

NEVADA LEGISLATURE

Thirty-First Special Session, 2020

ASSEMBLY DAILY JOURNAL

THE SEVENTH DAY

CARSON CITY (Tuesday), July 14, 2020

Assembly called to order at 3:13 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Richard Snyder.

Gracious and loving God, thank You for giving us another day. Protect the members and staff of the Nevada Assembly with Your Spirit of healing, renewal, and comfort. As the members face the issues pressing upon the people of Nevada, may they see signs of progress and hope. Give them wisdom, patience, and insight so that all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

AMEN.

Pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

Assemblyman Yeager moved that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with and the Speaker and Chief Clerk be authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

Motion carried.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

By the Committee of the Whole:

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 1—Urging the President and Congress of the United States to provide flexible funding for state, local and tribal governments to account for anticipated public budget shortfalls as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resolution read.

Remarks by Assemblymen Watts and Titus.

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS:

Assembly Joint Resolution 1 urges the President and Congress of the United States to provide flexible funding for state, local, and tribal governments to account for anticipated public budget shortfalls as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nevada is once again at the epicenter of a national economic downturn. Over the last days, we have heard about the grim fiscal situation that we find ourselves in due to forces outside of our

control. We know that the proposed cuts, or any solution based on cuts, is balanced on the backs of the least fortunate among us: our children, our seniors, our sick and ailing, our workers, rural or urban, in every single district that we represent. Raising revenue is also an option, and I do not think it surprises anybody that I am ready for that conversation. But I think we can all agree that a special session is a less than ideal setting for these deliberations. But there is a third option, because unlike Nevada, which must balance its budget, the federal government can provide relief to us. They have already passed the CARES Act and it certainly helped us with the direct response to COVID-19. But we need flexible relief to help us meet our budget challenges and we need it now.

By comparison, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act helped with the response to the Great Recession to the tune of about \$140 billion to fill critical deficits, particularly in education and health care which we know are particularly at risk now. By comparison, the CARES Act sent only \$150 billion to the states and it was specifically geared toward confronting the pandemic on the ground. Now in Washington the House has passed The HEROES Act [Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act] back on May 15. Now I do not know about all of you, but to me a month ago seems like forever. Unfortunately, it has not been taken up in the United States Senate, and neither Majority Leader McConnell nor President Trump have offered a counter proposal to bring us closer to a solution. In fact, the Majority Leader at one point implied that states should simply go bankrupt if they cannot bear the burden of this budget crisis. Can you imagine that, based on the conversations that we have all had?

This conversation is not just happening here in the State Legislature. It is happening in states, in local governments, and in tribal governments all across the country. I think it is time for us to send a clear message to Washington that we need more assistance. I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution unanimously and send Nevada's clear unified voice to the federal government to step up.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

I rise in support of Assembly Joint Resolution 1. Yesterday we received a press release from the Executive Branch detailing the amount of federal funding we have received to date to help with of the COVID-19 pandemic. It stated, and I quote, "Federal funding has been distributed throughout Nevada from the CARES Act to address public health needs and to fund state and local government programs for children, families, seniors, law enforcement, and health care providers". It goes on to list \$1 billion for health care associated costs; and an additional \$100 million in federal appropriations and grant funding since this crisis, and another \$1.2 billion for the Coronavirus Relief Fund. As of July 8, President Trump has provided Nevada a running total from all federal sources of \$13 billion. Thirteen billion has come from our President to our state.

We have heard in budget hearings that have identified a \$1.3 billion shortfall for the state of Nevada. The budget we passed last session was \$8.876 billion, which was \$857 million higher than the budget we passed in the previous session. The education budget was \$183 million higher than the previous biennium, and health and human services was \$261 million higher. Additionally, we passed 28 new offices or departments last session.

Adding to the problem we find ourselves in has been the lack of communication and transparency on budgets that has prevented us from making responsible budget cut proposals. Due to the lack of predictability of this virus, it is almost impossible to predict supply and demand trends. We are also hearing there may be millions of dollars of funds that have been lost to fraud. If there was ever a time for transparency, I urge this state, all of our branches, to have accountability measures and transparency. We need it now.

My fellow legislators, President Trump has been more than generous to Nevada—\$13 billion so far. If our President blesses us with additional federal funding, I hope that we use it in the most responsible and transparent way possible. I am going to be voting yes on this resolution because I have faith and trust in our great President to continue to negotiate a bipartisan solution that will be in the best interests of Nevada.

Roll call on Assembly Joint Resolution No. 1:

YEAS—42.

NAYS—None.

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 1 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. Speaker declared it passed.

Resolution ordered transmitted to the Senate.

Mr. Speaker announced if there were no objections, the Assembly would recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Assembly in recess at 3:27 p.m.

ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Quorum present.

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

SENATE CHAMBER, Carson City, July 14, 2020

To the Honorable the Assembly:

I have the honor to inform your honorable body that the Senate on this day passed Assembly Joint Resolution No. 1.

Also, I have the honor to inform your honorable body that the Senate on this day passed, as amended, Senate Bill No. 4.

SHERRY RODRIGUEZ
Assistant Secretary of the Senate

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

Senate Bill No. 4.

Assemblyman Yeager moved that the bill be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Motion carried.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Assemblyman Yeager moved the Assembly resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering Senate Bill No. 4.

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN SESSION

At 7:07 p.m.

Chair Frierson presiding.

Quorum present.

Senate Bill No. 4 considered.

(REMARKS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL JOURNAL.)

Assemblyman Yeager moved to do pass Senate Bill No. 4.

Assemblyman Watts seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

On motion of Assemblyman Yeager, the Committee did rise and report back to the Assembly.

ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 7:33 p.m.
Mr. Speaker presiding.
Quorum present.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee of the Whole, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 4, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

JASON FRIERSON, *Chair*

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Assemblyman Yeager moved that Senate Bill No. 4 be taken from its position on the General File and placed at the top of the General File.

Motion carried.

GENERAL FILE AND THIRD READING

Senate Bill No. 4.

Bill read third time.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 4:

YEAS—42.

NAYS—None.

Senate Bill No. 4 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. Speaker declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Senate.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Assemblyman Yeager moved that Assembly Bill No. 1 be taken from the General File and placed on the General File for the next legislative day.

Motion carried.

REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR

Assemblyman Yeager moved that the Assembly adjourn until Wednesday, July 15, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

Motion carried.

Assembly adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Approved:

JASON FRIERSON
Speaker of the Assembly

Attest: SUSAN FURLONG
Chief Clerk of the Assembly