## MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

# Eighty-second Session April 14, 2023

The Senate Committee on Government Affairs was called to order by Chair Edgar Flores at 3:12 p.m. on Friday, April 14, 2023, in Room 2149 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4412 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. <a href="Exhibit A">Exhibit A</a> is the Agenda. <a href="Exhibit B">Exhibit B</a> is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Edgar Flores, Chair Senator James Ohrenschall, Vice Chair Senator Skip Daly Senator Pete Goicoechea Senator Lisa Krasner

## **GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Senator Fabian Doñate, Senatorial District No. 10 Senator Dina Neal, Senatorial District No. 4 Senator Melanie Scheible, Senatorial District No. 9 Senator Pat Spearman, Senatorial District No. 1

## **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jered McDonald, Policy Analyst Heidi Chlarson, Counsel Suzanne Efford, Committee Secretary

## **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mary Walker, Douglas County; Lyon County; Storey County Susan Proffitt, Vice President, Nevada Republican Club Katie Rogers Paul Catha, Culinary Workers Union Local 226 Sarah Adler

Mendy Elliott, Nevada Housing Coalition Elyse Monroy-Marsala, Nevada Coalition to END Domestic and Sexual Violence

## CHAIR FLORES:

We will open this meeting with the work session. The first bill on the work session is Senate Bill (S.B.) 17.

**SENATE BILL 17**: Revises provisions relating to regional transportation commissions. (BDR 22-384)

JERED McDonald (Policy Analyst):

<u>Senate Bill 17</u> and its proposed amendments are contained in the work session document (Exhibit C).

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 17.

SENATOR DALY SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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## **CHAIR FLORES:**

The next bill in the work session is S.B. 20.

**SENATE BILL 20**: Revises provisions relating to the process for filling a vacancy in a board of county commissioners. (BDR 20-393)

MR. McDonald:

Senate Bill 20 and its proposed amendment are noted in the work session document (Exhibit D).

SENATOR DALY MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 20.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL SECONDED THE MOTION.

#### SENATOR KRASNER:

I will vote yes to get this bill out of Committee, but I reserve my right to change my vote on the Floor.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill is S.B. 21.

SENATE BILL 21: Revises certain classifications based on populations. (BDR 20-391)

Mr. McDonald:

I will present a brief overview of <u>S.B. 21</u> and its proposed amendment as noted in the work session document (Exhibit E).

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 21.

SENATOR KRASNER SECONDED THE MOTION.

#### SENATOR DALY:

Why does the amendment to  $\underline{S.B.\ 21}$  exclude a consolidated municipality which is Carson City. Since all of the language is permissive anyway, there is no reason to exclude anything. If a consolidated municipality does not want to do it, it does not have to. However, the school district should be allowed to ask that municipality to do it.

MARY WALKER (Douglas County; Lyon County; Storey County):

That language was added to maintain the law as it is because that portion of law does not apply to Carson City.

#### SENATOR DALY:

Carson City could not have done this under existing language.

Ms. Walker:

That is correct. Under existing language, Carson City could not have done it because of the population caps.

## SENATOR DALY:

I understand, but Carson City can still just say no. I am fine with it then if that is the explanation. I understand Carson City is the only consolidated municipality. I know you cannot name them specifically.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

The three counties excluded would be Clark and Washoe Counties and Carson City.

Ms. Walker:

Yes, that is correct.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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## CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill in the work session is S.B. 22.

**SENATE BILL 22**: Revises provisions relating to the publication of legal notices. (BDR 19-390)

#### Mr. McDonald:

I will give a brief overview of  $\underline{S.B.\ 22}$  and its amendments as noted in the work session document (Exhibit F).

SENATOR DALY MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 22.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL SECONDED THE MOTION.

## **SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:**

I want to clarify that the motion is to accept both proposed amendments, including Mr. Morley's.

CHAIR FLORES:

That was the way I understood the motion.

SENATOR DALY:

That is correct.

**CHAIR FLORES:** 

It is to accept both amendments as proposed, including the amendment proposed by Mr. Morley.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill in the work session is S.B. 24.

SENATE BILL 24: Revises provisions relating to the Office of Small Business Advocacy within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. (BDR 18-404)

Mr. McDonald:

<u>Senate Bill 24</u> and its Proposed Amendment 3568 are noted in the work session document (Exhibit G).

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 24 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT 3568.

SENATOR DALY SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill is S.B. 82.

**SENATE BILL 82**: Revises provisions related to public works. (BDR 28-535)

Mr. McDonald:

I will give a brief overview of <u>S.B. 82</u> and Proposed Amendment 3590 as noted in the work session document (Exhibit H).

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 82 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT 3590.

SENATOR DALY SECONDED THE MOTION.

## SENATOR KRASNER:

I have concerns about the language. However, I will vote yes to get it out of Committee, but I reserve my right to change my vote prior to Floor.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I will vote no, but I reserve my right to change my vote after I have time to digest this amendment. I do not like the bill. Senator Daly tried to improve it, but I am going to vote no, anyway.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATOR GOICOECHEA VOTED NO.)

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Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (Exhibit I) describing S.B. 83.

<u>SENATE BILL 83</u>: Revises provisions governing the confidentiality of the personal information of certain civilian employees of law enforcement agencies. (BDR 20-666)

SENATOR KRASNER MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 83.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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## **CHAIR FLORES:**

The next bill in the work session is S.B. 92.

**SENATE BILL 92**: Revises provisions relating to sidewalk vendors. (BDR 20-53)

Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (Exhibit J) describing S.B. 92 and its proposed amendment.

SENATOR FABIAN DOÑATE (Senatorial District No. 10):

The intention of the bill was to shift the burden of how street vendors are handled in residential areas to the industry. In the amendment to <u>S.B. 92</u>, street vendors who are licensed or unlicensed in residential areas would be subject to civil penalties. This addresses the issue of criminalization that many street food vendors spoke about before this Committee.

We have worked with stakeholders across the State: city and county jurisdictions, law enforcement, the Nevada Resort Association and other business entities to make the bill as clean as possible.

Rather than segmenting where street vendors can and cannot operate, the amendment gives more jurisdiction back to the cities to review time, place and manner. This was an important aspect they requested.

A significant portion of this bill will take effect October 15, 2023. As you may know, Nevada has incredible opportunities with events coming to Las Vegas. Formula One racing will be coming in November, and the Super Bowl will be coming soon. So, in parts of this bill, upon passage and approval, the prohibition of street food vendors will be in a particular area. In section 25.5, page 6 of the proposed amendment, as of October 15, there will be an immediate prohibition on street vendors in a county with a population of 100,000 or more within a certain distance from a resort-hotel as defined by *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS); an event facility that has a seating capacity of at least 20,000 or more; a convention facility; and the Las Vegas sign. Once this prohibition takes place, street vendors will not be able to sell in those areas.

In addition to that, it will ensure there are appropriate circumstances to cover those who may not comply. Revisions have been made to the Task Force on Safe Sidewalk Vending to make this more uniform. Health districts and others will determine the needed regulations.

The bill is not perfect. Some people may not like parts of it, but it is a good bill which will address the needs of the community and stakeholders.

## HEIDI CHLARSON (Counsel):

Because a lot of general applicability is in this bill, it cannot refer to a specific street or a specific sign. If there is a more general way to describe what this bill is attempting to exclude, that must be done or else that language has to come out.

## SENATOR DOÑATE:

If the Committee chooses, we can cite the NRS that might point toward this historical marker. That discussion came up for that particular language.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

In counties under 100,000, it will be business as usual. They will work with their local health departments or whatever and can impose whatever ordinances they need.

## **SENATOR DOÑATE:**

That is correct. Initially, this bill was drafted specifically toward Washoe County and Clark County because that is where the activity is. If we want to look at rural communities at a later time, we will have the aspect for that.

Secretary of State Francisco Aguilar mentioned that he wants to create a one-stop shop for someone who wants to start a small business. There will be one place vendors can go that is easy and ensures they have the correct licenses. This is a perfect vehicle to help have that conversation. Hopefully, rural counties will be able to participate as they want to.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I appreciate that. We will see how this works before we jump on.

## SENATOR KRASNER:

We just received a lengthy amendment, so I will vote yes to get it out of Committee and then reserve my right to change prior to Floor.

## CHAIR FLORES:

I will entertain a motion to amend and do pass with the clarification that was made by Legal Division staff that either the language will be amended to be

broadly written to encompass the intent or remove that language so it is not in conflict with the drafting.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 92.

SENATOR DALY SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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## **CHAIR FLORES:**

The next bill in the work session is S.B. 94.

**SENATE BILL 94**: Revises provisions relating to tribal liaison officers. (BDR 18-348)

## Mr. McDonald:

I will present a brief overview of  $\underline{S.B. 94}$  as noted in the work session document (Exhibit K).

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 94.

SENATOR KRASNER SECONDED THE MOTION.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Will every State agency have a liaison that will function with all 28 tribes?

## Ms. Chlarson:

It is not one liaison per tribe; each State agency will have one liaison. For the purposes of this bill, NRS 233A.250 defines State agency as "an agency, bureau, board, commission, department or division of the Executive Department of State Government."

Some departments have multiple divisions, so within a department, there may be more than one tribal liaison because each division within the department within the State agency will have to have the tribal liaison position.

#### SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Does this bill have a significant fiscal note, and will it go to the Committee on Finance?

## Ms. Chlarson:

Yes, there are fiscal notes attached to this bill, so it would be pulled into the Committee on Finance on the Floor.

#### SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I can support it. Perhaps the number of liaisons will be limited; otherwise, I envision many liaisons.

## THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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## CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill in the work session document is S.B. 105.

**SENATE BILL 105**: Revises provisions relating to the Department of Corrections. (BDR 18-320)

#### Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (<u>Exhibit L</u>) describing the bill and its proposed amendment.

## SENATOR DALY:

The Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) is exempt from the requirements of NRS 233B except as provided in NRS 209.221. That chapter of NRS says those regulations are covered and NDOC has to do it. This bill adds other sections; otherwise, NDOC is still exempt and exempt for contested cases.

If I understand this correctly, we are making progress but not all the way. If so, I support this bill.

SENATOR MELANIE SCHEIBLE (Senatorial District No. 9): Yes, that is correct.

The NDOC pointed out that some policies probably should not go through a public procedure for safety concerns when it comes to things like evacuation routes and security protocols within a prison. We might not want that to be publicly available to anybody who might access it later.

## **SENATOR DALY:**

I agree with that also.

SENATOR DALY MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 105.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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## CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill is S.B. 143.

**SENATE BILL 143**: Revises provisions relating to discrimination in housing. (BDR 18-1)

## Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (<u>Exhibit M</u>) describing <u>S.B. 143</u> and its proposed amendment.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED <u>S.B. 143</u>.

SENATOR DALY SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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## CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill is S.B. 155.

**SENATE BILL 155**: Revises provisions relating to homeless persons. (BDR 20-244)

## Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (<u>Exhibit N</u>) describing <u>S.B. 155</u> and its proposed amendment.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 155 WITH THE CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT AS PRESENTED DURING THE BILL'S HEARING AND THE AMENDMENT AS PROPOSED IN THE WORK SESSION DOCUMENT WITH THE CLARIFICATION THAT SECTIONS 1 AND 2 ARE DELETED.

SENATOR DALY SECONDED THE MOTION.

## **SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:**

I thank everyone for working on replacing the language in the bill. This is a gut and replace with a great diversion program for our unhoused brothers and sisters who find themselves arrested and will probably never pay those fines. That can lead to many bench warrants and more contact with the criminal justice system which does not help the homeless get back on their feet. Hopefully, they will find housing and other services they need.

I want to make sure it is clear that the original language of the bill in sections 1 and 2 is being replaced with the new language in the amendment.

#### Ms. Chlarson:

I want to make sure I understand the intent of the motion to amend and do pass. Senator Ohrenschall presented a conceptual amendment at the bill hearing which listed numerous statutes. That is still incorporated in this amendment. It is a combination of the conceptual amendment and this additional amendment submitted to clarify how they work together. Is that correct?

## SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

That is correct. The original language in sections 1 and 2 regarding counties and cities will be deleted from the original bill via the amendment.

#### Ms. Chi arson:

The amendment would delete the bill in it is entirety, as introduced, and then combine the conceptual amendment presented to the Committee at the bill hearing and this additional amendment. So, it is amend and do pass with the conceptual amendment from the bill hearing and this amendment and removing the other two sections from the bill as introduced.

## SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

That is correct. The original language is being deleted and replaced with this potential for a diversionary therapeutic court. Should local governments decide to implement it, it would be available for the unhoused if this passes.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I am going to support the bill out of Committee, but I want to reserve my right when I see the bill put together.

## SENATOR KRASNER:

This bill is an excellent solution for homeless people. I will vote yes.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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#### CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill is S.B. 184.

SENATE BILL 184: Revises the Charter of the City of North Las Vegas. (BDR S-5)

#### Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (<u>Exhibit O</u>) describing <u>S.B. 184</u> and its proposed amendment.

## SENATOR PAT SPEARMAN (Senatorial District No. 1):

I received a call from one of the members of the North Las Vegas Charter Committee. He gave me permission to read his letter into the record:

Honorable Senators, my name is Tyrone Jones. As a member of the North Las Vegas Charter Committee, a veteran and a longtime

resident of the City of North Las Vegas, I have been asked by other members of the Charter Committee, the Clergy Alliance of North Las Vegas, veterans and other citizens of North Las Vegas to support the passage of <u>S.B. 184</u> and to address this correspondence to your attention.

Members of the North Las Vegas Charter Committee were contacted by Senator Pat Spearman on April 7, 2023, when she informed us that she had been contacted by attorney Kristina Kleist representing the City of North Las Vegas in opposition to S.B. 184. Senator Spearman informed us that her discussion with Miss Kleist centered around if and what considerations and concessions could be considered pertaining to S.B. 184. Subsequently, Senator Spearman referred Miss Kleist's inquiry and contact information myself and another member of to Charter Committee, Timothy Smith. Senator Spearman's position on the matter and as relayed to myself and Tim Smith was that any discussion of compromises and or concessions should be decided upon by the citizens of North Las Vegas. We have made attempts to reach Miss Kleist to discuss these issues to no avail.

We have also made additional attempts to invite key members of the North Las Vegas City administration to discuss and work out these issues and matters. That has also been to no avail. Thank you for your time, respectfully.

I received the amendment from several organizations in North Las Vegas, including members of the Charter Committee.

There was a fiscal note on the bill relating to redistricting. I called the Secretary of State's Office and asked for information on costs of previous redistricting. Unfortunately, it did not have records for North Las Vegas, but it gave me the cost of redistricting for the City of Las Vegas, which is significantly larger than North Las Vegas. The cost was \$40,000 on December 31, 2021. That is a big difference from \$1 million. If it cost Las Vegas \$40,000; it would not cost North Las Vegas \$1 million.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 184.

#### SENATOR DALY SECONDED THE MOTION.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I appreciate the sponsor and her work on the bill, but I continue to have reservations about this Body mandating a change to wards without allowing the Charter Committee to do its work. I understand what is going on in North Las Vegas and whether it has the ability to do this. I was hopeful we would get to a point where the Charter Committee could do its job, give it some direction and get it done right. I will have to vote no on this because I believe in home rule and letting local people do this. This is a mandate from the Legislature.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATOR GOICOECHEA VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill is S.B. 185.

**SENATE BILL 185**: Establishes provisions relating to businesses. (BDR 18-35)

Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (<u>Exhibit P</u>) describing <u>S.B. 185</u> and its proposed amendment.

SENATOR DINA NEAL (Senatorial District No. 4):

One amendment is missing which will add Senator Krasner as a cosponsor on the bill.

SENATOR KRASNER MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 185.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL SECONDED THE MOTION.

#### SENATOR KRASNER:

This is an excellent bill relating to economic development and creating businesses and business opportunities in this State.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill is S.B. 225.

**SENATE BILL 225**: Revises provisions governing peace officers. (BDR 23-651)

Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (<u>Exhibit Q</u>) describing <u>S.B. 225</u> and its Proposed Amendment 3571.

SENATOR DALY MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 225 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT 3571.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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**CHAIR FLORES:** 

The next bill is S.B. 226.

**SENATE BILL 226**: Revises provisions governing public works. (BDR 28-494)

Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (<u>Exhibit R</u>) describing <u>S.B. 226</u> and its proposed amendment.

SENATOR DALY MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 226.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL SECONDED THE MOTION.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I appreciate the work, but I am going to vote no and oppose this bill until I can read the amendment. My constituency is adamantly opposed because of the

connection to affordable housing and the fact that if one owns property and donates ten feet of it, it will become a public works project even if it is donated to a nonprofit or nongovernmental organization.

## **SENATOR KRASNER:**

I have some concerns. I will vote yes to get it out of Committee but reserve my right to change to no prior to Floor.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATOR GOICOECHEA VOTED NO.)

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## CHAIR FLORES:

The Committee has received a letter of opposition (<u>Exhibit S</u>) to <u>S.B. 226</u> from the Elko County Board of Commissioners.

Next on the work session is S.B. 246.

**SENATE BILL 246**: Revises provisions relating to governmental administration. (BDR S-1028)

## Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (<u>Exhibit T</u>) describing <u>S.B. 246</u> and its proposed amendments.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 246.

SENATOR DALY SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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#### CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill is S.B. 247.

**SENATE BILL 247**: Revises provisions relating to regional planning. (BDR 22-684)

Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (Exhibit U) describing S.B. 247.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 247.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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## CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill in the work session is S.B. 262.

**SENATE BILL 262**: Revises the qualifications for membership on certain advisory councils and boards. (BDR 21-857)

Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (Exhibit V) describing S.B. 262.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 262.

SENATOR DALY SECONDED THE MOTION.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I have to oppose this given my constituency. I just cannot put "if you are not a qualified elector" on the ballot.

## SENATOR KRASNER:

I have concerns, but I will be a yes to get it out of Committee and reserve my right prior to Floor to change my vote.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATOR GOICOECHEA VOTED NO.)

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## **CHAIR FLORES:**

The next bill is S.B. 271.

**SENATE BILL 271**: Revises provisions relating to discrimination. (BDR 18-2)

Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (Exhibit W) describing S.B. 271.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 271.

SENATOR KRASNER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill is S.B. 299.

**SENATE BILL 299**: Revises provisions related to monorails. (BDR 28-955)

Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (<u>Exhibit X</u>) describing <u>S.B. 299</u> and its proposed amendment.

## SENATOR DALY:

This might be an oversight but the deletion of the information regarding apprentices would create a problem. *Nevada Revised Statutes* 338.020, subsection 1, regarding prevailing wage, says the contract for "the employment of skilled mechanics, skilled workers, semiskilled mechanics, semiskilled workers or unskilled labor in the performance of public work, must contain in express terms the hourly and daily rate of wages." They cannot be paid less than the prevailing wage rate. If that exemption is removed, apprentices would no longer be paid at the percentage rate of an apprentice. They would have to be paid prevailing wage as journeymen. That section should not be removed.

I will make the motion to amend and do pass retaining that section. The other provisions of the amendment are fine.

SENATOR DALY MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED <u>S.B. 299</u> WITH THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT WITH THE EXCEPTION TO RETAIN SECTION 1, SUBSECTION 2 OF THE BILL.

## SENATOR OHRENSCHALL SECONDED THE MOTION.

## SENATOR KRASNER:

I have concerns with the language. However, I will vote yes to get it out of Committee, but I reserve my right to change to a no vote on the Floor.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I ditto Senator Krasner's statement.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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## CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill is S.B. 301.

**SENATE BILL 301**: Revises provisions governing public works. (BDR 28-967)

## Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (<u>Exhibit Y</u>) describing <u>S.B. 301</u> and its proposed amendment.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 301.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

## SENATOR KRASNER:

I reserve my right to vote no on the Floor, but I will vote yes now to get it out of Committee.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I appreciate the work done by the sponsor of the bill and others trying to get to this point. It is better than it was when we started, but I also reserve my right when we get to the Floor.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATOR DALY VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill in the work session document is S.B. 305.

**SENATE BILL 305**: Provides for the establishment of a retirement savings program for private sector employees. (BDR 31-933)

Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (<u>Exhibit Z</u>) describing <u>S.B. 305</u> and its Proposed Amendment 3566.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 305 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT 3566.

SENATOR DALY SECONDED THE MOTION.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I appreciate the sponsor's work on this bill. I will vote yes to get it out of Committee, but I reserve my right.

#### SENATOR KRASNER:

I vote yes to get it out of Committee but reserve my right to change prior to Floor.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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**CHAIR FLORES:** 

The next bill is S.B. 318.

**SENATE BILL 318**: Revises provisions related to homeless persons. (BDR 21-969)

Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (Exhibit AA) describing S.B. 318.

SENATOR DALY MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 318.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL SECONDED THE MOTION.

#### SENATOR KRASNER:

I have concerns with the language, so I am going to vote yes to get it out of Committee but reserve my right to change prior to Floor.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I realize it is only enabling, but I need to clarify it is not required. If required, I would be a no; if not required and enabling, I will vote yes now but reserve my right.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill is S.B. 320.

**SENATE BILL 320**: Revises provisions related to the Legislature. (BDR 23-194)

Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (<u>Exhibit AB</u>) describing <u>S.B. 320</u> and its proposed amendment.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED <u>S.B. 320</u>.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill is S.B. 323.

**SENATE BILL 323**: Revises provisions relating to peace officers. (BDR 23-925)

Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (Exhibit AC) describing S.B. 323.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 323.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

## CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill on the work session agenda is S.B. 371.

**SENATE BILL 371**: Revises provisions governing local governments. (BDR 20-681)

## Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (Exhibit AD) describing S.B. 371.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 371.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

## SENATOR KRASNER:

I have concerns with the language, so I will vote yes to get it out of Committee but reserve my right to vote no on the Floor.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

This works for my jurisdiction. I prefer a board of county commissioners talk about rent control than the Legislature.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATOR DALY VOTED NO.)

\* \* \* \* \*

## CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill is S.B. 373.

**SENATE BILL 373**: Revises provisions relating to language access. (BDR 18-1034)

Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (Exhibit AE) describing S.B. 373.

## CHAIR FLORES:

When I presented <u>S.B. 373</u>, the Nevada Commission for Persons Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing asked the Committee to consider a friendly amendment to the bill in section 1, subsection 1, paragraph (b) to read as follows: "ensure that all vital information and documents are translated and made available in the 12 most common languages that are used by persons with limited English proficiency in this State."

Then add the following: "including, without limitation, auditory languages, visual languages, manual languages and spoken languages, as determined by the last preceding national ...."

It was never our intent to leave them out. I appreciate the fact that they reached out to provide this amendment.

I will entertain a motion to amend and do pass <u>S.B. 373</u>, as presented, with this proposed amendment.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 373.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

## CHAIR FLORES:

The next work session bill is S.B. 384.

SENATE BILL 384: Establishes certain provisions relating to the award of grants of federal money by a state agency for the development of broadband services and infrastructure. (BDR 18-1035)

#### Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (<u>Exhibit AF</u>) describing <u>S.B. 384</u> and its proposed amendment.

## **SENATOR DALY:**

In the busyness of getting the amendments right, I did not submit the most recent one. The revised version is similar to what it was, but in section 3, subsection 1, paragraph (b), letter (a) and the word "or" were deleted so it reads "meets the requirements of paragraph (b) of subsection 2."

On page 2 of the proposed amendment, subparagraph (9) was added to section 3, subsection 2, paragraph (a) to clarify if applicants perform work, they have to meet all the requirements of the labor standards or the signatory's agreement. If they use a provider as (a) a subgrantee and they are covered by the standards to do this or (b) if they self-perform the work, either the applicant or the broadband subprovider, and are not a contractor licensed under NRS 624, the prevailing wage requirements would not apply to that portion of the work, only to a contractor.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED <u>S.B. 384</u>.

SENATOR DALY SECONDED THE MOTION.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I oppose this bill. Nevada is a right to work State. This bill requires a contractor to be a union shop to bid any of these jobs. We struggle to have enough contractors, especially in northern and eastern Nevada, without limiting it.

## SENATOR KRASNER:

I have concerns with the language, so I will vote yes to get it out of Committee but reserve my right to vote no prior to Floor.

## SENATOR DALY:

I appreciate the comments of my colleague, but it does not require someone to be a union contractor to bid on a project. It just requires compliance with labor standards. Someone has to meet the standards or be a union contractor to get the 30 percent preference. As the bill is written, anyone can bid on a project.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATOR GOICOECHEA VOTED NO.)

\* \* \* \* \*

## CHAIR FLORES:

Next on the work session is S.B. 388.

**SENATE BILL 388**: Revises provisions relating to certain public employees. (BDR 23-131)

## Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (<u>Exhibit AG</u>) describing <u>S.B. 388</u> and its proposed amendment.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 388.

SENATOR DALY SECONDED THE MOTION.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I just want to make sure what this bill does. Does it allow someone to collectively bargain for the payment of one's Public Employees' Retirement System contribution?

## SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

Yes, that is correct.

## SENATOR DALY:

I want to clarify which chapter of NRS is being affected. Is it NRS 246 or NRS 286?

## SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

It is NRS 286. I discussed this with Mr. McDonald earlier. It is a scrivener's error. If the Committee amends and do passes it today, that error will be corrected with the first reprint.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR FLORES:

The next bill is S.B. 391.

**SENATE BILL 391**: Revises provisions relating to governmental entities. (BDR 20-936)

Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (<u>Exhibit AH</u>) describing <u>S.B. 391</u> and Proposed Amendment 3586.

SENATOR KRASNER MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 391 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT 3586.

SENATOR DALY SECONDED THE MOTION.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

While I do not condone the sundown siren, I cannot support this bill because it impacts dozens of communities all across the State. I equate this to if Carson City runs out of water, a law will be passed that says nobody takes a bath. This is that much overkill. I would love to work with you to see if we can get something better.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATOR GOICOECHEA VOTED NO.)

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR FLORES:

Next on the work session is S.B. 433.

**SENATE BILL 433**: Revises provisions relating to prevailing wages. (BDR 28-541)

Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (<u>Exhibit AI</u>) describing <u>S.B. 433</u> and its proposed amendment.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 433.

## SENATOR DALY SECONDED THE MOTION.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Many of my constituents are concerned about how it will impact affordable housing. This is a stretch and I have to oppose it.

#### SENATOR KRASNER:

I have concerns with the language, so I will vote yes to get it out of Committee but reserve my right to vote no on the Floor.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATOR GOICOECHEA VOTED NO.)

\* \* \* \* \*

#### CHAIR FLORES:

The Committee has received a letter of opposition (<u>Exhibit AJ</u>) to <u>S.B. 433</u> from the Elko County Board of Commissioners.

The last bill on the work session document is S.B. 434.

SENATE BILL 434: Revises provisions related to public retirement systems. (BDR 23-16)

#### Mr. McDonald:

I have a work session document (<u>Exhibit AK</u>) describing <u>S.B. 434</u> and its proposed amendment.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED <u>S.B.</u> 434.

SENATOR DALY SECONDED THE MOTION.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

This got me to where I needed to be, but I want to understand better. A qualified domestic relations order will be effective at the point the divorce happens. The division will happen at that point, whether it is the Public Employees' Retirement System or whatever.

#### SENATOR NEAL:

This will apply to the Public Employees' Retirement System benefit. When someone gets divorced, it will freeze, and whatever community property is attributed to the marriage will then be divided based on the day of divorce.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Thank you. That is what I wanted to hear.

#### SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

I appreciate the sponsor's hard work on this bill. I am supporting it today. I have a few unanswered questions. I will get back to you and maybe others who understand family law. I reserve my right, but I am supporting it today.

## SENATOR KRASNER:

I have some concerns with the language. I will support it and vote yes out of Committee and reserve my right to change prior to Floor.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

## CHAIR FLORES:

We will open the hearing on S.B. 272.

**SENATE BILL 272**: Revises provisions relating to governmental administration. (BDR 27-876)

Senator Pat Spearman (Senatorial District No. 1): Senate Bill 272 continues my ongoing work for equity and equality.

Sections 1 through 4 of the bill require each State agency or local government, on or before September 1 of each year, to post in a conspicuous place and on its website: the total number of contracts and the total dollar amount of all contracts awarded by the State agency or local government during the immediate preceding fiscal year; and the total number of contracts and the total dollar amount of contracts awarded by the State agency or local government during the immediate preceding fiscal year to minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses and LGBTQ-owned-businesses.

Section 5 of the bill provides the measure is effective on July 1, 2023.

#### SENATOR DALY:

Information is not bad. I do not know what will be captured with some of it. I understand with NRS 332 and NRS 333, more information is gained. With NRS 338, agencies deal with prime contractors. Not much minority information will be captured with them. They are usually larger corporations. However, a few have Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) programs. I do not know how you drill down to get that information, but a lot of it is public. Essentially, you get the number of contracts and a dollar amount.

There is minority participation, but you do not capture anything on that. I do not know if that is a concern, but it would not be bad to see the number of contracts and the dollar amounts. It should be interesting information.

## SENATOR SPEARMAN:

We have to become more committed to increasing diversity because small businesses are minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned and LGBTQ-owned. If we never make sure there is some inclusion, it will never happen. It is my hope that we start. It may just be big contractors. However, somebody in the supply chain will need something a small business that could use the money may supply. Small businesses could have used the money during COVID-19. This is more than just a pipe dream. This is a challenge to figure out how we can include more diversity in our supply chain.

One of the reasons why there is talk at the national level about changing the way presidential elections are handled is because Nevada is looking like America. The question is whether we are treating the people who look like America equally, or are we doing the same thing, the same way all the time?

This is whatever we can capture. After that first year, we will look at it and see if it can be improved. But if we never start, it will never happen.

## SENATOR DALY:

I understand. The expectation on the information you are going to capture, at least on the public works part, is pretty narrow.

#### **SENATOR SPEARMAN:**

We can always amend it to say if a major corporation is doing the work, then how many people are on that job. We did that a couple of years ago for project labor agreements, so it is possible.

I understand what you are saying. Small businesses are withering on the vine because in Nevada they never get a chance to bid on the contracts. If we never start, it will never happen.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I am trying to understand this. A local government will review any performance contracts or whatever it issued the previous year by September 1. Will we have a box to check when a business applies? How do we know whether it is minority-owned? How will that be tracked?

## SENATOR SPEARMAN:

That would be tracked the way information is tracked now. Most of the time, a DBE will be identified as such. If they cannot figure that out, we can amend this to say ask the question, but most DBEs will be identified.

Small businesses, especially minority businesses, such as veteran-owned businesses, are woefully short when it comes to getting government contracts. Some of these veterans have been to combat protecting our right to do exactly what we do right here. We are not dodging bullets or having bombs fall on us. The veterans come back home and open up small businesses, but few people think to reach out and ask them for a contract. The other thing people could do is work with chambers of commerce. If companies are genuinely intent on diversity, equity and inclusion, reach out to those chambers because they will have members that will fit the bill. If a company cannot post the bond, they can always work under someone else.

Nevada is one of the most diverse states in the Country. We ought to be letting some of our community members who have businesses make sure they are sharing the pie.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I understand what you are saying. I am just trying to figure out how they are going to track it in the local government. Will they know who is bidding? They go to the low bidder.

#### SENATOR SPEARMAN:

I can amend the bill and put a box to check in the language. It should not cost anymore because almost everybody is using electronic forms.

## SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Maybe the businesses can check the box that they are minorities.

## SENATOR SPEARMAN:

That is a good suggestion.

SUSAN PROFFITT (Vice President, Nevada Republican Club):

I liked a lot of this bill, but I am sorry to say I cannot support it. I have a professional background that may explain why. I am an executive recruiter. I have placed many minorities over the years. I would say more frequently in the last 15 years.

In the first part of my career, there was a lot more discrimination. Whenever people are forced to make their hiring decisions based on identity, it shortchanges the department you put them in, the candidate and the people they are working with. You cannot always guarantee you are building a team that will thrive together.

Many things are considered when choosing a candidate. Their abilities and experience are not the only factors. In order for a department to be successful, you need teamwork, and that brings in personalities, likes and dislikes that affect a person's ability to function within a group. If you force employers to make decisions based on that and a small talent pool, which we have now, you are raising the stakes on a bad hire. The results are going to be mediocre at best if you have to settle to hire a specific minority. I shy away from ever doing that.

If we are trying to build a successful infrastructure in Nevada, we must be able to hire the best talent for the job and make sure they fit the existing team. That is the key. Otherwise, you are going to hire people who are going to disrupt each other. Of course, you can lay the groundwork for adding more minorities by the company culture that you develop as the hiring manager. That is key.

#### KATIF ROGERS:

I have to oppose this bill. I have a lot to do with diversity, equity and inclusion. The State needs to start going away from that. It is a \$3.4 billion industry that is starting to prove harmful more than anything. You need to look into that.

People are less likely to interact with other people who are of a different color, different races, different culture and other things because they are too afraid to offend somebody just by simple communication and social interaction.

One hires on merit and many other things. It does not have to be put into such a small box.

## **SENATOR SPEARMAN:**

When I was talking about diversity, I was not talking about hiring people specifically for their ethnicity or their gender. I am saying hire the best person, but do not let that be an impediment.

If I applied for a job, was interviewed and got the job, some might wonder if I am diversity hire. I can tell them no. I have bachelor's and master's degrees, a Ph.D., and a master's degree from the military. I happen to be a woman; I happen to be Black—but I am not a diversity hire. Qualifications, yes, but do not let those things that are external stop it.

#### CHAIR FLORES:

I will close the hearing on S.B. 272.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 272.

SENATOR KRASNER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### CHAIR FLORES:

I will open the hearing on S.B. 363.

SENATE BILL 363: Revises provisions relating to affordable housing. (BDR 25-1029)

SENATOR PAT SPEARMAN (Senatorial District No. 1):

<u>Senate Bill 363</u> authorizes the Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry to give priority to affordable housing projects that have preference for women who are veterans, previously incarcerated, survivors of domestic violence and elderly without stable or adequate living conditions. It enables the Housing Division to provide a preference in the Account for Affordable Housing Trust Funds (AAHTF). The AAHTF does not have such preferences.

In the Qualified Allocation Plan, there are nonprofit, geographic and U.S. Department of Agriculture rural development set-asides. This bill will also allow the Division to take advantage of that. Additionally, since 2019, there has been a veteran preference allowed in the bond program according to the IRS.

This is what the bill does. There is more information in the bill. It is only about two pages, and I would encourage your support.

PAUL CATHA (Culinary Workers Union Local 226): The Union supports S.B. 363.

#### SARAH ADLER:

I came here 43 years ago to help found Advocates to End Domestic Violence in Carson City. What strikes me as I continue to work in domestic violence is victims are economic hostages. The cost of housing and the access to housing makes them stay with their children in abusive environments. That group strongly needs assistance. It is the same with previously incarcerated women. Their access to housing is very difficult.

This bill is permissive so priority may be given. In affordable housing, those projects that end up using AAHTF are being built only by willing actors. It takes more money than what one gets out of the Trust Fund to make an affordable housing project work. You can have confidence that this priority, if used, will go to quality and sustainable projects.

## MENDY ELLIOTT (Nevada Housing Coalition):

Senator Spearman reached out to us today, and we provided some statistics. The AAHTF has between \$6 million and \$10 million a year. Millions of dollars' worth are being built. This bill only provides gap funding in the AAHTF. It gives the Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry the opportunity to provide a preference to those listed in S.B. 363.

ELYSE MONROY-MARSALA (Nevada Coalition to END Domestic and Sexual Violence):

Lditto Sarah Adler's remarks.

## **SENATOR SPEARMAN:**

Nevada has the most severe affordable housing shortage in the Country. Seniors represent 30 percent of our extremely low-income renters; 38 percent of all domestic violence victims will become homeless at some point in their lives. Once a victim survivor becomes unhoused, the risk for experiencing power-based violence significantly increases.

In fiscal year 2021-2022, supportive services for veterans' family programs assisted more than 71,300 veterans nationwide. Of those, 10,000, or 14 percent, were women veterans. According to the Housing Assistance Council, Nevada has over 270,000 veterans. Of those, nearly 7.6 percent live in poverty. Over 40,000 Nevada veterans are experiencing housing problems. I encourage you to support this bill. We are facing a problem. I always say if you do not face it, you cannot fix it. We are facing it. Let us fix it.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 363.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

Page 36	
CHAIR FLORES: The meeting of the Senate Committee 5:26 p.m.	on Government Affairs is adjourned at
	RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:
	Suzanne Efford, Committee Secretary
APPROVED BY:	
Senator Edgar Flores, Chair	
DATF:	

Senate Committee on Government Affairs

April 14, 2023

EXHIBIT SUMMARY					
Bill	Exhibit Letter	Introduced on Minute Report Page No.	Witness / Entity	Description	
	Α	1		Agenda	
	В	1		Attendance Roster	
S.B. 17	С	2	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 20	D	2	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 21	E	3	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 22	F	4	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 24	G	5	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 82	Н	6	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 83	I	6	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 92	J	7	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 94	K	9	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 105	L	10	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 143	М	11	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 155	N	12	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 184	0	13	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 185	Р	15	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 225	Q	16	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 226	R	16	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 226	S	17	Senator Edgar Flores	Letter of Opposition, Elko County Board of Commissioners	
S.B. 246	Т	17	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 247	U	18	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 262	V	18	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 271	W	19	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	
S.B. 299	Х	19	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document	

S.B. 301	Υ	20	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document
S.B. 305	Z	21	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document
S.B. 318	AA	21	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document
S.B. 320	AB	22	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document
S.B. 323	AC	22	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document
S.B. 371	AD	23	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document
S.B. 373	ΑE	24	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document
S.B. 384	AF	25	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document
S.B. 388	AG	26	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document
S.B. 391	АН	27	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document
S.B. 433	ΑI	27	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document
S.B. 433	AJ	28	Senator Edgar Flores	Letter of Opposition, Elko County Board of Commissioners
S.B. 434	AK	28	Jered McDonald	Work Session Document