

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Eighty-first Session
May 13, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair James Ohrenschall at 4:13 p.m. on Thursday, May 13, 2021, Online and in Room 2149 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [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 James Ohrenschall, Chair
Senator Roberta Lange, Vice Chair
Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro
Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert
Senator Carrie A. Buck

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Stewart, Policy Analyst
Bryan Fernley, Counsel
Diane Rea, Committee Secretary

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson, Assembly District No. 27

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

We have several bills on work session today. We will open the hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 95.

ASSEMBLY BILL 95: Revises the membership of the Legislative Committee on Public Lands. (BDR 17-463)

MICHAEL STEWART (Policy Analyst):

I will read from the work session document ([Exhibit B](#)) for A.B. 95. No amendments were offered.

SENATOR LANGE MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 95.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 95 and open the hearing on A.B. 166.

ASSEMBLY BILL 166: Establishes disclosure requirements relating to certain elections-related communications. (BDR 24-867)

MR. STEWART:

I will read from the work session document ([Exhibit C](#)) for A.B. 166. There are no amendments for consideration at this time.

SENATOR LANGE MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 166.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 166 and open the hearing on A.B. 302.

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)

MR. STEWART:

I will read from the work session document ([Exhibit D](#)) for A.B. 302. No amendments were offered.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 302.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 302 and open the hearing on A.B. 385.

ASSEMBLY BILL 385 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to compensation received by public officers and employees. (BDR 23-52)

MR. STEWART:

I will read from the work session document ([Exhibit E](#)) for A.B. 385. During testimony, a request was made for an amendment by Randy Robison, representing the City of Las Vegas, to delete section 1, subsection 1, paragraph (a) which relates to the fringe benefits language.

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

Do you consider this amendment friendly?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TERESA BENITEZ-THOMPSON (Assembly District No. 27):

I consider it unfriendly because during the hearing I gave examples of car allowances and such that the provision would prohibit. I oppose the amendment because I would like to prevent these types of fringe benefits.

SENATOR LANGE:

It is not the job of the State to tell the cities and counties who they should hire and what benefits they should give them. City councils and commissioners are elected to have priority over those decisions. They run for reelection. If they make bad decisions, they have to stand on the record they have.

SENATOR BUCK:

I will be voting no today because I want to make sure Nevada's agencies are competitive for top talent. We do not want to limit their autonomy to do that.

SENATOR SEEVERS-GANSERT:

I am not going to support the measure today but will keep thinking about it because we have had some contracts in northern Nevada that were not to the benefit of the taxpayers. I am concerned that we do not weigh heavily on local entities.

SENATOR LANGE:

If we do this for all entities, including education and K-12, we should add the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) into that because NSHE has all the coaches getting fringe benefits. If it is good for one group, it is good for all groups.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON:

I have the same sensitivity about government affairs and the State's relationship with cities and counties. I see instances happening around the contracts with people exiting with bonuses and salaries before they are investigated. It does seem to happen with only one kind of dynamic.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 385.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS BUCK AND SEEVERS GANSERT VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 385 and open the hearing on A.B. 390.

ASSEMBLY BILL 390: Revises provisions relating to elections. (BDR 24-1038)

MR. STEWART:

I will read from the work session document ([Exhibit F](#)) for A.B. 390. No amendments were offered for this measure.

SENATOR LANGE MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 390.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 390 and open the hearing on A.B. 421.

ASSEMBLY BILL 421: Establishes the preferred method of referring to persons with certain conditions in the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Nevada Administrative Code. (BDR 17-1037)

MR. STEWART:

I will read from the work session document ([Exhibit G](#)) for A.B. 421. No amendments were offered.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 421.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 421 and open the hearing on Assembly Joint Resolution (A.J.R.) 1.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 1 (1st Reprint): Proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to add and revise terms relating to persons with certain conditions for whose benefit certain public institutions are supported by the State. (BDR C-477)

MR. STEWART:

I will read from the work session document ([Exhibit H](#)) for A.J.R. 1. An amendment discussed in the hearing suggested replacing the term "institutions" found in section 1 of Article 13 with "entities."

SENATOR CANNIZZARO MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.J.R. 1.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

We will close the hearing on A.J.R. 1 and open the hearing on A.J.R. 10.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 10 (1st Reprint): Proposes to amend the Ordinance of the Nevada Constitution and the Nevada Constitution to remove language authorizing the use of slavery and involuntary servitude as a criminal punishment. (BDR C-496)

Mr. STEWART:

I will read from the work session document ([Exhibit I](#)) for A.J.R. 10. There are no amendments offered.

SENATOR BUCK MOVED TO DO PASS A.J.R. 10.

SENATOR LANGE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

We will close the hearing on A.J.R. 10 and end the work session.

Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections
May 13, 2021
Page 7

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

Seeing no further business, we are adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Diane Rea,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator James Ohrenschall, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit Letter	Begins on Page	Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
A.B. 95	B	1	Michael Stewart	Work Session Document
A.B. 166	C	1	Michael Stewart	Work Session Document
A.B. 302	D	1	Michael Stewart	Work Session Document
A.B. 385	E	1	Michael Stewart	Work Session Document
A.B. 390	F	1	Michael Stewart	Work Session Document
A.B. 421	G	1	Michael Stewart	Work Session Document
A.J.R. 1	H	1	Michael Stewart	Work Session Document
A.J.R. 10	I	1	Michael Stewart	Work Session Document