

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services was called to order by Chair Julia Ratti at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 18, 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 Julia Ratti, Chair  
Senator Pat Spearman, Vice Chair  
Senator Dallas Harris  
Senator Joseph P. Hardy  
Senator Ben Kieckhefer

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Megan Comlossy, Policy Analyst  
Eric Robbins, Counsel  
Norma Mallett, Committee Secretary

CHAIR RATTI:

I will open the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 123.

**SENATE BILL 123**: Revises provisions relating to the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum. (BDR 38-6)

SENATOR PAT SPEARMAN (Senatorial District 1):

I am presenting S.B. 123 relating to the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum. I will provide you with background information about the Forum ([Exhibit B](#)) and the proposed conceptual amendments in this bill ([Exhibit C](#)).

The proposed changes to S.B. 123 expand the qualifications relating to the membership of the Forum. Section 1 of the bill provides flexibility to appoint individuals to the Forum by changing residency requirements from five years to one year for all nominees or six months for nominees who are military members.

Section 1 also reduces the residency requirement in the Senatorial District from 3 years to 30 days. Section 2 of the bill would include the same changes regarding ex officio members of the Forum.

Senate Bill 123 came about because I wanted to nominate a person to the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum. The person had over 30 years of experience in business and industry but had not been in Nevada for 3 years; she was told she could not serve. I could not understand why those qualifications existed. People who want to serve are over 60 years old, retired and want to give back to their community. I do not understand why we make them wait five years to qualify; it does not make sense. The residency requirements in the proposed amendments mirror those for offices in Nevada.

SENATOR HARDY:

I have been involved with appointing people to the Forum for some time now. I find institutional knowledge has advantages for Nevada and what our State is doing. Losing institutional knowledge is bad. I wonder if the bill's sponsor would be interested in limiting the number of Forum members who do not have institutional knowledge to no more than one-third under the six-month residency requirement in the proposed amendment.

SENATOR SPEARMAN:

I am not sure I want to do that because we have people who are willing to serve. You can talk about institutional knowledge; however, I was not born here or did not grow up here. There are so many things I learned about Nevada while living here, and it did not take five years. If you have another explanation, I may consider it. I understand institutional knowledge, and maybe there are things we can do to ensure the makeup of the Forum as members come and go. The same thing occurs in the Legislature with term limits. As Senators term out, there are new Senators who come on board with no institutional knowledge and I think we do well. I do not want to disqualify anyone who is otherwise qualified from serving. I am willing to consider changes, and we can talk about it.

CHAIR RATTI:

Our Senatorial Districts can be very different. Some are stable, where residents have lived there for years; other districts have a high turnover rate of residency.

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Somehow naturally, we are going to get a mix of people and diverse representation because we have a diversity of districts within our State.

The hearing on S.B. 123 is now closed. The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Norma Mallett,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Julia Ratti, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit Letter	Begins on Page	Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
S.B. 123	B	1	Senator Pat Spearman	Written Testimony
S.B. 123	C	1	Senator Pat Spearman	Proposed Conceptual Amendment