



**NEVADA LEGISLATURE'S
COMMITTEE TO CONSULT WITH THE DIRECTOR**
(Nevada Revised Statutes 218E.225)

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The third meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Committee to Consult with the Director was held on Monday, December 22, 2014, at 1 p.m. 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. A copy of this set of "Summary Minutes and Action Report," including the "Meeting Notice and Agenda" (Exhibit A) and other substantive exhibits, is available on the Nevada Legislature's website at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/interim/77th2013/committee/>. In addition, copies of the audio or video record are available through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (e-mail: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775/684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams, Chair
Senator Ben Kieckhefer
Senator James A. Settelmeyer
Senator Debbie Smith
Assemblyman Elliot T. Anderson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Senator Moises (Mo) Denis
Senator David R. Parks
Senator Michael Roberson
Senator Tick Segerblom
Assemblyman Paul D. Anderson
Assemblyman Richard Carrillo
Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Assemblyman Pat Hickey
Assemblyman Randy Kirner

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Richard S. Combs, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB)
Brenda J. Erdoes, Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
H. Pepper Sturm, Director, Research Division
Dan Dalluhn, Unit Chief, Broadcast and Production Services (BPS)
Jeff Loflin, Supervisor, BPS
Sylvia A. Wiese, Executive Assistant, Director's Office, Administrative Division
Gayle Nadeau, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

AGENDA ITEM I—PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Bustamante Adams called for public comment; however, no testimony was presented.

AGENDA ITEM II—APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 26, 2014, MEETING

MOTION: Senator Settelmeyer moved to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2014, meeting held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The motion was seconded by Assemblyman Elliot Anderson and passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM III—PREPARATION FOR THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

A. Report Regarding the New Legislator Training Program for the 2015 Legislative Session

Richard S. Combs, previously identified, reported on the first two phases of the 2015 New Legislator Training Program (NLTP). He said the orientation phase, conducted on November 12, 13, and 14, 2014, had 17 new legislators in attendance, and the issue briefs phase, conducted on December 3 and 10, 2014, added one newly appointed legislator. Mr. Combs stated all new legislators would attend the academy phase scheduled for January 14, 15, and 16, 2015.

Mr. Combs shared that all participants in the 2015 NLTP will be asked to fill out surveys of their impressions of the Program, and LCB staff will compile the results and use the feedback when planning the 2017 Program.

Chair Bustamante Adams asked whether new legislators who missed portions of the Program would have an opportunity to complete all the phases.

Mr. Combs responded that statute requires a video recording of all the training sessions, so members who were unable to attend a segment can listen and view the missed phase or phases.

B. Report Regarding Use of Office Space in Suite 4000 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building

(This agenda item was taken out of order.)

Mr. Combs reported that Suite 4000 in the Grant Sawyer State Office Building (GSSOB) in Las Vegas was acquired by the Legislature after the 2011 Session. If LCB's budget is approved during the 2015 Session, a permanent office will be constructed in this suite for a Research Division Constituent Services Unit analyst now working in a modular office in the building.

Mr. Combs shared that a representative of the Office of the State Treasurer (OST) contacted him regarding exchanging Suite 4000 for an office occupied by OST in a different location of

the GSSOB because the suite is next to another OST office. He noted an exchange of space would be impractical until after the 2015 Session. Mr. Combs explained that one of the disadvantages to an exchange is the significant investment already expended by LCB to install the infrastructure in Suite 4000 specific to the needs of using that space. Additionally, he noted that he would like to develop a master plan to fully utilize the space in Suite 4000 and implement the plan as funding becomes available.

Senator Denis commented on the disadvantage of exchanging Suite 4000 with OST because of the substantial expenditure by LCB to set up this office space for its staff. He also noted that the office OST is proposing to exchange is not contiguous with LCB's current offices in the GSSOB.

Mr. Combs affirmed the drawback of the noncontiguous space and that a reimbursement of funds expended by LCB by OST would need to be negotiated if there were an exchange of office space. Furthermore, he noted that trading offices would result in a loss of square footage for LCB, and any return on investment by OST would come from the State General Fund or one of OST's programs. Mr. Combs opined exchanging offices must benefit LCB to be considered. He shared he would meet with the State Treasurer to discuss specifics of OST's proposal, and he asked Committee members for their thoughts prior to this meeting.

C. Report Regarding Bill Draft Requests Submitted and Bills Prefiled for the 2015 Legislative Session

Brenda J. Erdoes, previously identified, provided statistics regarding prefiled bills for the 2015 Legislative Session, as of the December 20, 2014, deadline, and bill draft request (BDR) quotas:

- Assembly—90 (of which 80 were agency bills); and
- Senate—93 (of which 81 were agency bills), plus 3 resolutions.

For comparison, she reported that 67 Assembly bills and 67 Senate bills, with 1 resolution, were prefiled by the December 20, 2012, deadline for the 2013 Session.

Ms. Erdoes offered a brief history of prefiling bills and BDR quotas noting that *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) previously allowed only legislators to prefile bills, which limited the number, and the approach was not well received. During the 2009 Session, Chapter 218D ("Legislative Measures and Procedures") of NRS was amended to require all nonlegislator BDRs be prefiled by December 15 prior to each legislative session. She said December 20, 2014, was the deadline for the 2015 Session. The remaining prefiled bills are those of legislators and legislative committees, and by statute, legislators and legislative committees have priority over nonlegislators for having measures drafted by the LCB Legal Division. Ms. Erdoes noted that after the 2009 Session, BDR quotas were reduced for the December deadline for legislators and nonlegislators.

Assemblyman Elliot Anderson queried Ms. Erdoes about the number of committee prefiled bills and whether there was a pattern.

Ms. Erdoes responded that bills must be split randomly between the respective committees in each house so the total is within one of each other. She reported the Senate and Assembly Committees on Judiciary received the most bills, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Energy; the Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor; and the Senate and Assembly Committees on Government Affairs referred the next highest, respectively.

Assemblyman Carrillo asked whether the Legal Division had a breakdown for the number of personal bills requested by legislators in the Senate and Assembly as of the December 20, 2014, deadline.

Ms. Erdoes replied that specific data is not something the Legal Division has tracked, but she could provide those numbers. She noted the total BDRs as of the December 20 deadline was 935, with 160 from the Executive Branch and the remaining 775 from legislators.

UPDATE REGARDING ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE AUGUST 26, 2014, MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

A. Proposed 120-Day Calendar

Richard S. Combs, previously identified, shared there would be a delay in printing the proposed 120-day calendar in case changes in the deadlines are proposed by leadership. He anticipated it would be printed by the first week of January 2015.

B. Proposal to Designate a Room in the Legislative Building for Media Interviews

Mr. Combs provided a brief overview of Senator Segerblom's request from the Committee's August 26, 2014, meeting to designate a room in the Legislative Building for media interviews. He reminded the Committee that one suggestion at that meeting was to check whether the Guinn Media Room in Nevada's capitol building might be available for use by legislators for broadcasting interviews. Unfortunately, Mr. Combs reported that using the Guinn Room is not currently an option because the satellite system in the room is not operable. Based on this finding, he said BPS has several alternative options for the Committee's consideration.

Dan Dalluhn, previously identified, offered introductory comments and explained the alternatives to having a specific room in the Legislative Building designated for legislators to use for media communications.

Mr. Dalluhn said the most expensive option is a permanent uplink satellite system. He shared that Jeff Loflin, previously identified, contacted the Nevada Broadcasters Association (NBA) for pricing and was told the system would cost approximately \$750,000—plus additional expenditures for local permits, waivers, ongoing expenses, and training. Polling calls were

made to various outlets of the NBA, and feedback indicated that stations without a physical presence at the Legislature during sessions were able to facilitate coverage of “interest” issues through sister stations having a presence at the Legislature during sessions. Spanish stations contacted had similar responses.

Mr. Dalluhn shared another option for media interviews of legislators is Internet podcasts (a digital audio file made available on the Internet), which avoid additional legislative expenditures since legislators’ laptops are used. Media outlets could have access to weekly “podcasts.” Additionally, depending on the technology of media outlets, he said legislators could use an interface such as Skype or Google+ to facilitate audio and video interviews because the legislators’ laptops have built-in cameras and microphones.

Supplementing the Internet podcasts, Mr. Dalluhn said BPS can set up internal videoconferences for legislators and news crews via the Legislature’s videoconferencing capabilities between the Legislative Building and the GSSOB, as well as other venues in the State such as Great Basin College in Elko, Nevada.

Mr. Dalluhn explained an additional medium available for legislators to access media outlets during sessions in the Legislative Building is broadcast press conferences that BPS can facilitate in various locations within the Legislative Building, such as in hallways; in conference, meeting, or caucus rooms; and the Senate or Assembly Chambers. This approach would be resource-based depending on the availability of BPS staff and equipment, as only the BPS staff would be allowed to operate the equipment for this option.

Mr. Combs commented on the feasibility of the videoconference approach between Carson City and Las Vegas, as has been done in past sessions, and the option to have the LCB Information Technology Services Unit (ITS) augment legislators’ laptops to interface with Skype and Google+ for Internet podcasts.

Mr. Combs expressed his support for legislators scheduling media broadcasts in the Legislative Building with BPS handling the setup and operating the equipment; however, he cautioned that using this option would need to be infrequent because BPS’s primary responsibility is to ensure legislative meetings are covered.

Mr. Combs said these options do not resolve the issue of whether a specified room in the Legislative Building should be set up to broadcast legislator interviews to media outlets around the State. He said using the resources currently available, though, would serve as a trial approach during the 2015 Session to enable communications from legislators to their constituents. Director Combs stated if numerous requests are made during the upcoming session for high-quality equipment broadcasts facilitated by BPS staff, he would revisit the suggestion for a dedicated media room in the Legislative Building during the next interim.

Senator Segerblom queried whether the \$750,000 estimate for a satellite system might be expected to cost less in the future as improvements in technology are developed.

Mr. Dalluhn responded he could not speculate because he did not know the original cost of the system in the Guinn Media Room. He offered to get information on whether the cost of satellite systems are going up or down.

Discussion ensued between Senator Segerblom and Mr. Combs regarding establishing a specific media room in the Legislative Building after the 2015 Session and assigning a BPS staff member to operate the equipment.

Senator Denis inquired about the speed of connecting to the Internet in the Legislative Building to ensure it has sufficient bandwidth to handle multiple users connecting to various media outlets.

Responding, Mr. Dalluhn said it was his understanding that ITS will be increasing the bandwidth for the 2015 Session.

Assemblyman Elliot Anderson opined Senator Segerblom's goal for a media center in the Legislative Building is commendable and queried whether any of the media representatives contacted by BPS staff offered input on how BPS could improve accessibility in the building to the various media outlets in the State.

Mr. Loflin responded that representatives he spoke with did not mention any barriers to getting events covered during legislative sessions because a sister station in the north would assist in relaying news to southern Nevada media outlets without a physical presence in the Legislative Building. He averred all the representatives he spoke to were pleased to be called, and contact information was shared to enable communications with BPS in the future.

Chair Bustamante Adams called Brenda J. Erdoes, previously identified, back for follow-up testimony regarding Assemblyman Carrillo's inquiry about the number of personal bill drafts requested by legislators as of the December 20, 2014, deadline.

Ms. Erdoes reported that of the 936 BDR requests, 273 were from Assembly members, and 295 were from Senators. Ms. Erdoes also said there were 47 BDRs from Assembly standing committees and 53 from Senate standing committees.

C. Upgrades to Monitors and Cameras in Rooms 4401 and 4412 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building

Mr. Combs testified that since the August 26, 2014, meeting of the Committee, new monitors and cameras were installed in the GSSOB. However, the audiovisual control software did not interface well with the new cameras. As a result, BPS will have its software engineer address this issue. Once the engineer has the problem resolved, the cameras will be tested during the 2015 Session.

Mr. Combs explained that BPS proposes a rotational replacement cycle to implement during interim periods for cameras and other related equipment. Additionally, the Legislative

Commission, at its meeting on December 22, 2014, approved submitting a request to the Office of the Governor to use money from the Legislative Fund for BPS upgrades.

D. Plan to Improve Visibility of Signage in the Parking Garage for the Legislative Building

Mr. Combs reported that the new signage for the parking garage was delivered and all signage will be installed by the first day of the 2015 Session. Also, signage will be ordered for the new legislators appointed to serve the terms of several legislators who resigned since the 2014 General Election.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Bustamante Adams called for public comment; however, no testimony was presented.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle Nadeau
Senior Research Secretary

Richard S. Combs
Director

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams, Chair

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit A is the “Meeting Notice and Agenda,” provided by Richard S. Combs, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

This set of “Summary Minutes and Action Report” is supplied as an informational service. Exhibits in electronic format may not be complete. Copies of the complete exhibits and other materials distributed at the meeting are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library online at www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm or telephone: 775/684-6827.