

THE THIRTY-EIGHTH DAY

CARSON CITY (Wednesday), March 11, 2015

Assembly called to order at 12:21 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Roll called.

All present except Assemblywoman Dooling who was excused.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Pastor Al Tilstra.

Almighty God, the giver of true freedom, awaken in us a new appreciation for our nation and our state, that we may apply ourselves to keeping alive a real sense of liberty.

Thank You for our nation's founders, their ideals, their principles, and their sacrifices. Thank You, Lord, for the long progression of statesmen and patriots who have guarded our rights and healed our land.

We thank You for the members of this Assembly, the staff who serve behind the scenes and work into the evening sustaining our well-being. In an hour where great issues are at stake, may those who serve rise to meet the challenges and strive to be faithful.

We pray in Your Holy Name.

AMEN.

Pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

Assemblyman Paul Anderson 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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Government Affairs, to which was referred Assembly Bill No. 190, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Without recommendation, and rerefer to the Committee on Ways and Means.

JOHN C. ELLISON, *Chair*

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

SENATE CHAMBER, Carson City, March 10, 2015

To the Honorable the Assembly:

I have the honor to inform your honorable body that the Senate on this day passed Senate Bills Nos. 145, 156, 188.

SHERRY RODRIGUEZ
Assistant Secretary of the Senate

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

By Assemblymen Titus, Dooling, Jones, Dickman, Hickey, O'Neill, Oscarson, Shelton, Silberkraus and Wheeler; Senators Hardy, Goicoechea and Gustavson:

Assembly Bill No. 248—AN ACT relating to public health; authorizing physicians, under certain circumstances, to report to the Department of Motor

Vehicles certain information regarding patients who have epilepsy; abolishing certain duties of physicians to report certain patient information; requiring physicians to inform certain patients with epilepsy of the dangers of operating a motor vehicle; providing that certain reports and statements provided to the Department concerning patients with epilepsy are not subject to the doctor-patient privilege under certain circumstances; providing that a cause of action may not be brought against a physician for failing to report such information to the Department; providing that a cause of action may not be brought against a physician for reporting certain information regarding patients who have epilepsy to the Department except in certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Titus moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Wheeler, O'Neill, Dickman, Gardner, Hambrick, Dooling, Ellison, Hickey, Shelton and Titus:

Assembly Bill No. 249—AN ACT relating to local governments; requiring that a copy of a proposed collective bargaining agreement or similar agreement of a local government employer be made available to the public before its approval by the governing body of the local government; revising the process of fact-finding and arbitration following an impasse in bargaining; removing a portion of the budgeted ending fund balance of the general fund of a local government from the scope of collective bargaining and from consideration by a fact finder or arbitrator; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblyman Wheeler moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Transportation:

Assembly Bill No. 250—AN ACT relating to special license plates; revising provisions relating to disabled veterans who are entitled to special license plates; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblyman Wheeler moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Transportation.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Transportation:

Assembly Bill No. 251—AN ACT relating to vehicle dealers; revising provisions relating to used vehicle dealers; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblyman Wheeler moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Transportation.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections:

Assembly Bill No. 252—AN ACT relating to elections; creating the Legislative Advisory Commission on Reapportionment and Redistricting to assist the Legislature with reapportionment; requiring the Advisory Commission to meet by a specified time after each decennial census to develop proposed reapportionment plans for congressional districts, state legislative districts, state election districts for the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada and certain other state election districts; authorizing the Legislative Commission to convene the Advisory Commission under certain circumstances if there is a need to develop new reapportionment plans; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblyman Stewart moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections:

Assembly Bill No. 253—AN ACT relating to elections; requiring, with limited exceptions, proof of identity for voting in person; requiring the Department of Motor Vehicles, under certain circumstances, to issue voter identification cards at no cost; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblyman Stewart moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections.

Motion carried.

By Assemblywoman Spiegel:

Assembly Bill No. 254—AN ACT relating to common-interest communities; revising provisions relating to the authority of a unit-owners' association to enter a unit in certain circumstances; revising provisions relating to the procedure for electing an executive board of an association; revising provisions concerning the transfer of special declarant's rights in certain circumstances; requiring an association to maintain directors and officers liability insurance; revising the process by which financial statements of certain associations are reviewed or audited; revising provisions concerning the liens of associations on units; revising various provisions concerning the mediation and arbitration of certain civil actions relating to residential property within common-interest communities; exempting homeowners' associations that qualify as a tax-exempt organization under federal law from the requirement to submit an annual claim to the Secretary of State for an exemption from obtaining a state business license; authorizing a unit's owner in a common-interest community to whom a parking space has been assigned to have a vehicle towed which is parked in an unauthorized manner in the assigned parking space; repealing provisions concerning the program established by the Real Estate Division of the Department of Business and Industry to which certain civil actions

relating to residential property within common-interest communities are referred; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Spiegel moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman Hansen:

Assembly Bill No. 255—AN ACT relating to occupational safety; providing for the award of certain costs, fees and expenses to prevailing parties in actions before the Occupational Safety and Health Review Board under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblyman Hansen moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman Carrillo:

Assembly Bill No. 256—AN ACT relating to automotive repairs; prohibiting a garage operator from selling or transferring, without the consent of the customer, certain personal and vehicular information of the customer to another person for the purpose of marketing extended vehicle warranties; revising the provisions of the Nevada Automotive Repair Customer Bill of Rights; providing civil and criminal penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblyman Carrillo moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Transportation.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Edwards and Elliot Anderson:

Assembly Bill No. 257—AN ACT relating to economic development; establishing the Nevada Defense Support Committee within the Governor's Office of Economic Development; setting forth the composition and duties of the Committee; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblyman Edwards moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Motion carried.

By Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams:

Assembly Bill No. 258—AN ACT relating to securities; providing for an exemption from the requirement to register for certain offerings for the sale of securities made through certain Internet websites; establishing certain requirements relating to an issuer of a security who qualifies for such an exemption; providing for the registration of certain operators of Internet websites who post offerings for the sale of securities not required to be registered; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman Elliot Anderson:

Assembly Bill No. 259—AN ACT relating to real property; revising provisions governing the parties required to attend mediation concerning the exercise of the power of sale under a deed of trust securing owner-occupied property; revising provisions governing the foreclosure by sale of a homeowners' association's lien on a unit to require mediation under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblyman Elliot Anderson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman Ohrenschall:

Assembly Bill No. 260—AN ACT relating to youthful offenders; requiring, under certain circumstances, a person who is less than 18 years of age and who is sentenced to a term of imprisonment in the state prison to serve the term in a state juvenile detention facility until he or she reaches the age of 18 years; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblyman Ohrenschall moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Ohrenschall and Stewart; Senator Atkinson:

Assembly Bill No. 261—AN ACT relating to local governments; authorizing boards of county commissioners and governing bodies of incorporated cities to enact ordinances establishing programs for the managed care of feral cat colonies; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblyman Ohrenschall moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

By Assemblyman Ohrenschall:

Assembly Bill No. 262—AN ACT relating to criminal procedure; revising provisions concerning the withdrawal of certain pleas after sentence is imposed or imposition of sentence is suspended; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblyman Ohrenschall moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Stewart, Munford, Silberkraus and Woodbury:

Assembly Bill No. 263—AN ACT relating to domestic relations; repealing certain provisions relating to the custody of children and enacting certain

similar provisions relating to the custody of children; prohibiting a parent with primary or joint physical custody of a child from relocating with the child outside this State or to certain locations within this State without the written consent of the noncustodial parent or the permission of the court as the circumstances require; authorizing a non-relocating parent to recover reasonable attorney's fees and costs in certain circumstances; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblyman Stewart moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Spiegel and Ohrenschall:

Assembly Bill No. 264—AN ACT relating to residential real estate transactions; prohibiting a real estate licensee or property manager from advertising or listing for sale or rental certain residential properties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Spiegel moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Ways and Means:

Assembly Bill No. 265—AN ACT making a supplemental appropriation to the Nevada Supreme Court for unexpected expenses related to the Commission on Judicial Selection; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblyman Paul Anderson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Motion carried.

Senate Bill No. 145.

Assemblyman Paul Anderson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Transportation.

Motion carried.

Senate Bill No. 156.

Assemblyman Paul Anderson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Transportation.

Motion carried.

Senate Bill No. 188.

Assemblyman Paul Anderson moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Transportation.

Motion carried.

SECOND READING AND AMENDMENT

Assembly Bill No. 58.

Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

Senate Bill No. 115.

Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Assemblyman Paul Anderson moved that Initiative Petitions Nos. 1 and 2 be taken from the General File and be placed on the Chief Clerk's desk.

Motion carried.

Assemblyman Paul Anderson moved that Assembly Bill No. 41 be taken from the General File and placed on the General File for the next legislative day.

GENERAL FILE AND THIRD READING

Assembly Bill No. 11.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Assemblymen Gardner, Ohrenschall, and Hansen.

ASSEMBLYMAN GARDNER:

Assembly Bill 11 revises the time frame the Division of Parole and Probation of the Department of Public Safety must disclose the factual content of any presentence investigation report and the recommendations of the Division to the prosecuting attorney, the counsel for the defendant, the defendant, and the court. The bill changes the time frame from not later than 21 working days to not later than 14 calendar days before the defendant will be sentenced, unless the defendant waives this minimum period.

ASSEMBLYMAN OHRENSCHALL:

I rise in opposition to Assembly Bill 11. There was a lot of testimony and a lot of good questions in your Committee on Judiciary, but I have to urge the body to defeat this bill. My concern with this bill is that by shortening the time that someone has to go over the presentence investigation report with their defense attorney, we really are putting a lot of things in jeopardy. The Nevada Supreme Court opined in the Stockmeier decision that once a defendant is sentenced, that presentence investigation report cannot be corrected, and there are all sorts of collateral consequences when there is an error in a presentence investigation report. A defendant may be incorrectly alleged to have been part of a gang when that is not true. A weapon may have been alleged to have been carried when that may not be true. Unfortunately, what the Supreme Court has told us is that, after that sentencing, there is no fixing it, and that may jeopardize the time a person may be able to get on parole, return to their family, get back to being a productive citizen, and no longer have us supporting them at one of our NDOC [Nevada Department of Corrections] facilities.

Mr. Speaker, we try to pass bills that achieve efficiency, but sometimes we pass bills that have unintended consequences, and I fear that this bill will have many unintended consequences on the poorest of our defendants: those who are indigent, those whose attorneys have very high caseloads, and those who oftentimes must be contacted by their attorney at a county jail. There are often a lot of hurdles that arise; jails can be on lockdown, phones can be inoperative, and it is difficult for that public defender or appointed counsel for the indigent client to be able to reach their attorney. Mr. Speaker, I cannot urge this body enough to defeat this measure.

ASSEMBLYMAN HANSEN:

I rise in support of Assembly Bill 11. We did hear it in our committee. It was thoroughly vetted. Perhaps the most interesting piece of information was the discovery that the public defenders typically—after having a survey of over 300 people who had been serviced by them—typically meet with them less than 48 hours prior to the actual hearing. That was probably the most critical piece of information that we had. After hearing from Parole and Probation and everyone else, this is a very reasonable compromise. We went from having 21 working days to

14 days. That will save the state money and will actually improve the performance of the Parole and Probation people as they try to address some of these concerns. We are absolutely and totally interested in protecting the most poor and those who may not be served as efficiently as possible. We want to make sure that those folks are properly cared for within a reasonable amount of time. This bill, in fact, does that.

Roll call on Assembly Bill No. 11:

YEAS—24.

NAYS—Elliot Anderson, Araujo, Benitez-Thompson, Bustamante Adams, Carlton, Carrillo, Diaz, Flores, Joiner, Kirkpatrick, Munford, Neal, Ohrenschall, Spiegel, Sprinkle, Swank, Thompson—17.

EXCUSED—Dooling.

Assembly Bill No. 11 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. Speaker declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Senate.

Assembly Bill No. 28.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Assemblywoman Titus.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS:

Assembly Bill 28 requires the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman to develop a training course that encourages long-term care facilities to allow residents to follow their own routines and make their own decisions concerning the daily activities in which they participate. The training course is to be made available to officers, directors, and employees of long-term care facilities. The bill also requires the Ombudsman to provide this training to advocates who assist the Ombudsman.

As the Chief of Staff of South Lyon Medical Center and also the medical director for our long-term care facility, we have already started being patient advocates and making sure that patients can follow their daily activities, as they did when they were in their home. What this bill does is give an avenue and assistance to other facilities who perhaps do not know how to do that. It is a partnership of those facilities for the patients in the state, so I am in strong support of this bill.

Roll call on Assembly Bill No. 28:

YEAS—41.

NAYS—None.

EXCUSED—Dooling.

Assembly Bill No. 28 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. Speaker declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Senate.

Assembly Bill No. 45.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Assemblyman Ohrenschall.

ASSEMBLYMAN OHRENSCHALL:

Assembly Bill 45 eliminates the current requirement that an assessment of the risk of a prisoner who has been convicted of a sexual offense to reoffend in a sexual manner return a risk level of either low, moderate, or high. Instead, the bill requires that the assessment include a determination of the prisoner's level of risk to reoffend in a sexual manner, including, without limitation, whether the prisoner is a high risk to reoffend in a sexual manner.

Roll call on Assembly Bill No. 45:

YEAS—41.

NAYS—None.

EXCUSED—Dooling.

Assembly Bill No. 45 having received a constitutional majority,
Mr. Speaker declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Senate.

Assembly Bill No. 63.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Assemblyman Trowbridge.

ASSEMBLYMAN TROWBRIDGE:

Assembly Bill 63 clarifies that if a candidate for elective office ends a campaign without officially withdrawing his or her candidacy and subsequently is elected to office, the candidate must resume filing campaign contribution and expenditure reports starting with the next report due after the election to office. The bill is to be effective July 1, 2015.

Roll call on Assembly Bill No. 63:

YEAS—41.

NAYS—None.

EXCUSED—Dooling.

Assembly Bill No. 63 having received a constitutional majority,
Mr. Speaker declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Senate.

Assembly Bill No. 70.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Assemblymen Trowbridge and Ohrenschall.

Potential conflict of interest declared by Assemblyman Ohrenschall.

ASSEMBLYMAN TROWBRIDGE:

Assembly Bill 70 provides for administrative and enforcement provisions related to the excise taxes on the sale of marijuana, edible marijuana products, and marijuana-infused products by medical marijuana establishments that were originally approved by the Legislature in Senate Bill 374 of the 2013 Session. The administrative provisions contained within this bill are similar to currently existing provisions used by the Department of Taxation for other taxes and fees currently administered by the Department.

Assembly Bill 70 additionally removes provisions requiring the Department of Taxation to periodically review the excise tax rate and to provide recommendations to the Legislature relating to adjustments to the rate. This act becomes effective July 1, 2015.

ASSEMBLYMAN OHRENSCHALL:

I need to make a disclosure related to A.B. 70. Because we are considering Assembly Bill 70, which makes changes related to the taxation of marijuana through the marijuana dispensaries, I would like to advise the body that my spouse is employed lobbying on behalf of a marijuana dispensary association. Although Assembly Bill 70 does not affect her clients any differently than any other dispensary owners, I am making this disclosure, and I am abstaining from voting on A.B. 70 out of an abundance of caution.

Roll call on Assembly Bill No. 70:

YEAS—21.

NAYS—Elliot Anderson, Araujo, Benitez-Thompson, Bustamante Adams, Carlton, Carrillo, Diaz, Flores, Hickey, Joiner, Jones, Kirkpatrick, Neal, Silberkraus, Spiegel, Sprinkle, Swank, Thompson, Titus—19.

NOT VOTING—Ohrenschall.

EXCUSED—Dooling.

Assembly Bill No. 70 having failed to receive a two-thirds majority, Mr. Speaker declared it lost.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick moved that the action whereby Assembly Bill No. 70 was lost be reconsidered.

Motion carried.

Assemblyman Paul Anderson moved that Assembly Bill No. 70 be taken from the General File and be placed on the Chief Clerk's desk.

Motion carried

GENERAL FILE AND THIRD READING

Senate Bill No. 21.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Assemblywoman Neal.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN NEAL:

Senate Bill 21 revises the reporting requirements to the Department of Motor Vehicles for special fuel users who are subject to the multistate International Fuel Tax Agreement and who also pay any of the indexed special fuel taxes imposed in Clark and Washoe Counties pursuant to NRS 373.066 or 373.0663.

Senate Bill 21 provides that these special fuel users are authorized rather than required to file a request for reimbursement with the Department.

The bill removes provisions requiring the Department to determine whether a special fuel user may owe any additional amounts as a result of the International Fuel Tax Agreement and additional special fuel taxes imposed in Clark and Washoe Counties. Therefore, these provisions apply only to a request for reimbursement of any special fuel taxes imposed on special fuel. While it may impact the highway fund, it is nominal. The effective date is July 1, 2015.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 21:

YEAS—41.

NAYS—None.

EXCUSED—Dooling.

Senate Bill No. 21 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. Speaker declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Senate.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Assemblyman Paul Anderson moved that Assembly Bill No. 190 be rereferred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Motion carried.

Assemblyman Paul Anderson moved that the Assembly recess until 4:45 p.m.

Motion carried.

Assembly in recess at 1:17 p.m.

ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 5:03 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Quorum present.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Mr. Speaker appointed Assemblymen Gardner and Benitez-Thompson as a committee to invite the Senate to meet in Joint Session with the Assembly to hear an address by United States Representative Dina Titus.

The President of the Senate and members of the Senate appeared before the bar of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker invited the President of the Senate to the Speaker's rostrum.

Mr. Speaker invited the members of the Senate to chairs in the Assembly.

IN JOINT SESSION

At 5:09 p.m.

President of the Senate presiding.

The Secretary of the Senate called the Senate roll.

All present except Senator Smith, who was excused.

The Chief Clerk of the Assembly called the Assembly roll.

All present except Assemblywoman Dooling, who was excused.

The President of the Senate appointed a Committee on Escort consisting of Senator Atkinson and Assemblyman Hickey to wait upon Representative Titus and escort her to the Assembly Chamber.

The Committee on Escort, in company with The Honorable Dina Titus, United States Representative from Nevada, appeared before the bar of the Assembly.

The Committee on Escort escorted the Representative to the rostrum.

The Speaker of the Assembly welcomed Representative Titus and invited her to deliver her message.

Representative Titus delivered her message as follows:

MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEVADA
SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION, 2015

Governor Sandoval, Speaker Hambrick, Majority Leader Roberson, Leaders Kirkpatrick and Ford, distinguished guests, old friends—and you are not mutually exclusive—and new members. It is my pleasure to be back here in Carson City. I'm sorry that Debbie Smith is not with us, but I understand that she is doing better and will be here soon, so please give her my regards.

Thank you so much for letting me join you here this evening. I was a little apprehensive when writing this speech because I heard some of you might be packing, and that made me a little nervous.

Nonetheless, it is always good to come back to the Nevada Legislature. I spent 20 years here serving the good people of District 7, and I worked with many dedicated public servants, just like you, who give so much of their time and effort for the people of Nevada in making this a better place.

I have a lot of memories about my time here, so I hope you'll indulge me while I reminisce a little bit. Some of you may know these stories, but some of you are new and do not have much institutional memory, so I hope you will appreciate hearing about some of your former colleagues. I remember, for instance, when Senator Bob Coffin went on a hunger strike because he could not get his bill passed. He didn't seem to be losing much weight, but we didn't call him on it. Then one day he pretended to swoon down in the well of the Senate, and Senator Nolan, who was an EMT, leapt over the bar to try to revive him. Now, when he turned him over to give him CPR, Bob was outed because a banana fell out of his pocket.

I don't know if some of you knew this or not, but smoking used to be allowed on the floor. In one very fiery speech when the inimitable Marvin Sedway was railing against the mining industry, he caught his own beard on fire. See, that is how it used to be around here.

Then there was one time, late one night, when the Republicans got mad about something. They stormed off the floor of the Senate floor, and they forgot to adjourn. Senator Neal, who was a master of the rules, said, "Just hold tight for a few minutes." So we did, and then after everybody had left the building, he called for a quorum. The Sergeant at Arms had to run out there and arrest all the Republicans, find them to bring them back. A lot of them had already left to go to Reno. We got Ann O'Connell back in her pajamas—she came back—but in the meanwhile, we "ran the board." So even though you are in the minority, you can still do things if you know the rules, so remember that.

Then one time—this was after I had left the Senate—you all were kind enough to induct me into the Senate Hall of Fame. There was a very nice ceremony and people were talking about how I had been their mentor. Now, you say that when someone has been around a long time like my student Scott. At the end, Senator Raggio stood up and said, "Well, you may have been their mentor, but for 20 years you were my tormentor." So Senator Ford, this is your new role, at least for now, so remember that.

Over the years, I worked with some of the best legislators: Barbara Buckley, who was such a champion for children, and I understand this is Children's Week here at the Legislature, so that is a tribute to her work; Randolph Townsend, who was a real pioneer in pushing renewable energy for Nevada; Maggie Carlton, who brought Payday candy bars and put them on all our desks and advocated equal pay for equal work long before we knew about Lily Ledbetter; and then Dean Rhoads, who is a real cowboy, a true cowboy, and he hated federal intervention, whether it was on the rangeland or in the bedroom, and I had to appreciate that.

And of course, through all of that time, you had Ed Vogel, who recorded it and witnessed it all, and we certainly miss him around here.

Then there were the giants—you had Jack Vergiels, Joe Dini, Bill Raggio—all of them gone now. But they left us with a legacy, and they taught me one of the most valuable lessons I have learned in public life, and that is that the interests of the people should always trump politics. They were able to accomplish all that they did because they worked across the aisle to further the common good. Whether here in Carson City or 2,500 miles to the east in Washington, we should carry on that legacy.

The staff, too, was amazing. Brenda Erdoes, Don Williams, Dennis Neilander, the Governor's father, Mr. Ron Sandoval—all of them were so kind, so qualified, so talented, and so patient. Every day you should thank LCB for making you look good.

My colleagues in Washington, knowing how hard that Nevada was hit by the recession, always come up to me and ask me the same thing. They say, "Dina, how are things going in Nevada?" I am proud to tell them we are coming back. I am very optimistic. Unemployment is down by half, the cranes are working on the Strip again, and we are going to welcome more visitors to Las Vegas this year than ever. The housing market is ticking up, and companies like Tesla are relocating here. I tell them that our Battle Born spirit, while shaken, was never broken, and we're very excited about that. But we all in this room know that we have a ways to go, and as the Governor said, we've got to work together to create a "New Nevada."

Toward that end, I am trying to do what I can in Washington, focusing on ways that the federal government can complement what you all are doing here in the state.

First, we all know that businesses seeking to expand or to relocate look for a state with a well-trained workforce. Today, that well trained workforce means those who are qualified in the STEM fields. In Nevada, unfortunately, we fall short. There was a Brookings Institute study that recently came out that concluded, and I quote, "Too few Nevadans are ready to participate in the state's emerging STEM economy."

Towards that end, I have introduced two bills that are both bipartisan to try to boost STEM education nationally as well as here in Nevada. One would allow veterans to get additional GI Bill benefits so they could major in the STEM fields. Those majors usually take longer and are more expensive because of the lab classes, and they need those additional resources. Veterans have training and background that make them really good candidates for STEM subjects.

The other bill would increase federal investment in STEM programs at universities and colleges that serve minority students. These would also create scholarships for minorities and women, who are less likely to study the STEM fields. We want to encourage them because they are no less qualified to do so.

But we have got to start earlier, and not just with STEM investment. We are failing our children all across the education spectrum, from art to zoology. There was a phrase that I coined when I was in the Legislature, and I hear it used often still today. Unfortunately, Nevada is on the top of every bad list and the bottom of every good list. That was meant to be a clarion call for change and reform, but I'm afraid it has become a motto of sorts that is used often by the pundits, and it is especially true in the area of education.

I congratulate you all for passing the school bond rollover. Thank you for doing that. Now you have an opportunity to make real improvements in our education system here in Nevada, and I encourage you not to miss that chance. Funding for education should be considered an investment, not an expenditure, so thank you for what you do.

We have also got to make investments in infrastructure, and that is the backbone of commerce throughout our state. Whether it is trucks on America's loneliest highway or limousines on the Las Vegas Strip, we have got to be able to move people and products around efficiently and effectively. That is the only way we are going to be able to compete in global markets.

I began my third term on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. I sought that out because I think it is so important for Nevada's economy, and I pledge to work with you all as we try to strengthen Nevada's infrastructure. One of the most critical infrastructure projects and one of my priorities is the development of Interstate 11 from Phoenix to Las Vegas and beyond as part of the CanaMex Corridor. I am proud to be the Co-Chair of the Congressional I-11 Caucus, and this is a bipartisan group of legislators from Nevada and Arizona. We are trying to convince our colleagues, as we look at the highway reauthorization bill, that this is a critical part of our national transportation plan, not just something that affects Nevada.

I am also a member of the Aviation Subcommittee, and I am doing what I can to complement the work you all are doing here on unmanned aerial systems. I have a hard time saying that, so for now I will just call them drones. I lobbied FAA Administrator Huerta to pick Nevada as one of the six drone test sites, and I am very excited about the potential there. We worked hard to get the FAA to finally issue those rules for the sky that have come out recently to deal with some of the commercial use of these drones. Now comes the comment period, and we are again trying

to get the Secretary to pick Nevada as a place to hold one of the public hearings. I think there is an expertise and excitement here that will be able to create very informative and informed testimony in those hearings. Hopefully we can do that.

Another way that we can work together is on behalf of Nevada's veterans. I am honored to serve our veterans on the House [Veterans Affairs] Committee, and one of my goals is to ensure that Nevada's veterans get the benefits and the health care that they deserve and have earned.

Unfortunately, the brand new VA hospital in Las Vegas is struggling to recruit and retain doctors, so our veterans often face unacceptably long wait periods. To address this, I introduced successful legislation to create more residency programs at VA hospitals in places that are underserved by doctors, like Las Vegas and like rural Nevada. Now, the challenge is finding ways to support the educational programs for these new residents. As you continue your discussions on the much needed UNLV Medical School, remember that when you are helping the school, you are also supporting our nation's heroes. Thank you for doing that.

We have also got to make the VA more relevant for ALL—and I say that with capital letters—ALL twenty-first century veterans. Senator Spearman, I am going to need your help with this. The population of women veterans is growing, yet the VA struggles to provide the most basic health care that women need. In addition, outdated federal law means that LGBT veterans do not get the benefits they deserve in states that don't recognize marriage equality. That is not true in Nevada, thanks to the leadership of Senator Parks, but in some states, one day you are in the service, in uniform, and you get the benefits, and the next day you are a veteran and you lose it. That is just not fair. Furthermore, our youngest, post-9/11 veterans, especially women, often have childcare needs that prevent them from taking advantage of both education and employment training programs, like Nevada's Green Zone Initiative, so they can then go into the workplace and more successfully provide for their families. We need to work together to promote all of these issues, and that is coming.

As Senator Segerblom knows, another way to roll the VA into the modern world is by changing some of the outdated policies on medicinal marijuana. We need to allow more scientific testing of the drug for potential use in the treatment of PTSD and pain management.

While we are on the subject, following the actions of the last legislative session involving medical marijuana, it became very clear to me that Nevada needed a strong voice in the Congress to do several things: one, to ensure that our state's rights and our state's interests are respected; two, to be sure that this burgeoning new industry can operate like the legitimate business that it is; and most importantly, that patients can get the medical care they need. I am cosponsoring several bills to that effect in Washington as well.

Finally, two other issues of importance to Nevada that are being considered in Washington are comprehensive immigration reform and protection of our public lands for future generations. Thanks to the leadership of Harry Reid, these are both moving forward in the Senate, and I am committed to pressing for them in the House because I believe that not only is it the morally right thing to do, but it is also the economically wise course of action to take.

Before I conclude—I do not want to go too much longer than Mark Amodei did, even though I am not quite as casual as that—I want ask you a favor. I want you to send one of those resolutions that you all pass from the Legislature back to Congress. I want this resolution to be in support of repealing the sports betting handle tax. This is something you can all do that is bipartisan—even the *Review-Journal* is in favor of this, so you don't have to worry about it. Nevada is the only state that pays this handle tax on sports betting. It was supposed to go at the federal level to fight illegal betting but it does not; it just goes into the general fund. It does not mean much for the federal general fund, but it is \$9 million to \$12 million that we could better keep here in the state to create jobs, grow businesses, and help our own economy, so please send me that resolution.

Let me end by saying, as you conduct your important work here over the next couple of months on that "Blueprint for Nevada," please consider me an advocate, a resource, and a partner. And as we continue our journey to putting Nevada on the top of the good lists, let us remember the working men and women without whose efforts we would not have gotten as far as we have. Let us remember those who laid the railroads and built the Boulder Dam; who dug the mines and won the Cold War; who wait the tables and teach our children. Those are the unsung heroes whose stories make Nevada such a special place. Thank you organized labor.

It has been a real pleasure visiting with you tonight. It is truly an honor to serve as your colleague, representing District 1 in Washington and all of Nevada in Congress. One of the best parts of the job is welcoming people who come not only from District 1, but also from all over the Silver State. So if you get back there and are looking for my office, it's real easy to find. Just ask anybody; they'll tell you it's the one with the cutout of Liberace standing by the front door. Thank you very much.

Senator Woodhouse moved that the Senate and Assembly in Joint Session extend a vote of thanks to Representative Titus for her timely, able, and constructive message.

Seconded by Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams.

Motion carried.

The Committee on Escort escorted Representative Titus to the bar of the Assembly.

Assemblyman Nelson moved that the Joint Session be dissolved.

Seconded by Senator Hardy.

Motion carried.

Joint Session dissolved at 5:35 p.m.

ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 5:35 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Quorum present.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF ASSEMBLY FLOOR

On request of Assemblyman Elliot Anderson, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Kelly Dove.

On request of Assemblyman Araujo, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Cheri Day.

On request of Assemblyman Armstrong, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Jacqueline Brown.

On request of Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Shelby Henderson.

On request of Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Ida Gaines, Mae Worthy, Chandni Patel, Gil Lopez, and Jitendra Patel.

On request of Assemblyman Carrillo, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Terri Yates and Charlene Frost.

On request of Assemblywoman Diaz, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Kenadie Cobbin-Richardson.

On request of Assemblywoman Fiore, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Hagai Rapaport.

On request of Assemblyman Hickey, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Mary Baker and Alexa Olsen.

On request of Assemblywoman Joiner, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Jennifer Jones.

On request of Assemblyman Jones, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Jason D. Mills and James T. Overland, Sr.

On request of Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Carrie Peery and Sandra Morgan.

On request of Assemblyman Munford, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Marian Burns, Lois E. Bolden, and Judy Molnar.

On request of Assemblywoman Neal, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Marilyn Jordan and Marla Turner.

On request of Assemblyman O'Neill, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Donna Curtis, Carol Payne, and Steve Tackes.

On request of Assemblyman Ohrenschall, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Rachel Anderson and Karma Butler Rogers.

On request of Assemblywoman Seaman, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Bobby Gordon.

On request of Assemblywoman Spiegel, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Teri Kirby.

On request of Assemblywoman Swank, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Kaylyn Kardavani.

On request of Assemblyman Thompson, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Sandra Mack and Essie Williams.

On request of Assemblywoman Titus, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Stephen Woods.

On request of Assemblyman Trowbridge, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Dale Ann Luzzi and Lavonne Lewis.

On request of Assemblywoman Woodbury, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Celssie Hardy.

Assemblyman Hansen moved that the Assembly adjourn until Thursday, March 12, 2015, at 11:30 a.m.

Motion carried.

Assembly adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Approved:

JOHN HAMBRICK
Speaker of the Assembly

Attest: SUSAN FURLONG
Chief Clerk of the Assembly