

**EDITED TRANSCRIPTION OF TESTIMONY**  
**Interim Committee Training for New Legislators**  
**Tuesday, September 27, 2011**

Following is an edited transcript of the questions asked and answers given at the Interim Committee Training for New Legislators beginning at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 27, 2011.

Lorne J. Malkiewich, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), explained the purpose of the meeting, and gave an overview of the Interim Finance Committee and the Legislative Commission.

Assemblyman Peter Livermore: Regarding a funding request before the Interim Finance Committee, is there any cap to the amount of money that could be requested?

Mr. Malkiewich: As far as the contingency fund requests, the limit is the amount that's been appropriated to the Contingency Fund, and Interim Finance is careful about guarding that amount, trying to be careful that there is always enough in there for whatever emergency might arise down the road. Though the limit would be the amount that's in the Contingency Fund, as a practical matter, much, much smaller amounts are allocated. There is currently about \$7 million in the Contingency Fund.

Assemblyman Livermore: Work Programs. Those are work programs that have been authorized by the Legislature or those work programs that the Executive Branch has created, or Congress passed down to us?

Mr. Malkiewich: The work programs are part of the whole budget process. The entire budget process is subject to Chapter 353 of NRS, the State Budget Act. It provides for creating of the budget with work programs. So, each agency submits its budget and they have all work programs submitted through the Governor's proposed budget. The Ways and Means and Finance Committees review those budgets, close the budgets, and then generate total dollar numbers. In the Appropriations and Authorized Expenditures Act are total amounts that an agency can spend in each of the different categories, and total amounts that they are authorized for expenditure for purposes other than appropriations. But the Appropriations Act specifically says that the amounts that are appropriated must be spent in accordance with those work programs that were in the budget that was approved and any adjustments must be made in accordance with the State Budget Act, which means that those changes could only be made through the Board of Examiners and the Interim Finance Committee.

Linda J. Eissmann, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB, reviewed the purposes and types of interim committees.

Assemblyman Livermore: The bill drafts that the committees have are subject to the study at hand?

Ms. Eissmann: Yes.

Assemblyman Livermore: Is that stipulated by NRS or was that just an understanding of the legislative committees' rulings?

Mr. Malkiewich: I believe that it is right in the statute that it says that each interim study is allowed to request five measures within the jurisdiction of the committee. For the standing committees that are allowed to request bills in the interim, it says within the jurisdiction of the committee. It would be a vote of the committee to request legislation. As a practical matter, a committee studying a particular issue is going to request bill drafts in that area.

Marji Paslov Thomas, Principal Research Analyst, LCB, discussed what to expect during the interim committee process.

Assemblyman Livermore: Are previous minutes of those meetings also on the webpage?

Ms. Paslov Thomas: They are.

Mr. Malkiewich reviewed the points discussed by Assemblywoman Debbie Smith at the previous Interim Committee Training meetings regarding interim committees and their importance, since Assemblywoman Smith was unable to be present at this training meeting.

Assemblyman Livermore: A study committee presents its reports to the Assembly or the Senate, as a whole. Am I correct?

Mr. Malkiewich: The study committee presents its report to the Legislative Commission which oversees all these. So they report to the Commission. The report is then transmitted to the Legislature along with the bills.

Assemblyman Livermore: And they're presented by the chairperson?

Mr. Malkiewich: As a general rule, the chair is the one who will be responsible, but sometimes the chair doesn't return. Sometimes the chair is busy with other issues and one of the members of the committee or one of the members of the House who is very interested in the issue will take the lead. The chair is the one who should try and make sure that those bills are taken care of, though.

Michael J. Stewart, Supervising Principal Research Analyst, LCB, reviewed Nevada's Open Meeting Law and its application during the legislative interim.

Tammy Koon, Principal Account Clerk, Human Resources/Accounting Unit, Administrative Division, LCB, discussed legislators' compensation.

Donald O. Williams, Research Director, LCB, reviewed the staff services available to legislators during the interim.

Brenda J. Erdoes, Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB, outlined the Legal Services Division and the services it provides to the legislators.

Sara L. Partida, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB, discussed the Legal Division's duties during the interim to prepare for the next legislative session.

Paul T. Mouritsen, Manager, Constituent Services Unit, Research Division, LCB, outlined how the Constituent Services Unit can assist legislators during the interim.

Kay Graves, Research Analyst, CSU, Research Division, LCB, reviewed the Legislators' Back-to-School Program, which she coordinates.

Assemblyman  
Livermore:           Mr. Malkiewich, I don't have any questions. Just a couple of statements. You know, from my very first day of orientation through the three cycles that you took us through, to interim committees right now, I find the legislative staff to be very informative, and very available and I appreciate that from my perspective as a legislator. So, I just want to compliment you and the staff that participated in this training today. It was very informative to me.