, yes, we would be willing to offer our services to do the training if LCB asks. We want to make sure that it is following an appropriate chain where LCB administers this. If they would like our assistance or it makes sense to them, we would certainly offer that. You are on the track of what we are thinking as well, but we will leave that up to LCB to make that request of us.

Assemblywoman Dickman:

If you were to do the training, I assume you would do it as a volunteer. Is that right?

Vinson Guthreau:

Yes, that is correct. We would not charge LCB for that time or anything.

Chair Miller:

Are there any other questions from Committee members? [There were none.] With that, we will now hear testimony in support of A.B. 1.

Wesley Harper:

We appreciate that you allowed A.B. 1 to come forward and that you let us provide testimony. We thank NACO for bringing this bill forward, and the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities is in full support of NACO's bill submission. We think that the proposed legislation provides a thoughtful orientation for newly elected legislators who may not be fully familiar with the functions and responsibilities of local government. It is the League's position that this will encourage and enable more effective cooperation, mutual understanding, and sound governing between state and local lawmakers.

Chair Miller:

Do we have anyone else in the Zoom meeting who would like to provide testimony? [There was no one.] Do we have anyone in the telephone queue who would like to provide testimony in support of A.B. 1?

Jamie Rodriguez, Government Affairs Manager, Office of the County Manager, Washoe County:

I am here to express our support for A.B. 1. The relationship between the Legislature and local governments cannot be understated. Much of the legislation passed by the Legislature becomes enacted or enforced by local government. While many local governments do present to the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs and sometimes to Senate committees—and other committees may hear from some of our departments that they expect to see more frequently—we believe an understanding of all of our roles would be very valuable to the legislators who serve on the multitude of committees for which we all have to work together. It is for that reason we believe that the change of training to all legislators about what local governments do would be a great step in the right direction. Thank you very much for letting me speak in support of A.B. 1.

Randy Robison, Deputy Director, Government and Community Affairs, City of Las Vegas:

I want to express our strong support for A.B. 1, thank NACO for bringing forward the bill, and thank the Committee for hearing the bill. As stated previously, we think that this is an important topic for legislators to understand the workings of local governments and the different services provided by different types of local governments. Again, we are in support of this bill. Thank you for the chance to testify.

Marla McDade Williams, representing Churchill County:

We want to go on the record in support of A.B. 1 for all the reasons articulated by Mr. Guthreau with the Nevada Association of Counties and the previous speakers.

Alex Ortiz, Assistant Director, Department of Administrative Services, Clark County:

I am here in support of A.B. 1 that NACO has put forward. Training of new legislators is just like training new employees in any organization. It is an important, essential step to ensure a beneficial and robust understanding of the new venture they are undertaking. At Clark County, we provide training not only to our new employees, but for our newly elected county commissioners; other elected officials, such as the assessor, the recorder, and the treasurer; and newly elected department heads at the start of their tenure.

We do an overview of the organization of Clark County. We talk about our core values; the municipal and regional services we provide to our constituents; the role of the county manager's office; the governing structure; the fiscal framework, which includes our contributions of the nonfederal share of long-term care and financial support of the University Medical Center; how we interact and work with other public organizations; and prior to a legislative session, an update about the upcoming session and government affairs issues that may be of interest. We see the benefits our training has on these new employees and county elected officials and urge your support of A.B. 1 and this education opportunity for newly elected legislators. Thank you for your time.

Chair Miller:

Do we have anyone in opposition to A.B. 1? [There was no one.] Is there anyone who wishes to testify as neutral to A.B. 1?

Steven Cohen, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I wanted to briefly address one issue, which may have been addressed already. With National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month about two weeks away, or less, I would like to see cultural competency training incorporated into the existing training curriculum. I thank you and I yield.

[There were no more callers in the queue.]

Chair Miller:

I will close the hearing on Assembly Bill 1.

Our next item on the agenda is a work session we had planned for Assembly Bill 110; however, the bill sponsor has informed me that an amendment is pending, so the work session will be moved to next week.

Assembly Bill 110: Revises the Nevada Lobbying Disclosure and Regulation Act. (BDR 17-900)

[Assembly Bill 110 was agendized but not considered.]

We will proceed to our next agenda item, which is public comment. I would like to remind those who speak during public comment that this is an opportunity to discuss general items that fall within the purview of this Committee. Those making public comment will have

two minutes to speak, and you can also submit written remarks for inclusion in the meeting record. Is there anyone in the queue for public comment? [There was no one.] We will wait a few moments to see if anyone wishes to call in. [There was no one.]

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23. We are adjourned [at 4:31 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 a document titled "State and County Service Providers," prepared by the Nevada Association of Counties, submitted by Vinson Guthreau, Deputy Director, Nevada Association of Counties.

[Exhibit D](#) is a hyperlink to a video titled "We Are Counties," published September 18, 2020, produced by the Nevada Association of Counties, submitted and presented by Vinson Guthreau, Deputy Director, Nevada Association of Counties.