

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
AND THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**Eighty-first Session
April 8, 2021**

The joint meeting of the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means was called to order by Chair Chris Brooks at 8:06 a.m. on Thursday, April 8, 2021, Online. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Chris Brooks, Chair
Senator Moises Denis, Vice Chair
Senator Julia Ratti
Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro
Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop
Senator Ben Kieckhefer
Senator Pete Goicoechea
Senator Scott Hammond
Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Vice Chair
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson
Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow
Assemblyman Gregory T. Hafen II
Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui
Assemblyman Glen Leavitt
Assemblywoman Brittney Miller
Assemblywoman Sarah Peters
Assemblyman Tom Roberts
Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus
Assemblywoman Jill Tolles
Assemblyman Howard Watts

Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
April 8, 2021
Page 2

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Assemblyman Jason Frierson (Excused)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wayne Thorley, Senate Fiscal Analyst
Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Brody Leiser, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Dustin Speed, Program Analyst
Sarah Sawyer, Committee Secretary
Joko Cailles, Committee Secretary

CHAIR BROOKS:

We will hear budget closings from Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) Fiscal Analysis Division staff.

WAYNE THORLEY (Senate Fiscal Analyst):

The LCB budget closing action report is ([Exhibit B](#)). We begin with budget account (B/A) 101-1000.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Office of the Governor — Budget Page ELECTED-8 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-1000

Information on B/A 101-1000 is found beginning on page 3 of [Exhibit B](#). The Office of the Governor, Office of Finance submitted Budget Amendment No. A215511000, which makes technical adjustments ensuring costs in B/A 101-1000 are accurately funded. The adjustments to decision units M-300 and E-670 ensure personnel costs in B/A 101-1000 are accurately funded for the 2021-2023 biennium.

M-300 Fringe Benefits Rate Adjustment — Page ELECTED-9

Decision unit E-670 was not included in the Executive Budget as submitted. It makes a small adjustment to the Governor's salary to account for a cost-of-living increase approved by legislators during the Eightieth Session. Similar adjustments were included in the budgets of other constitutional officers.

Budget Amendment No. A215511000 adjusts decision unit E-710 in B/A 101-1000 to ensure computer equipment costs are accurate. Budget Amendment No. A215511000 adjusts decision unit E-720 to ensure new office and computer costs are accurate.

E-710 Equipment Replacement — Page ELECTED-10
E-720 New Equipment — Page ELECTED-10

Budget Amendment No. A215511000 adjusts decision unit E-900 in B/A 101-1000, which would transfer the Patient Protection Commission (PPC) from the Office of the Governor to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD). There is a reciprocal decision unit E-900 in B/A 101-3055 for this transfer. Budget account 101-3055 will be closed at a later date.

E-900 Transfer From Governor's Office To ADSD — Page ELECTED-10

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

Patient Protection Commission — Budget Page DHHS-ADSD-91 (Volume II)
Budget Account 101-3055

E-900 Transfer From Governor's Office To ADSD — Page DHHS-ADSD-91

The table on page 5 of [Exhibit B](#) summarizes the adjustments recommended by Budget Amendment No. A215511000. The General Fund request in Budget Amendment No. A215511000 totals \$78,648 in fiscal year (FY) 2021-2022 and \$85,388 in FY 2022-2023. Do the Committees wish to approve decision units E-710, E-720 and E-900 inclusive of the adjustments in Budget Amendment No. A215511000, as well as the adjustments in

Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
April 8, 2021
Page 4

Budget Amendment No. A215511000 for salaries and benefits in the base budget and the Governor's salary adjustment? The approval of decision unit E-900 would be contingent on approval of the transfer of the PPC in B/A 101-3055 or the passage of other enabling legislation. Fiscal staff requests authority to make necessary technical adjustments.

CHAIR BROOKS:

I am briefly stepping away. Assemblywoman Carlton will temporarily chair the meeting.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

I have a measure, Assembly Bill (A.B.) 348, addressing where the PPC is placed. Legislators will make a final decision on where the PPC is located during later budget closings. There are other bills that may impact the PPC. We want to keep our options open depending on legislation passed.

ASSEMBLY BILL 348: Revises provisions relating to the Patient Protection Commission. (BDR 40-497)

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

I share Assemblywoman Carlton's concerns about the PPC being placed in the ADSD. If we were to approve decision unit E-900 in B/A 101-1000 and A.B. 348 does not pass, would the subsequent course of action be to reject decision unit E-900 in B/A 101-3055? Would the PPC remain in the Office of the Governor if that happens?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

The Committees can still transfer the PPC to the DHHS Director's Office in later closing hearings.

MR. THORLEY:

The Committees would retain the ability to modify where the PPC is transferred even if decision unit E-900 in B/A 101-1000 is passed contingent on the approval of decision unit E-900 in B/A 101-3055 or the passage of enabling legislation. If no approval is granted by the Committees to transfer the PPC from the Office of the Governor, it would remain in place.

Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
April 8, 2021
Page 5

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

If legislators wanted to place the PPC in the DHHS Director's Office, would we do that either through legislation or during budget closings for the Director's Office?

MR. THORLEY:

Yes. The Executive Budget recommends transferring the PPC to a new budget account in the ADSD, not the DHHS Director's Office. Transferring the PPC to the DHHS Director's Office remains an option for the Committees when the DHHS Director's Office budget is presented to your subcommittees.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

This budget should receive more appropriations.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

The ability to appropriate additional dollars to this budget was constricted by the pandemic.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON MOVED TO APPROVE B/A 101-1000 WITH DECISION UNITS E-710, E-720 AND E-900 INCLUSIVE OF THE ADJUSTMENTS IN BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. A215511000, WITH THE APPROVAL OF DECISION UNIT E-900 CONTIGENT UPON APPROVAL OF THE TRANSFER OF THE PPC IN B/A 101-3055 OR THE PASSAGE OF OTHER ENABLING LEGISLATION; TO APPROVE THE ADJUSTMENTS IN BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. A215511000 FOR SALARIES AND BENEFITS IN THE BASE BUDGET; TO APPROVE THE GOVERNOR'S SALARY ADJUSTMENT IN BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. A215511000; AND TO GRANT AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (SENATOR BROOKS WAS EXCUSED FOR THE VOTE.)

Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
April 8, 2021
Page 6

BUDGET CLOSED.

* * * * *

MR. THORLEY:

Budget account 101-1001 begins on page 7 of [Exhibit B](#).

Governor's Mansion Maintenance — Budget Page ELECTED-12 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-1001

This budget funds maintenance of the Governor's Mansion. There are no major closing issues. Page 8 of [Exhibit B](#) lists two other closing items related to equipment replacement.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

It is good to see the Governor's Mansion does not require many repairs.

MR. THORLEY:

Budget account 101-1011 beings on page 9 of [Exhibit B](#).

Governor's Washington Office — Budget Page ELECTED-16 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-1011

This budget funds the contract for Cassidy & Associates, a firm representing the State in Washington, D.C. There are no major closing issues or other closing items in B/A 101-1011.

CHAIR BROOKS:

I have returned to the chair.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Why did the work program in B/A 101-1011 increase so much from FY 2019-2020 to FY 2020-2021? Was a new staff position added?

MR. THORLEY:

No State positions are in B/A 101-1011. The entire funding of this budget is for the contract with Cassidy & Associates. The contract is \$252,000 annually.

Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
April 8, 2021
Page 7

A new contract was signed during the 2019-2021 biennium to procure the services of Cassidy & Associates.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Funding for the contract rose 52 percent by \$100,000. I see no explanation why legislators would accept such a large increase in expenditures. These are taxpayer dollars.

MR. THORLEY:

The contract was presented to and approved by the State Board of Examiners. It went through the normal contract process.

Page 11 of [Exhibit B](#) lists Fiscal Staff recommendations for these budget accounts. Fiscal staff recommends B/A 101-1001 and B/A 101-1011 be closed as recommended by the Governor, and requests authority to make technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE B/A 101-1001 AND B/A 101-1011 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND TO GRANT FISCAL STAFF AUTHORITY TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I support B/A 101-1001. I do not support B/A 101-1011, as I cannot support paying a lobbying firm an additional \$100,000 over the 2021-2023 biennium when other budget accounts faced significant reductions. This is a 52 percent increase from FY 2019-2020 to FY 2020-2021.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

It is not fair to simplify this expenditure as a lobbyist reimbursement. Budget account 101-1011 funds our voice in Washington, D.C. The past four years have shown Nevadans need a voice in Washington, D.C. The State has concerns on nuclear waste, transportation and gaming. The resource in B/A 101-1011 is important for Nevada's gaming industry. During my trips to Washington, D.C., the Governor's Washington Office helped me navigate the

Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
April 8, 2021
Page 8

system and meet with our congressional delegation and delegations from other states. I addressed issues important to my constituents.

Legislators had a chance to pull B/A 101-1011 for a separate closing hearing.

CHAIR BROOKS:

Nevadans had to advocate for their share of funds under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. I am grateful we have this representation in Washington, D.C. The scope of services provided by the Governor's Washington Office increased over the past year due to the pandemic and the associated federal response. I will vote yes on the motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN ROBERTS:

I did not know B/A 101-1011 funded a lobbying contract. I thought the State maintained an office in Washington, D.C. I will vote yes on the motion, but want additional information on why contract expenditures increased to such a degree.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

The Governor's Washington Office was authorized during the Sixty-third Session. This program is not recent. Several federal grants benefit both rural and urban parts of Nevada. The State spends much time advocating for federal monies. States closer to Washington, D.C., have fewer expenditures required for advocacy. This is an important cost for Nevada; the Legislature meets biennially and Washington, D.C. is far away.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

This was a sizeable cost increase. The firm retained is skilled and well-positioned to work with the new administration. That is critical in the advocacy process. The contract is expensive because congressional lobbying is expensive.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS VOTED NO.)

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
April 8, 2021
Page 9

BUDGETS CLOSED.

* * * * *

CHAIR BROOKS:
We move to B/A 101-1020.

Lieutenant Governor — Budget Page ELECTED-89 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-1020

MR. THORLEY:

Budget account 101-1020 begins on page 13 of [Exhibit B](#). There are no major closing issues. There are two other closing items on page 14 of [Exhibit B](#). One restores travel funding to pre-pandemic levels. The other adjusts the Lieutenant Governor's salary consistent with other constitutional officers.

Fiscal staff recommends other closing item 1 be closed as recommended by the Governor and other closing item 2 be closed with the noted technical adjustment for the Lieutenant Governor's salary in FY 2022-2023. Fiscal staff requests authority to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE B/A 101-1020 WITH OTHER CLOSING ITEM 1 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND APPROVE OTHER CLOSING ITEM 2 WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT FOR THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SALARY IN FY 2022-2023, AND TO GRANT AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGET CLOSED.

* * * * *

Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
April 8, 2021
Page 10

CHAIR BROOKS:
We move to B/A 101-1010.

PUBLIC SAFETY

DEPARTMENT OF SENTENCING POLICY

Department of Sentencing Policy — Budget Page SENTENCING POLICY-3
(Volume III)
Budget Account 101-1010

DUSTIN SPEED (Program Analyst):
Budget account 101-1010 begins on page 15 of [Exhibit B](#). The Department of Sentencing Policy (DSP) was established by A.B. No. 80 of the 80th Session. It supports the Nevada Sentencing Commission. The major closing issue is a position reclassification in decision unit E-805.

E-805 Classified Position Changes — Page SENTENCING POLICY-5

The Governor recommends General Fund appropriations of \$7,987 in FY 2021-2022 and \$7,102 in FY 2022-2023 to fund the reclassification of one vacant administrative assistant position to a management analyst position commensurate with the additional duties required of the position as approved by the Nevada Sentencing Commission at a July 2020 meeting. The DSP states additional assistance is required with fiscal monitoring and analysis, operational and procedural planning, policy reviews, legislative research, statistical and financial reporting, data collection and DSP fiscal management to align with the Governor's strategic priorities for efficient State government. The management analyst position will also help fulfill data collection requirements implemented by A.B. No. 236 of the 80th Session.

Pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* 176.01343, the DSP is required to collect and assess data from the Division of Parole and Probation and the Records, Communications and Compliance Division in the Department of Public Safety. The DSP also assesses data from the Department of Corrections.

The DSP stated the duties outlined for the proposed management analyst position are being performed by Executive Director Victoria Gonzalez and the

Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
April 8, 2021
Page 11

staff attorney. The management analyst position will provide expertise on data analysis, leading to the production of more sophisticated reports and the organization of information into worksheets and databases. Executive Director Gonzalez and the staff attorney would have more time to perform other duties.

Do the Committees wish to approve General Fund appropriations of \$7,987 in FY 2021-2022 and \$7,102 in FY 2022-2023 for the reclassification of a vacant administrative assistant position to a management analyst position commensurate with the duties required of the position?

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

The DSP reverted much money to the General Fund in FY 2019-2020. In the Executive Budget, the work program allocation increases from \$438,000 to \$500,000. Can you provide more information on the funding reversions and subsequent increase? Are the reversions typical? I know the DSP is a new Agency.

MR. SPEED:

The DSP reverted much funding in FY 2019-2020 as it was partially staffed. The DSP was also partially staffed when budget reductions were made in FY 2020-2021. The reductions in FY 2019-2020 were around \$220,000. The reductions in FY 2020-2021 were just under \$100,000.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

Does the Department of Sentencing Policy expect to fill all staff positions during the 2021-2023 biennium, with expenditures being close to \$500,000?

MR. SPEED:

Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO APPROVE B/A 101-1010 WITH GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$7,987 IN FY 2021-2022 AND \$7,102 IN FY 2022-2023 FOR THE RECLASSIFICATION OF A VACANT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION TO A MANAGEMENT ANALYST POSITION COMMENSURATE WITH DUTIES REQUIRED OF THE POSITION IN DECISION UNIT E-805; AND TO APPROVE OTHER CLOSING ITEMS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE

Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
April 8, 2021
Page 12

GOVERNOR AND TO GIVE FISCAL STAFF AUTHORITY TO MAKE
TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUDGET CLOSED.

* * * * *

Remainder of page intentionally left blank; signature page to follow.

Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
April 8, 2021
Page 13

CHAIR BROOKS:
I adjourn this meeting at 8:54 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Joko Cailles,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Chris Brooks, Chair

DATE: _____

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair

DATE: _____

Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
April 8, 2021
Page 14

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit Letter	Begins on Page	Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	1	Wayne Thorley / Legislative Counsel Bureau Fiscal Analysis Division	Joint Full Closing List #2