

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**Eighty-Second Session
April 5, 2023**

The Committee on Government Affairs was called to order by Chair Selena Torres at 9:06 a.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, in Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. 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/82nd2023.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Selena Torres, Chair
Assemblywoman Bea Duran, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Max Carter
Assemblyman Rich DeLong
Assemblyman Reuben D'Silva
Assemblywoman Cecelia González
Assemblyman Bert Gurr
Assemblyman Brian Hibbetts
Assemblyman Gregory Koenig
Assemblyman Richard McArthur
Assemblyman Duy Nguyen
Assemblywoman Angie Taylor
Assemblywoman Clara Thomas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Venicia Considine, Assembly District No. 18:

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst
Asher Killian, Committee Counsel
Sarah Delap, Committee Counsel

Minutes ID: 718



Judi Bishop, Committee Manager
Dylan Small, Committee Secretary
Cheryl Williams, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Evelyn Pacheco, President, Nevada Women in Trades
Greg Esposito, Public Relations and Government Affairs Director, Plumbers,
Pipefitters, and Service Technicians Local 525
Donna West, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada
Ashley Lovell, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada
Matt Kimball, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada
Andrew LePeilbet, Chairman, United Veterans Legislative Council
Marlene Lockard, representing Service Employees International Union 1107
Tessyn Opferman, representing Nevada Women's Lobby
Alexandra Noriega, representing Nevada State AFL-CIO
Fran Almarez, representing Teamsters Local 631
Alfonso Lopez, Organizer, Sheet Metal Air Rail Transportation Local 88
Cesar Marquez, Chair, Nevada Forward Party
Robert Sumlin, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
Local SC711
Michelle Cruz-Crawford, Ph.D., Board of Regents, District 8, Nevada System of
Higher Education
Marc Ellis, President, Communication Workers of America Local 9413
Edward Goodrich, representing International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
Local 363
Nina Diaz, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada
Rene Cantu, Executive Director, Jobs For Nevada's Graduates
Charles Zemp, representing International Union of Bricklayers and Allied
Craftworkers
Liz Sorenson, President, Nevada AFL-CIO
Mac Bybee, President and CEO, Nevada Chapter, Associated Builders and
Contractors
Alexis Motarex, Government Affairs Manager, Nevada Chapter, Associated General
Contractors of America
Jake Matthews, representing Mechanical Contractors Association of Las Vegas; and
Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association of
Southern Nevada
Jordan K. Krahenbuhl, Executive Director, Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors
of Nevada
Brett Harris, Labor Commissioner, Office of Labor Commissioner, Department of
Business and Industry
Toni Giddens, State Apprenticeship Director, Office of Labor Commissioner,
Department of Business and Industry

Chair Torres:

Welcome to the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs. [Roll was taken and Committee protocol explained.] As members know, we do have a work session as well as a bill today. We are going to start with Assembly Bill 305. At this time, I will open the hearing on A.B. 305, which revises provisions governing public works.

Assembly Bill 305: Revises provisions governing public works. (BDR 28-112)

Assemblywoman Clara Thomas, Assembly District No. 17:

I am presenting on behalf of Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, representing Assembly District 1 in Clark County. I am here to introduce Assembly Bill 305. This bill is about expanding apprenticeship opportunities for women, women who are veterans, or women in a minority group. Subsection 10 of section 1 of the bill provides the definition of "apprentice" and "apprenticeship program," which has been in statute since the 2019 Legislature enacted Senate Bill 207 of the 80th Session. Assembly Bill 305 is a short bill with only three sections. I will briefly summarize the bill and discuss the proposed conceptual amendment that should be up on the Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System [[Exhibit C](#)].

The bill requires that at least 5 percent of the hours of labor that are required to be performed by apprentices on certain public works to be performed by women, women who are veterans, or women in a minority group. The proposed amendment reduces from 5 percent to 2 percent the hours of labor that are required to be performed by apprentices on certain public works by women, with preference given to women who are veterans or in a minority group. The amendment further proposes not to apply to a contract for a public work for which bids have been submitted before January 1, 2028, instead of 2024. This amendment was created to broaden the pool of women who can qualify for this opportunity in hopes that one day we will reach that 5 percent. "Minority group" is defined as a racial or ethnic minority group or a group of persons who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, or any other nonheterosexual, noncisgender orientation, identity, or expression. The measure provides that such requirements do not apply to a contract for a public work for which bids have been submitted before January 1, 2024.

There is a fiscal impact. While this is a policy committee, I would like to acknowledge that fiscal notes are online for A.B. 305, and there were four from the City of Las Vegas, Carson City, Lyon County, and Clark County School District that provided a dollar amount for the anticipated fiscal impact. I look forward to continuing the conversation with these agencies on how we can work together to bring more women into the space. I would like to introduce my copresenter, Assemblywoman Venicia Considine. She will explain the conceptual amendment and how we came up with the 2 percent.

Assemblywoman Venicia Considine, Assembly District No. 18:

Before I talk about that, I know this is a policy committee, but I believe the fiscal impacts that are in there are all zero, if you have not checked on those before. The discussions on this bill started in the interim, and there have been discussions since then. As you can see, we

started with the first draft of the bill at higher numbers, at least 5 percent of the hours and at least 2 percent of the labor to be women, women veterans, or women in a minority group.

After several conversations, we realized that there is some hesitation. There is some difficulty. Right now, there are not very many women in construction, which is both an issue of why this number is low and also a reason why this bill is necessary. These are good-paying jobs, and everyone should have a shot at getting a job that provides a life with dignity, especially when we are dealing with a housing crisis and the cost of housing going up and all of these other issues compounding. We want to give a playing field for everyone to take part and get a shot at a good job. To do this, we need to build a pipeline, and we need to start somewhere.

That is why, after many discussions, the amendment points out that we have gone from 5 percent to at least 2 percent of the hours of labor that are required to be performed by apprentices must be performed by women, women who are veterans, or women in a minority group. Also, in section 1.2, the same reasoning is why we changed it from 5 percent to 1 percent of the hours of labor that are required to be performed by women, women who are veterans, and women in a minority group. I have heard that it is hard to find women to be interested in these jobs, to take these jobs, to stay in these jobs. But being a woman in many industries that are male-dominated, there is always the first woman, there is the second woman, there is the fifth woman, there is the tenth woman, or women veterans or women in minority groups. Once you have women, this is where they really want to be, and they start building it, and then they are not the only one in there and that number expands.

That is the basis for this. This is where we start. If we can get women to dream about being in these jobs, to really enjoy them, what we need to do is open the door for them to experience them, and then it can go from there. We lowered these numbers as low as we believe was feasible. What we look forward to is that this conversation does not have to happen again, because there are numerous diverse people in positions of good jobs with good wages.

Evelyn Pacheco, President, Nevada Women in Trades:

I am the first woman and Black woman to be the commander of American Legion Post 51. I am the first Black woman to get a plumber's license in the state of Nevada. I am a mother, and I am a grandmother. Nevada Women in Trades was started in 2018. We have created a pipeline for women seeking a career in the blue-collar trades. Our pipeline comprehensive course (PCC) is paving the way for women to secure apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and job professions in the trades. Our PCC offers a way for women to enhance skills and the ability to perform on apprenticeship exams. Our pipeline program is one way of assuring women an equal opportunity to perform well on the trades exams and interviews that have historically been male-dominated. We have helped women get into the trades, apply for the trades, podcasts, interviews, career resource fairs.

The humbling part happens when you think, why am I doing this? Then, you get a letter or a phone call from a lady in prison or jail, saying, Thank you for what you are doing for them

on the outside; or a phone call from a woman who just needs you to listen and help her figure out her next steps; or having a woman come up to you and say, Because of you, I am able to take care of my family and earn a decent living.

Women in Trades is not just in Nevada. They are national and international. There has been an annual Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference since 1995. Las Vegas had the same conference here last year. Nevada Women in Trades was recognized on the floor by Tradeswomen Build Nations and led the parade on Las Vegas Boulevard.

Assembly Bill 305 would help with wealth building and change the lives of women who are minorities, veterans, the next generation, women who are in prison or in jail, women who are aging out of the foster system, LGBTQ, underserved and underrepresented women. Assembly Bill 305 will have these women be part of society, buy a house, a car, pay taxes, which in return will help the economy of the state of Nevada and change their lives in the next generation.

Las Vegas has not built stadiums, hotels, and schools saying, Who is going to come? Las Vegas built the stadiums, hotels, and schools because they knew they would come. My question to this Committee is, What is the justification for going from 5 percent to 1 percent and not implementing this until 2028? We are already in compliance with women who are minorities and veterans in apprenticeship programs. There was not a Black woman who got a plumber's license in Nevada until 2007. We are leaders in this community for a reason: to give a voice to those who do not have a voice. You cannot have one foot on the couch and one in the dirt. Either you are with this movement or you are not.

Assemblywoman Thomas:

Just for the record, as a retired United States Air Force veteran, when I first started my career in the military, I was in maintenance and served for about two and a half years in the plumbing department. I know how to turn a wrench. I know that because it was a male-dominated field, there were not a lot of women in my shop. As time progressed, before I left Little Rock, Arkansas, to obtain my career in air traffic, there were a number of women in that shop. When we say that it will take time, sometimes that means a lot. We know this is a male-dominated field and there are women who would like to be in this field, but it takes time. We will come back and ask for the 5 percent at a different date, but for right now, we are asking for that 2 percent, because we know it takes time. With that, we are open to questions.

Assemblywoman Torres:

At this time, we will open it up for any questions.

Assemblywoman Taylor:

Thank you for bringing this bill. I also appreciate the amendment. To me, that means it is really about getting this effort going and getting feedback from people. The important thing is getting it going. If it means starting off a little bit slowly, that just means listening. That is one of the things I am learning when it comes down to bills, and you are getting some other

input. It is like saying, You know what, that makes sense. I appreciate your both doing that. This is my question. Can you talk a little bit about what we see in other states along the lines of supporting women, in particular in the trades, and having some goals around that? Do you have any information around that?

Assemblywoman Thomas:

Right now, I would like to call a friend.

Greg Esposito, Public Relations and Government Affairs Director, Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Service Technicians Local 525:

What I can say to that is my sister, Evelyn Pacheco, is correct. The Women in Trades movement in the building trades has been around for quite a while, and the national building trades have been taking great steps to work on recruiting and including women, minority women, and veteran women. My organization has the Veterans in Piping program. They have Helmets to Hardhats. A lot of steps have been taken on a national level. That would include other states.

Evelyn Pacheco:

Yes, Mr. Esposito is right. There is the Tradeswomen Taskforce, which has been around forever. There is Women in Trades in Ohio, which started in 1979. There is Women in Trades in Chicago, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, which started in 1981. We have Alaska Women in Trades. We have Missouri Women in Trades. We have Texas Women in Trades. We have West Virginia, Minnesota, New York, and Philadelphia. This is not new. There are also Women in Trades in Canada and in England. This is not new, this has been going on, this is just new to Nevada. Again, as I said earlier, Nevada has started new things all the time, and I see no reason why Nevada cannot step in here with their feet like they do with everything else and make sure the community is taken care of by the women getting into the trades to help take care of their family.

Assemblyman DeLong:

As the father of four daughters, I think this is a really laudable goal. My concern is, what happens if a contractor cannot meet that percentage? Are they then disqualified from the contracts?

Assemblywoman Considine:

It is one of the reasons why we extended the date to start this, so that with the women who are in all of these different trades and groups coming through a pipeline, there are years to find women to do this. There are women who are in the pipeline now who are looking for these jobs. I am happy to talk about an amendment to resolve that. If by 2028 it is still hard to find a woman who is available to do this, we are definitely open to talking about additional amendments.

Assemblyman Carter:

Thank you for presenting this important, important bill. I am a proud member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), which has, for quite a while, had

a very large participation in both the women and the minority community. In fact, I remember in 1981 working with the first woman who went through our apprenticeship in IBEW Local 357, and also one of the first women to win our international union's lifesaving award for saving a fellow electrician's life on the job site. I am very proud that my local is like that. My question was, and I think it may be clarified in the amendment, are we focusing on women or specific women in additional minority categories?

Assemblywoman Thomas:

Actually, I believe that the reason why we chose this language was to make it inclusive, to make it so that there was no doubt about who we are looking to be in this group of people, because for so long, we have been left out of being included in anything. It is inclusive. Does that answer your question?

Assemblyman Carter:

You are close, but I am still unsure. The amendment says women, then women veterans, then women in different minority groups. I am trying to understand. We all know that women are their own minority group, especially in the trades. Would any woman satisfy the intent of what we are trying to do with this bill?

Assemblywoman Considine:

The original draft of this bill was focused on women veterans and women in minority groups. In talking with folks, the response is always, I do not know how we can find them, we are not going to be able to meet these numbers. So, we put in some commas—women, women veterans, minority women—to quote you—any woman interested in this, to give them the shot to train in a well-paying, skilled, long-term pension job, so that they can have a great foundation for their future and their family's future.

Chair Torres:

We are going to go ahead and go to our Legal Counsel.

Asher Killian, Committee Counsel:

Our understanding of the amendment is since women will be added as a group that can qualify, and all of the existing groups in the bill are just subsets of women, the way that this would be drafted would be to simply delete all words other than women, since women would be the group that all of these other groups fall into.

Assemblywoman Thomas:

Clarification, please.

Asher Killian:

This is just based on the amendment that was submitted. The way that it reads is, women or women in minority groups or women who are veterans [\[Exhibit C\]](#). Since women in minority groups and women who are veterans are also women, all of those categories are subsets of women. The only category that remains would be women.

Assemblywoman Considine:

I appreciate that clarification. I believe we drafted it that way because of the clarification that the initial goal was women veterans. But as you mentioned, we opened it up. It does include all, and that amendment can be fixed if necessary.

Chair Torres:

I have heard conversations that 5 percent might be difficult to find—especially with the original bill with 5 percent. Five percent might be difficult in finding apprentices who are women of historically disenfranchised communities or women veterans. I do think opening it up with the amendment as is—2 percent of women—is an attainable goal as well. I hope that the intent is to just be inclusive of all women, recognizing that women in the trades are still not as common as they are in other workplaces.

Assemblyman Koenig:

I see that there are multiple provisions that apply to waivers or exceptions. I think that probably covers it if it is impossible to fill those numbers. My real question is, What about monitoring? Who is going to be in charge of making sure this happens, and could there potentially be a fine or a punishment for not following that? If you just make a law that says you need to have 2 percent of women apprentices on your job but there are no provisions on what happens if you do not, then what is the incentive of actually doing that? I think to make a law that does not have any teeth to it, and there is nothing that happens if you do not do that, is probably not getting to the intent you want.

Greg Esposito:

I am going to have to speculate on how this is going to work out. I am going to speculate that a contractor is going to go to an apprenticeship and say, I need apprentices who fit this category because there is a requirement. If the apprenticeship cannot provide the requested apprentice to a contractor, they receive a waiver. That is the standard right now, and then the waiver goes through the process. The enforcing body would be the public body that let the work out, so, the City of Las Vegas, the City of Reno. They would be the cops in the equation. If right now an apprenticeship cannot provide workers, the contractor receives a waiver which goes on file with the awarding body and the Labor Commissioner. I would assume that is how it would work upon implementation of this. That is a speculation.

Assemblywoman Thomas:

Chair, if we can have a legal opinion on this?

Chair Torres:

The Legal Division is looking into it. We will get back to you, Assemblyman Koenig. Any additional questions and follow-ups?

Assemblyman D'Silva:

I just have a very quick point of clarification. Do we have any numbers or data on the number of women veterans who are actually employed in some of these public works projects or sites? Do we have a general number?

Evelyn Pacheco:

I have sitting in front of me the Nevada State Apprenticeship Director's Report from November 29, 2022, and it goes by gender. I know what you are asking, but I want to add this to it. It has males, and the total number of males is 5,813. The total number of females in the apprenticeship program is 323, and it does not talk about the race of the women. As far as veterans, they have 476, but again, it does not say whether they are male or female. Nonveterans is 5,632. Does that answer the question?

Assemblyman D'Silva:

Yes, it does.

Chair Torres:

I think the hope would be that a lot of these apprenticeship programs would increase their outreach to women. My understanding from speaking with labor organizations is that, while some trades are doing a phenomenal job making sure they are recruiting diverse candidates, other trades are doing a less great job. We see that with their retention and recruitment of candidates of color, as well as specifically women. I am going to go back to our Legal Counsel. They have the answer for Assemblyman Koenig's question.

Asher Killian:

In addition to the waiver process that was mentioned by the witness, if a violation occurs and a waiver is granted, under *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 338.015, either the Labor Commissioner or the Attorney General has the power to enforce the provisions of that subhead, including the section that is being amended in this bill. The penalty for a violation is an administrative penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each violation, enforced by the Labor Commissioner or the Attorney General.

Chair Torres:

Assemblyman Koenig, did that answer your question?

Assemblyman Koenig:

Yes.

Chair Torres:

It seems that, fortunately, we do have some teeth in this section of the NRS.

Assemblyman Hibbetts:

I believe Assemblywoman Considine had mentioned an effective date of 2028. According to the bill, the effective date is 2024, and the amendment does not have any change to that whatsoever. Is there another amendment coming, or can we just clarify for the record that it is intended to be 2028?

Assemblywoman Thomas:

Yes, there is an additional amendment coming forth with that clarification of the date of January 1, 2028, instead of January 1, 2024.

Assemblywoman Taylor:

Just something to consider in this, and this may step on other provisions that are there: Did you ever consider maybe incentivizing those trades that do bring women in, from an apprenticeship standpoint? I do not know if it is even a possibility, but could you do something that could incentivize them? Because we want this to take effect and we want to make a difference. Just something to throw out for your consideration, if you ever had talk around that. How do we say, Good, we know you have to do it, but for those of you who do it, here is an incentive?

Assemblywoman Thomas:

That is a great addition, but I think I would ask Evelyn Pacheco whether or not she knows of any incentives that some of the trades may have for including women.

Evelyn Pacheco:

What it comes down to is retention, why the women are not staying in the trades and dropping out. It comes down to the barriers. Station Casinos has day care to help their employees with day care if they are having problems with getting to work. These are barriers. Day care—I know there is a pilot that is happening over on the East Coast right now. Oversight, that is the other part of making sure this is going to happen. I think, to be quite frank, this should be happening anyways. It is 2023. A woman in the community, when she comes out of prison or is in a domestic situation, has the right to take care of her family. She has a right to make \$150,000 year. Again, retention with sexual harassment and things that are happening on the jobs. Barriers with day care and making sure we have women instructors, women business agents, women business managers.

Greg Esposito:

What comes to mind is some work that this body did when deciding whether or not to move forward with Allegiant Stadium. There were standards put into Senate Bill 1 of the 30th Special Session, I believe it was, that required or requested certain minority participation from contractors, certain minority participation from vendors. That is a little bit towards what you are talking about as far as incentives, where this body put things in language that incentivized the participation and the recruitment of those contractors.

More specifically to your point though, I am not aware of local jurisdictions that let these public projects out incentivizing in their documents, giving some sort of bidder's preference to contractors that meet minority requirements or women hiring requirements. I am not aware that currently exists, but I would encourage it because I think that would help towards broadening who apprenticeships have available.

Assemblywoman Duran:

I just want clarification—why are you waiting for 2028? Are you going to include the 5 percent on the jobs of being that? This is a great start, and I think this would be an incentive for women right now with just this language here to be able to say, Hey, as Ms. Pacheco had stated earlier, if women know that there is work out there, I think this would be a starting point. I do not want to change your bill, but I am just thinking, the

2 percent now and the 1 percent of the hours worked would be an incentive. That is just in my opinion, if you would take that into consideration.

Greg Esposito:

I can point to a few dozen women in my organization who can outwork me any day. I can point to over 1,000 men in my organization who can outwork me any day. That sort of ratio has to get fixed, and it is not going to get fixed quickly. There is no way that my apprenticeship is going to be able to comply with this by 2024. We just cannot take in that many apprentices. We cannot do that much outreach that quickly. I appreciate what you are saying. I think an extended timeline on this behooves the intent of the bill.

Assemblyman DeLong:

Based on the numbers that Ms. Pacheco put forward, it sounds like about 5 percent of the apprentices are women—three hundred or so, which sounds like a pretty good number. I do not remember the exact number. However, in Reno, at the end of 2022, there are only five women in the apprentice program and currently, as of February, I think there are only two. So, the numbers actually sound good for the state, which may be reflective of what it looks like in Clark County, but how are the rural counties and Washoe County going to be able to meet this? Maybe the bill is appropriate for Clark County, but I do not know that it is going to work for the rural counties.

Assemblywoman Thomas:

This is the reason why we are looking at 2028, because that would be inclusive for the entire state, not just in Clark County. I think Clark County can sustain itself right now. As for the rural community, I believe that Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno took that into consideration when she looked at the entire state, not just Clark County.

Chair Torres:

I do not see anyone from the Southern Nevada Building Trades Unions here. If you are listening in, because I know Mr. Benner from Building and Construction Trades Council of Northern Nevada calls in, that would be helpful information, if you could get us the number of women who have been in the trades program. If not at this time, maybe we could make that request to Mr. Benner at a later time for northern Nevada. Members, any additional questions? [There were none.] We will go ahead and move on to those wishing to testify in support of A.B. 305.

Greg Esposito:

We have always been in favor of the economic and social opportunities that apprenticeships offer. It is natural for us to be in support of taking those opportunities deeper into the community with an increased effort to encourage more diverse participation. I applaud the efforts my sister Evelyn Pacheco has made in this regard. I have seen firsthand how her organization has created social and economic opportunities for women who most certainly needed it. She does very good work. I applaud her for that.

We look forward to working with the bill's sponsors and advocates on its continued execution, because it is going to take the sustained effort of community leaders such as the elected officials of this body to raise awareness of the preapprenticeship and apprenticeship opportunities that are available. As it has been said a few times so far, the problem is not that there are not opportunities available for the demographic this bill advocates for, it is that people who fit the criteria are not applying for or remaining in our programs. We already work to participate in every community event and career fair that we are invited to. In order to meet the metrics this bill requires, we will need to be welcomed deeper into the networks of leaders such as you. Unions are also working on some of the things that sister Pacheco mentioned, such as day care or child care during apprenticeship times and transportation issues that sometimes negatively affect women and minorities more than others. We are in support of the goals that A.B. 305 hopes to achieve, and we are eager to better understand how it is going to be implemented and to work with those who wish to see this implemented.

Donna West, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am a resident of Assembly District 14 in East Las Vegas. I grew up as the daughter of a union master machinist. I learned how to fix things, but I never imagined following my dad in his career path because it was men only. Growing up, I knew I could not be president, I could not be an astronaut, and I could not work in construction. Today, women know that a career in construction is a possibility. We need to recruit them, and we need to provide them training. We must give them a path to pursue their desired careers and make a good living. Please support A.B. 305.

Ashley Lovell, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am a resident of Assembly District 3 in Clark County. I have come in support of A.B. 305. In Nevada, women are ready to take work opportunities in all sectors, including sectors in which they are underrepresented. This bill will increase those opportunities, promoting a more diverse and robust workforce and encouraging women to find work in fields they are already qualified for. I can proudly say that my own mother has dedicated her life to a similar endeavor, training women to participate in another formerly underrepresented field, Nevada politics. The positive impact of including women and minority groups in every sector of the economy is known, and this bill is an opportunity to include them further. For these reasons, I urge the Committee to support A.B. 305.

Chair Torres:

It is good to see some constituents in here.

Matt Kimball, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am here to urge your support for A.B. 305. One of the reasons I am the technician I am today is because I was mentored by some amazing women along the way. I would definitely love to see more women in every aspect of our workforce and believe that this bill will certainly help address that. That is why I urge you to support A.B. 305.

Andrew LePeilbet, Chairman, United Veterans Legislative Council:

I am the chairman of the United Veterans Legislative Council, representing the 279,000 veterans in our state. I need to point out that our constitution requires us as an organization to support veterans, their families, the National Guard, and our military. We are in high support of anything that helps our veteran women. A lot of our veteran women are already skilled in trades that they learned in the military. I have four daughters myself, Assemblyman DeLong. One daughter started her own trucking company, 18-wheeler, and built it up to where she did not have to drive anymore, but she did the maintenance and everything in that company. Then, of course, she hired people as she grew. She built that business for 15 years. By the way, she is five foot two. We used to ask her how she reached the pedals. My point is that our women can do all these jobs, and our veteran women are better trained than the average person out there. I think we just need to reach out to them more. We are in support of this bill for our women veterans.

Marlene Lockard, representing Service Employees International Union Local 1107:

First, I would like to say a good woman is never hard to find. Over the years, I have worked with a number of organizations, for example, the Nevada Women's Lobby, as well as serving on the board of the Domestic Violence Resource Center, and there we especially search and try to help women find sustainable living accommodations and economic opportunities. I think opening up another field is an incentive for these women to go through programs, train, and enter into a sustainable new life for themselves. I applaud this bill and appreciate the sponsors and urge your support.

Tessyn Opferman, representing Nevada Women's Lobby:

We really appreciate this bill and the efforts to open up fields to women and minorities. There are many women out there who are physically capable of these jobs and are interested in doing them. Furthermore, these women can help fill a much-needed labor shortage that all industries are facing. Our society continues to face gender barriers and roles when it comes to labor jobs, and unfortunately, sometimes policy change is necessary to be the catalyst for societal and cultural change. We feel strongly that this moderate approach is necessary to start getting women and minorities into the trades and open these careers up to another 50 percent of the population. Nevada women need legislation like this and, quite frankly, the trades need this, because our state needs full access to the labor pool.

Alexandra Noriega, representing Nevada State AFL-CIO:

We have over 120 unions representing over 150,000 members. We are in full support of A.B. 305 and urge the Committee to pass.

Fran Almarez, representing Teamsters Local 631:

I am representing Teamsters Local 631. One of their contracts is in the construction industry. In the early seventies, I was a third-grade schoolteacher. I was not making any money. I am also five foot two. As the other gentleman spoke, I became a truck driver so that I could make money. As we all know, teachers made nothing in the seventies. They made even less. I worked as a truck driver for 30 years. I worked as an over-the-road hauler. I worked

construction, and I drove the big trucks that they use in the mines. Women can do these jobs. We just need to give them the opportunity, and I urge bipartisan support of this bill.

Alfonso Lopez, Organizer, Sheet Metal Air Rail Transportation Local 88:

I am in strong support of this bill. Back in October of last year, they had a tradeswoman convention in Las Vegas. There were over 3,300 people there in attendance, women from all over the nation. Over 300 sheet metal workers from all over the nation as well were included. The trades are definitely a great opportunity for women, specifically in our trade. They do air balance, and they are very great welders as well. There is definitely opportunity out there for women. I strongly urge your support on this bill.

Cesar Marquez, Chair, Nevada Forward Party:

I am here today to express my support for A.B. 305. One of the key reasons why I support this bill is because it aims to increase participation of women veterans and minorities in the construction industry by requiring contractors and subcontractors engaging in public works construction to employ apprentices who are from the underrepresented groups. The bill helps to break down the barriers that have traditionally been preventing them from accessing these high-paying jobs. This bill is a critical step towards creating a level playing field for all Nevadans, particularly those in underrepresented communities. By providing access to these types of apprenticeships, we can create a pathway to success for those who may have previously been overlooked or left out of these opportunities further. Furthermore, studies have shown that increasing diversity and representation in the workplace leads to better financial performance and more innovative ideas. This bill will not only help promote equity but also will help to strengthen Nevadans' economy.

I was a production supervisor at the Tesla Gigafactory, and manufacturing is also one of the fields where women are underrepresented. I want to talk about this myth that women or some in these groups do not want these jobs. They do want these jobs. That is just not true. The question I would offer to these workplaces is, What is the work environment you are providing? Ms. Pacheco touched on retention. I think that is a key point, because if your workplace resembles a fraternity, then maybe you should look into that and why women did not feel welcome into some of these places. In short, A.B. 305 is a win-win for everyone involved. It promotes equity and wealth building for underrepresented communities, while also helping to strengthen the economy of Nevada. I urge you to support A.B. 305.

Robert Sumlin, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local SC711:

I strongly urge the Committee to support A.B. 305.

Michelle Cruz-Crawford, Ph.D., Board of Regents, District 8, Nevada System of Higher Education:

I want to share my support of this bill as a school principal and a member of the Board of Regents. I have built my life on providing college and career opportunities. I am also a Nevada National Guard member. There was the time when my students had never seen a female in a military uniform. When I walked into my building in my uniform, it was the

first year that my first-grade female students said that they could be in the military. In the military I have seen that lots of females can work in every aspect, and I want to continue providing opportunities for my students. Because of that fact, I am in full support of this bill.

Marc Ellis, President, Communication Workers of America Local 9413:

We are in full support of this bill.

Edward Goodrich, representing International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 363:

We wholeheartedly urge the Committee to support A.B. 305. In short, this bill helps build an economic plus to the state, and I would remind the Committee that the amended percentage numbers are a minimum goal, not a maximum limit.

Nina Diaz, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am from Assembly District 41. I am here to show my support for A.B. 305. As a female veteran who has worked with fellow female veterans, I know our value, and I know that women contribute greatly and deserve a pathway to their careers. Please support A.B. 305.

Rene Cantu, Executive Director, Jobs for Nevada's Graduates:

I am here to testify in support of A.B. 305, which would ensure new opportunities and public works projects for women who are veterans or members of minority groups, including LGBTQ people. At Jobs for Nevada's Graduates (J4NG), we graduate 700 to 800 students each year, many of whom seek nontraditional career pathways, meaning pathways other than traditional college or university enrollment. Apprenticeships are critical for our graduates, whom J4NG continues to support and guide for 12 to 24 months after graduation, because they provide access to sustainable, successful, high-paying-careers in industries that encompass public works projects.

Sadly, many recent high school graduates have difficulty either seeking or finding employment because of youth and lack of experience. This is especially true for historically underserved people, including persons who are low-income, minority, and/or women who do not traditionally enter many trades fields. At J4NG, our work with registered apprenticeships, especially with Tesla Manufacturing Development Program, shows the power of this career pathway. So far, we have sent 127 students into the Tesla apprenticeship, half of whom are women. When we see young people who have faced many challenges find a well-paying career path with added training, good pay, and benefits, we see the lives of these young people transformed, breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty and replacing it with a new cycle of opportunity and prosperity through apprenticeships, education, and training. We have seen many young apprentices, including many young women, forge new careers and find career advancement in the historically male-dominated fields of advanced manufacturing, purchase homes and cars, and build successful lives. I can tell you A.B. 305 will directly benefit many of the over 20,000 students J4NG has served since the Governor and Legislature created and supported our vital program, especially those underrepresented in the trades.

Charles Zemp, representing International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers:

I fully support A.B. 305 and urge the Committee to support A.B. 305 as well.

Liz Sorenson, President, Nevada State AFL-CIO:

I am here today in strong support of A.B. 305. I, too, am a mother of two daughters and a grandmother of three granddaughters. I obviously support anything that is going to give women opportunities to have good, livable-wage jobs. I will tell you in our organization itself, the Nevada State AFL-CIO, last year we had our first woman executive secretary-treasurer, Susie Martinez, and I am extremely proud of that. Times are changing. We need to give women opportunities, and I am in strong, strong support of this bill.

Chair Torres:

Is there anyone wishing to testify in opposition to A.B. 305?

Mac Bybee, President and CEO, Nevada Chapter, Associated Builders and Contractors:

This is a tough one. I met with the bill sponsor and by the committee rules as I understand them, we are opposed to the bill as written. I am up here in opposition, but I have to tell you there is a lot of support that I agree with. Associated Builders and Contractors runs electrical, plumbing, sheet metal, carpentry, and low-voltage operator engineer apprenticeship programs. Because they are both state and federally recognized, we have equal employment opportunity commission requirements, as do the union programs. They are all parallel. They all have similar curriculum. We are all out there trying to recruit. It is tough getting females into the trades. We would love to have more. We would love to work with Ms. Pacheco. We would like to do everything we can because the reality is, there are just not enough people in the trades.

You heard an individual testify about Tesla and how many females they have. In Reno, that is the same labor pool as construction. We are all fighting over the same people. In southern Nevada, it is similar—we are all fighting over the same people. There is no better access to opportunity than apprenticeship in construction, if you have the aptitude for it. It is not easy, but if you are good at it and you have an aptitude for it, it is an amazing career path that can change lives. I have to agree with Greg Esposito, which does not happen very often. What he said about apprenticeship and recruitment and outreach and getting out there—to me, that is the number one issue that we have here, the ability not to grab these kids out of school, the ability not to take these individuals out of other programs and show them the pathway.

Unfortunately, due to the way this is written, and the mandate puts it on the contractor—it does not have anything on a recruitment piece, which to me is what has been the issue with the Apprenticeship Authorization Act from the beginning—we are opposed as written.

Alexis Motarex, Government Affairs Manager, Nevada Chapter, Associated General Contractors of America:

I agree with Mr. Bybee; this is not an easy one to oppose. We are here opposed to A.B. 305, not because we are opposed to more diversity in the trades, and not because we do not think women belong in the industry, but simply because women do not exist in the apprenticeship programs in order to be dispatched to the contractors in order for them to meet this requirement. Contractors get who they get from the union halls. They have no control over whether it is a woman, a veteran, a minority, et cetera. Further, if they are signatory to a collective bargaining agreement (CBA), they are specifically prohibited from hiring outside of the halls. Our issue is not with hiring women. As I said, we would love to bring them into the trades and have been trying to broaden our workforce for years. Associated General Contractors (AGC) has had a Women in Construction committee for seven years and has struggled to recruit and entice women to apply for careers in construction. I personally attended a national Women in Construction convention to learn more about recruitment, but to no avail.

At this point in time, the bill will only place a requirement on our contractors which they simply cannot comply with. There are hurdles upon hurdles to do public works in this state, and it is having a chilling effect on contractors. Fewer and fewer are willing to do public works because the back-of-the-house compliance is costly and the risk of noncompliance is too great. The fines and penalties can shutter a small business. This tends to hit disadvantaged business enterprises and smaller local businesses disproportionately. Instead of making this requirement for contractors to meet, maybe the requirement should be for the apprenticeship programs in Nevada to beef up their recruitment to get women in their programs, so they are available to be dispatched to contractors. I can only speak for my members, but I know they would be thrilled to hire them if made available.

Anecdotally, about a year ago, a young woman reached out to AGC to find out how to get involved in the construction industry. Our CEO took her to lunch with one of our members. He is not signatory to a CBA, so he was able to hire her the next day. She is still working for him and developing her craft. We will hire them if they are made available and want the job.

Jake Matthews, representing Mechanical Contractors Association of Las Vegas; and Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association of Southern Nevada:

Mechanical Contractors Association and Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association of Southern Nevada are the two management sides for two different apprenticeship programs in southern Nevada. We do not have control over the applicant pool each year and have concerns with being able to meet these standards. We will continue to work with the bill sponsor to see if we can find common ground.

Jordan K. Krahenbuhl, Executive Director, Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors of Nevada:

I am here to oppose A.B. 305. We are all for women in construction—women, minorities, veterans, everything. We actively recruit all year, women and minorities and veterans and all

of that. We cannot find them. They are not there. We do currently have female, minority, and veteran apprentices, but not 5 percent. We are not even close, and we actively are recruiting women in construction, in other organizations, everything that we can find. We partner with College of Southern Nevada to try and find them, but they are simply not out there. Plumbing is not a sexy trade to go into for females. We are all for females in construction, minorities, veterans, all of that, but the workforce is simply not there, and we cannot meet that 5 percent.

Chair Torres:

Is there anyone else wishing to testify in opposition to A.B. 305? [There was no one.] I invite anyone wishing to testify in neutral to A.B. 305.

Brett Harris, Labor Commissioner, Office of Labor Commissioner, Department of Business and Industry:

I am here with State Apprenticeship Director Toni Giddens. The Office of the Labor Commissioner is the state apprenticeship agency in Nevada. We just wanted to be present to answer any questions you might have.

Chair Torres:

If you could talk a little bit as the Labor Commissioner about the enforcement of this type of measure.

Brett Harris:

The Legal Division was correct. For any violations of NRS Chapter 338, under our enforcement, we can assess administrative penalties up to \$5,000. We can also refer to the Office of the Attorney General or other prosecuting offices and we can exclude contractors or put them on a list so that they cannot be eligible for public works projects should they incur administrative penalties.

Chair Torres:

Is the Labor Commissioner currently keeping track of the percentage of women who are apprentices? Do we have that data?

Toni Giddens, State Apprenticeship Director, Office of Labor Commissioner, Department of Business and Industry:

I do have that data, and I actually do have it broken down by minority and veteran percentages. You are correct. A total of 339, or 5 percent, of our total apprentices are women. We have 2 percent who are Hispanic or Latino, 1 percent American Indian or Native American, and 8 percent Asian. We have 42 percent who are Black, 17 percent who are Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, and 43 percent who have listed multiracial. We also have about 127 who have chosen not to self-identify and 7 percent who are self-identified as veterans.

Chair Torres:

Do we happen to have the information for northern Nevada, rural Nevada, and southern Nevada, or would we be able to get that information?

Toni Giddens:

I will be able to get that broken down and get that out to you.

Chair Torres:

Would we be able to get that data by trade so we can see which trades are doing the best? I am not sure if that data exists.

Toni Giddens:

It does. It will take me another day or so to be able to break it out that far, but I can break it out by trade as well.

Chair Torres:

That is really helpful. I see a lot of heads shaking. That would be great for us to take a look at that data and see where those gaps and those deficits are, and then which trades are also doing great jobs, making sure that they are recruiting women candidates. Members, any additional questions? [There were none.] At this time, we will invite the bill's sponsors for any closing remarks.

Assemblywoman Thomas:

In speaking with the primary bill sponsor, Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, in answer to Assemblywoman Duran, we will be amending the time frame, which is section 3 of the bill, to indicate January 1, 2026. We will also continue working with those who are in opposition to come to a happy medium because it is important for this bill to go forward, to recognize it. We have many women who would like to be in the trades but for whatever reason are blocked, whether or not in their own mind, or in some instances, employers who tell us women that we cannot do the job. As I stated earlier, I can turn a wrench.

In closing, I will ask that the Committee take in consideration, and we will get all the amendments in order so that we can have a good viable bill going forward. I ask and urge that you support A.B. 305.

Chair Torres:

At this time, we will close the hearing on A.B. 305. I am going to give us a one-minute recess. [The Committee recessed at 10:22 a.m. and reconvened at 10:27 a.m.] Today we will conduct a work session and take action on measures the Committee has heard in previous meetings. We are going to go ahead and start with Assembly Bill 224.

Assembly Bill 224: Revises provisions governing collective bargaining. (BDR 23-155)

Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst:

[Read from [Exhibit D](#).] We are starting with Assembly Bill 224, which authorizes collective bargaining for certain employees of a board, commission, or similar body within the Executive Branch of the state government, including, without limitation, the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada. There is a proposed amendment. It is fairly large, and it is all included in the work session document. It does not delete any whole sections. It does make various changes throughout the body of the bill.

Chair Torres:

Members, any questions? [There were none.] I will entertain a motion on A.B. 224.

ASSEMBLYMAN D'SILVA MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 224.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GONZÁLEZ SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMEN DELONG AND
MCARTHUR VOTED NO.)

I will assign the floor statement to Assemblywoman Peters. We will go back to Assembly Bill 52.

Assembly Bill 52: Makes various changes to the Open Meeting Law. (BDR 19-416)

Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst:

[Read from [Exhibit E](#).] Assembly Bill 52 makes various changes to the Open Meeting Law (OML), including clarifying that a meeting does not occur for purposes of the OML if the members of a public body, regardless of the presence of an actual or collective quorum of those members, do not deliberate or act on a matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power. Unless otherwise provided by specific statute, nonvoting members are not counted for purposes of determining a quorum of that public body, and if a vacancy occurs in the voting membership of a public body, the necessary quorum and number of votes necessary to act on a matter is reduced as though the voting membership does not include the vacancy.

The bill changes the notice requirements for a meeting to consider administrative action against a person and provides that a quorum reduction provision in the Nevada Ethics in Government Law applies to all public bodies in the state. The bill makes conforming changes to include remote technology systems as one of the means by which public bodies conduct meetings. The bill exempts committees of private citizens created by city councils or the Secretary of State to draft the background for ballot questions from the OML. Finally,

it provides that library foundations, parent teacher associations, and certain university foundations are not public bodies unless they otherwise meet a certain definition of a public body. There are no amendments on this measure.

Chair Torres:

Members, any questions? [There were none.] At this time, I will entertain a motion on A.B. 52.

ASSEMBLYMAN NGUYEN MADE A MOTION TO DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 52.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TAYLOR SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMEN DELONG, GURR,
HIBBETTS, AND MCARTHUR VOTED NO.)

I will go ahead and assign the floor statement to Assemblyman Nguyen. The next bill that we have up is Assembly Bill 210.

Assembly Bill 210: Revises provisions governing public works. (BDR 28-832)

Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst:

[Read from [Exhibit F](#).] There is a summary of the bill as introduced. However, the amendment deletes much of what is actually written as the summary. I will walk you through the amendment, of which there is a mock-up in the work session document. The bill relates to public works and certain written notices to employees on those public works. As I noted, it deletes sections 2 through 5 of the bill, instead requiring a contractor on a public work to provide to his or her workers on the project a written or electronic notice that includes, among other things, the website of the Labor Commissioner. It still requires the contractor to obtain a written or electronic acknowledgment of receipt of the notice from each worker. Those acknowledgments must be maintained by the contractor for at least two years and be available for inspection by the Labor Commissioner. Section 6 on page 2 of the mock-up in the Legislative Counsel's Digest also adds requires, without exception, a person found to have "willfully and repeatedly." Those words are added to that section, "failed to pay the prevailing wage." That is it. There is an amendment.

Chair Torres:

Members, are there any questions? I will entertain a motion on A.B. 210.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DURAN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 210.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GONZÁLEZ SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMEN DELONG, GURR, AND MCARTHUR VOTED NO.)

I will assign the floor statement to Assemblywoman Duran. Next, we will go ahead and look at Assembly Bill 214.

Assembly Bill 214: Revises provisions governing certain regional transportation commissions. (BDR 22-90)

Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst:

[Read from [Exhibit G](#).] Assembly Bill 214 was heard on March 23, 2023. As introduced, it authorizes a regional transportation commission to use an electronic surveillance system to provide and maintain security in operations and establish a fine for a passenger who refuses to comply with the regional or statewide health and safety standard or mandate. The bill further requires a regional transportation commission to adopt certain policies and procedures governing the maintenance of records made or recorded by an electronic surveillance system; provides that any record made or recorded by an electronic surveillance system is a public record; and provides that certain provisions do not supersede the provisions of a collective bargaining agreement. It continues regarding the establishment or authority for an advisory committee.

However, there is an amendment. It is also included in the work session document. In the amendment, the bill sponsor deletes most of section 1 related to a turnkey procurement process for a high-capacity transit project, amends section 2 related to certain audio or video recordings, amends sections 3 and 4 to include different provisions for those certain advisory committees based on the population of the county, and amends section 6 to include a definition of a turnkey procurement.

Chair Torres:

Members, any questions? [There were none.] I will entertain a motion to amend and do pass A.B. 214.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GONZÁLEZ MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 214.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DURAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMEN DELONG, GURR, HIBBETTS, KOENIG, AND MCARTHUR VOTED NO.)

I will assign the floor statement to Assemblywoman Anderson. Next up, we are going to Assembly Bill 235.

Assembly Bill 235: Revises provisions governing public works projects. (BDR 28-176)

Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst:

[Read from [Exhibit H](#).] Assembly Bill 235 requires the payment of prevailing wages to workers who perform custom fabrication on a public work or for certain performance contracts of local governments or state agencies. The amendment, which is included, was provided by the bill sponsor. It removes 7 of the 11 building systems that were included in the bill, as noted on the amendment.

Chair Torres:

Any questions? [There were none.] At this time, I will entertain a motion to amend and do pass A.B. 235.

ASSEMBLYMAN NGUYEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 235.

ASSEMBLYMAN D'SILVA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMEN DELONG, GURR,
HIBBETTS, KOENIG, AND MCARTHUR VOTED NO.)

I will assign the floor statement to Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno. Now we will go to Assembly Bill 266.

Assembly Bill 266: Revises provisions relating to governmental administration. (BDR 20-120)

Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst:

[Read from [Exhibit I](#).] Assembly Bill 266 relates to language access plans. It requires each board of county commissioners and governing body of a city to designate one or more employees of the county or city, as applicable, to be responsible for developing and biennially revising a language access plan for the county or city, as applicable, that meets certain requirements; and on or before January 1 of each even-numbered year, submit the language access plan to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Government Affairs. Such a language access plan must be developed in coordination and collaboration with the Office for New Americans created in the Office of the Governor.

However, the amendment that is provided really walks you through, section by section, the amendments that are proposed in the bill. I will just point out two of the things it requires. The provisions in sections 2 and 7 relate to counties and cities. It clarifies that the only public notice required would be those that are mailed out for the county planning commission, including a link to the local government's website where information is available in other languages; and requires that the public notice direct non-English speakers to the site where the information is available in the preferred language. It also requires the

local governments to make good faith efforts to find certified translators. In the other provisions in section 4, you will notice there is the addition of a full-time equivalent employee for the Office for New Americans to serve as the language access coordinator. Those are the main points of the amendment.

Chair Torres:

Members, any questions? [There were none.] At this time, I will entertain a motion to amend and do pass A.B. 266.

ASSEMBLYMAN D'SILVA MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 266.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN THOMAS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMEN DELONG, GURR, AND
MCARTHUR VOTED NO.)

I will assign the floor statement to myself. We will go ahead and move to Assembly Bill 299.

Assembly Bill 299: Creates the Nevada Medal of Distinction. (BDR 18-780)

Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst:

[Read from Exhibit J.] Assembly Bill 299 creates the Nevada Medal of Distinction. As I believe one of the members pointed out in the presentation, it is the Nevada Medal of Distinction, not the Nevada Medal of Honor. Assembly Bill 299 creates the Nevada Medal of Distinction and the Nevada Awards and Honors Board. The Board is to be composed of five members appointed by the Governor, and its duties include, in part, establishing a suitable design for the Nevada Medal of Distinction and the requirements for determining whether a person has made a significant and lasting contribution to the state. The Medal must be awarded annually to two people—one who is living and one who is deceased, and both having made significant and lasting contributions to the state. On or before January 1 of each year, a selection committee composed of nine members must be appointed as follows: three members appointed by the Governor; two members appointed by the Senate Majority Leader, two members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly; and two members appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Nevada. Each member of the selection committee shall nominate one person who is living and one person who is deceased for the Medal. The amendment that is attached corrected some of the issues or concerns regarding the bill, and also specifies that individuals currently in elected office are ineligible to receive the Medal of Distinction.

Chair Torres:

Members, any questions? [There were none.] I will entertain a motion to amend and do pass A.B. 299.

ASSEMBLYMAN DELONG MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS
ASSEMBLY BILL 299.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TAYLOR SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

I will assign the floor statement to Assemblywoman Taylor. Lastly, we have Assembly Bill 366.

Assembly Bill 366: Revises provisions governing the Keep Nevada Working Task Force. (BDR 18-1056)

Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst:

[Read from Exhibit K.] Assembly Bill 366 moves the Keep Nevada Working Task Force from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to the Office of the Secretary of State and revises the membership of the Task Force. There are no amendments for this measure.

Chair Torres:

Members, any questions? [There were none.] At this time, I will entertain a motion to do pass A.B. 366.

ASSEMBLYMAN GURR MOVED TO DO PASS ASSEMBLY BILL 366.

ASSEMBLYMAN NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

I will assign the floor statement to Assemblyman D'Silva. At this time, we will move on to public comment. [Public comment was heard.] The Committee on Government Affairs is adjourned [at 10:49 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Dylan Small
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Selena Torres, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

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

[Exhibit C](#) is a conceptual amendment to [Assembly Bill 305](#), dated March 23, 2023, submitted by Assemblywoman Clara Thomas, Assembly District No. 17.

[Exhibit D](#) is the Work Session Document for [Assembly Bill 224](#), presented by Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit E](#) is the Work Session Document for [Assembly Bill 52](#), presented by Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit F](#) is the Work Session Document for [Assembly Bill 210](#), presented by Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit G](#) is the Work Session Document for [Assembly Bill 214](#), presented by Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit H](#) is the Work Session Document for [Assembly Bill 235](#), presented by Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit I](#) is the Work Session Document for [Assembly Bill 266](#), presented by Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit J](#) is the Work Session Document for [Assembly Bill 299](#), presented by Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit K](#) is the Work Session Document for [Assembly Bill 366](#), presented by Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.