

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**Eighty-First Session
February 8, 2021**

The Committee on Ways and Means was called to order by Chair Maggie Carlton at 5:07 p.m. on Monday, February 8, 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 Maggie Carlton, Chair
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Vice Chair
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson
Assemblyman Jason Frierson
Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow
Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui
Assemblywoman Brittney Miller
Assemblywoman Sarah Peters
Assemblyman Howard Watts
Assemblyman Gregory T. Hafen II
Assemblyman Glen Leavitt
Assemblyman Tom Roberts
Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus
Assemblywoman Jill Tolles

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Brody Leiser, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Carmen Neveau, Committee Secretary
Bet Torres, Committee Assistant



OTHERS PRESENT:

Steven Cohen, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada

Chair Carlton:

[Roll was taken, and Committee rules and protocol were reviewed.] Thank you all for being here. The purpose of the meeting this evening is to have a committee bill draft introduction. We would have typically done this behind the bar and then taken the bill draft to the front desk but with new procedures ensuring everyone stays safe and well, and because we do everything in the eye of the public, we are going to schedule these meetings every once in a while so bill drafts can be introduced and referred to committee. With that, I will ask Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, to review the bill draft request (BDR), and I will open the meeting for questions and a vote.

BDR S-899—Makes an appropriation to the Office of Economic Development for the provision of grants to certain entities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. (Later introduced as [Assembly Bill 106](#).)

Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau:

Bill draft request (BDR) S-899 appropriates from the State General Fund to the Office of Economic Development, the sum of \$50 million to provide for grants of operational support to small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other similar entities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This bill also provides that the Office of Economic Development shall prepare and transmit a report to the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) on or before June 30, 2021, that describes the expenditures made with this money. There is a reversion date for this money of September 17, 2021. This bill would be effective upon passage and approval.

Chair Carlton

With that Committee members, does anyone have any questions on BDR S-899?

Assemblywoman Titus:

Do you have a copy of the BDR?

Chair Carlton:

Ms. Coffman?

Sarah Coffman:

There are copies available. I have a hard copy; I do not have an electronic copy.

Chair Carlton:

It is difficult for us to do electronic copies of the BDR. The BDR is two paragraphs, it is appropriated from the State General Fund to the Office of Economic Development and the citation, the sum of \$50 million for grants, operational support to small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other similar entities impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. This is basically another appropriation toward the Pandemic Emergency Technical Support (PETS) program that we have done through IFC. And I apologize, but there is no way to digitally get the BDR for you.

Assemblywoman Titus:

It would be nice to have copies of BDRs as soon as possible, hopefully quicker than we received this BDR, but I recognize time is of the essence and the importance of submitting our approval. As I have stated earlier in another committee, we have not had a chance to review this BDR, but I understand the process. This is procedural and support of this BDR in no way indicates support for the final bill.

Chair Carlton:

I am sure this bill will get a thorough vetting. It is the Chair's intention to do that Wednesday evening at approximately 5 p.m. Once the BDR is released, all members will have access to the BDR. Typically, we do not release BDRs ahead of introduction.

Are there any other questions from Committee members?

Assemblyman Frierson:

There was a comment and I feel compelled to respond. This is the way the process normally works. This is not a prefiled bill, this is a bill. This is like when a legislator has a personal bill, and the bill is signed and turned in, the bill is then introduced to a committee and disseminated. That is the usual process. This is a different session and I realize that people are suffering from posttraumatic stress syndrome from special session, but this is the normal process. The bill is introduced and then copies are circulated so legislators will have the bill before the hearing on the bill where the bill will then be vetted. This is not atypical, and I want to make it clear that this situation is no different from the three bills that I have to sign and get to a committee for introduction and dissemination.

Chair Carlton:

When this was handed to me, I was told that the BDR has to stay under lock and key tonight until I turn the BDR in tomorrow. That is how seriously we take these BDRs.

Are there any further questions from Committee members? [There were none.] I will accept a motion to introduce BDR S-899.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON MOVED FOR
COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION OF BDR S-899.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Chair Carlton:

With that Committee members the BDR is processed unanimously. That is the only business before us so I will open the floor for public comment. Is there anyone in the public comment queue?

Steven Cohen, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

Good evening, Madam Chair, and the Committee, I am Steven Cohen. I am picking up on the State of the State and the Governor's commitment to \$75 million I believe in workforce development funding. I was wondering if under the tight timeframe there might be a way to handle a portion of that being specifically allocated toward workforce development for people with disabilities. With that, Madam Chair, I thank you and I yield.

Chair Carlton:

Is there any other public comment to come before the Committee today? [There was none.] We are adjourned [at 5:18 p.m.]

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Carmen M. Neveau
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

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