

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Eighty-first Session
February 22, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Growth and Infrastructure was called to order by Chair Dallas Harris at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 2021, Online. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Dallas Harris, Chair
Senator Chris Brooks, Vice Chair
Senator Pat Spearman
Senator Scott Hammond
Senator Keith F. Pickard

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susan Scholley, Policy Analyst
Eileen O'Grady, Counsel
Debbie Shope, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Daniel Corona, Mayor, City of West Wendover
Robert Trujillo, Councilman, West Wendover
Nick Flores, Councilman, West Wendover
Sean Sever, Administrator, Division of Management Services and Programs,
Department of Motor Vehicles

CHAIR HARRIS:

We will open the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 48.

SENATE BILL 48: Requires the Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles to designate an agent to provide certain services in certain remote cities. (BDR 43-369)

DANIEL CORONA (Mayor, City of West Wendover):

For those who are unfamiliar with West Wendover, we are an incorporated city in eastern Elko County on the Utah border. West Wendover and the surrounding areas are home to over 5,000 residents. They have to drive over 200 miles round trip to Elko to access any Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) services that are not offered online.

For many, this means taking time off work and occasionally making multiple trips. Anyone who has driven that stretch of Interstate 80 between West Wendover and Elko during the winter knows that the trip is not always the safest due to weather.

For these reasons, the West Wendover City Council voted unanimously to request the drafting of this bill. As some may recall, the City of West Wendover requested a similar bill, S.B. No. 65 of the 80th Session. It passed the Senate with unanimous support near the end of the Session, but unfortunately time ran out in the Assembly.

During the Interim, the City has been working with DMV to come to an agreement that would bring services to West Wendover. The DMV has been cooperative when approaching these discussions. However, it became clear to the City of West Wendover that many of the issues S.B. 48 addresses would first need to be fixed for any agreement to work.

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 482.160 would need to be amended to give DMV the authority to enter into agreements with certain rural cities. This would be similar to the agreements DMV has with seven rural counties. It will allow rural cities to offer registration services at their city halls and retain 5 percent of the governmental services tax being collected on each transaction. This will help offset costs incurred by the City of West Wendover for offering such services.

After receiving transaction data from DMV, the City of West Wendover anticipates hiring an additional staff member to help with the increased workload for offering these services to our community.

SENATOR HAMMOND:

My colleague Senator Pete Goicoechea, who represents a large portion of the rural area, confirmed a problem exists with people trying to get to the Elko DMV. Information is being sent to people stating they are behind on their

registrations, and there are outstanding fees and penalties. How fast will the backlog be caught up?

MR. CORONA:

It is my understanding the bill would become effective October 1. We want to offer services soon after that date and are working with DMV to clear the backlog. Many of our residents have been driving to Elko or Ely; however, the Ely office has been closed for a while due to staffing constraints with Covid-19. We want people's paperwork to be processed as soon as possible.

SENATOR HAMMOND:

Do you know how many other small cities this would impact?

MR. CORONA:

From the fiscal note DMV presented, this could impact up to five rural cities. I am not sure of all the cities, but I think Caliente would qualify. I know that in S.B. No. 65 of the 80th Session, Caliente was included, and I think it would be covered in this bill.

CHAIR HARRIS:

How will this work in practice? Would city hall have a DMV where the employee belongs to the city but is performing DMV functions? Do you need access to the backend of DMV services to process transactions?

MR. CORONA:

The DMV runs a similar program through many of the county assessor's offices throughout the rural counties in the State. It is the county assessor employees, and they only provide registration services. In West Wendover City Hall, our City employees would perform registration services and will require training on behalf of DMV.

We anticipate it would require hiring an additional employee. Based on DMV's estimates, West Wendover will process approximately 6,000 transactions a year. That is 24 people coming into City Hall per day. It would require equipment, information technology to hook into the City system, computers and card readers that DMV would provide as has been done with county assessors.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Does West Wendover have any standalone kiosks similar to those in the Las Vegas area? If not, are you planning on procuring a kiosk?

MR. CORONA:

We have discussed kiosks with DMV since 2015. Unfortunately, the vendor who provides the kiosks to DMV said it would not work because there are not enough transactions to make it viable.

ROBERT TRUJILLO (Councilman, West Wendover):

I support a DMV office in West Wendover. The people of West Wendover need to travel to Elko and sometimes to Ely to have vehicles registered. The weather conditions are a risk factor. Having DMV services at City Hall would help. It would save time and money for our residents.

NICK FLORES (Councilman, West Wendover):

I support S.B. 48. Having DMV services in West Wendover would have a significant impact. Traveling back and forth to Elko and Ely takes residents almost an entire day. If they do not have the correct paperwork, it is an additional trip.

SEAN SEVER (Administrator, Division of Management Services and Programs, Department of Motor Vehicles):

The DMV is neutral and has concerns about S.B. 48. We want to provide DMV services to West Wendover, and in fact, we are working with the City to avert the need for this bill.

I will provide a timeline where we are on this bill. On August 13, 2020, Mayor Corona contacted DMV's director about West Wendover putting the bill forward. The next day, August 14, the director responded to Mayor Corona that DMV had spent time analyzing the previous bill, S.B. No. 65 of the 80th Session. During the 2019 Session, no one appeared for the hearing in the Assembly to testify on the bill, and it failed.

On August 18, 2020, the director of DMV asked me to work with the Mayor on this effort. On September 3, 2020, I notified the Mayor that DMV was going to submit this project at our agency level to avoid going through the legislative bill process. The City of West Wendover initially agreed to cover the cost of the equipment and the training.

The DMV drafted an interlocal contract. On January 6, 2021, the contract was sent to West Wendover. On January 9, the Mayor responded stating the city manager had concerns and the contract was sent to the City's legal counsel for review.

The DMV provided answers to the City of West Wendover's questions through several emails in mid-January. The next step was to bring it to the West Wendover City Council.

The discussions ended on February 2, 2021, when the Mayor informed me that the City Manager and counsel had reviewed the contract. Their perception was this deal was skewed because the City would need to hire additional staff and pay for the equipment and training which had been agreed on previously. This was the first time we heard of this.

Mayor Corona asked if DMV could help with the costs. I replied that DMV thought West Wendover was going to use existing staff and that DMV was in no position financially to cover any of the costs. I asked if a meeting could be set up to discuss this further and work together. The mayor never responded.

The DMV has made multiple attempts to work with West Wendover and has not always been successful. We are willing to work with the City on this; however, DMV is in no position to fund this effort when we are making budgetary cuts and eliminating unfilled positions.

CHAIR HARRIS:

Please continue to have conversations with the bill sponsor.

MR. CORONA:

One of the issues for the City is accessing the Governmental Services Tax that the DMV collects on each vehicle registration. Our legal counsel and our City Council's understanding is the Governmental Services Tax was not included in the proposed agreement between the City and DMV. Our legal counsel determined this because the language in NRS states counties are eligible for the 5 percent, but does not state cities are eligible. We would be ineligible. That is why we decided to submit this bill.

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SENATOR BROOKS:

I would urge Mayor Corona and his council to continue the dialog with DMV. There need to be further conversations. At the least, you should eliminate all options.

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CHAIR HARRIS:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 48. There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Debbie Shope,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Dallas Harris, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit Letter	Begins on Page	Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda