

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

**Eighty-First Session
March 25, 2021**

The Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair Brittney Miller at 4:02 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, 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
Assemblyman Richard McArthur
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno
Assemblywoman Clara Thomas
Assemblywoman Selena Torres

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Shondra Summers-Armstrong, Assembly District No. 6

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pepper Sturm, Principal Policy Analyst
Bonnie Borda Hoffecker, Committee Manager
Jordan Green, Committee Secretary
Trinity Thom, Committee Assistant



OTHERS PRESENT:

Myisha Williams, Vice Chair, Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs, Department
of Business and Industry

Ashanti Lewis, Advocacy Manager, Three Square, Las Vegas, Nevada

Chair Miller:

[Roll was called. Committee rules and protocol were explained.] The first thing that we need to address is we have some bill draft request (BDR) introductions. I would like to introduce all three under one motion. I will still explain what each BDR is about.

Committee members, keep in mind that approving the BDR introductions is simply approving it to turn into a bill so that it can be referred to the Committee and have a possible hearing. It is not at all saying you agree, disagree, support, or do not support the policy. We just want to get this moving, so we can refer them to the Committee. Is there anyone in the Committee who is not in support of doing all three BDRs under one motion? [There was no one.] Then I will go ahead and introduce all three and take a motion at the end.

The first BDR that we will introduce is Bill Draft Request 24-1040. This measure is sponsored by the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections and requires the Secretary of State to create a centralized database that collects and stores voter preregistration and registration information.

BDR 24-1040—Makes various changes relating to elections. (Later introduced as [Assembly Bill 422](#).)

The second BDR is Bill Draft Request C-859, which is also sponsored by the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections. This proposes to amend the *Nevada Constitution* to provide for limited annual regular legislative sessions.

BDR C-859—Proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to revise provisions relating to the State Legislature. (Later introduced as [Assembly Joint Resolution 15](#).)

The third BDR is Bill Draft Request 17-1037, which is also sponsored by the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections. This is an act relating to persons with certain conditions that establishes the preferred manner of referring to persons with mental illness and persons who are deaf or hard of hearing in the *Nevada Revised Statutes* and the *Nevada Administrative Code*.

BDR 17-1037—Establishes the preferred method of referring to persons with certain conditions in the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Nevada Administrative Code. (Later introduced as [Assembly Bill 421](#).)

I will entertain a motion for all three BDRs.

ASSEMBLYMAN LEAVITT MADE A MOTION FOR COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION OF BILL DRAFT REQUEST 24-1040, BILL DRAFT REQUEST C-859, AND BILL DRAFT REQUEST 17-1037.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DICKMAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Is there any discussion on the motion? [There was none.]

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

I will move to the next agenda item, which is our one bill hearing on Assembly Bill 302, sponsored by Assemblywoman Summers-Armstrong. It is an act relating to legislative measures and authorizes the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs to request the drafting of not more than two legislative measures for each regular session of the Legislature.

Assembly Bill 302: Authorizes the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs to request the drafting of not more than 2 legislative measures for each regular session of the Legislature. (BDR 17-990)

Assemblywoman Shondra Summers-Armstrong, Assembly District No. 6:

I bring Assembly Bill 302 before you today for consideration. It is very simple. It would authorize the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs of the Department of Business and Industry to request the drafting of not more than two legislative measures for each regular session of the Legislature.

The intent of this request is to provide parity with other commissions to address the unique needs of the communities that they serve. This request is not unique. Other committees, like the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum and the Advisory Committee on Housing, already have direct access to the legislative process [*Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 218D.218, 218D.220]. Assembly Bill 302 just brings parity for the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs.

At this time, I would like to hand this presentation over to Ms. Myisha Williams, who is the Vice Chair of the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs.

Myisha Williams, Vice Chair, Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs, Department of Business and Industry:

We appreciate Assemblywoman Summers-Armstrong for inviting the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs to copresent Assembly Bill 302, which allows us to request the drafting of two legislative measures each session.

We are a nine-member volunteer body charged with advocating for minorities throughout the state of Nevada [NRS 232.852]. While the Commission is actively involved across all concerns affecting Nevada minorities, we concentrate on seven main areas of focus which align with our subcommittees. They include education, housing, employment, civil rights,

health, economic development, and lastly, legislative—the subcommittee which I have the honor to chair. Commissioners are appointed with careful consideration for representation across minority groups. As trusted ambassadors highly involved in community activities, we take the lead on disseminating information and resources that are crucial to the health and education of the communities that we represent.

The Commission actively participated in the 80th Session supporting measures addressing inequalities in minority communities. With support from Senator Harris, we successfully passed Senate Bill 211 of the 80th Session to increase funding for the Commission. This session, we continue on this important path and are backing legislation that addresses disparities exacerbated by the pandemic.

Over this past year, Commissioners have heard directly from a wide range of diverse community members about challenges related to economic conditions, illness, vaccinations, mental health, and social injustice. As community leaders, we often act as the ears, eyes, and voices of the minority communities we serve. We strongly believe that this creates a duty to redirect these common concerns that we are trusted to remediate and propose the needed legislative solutions that will ultimately improve the quality of life for all Nevadans.

We are very grateful to have the support on this initiative of so many legislators, community partners, and the leadership within the Department of Business and Industry. On behalf of Nevada's minority community and the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs, thank you for this opportunity and for your consideration.

Chair Miller:

Does that conclude the presentation?

Assemblywoman Summers-Armstrong:

I do believe it does unless Ms. Williams has invited any others to speak.

Myisha Williams:

That does conclude our presentation. With me today is the Commission's management analyst, Emily Ku, and we are happy to field any questions that you may have.

Chair Miller:

We have one question so far. Committee members, if you have any questions, please reach out.

Assemblyman Leavitt:

Thank you for bringing this bill forward. I am grateful that there is some motivation to include the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs. Last session, I brought a bill to create the Nevada Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs [Assembly Bill 246 of the 80th Session]. However, it was done at a local level, which is still a good opportunity, and I am grateful for it.

Although I support A.B. 302, having talked to some of the stakeholders and some other various entities, is there a possibility that we could reduce the number of bills from two to one, just as a starting point? That is my only real question or comment.

Assemblywoman Summers-Armstrong:

I think it would be fair and equitable for us to negotiate the number. What we really want is to have some access. We understand that that is a concern, and we would definitely be willing to have open discussions about the number of bills in this legislation.

Assemblywoman Jauregui:

Since the bill is to bring parity with the other commissions, how many bill draft requests (BDRs) do the other commissions get?

Assemblywoman Summers-Armstrong:

I did not make a complete list, but I believe that Ms. Williams may have a couple of committees that she could speak to. I just took notes and did not swipe all the way through to look, so please bear with us.

Myisha Williams:

Looking at the commissions that have measures already assigned, the majority of them do have one BDR consideration, with the exception of the Patient Protection Commission, which has three [NRS 218D.213]. That was passed through Senate Bill 544 of the 80th Session.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno:

I have a comment and question. The Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs deals with issues from a number of different and diverse minority groups from within our state. Because of that, they may have unique issues that would need to be brought before the legislative body. Would two BDRs be enough to address those issues, or would you maybe need more to address the vast diversity within our state?

Assemblywoman Summers-Armstrong:

My opinion would be to have more, but I would like to have Ms. Williams specifically speak to the diverse groups that are represented by the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs, so she can really lay out to the Committee who is under this umbrella and the needs that her organization represents for the state of Nevada.

Myisha Williams:

I would agree that the legislative initiatives that we could champion could definitely extend beyond the two. I think we were trying to use precedent from the other bodies that have requested measures in the past and try to make it a reasonable request for this body. Typically, the legislation that we support is legislation that impacts all minority groups and not necessarily subgroups. If we did that, we would be looking at several legislative BDR measures that we would need. As a Commission, we try to focus on more of the macrolevel problems that are going to filter down to more than one community.

I would imagine that, over time as the Commission continues to pick up strength and is able to work through the legislative process, there may be a request in the future to increase the number of BDRs. However, I think at this time, we feel two BDRs would be an acceptable place to start off and would follow precedent from the past legislative sessions in which we have participated based on the fact that we are a volunteer committee and we do have staff assigned, but we need to rightsize that request.

Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno:

I would just like to thank Ms. Williams and her volunteer staff for the work that they are doing. I know it cannot be easy. I think starting out with two BDRs is ideal. Perhaps what we need to look at next legislative session is bringing you more staff, so you can do even more work.

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any additional questions?

Assemblywoman Dickman:

Is there anything that bars these commissions from working with legislators? Have you asked any legislators to carry any of your bills?

Assemblywoman Summers-Armstrong:

The Nevada Commission on Minority of Affairs actually came to me because it is not allowed a bill draft request of its own. At the time, I actually had only one bill draft request remaining, so I was able to help them, but I had others who were also asking for bills. The community that I represent falls under a lot of issues that the Commission addresses: inequalities in criminal justice, inequalities in health care, and all kinds of things. There are plenty of issues for me to have to cover that would easily cover all my bill draft requests.

I would hate for an organization that is doing the work that the Commission is doing to be prohibited and really limited by having to go around every single session to shop Assembly members to help move its legislative initiatives and concerns forward, hoping that someone has space. I just think that it is appropriate and equitable to allow this organization, with its broad reach across the state to address the issues in our minority communities, to have a voice.

Assemblywoman Dickman:

That does make sense. We focus on everything, and the Commission is focused on the minority communities. I appreciate that answer.

Chair Miller:

With that, we will move on to testimony in support of A.B. 302.

Ashanti Lewis, Advocacy Manager, Three Square, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am calling in support of Assembly Bill 302. Three Square food bank has had the opportunity to work very closely with the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs.

To be specific, we have had candid conversations related to diversity, equity, and inclusion regarding Three Square's efforts in the community, as well as collaborative conversations about public health and health care in general. We are proud of our partnership with the Commission and believe granting it legislative measures will help to strengthen the wonderful work it is doing, allowing for a greater impact. Thank you.

Chair Miller:

Do we have anyone else in support? [There was no one.]

[[Exhibit C](#) was submitted in support of A.B. 302 but not discussed.]

Is there anyone who wants to testify in opposition? [There was no one.] Is there anyone who wants to testify as neutral? [There was no one.] With that, I will go ahead and close the hearing on Assembly Bill 302.

The next item on our agenda is public comment. Again, we ask that you limit your comments to two minutes and that they pertain to something under the purview of this Committee. [There was no one.]

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 30. I want to remind everyone that we need to be on the floor at 4:45 p.m. Thank you, everyone. This meeting is adjourned [at 4:24 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 copy of an email dated March 26, 2021, submitted by Evan Louie, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada, in support of Assembly Bill 302.