

THE SEVENTEENTH DAY

CARSON CITY (Wednesday), February 22, 2017

Assembly called to order at 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Dr. Ken Haskins.

Our heavenly Father, You are light. Your word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Shed Your light of truth, knowledge, understanding, and wisdom upon this legislative body. May the decisions of this body improve the quality of life for all Nevadans. I pray in the Name of the One who is the light of the world.

AMEN.

Pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson 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.

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

By Assemblywoman Woodbury and Senator Hardy:

Assembly Bill No. 230—AN ACT relating to stop lamps; authorizing the use of supplemental stop lamps on motor vehicles; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Woodbury moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Transportation.

Motion carried.

By Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams:

Assembly Bill No. 231—AN ACT relating to economic development; revising the requirements for the State Plan for Economic Development; revising provisions governing the establishment by the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development of nonprofit corporations for certain economic development purposes; revising provisions governing the confidentiality of certain records, documents and communications; revising the deadline for the submission of certain reports concerning local emerging small businesses by the Office; repealing provisions requiring the Office to take certain actions concerning the development of inland ports; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

Motion carried.

By Assemblymen Bilbray-Axelrod, Spiegel, Daly, Fumo, Joiner and Monroe-Moreno; Senators Parks, Manendo and Segerblom:

Assembly Bill No. 232—AN ACT relating to civil actions; establishing the procedure for changing the name of a minor; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Assemblywoman Bilbray-Axelrod moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

GENERAL FILE AND THIRD READING

Initiative Petition No. 1.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Assemblymen Ohrenschall, Paul Anderson, and Diaz.

ASSEMBLYMAN OHRENSCHALL:

Initiative Petition 1 requires the Department of Motor Vehicles [DMV], the Secretary of State, and the county election officials to establish cooperatively a system that enables a person who is obtaining or updating a driver's license or Nevada identification card to register to vote or to revise his or her existing voter registration information at that time.

A person has the option to opt out in writing from automatic voter registration or from updating his or her existing voter registration information. If the person does not opt out, certain personal information will be transmitted to the appropriate county election official, who will determine if the application to vote is complete. The county election official must notify the person whose application is incomplete that additional information is required. The voter registration information also will be transmitted to the Secretary of State for inclusion on the statewide rolls. A person who does not indicate a political party affiliation will be listed as nonpartisan on the rolls and may revise that affiliation at any time.

The DMV must inform the person that the decision of whether to participate in or opt out of automatic voter registration will not affect the person's transactions with the DMV or the DMV's services, the person's decision cannot legally be disclosed to any member of the public, and any information collected by the DMV for automatic voter registration cannot legally be used for any purpose other than voter registration.

The Secretary of State must adopt regulations to carry out the program. However, the Secretary of State cannot require additional documentation that is not otherwise required by this petition or federal law.

This measure is effective upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting regulations and performing other preparatory administrative tasks. It is effective on January 1, 2018, for all other purposes.

ASSEMBLYMAN PAUL ANDERSON:

I stand in opposition to Initiative Petition 1. We all support expanding opportunities and removing barriers to voter registration and voting. However, the opt-out mechanism of I.P.1 forces people into a system they might not want to participate in and opens individuals to serious privacy concerns. There are a number of reasons why a person might not want to register to vote. Some just lack the interest in politics; others do not want their personal information to become public to candidates, political parties, or even individual citizens.

I believe that I.P.1 risks the integrity of our election process by shifting the responsibility of registration from individuals to the government. It is for that reason and others that I have mentioned that I oppose I.P. 1 and would encourage my colleagues to do the same.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DIAZ:

I rise in support of Initiative Petition 1. Nevadans agree that we should have a voting system that protects the fundamental right of every eligible voter—Democrat, Republican, nonpartisan, or others—to have their vote counted. This Initiative Petition on automatic voter registration is a

common-sense modernization to our state's voter registration process that will help replace our outdated paper-based system, thereby reducing costs; increasing security; protecting the integrity of our elections; reducing clerical errors; and ensuring every eligible voter has an opportunity to have their voice heard through voting. This modernized system will automatically register eligible voters and update voter registration information when eligible voters apply for or renew their driver's licenses due to a name change from marriage or divorce or update their address in the most transient state in the nation. This seamless process is more convenient for eligible voters and will make it simpler to register and vote.

Automatic voter registration will protect the fundamental right of Nevada citizens, like those in the military who are asked to move jurisdictions frequently and are penalized by an antiquated system. By modernizing an outdated system, automatic voter registration will make sure that election officials maintain accurate lists and will make it easier to ensure that only eligible citizens are able to cast ballots. I urge this body to pass this important and necessary measure.

Assemblymen Carlton, Araujo, and Benitez-Thompson moved the previous question.

The question being the passage of Initiative Petition No. 1.

Roll call on Initiative Petition No. 1:

YEAS—27.

NAYS—Paul Anderson, Edwards, Ellison, Hambrick, Hansen, Kramer, Krasner, Marchant, McArthur, Oscarson, Pickard, Titus, Tolles, Wheeler, Woodbury—15.

Initiative Petition No. 1 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. Speaker declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Senate.

REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR

Assemblyman Edwards requested that the following remarks be entered in the Journal.

ASSEMBLYMAN EDWARDS:

There is an old saying that everyone is expendable. I propose that we have an exception to that rule, and today we celebrate his 285th birthday. That indispensable man was none other than George Washington. So much can be said about this amazing guy, but I know I have less than ten minutes to do it.

The story of George Washington actually began in Virginia on Feb 11, 1732. You might say February 11, why not the twenty-second? The fact of the matter is, when he was born Virginia used the Julian calendar. But in 1752 they changed to the Gregorian and by doing that changed his birthday to February 22.

Most people do not know that he had five siblings, his father died when he was 11, and his beloved older brother Lawrence inherited everything and had to raise George. The two of them actually had a fantastic relationship, but around 1750, Lawrence became ill. The doctors thought he might recover if he went to a different climate like the Caribbean. So off they went. This was the only time that George Washington ever left the United States, to escort his brother down to Barbados. Unfortunately George returned alone.

During the French and Indian War, George Washington was a colonial colonel. While patrolling the frontier with the British, they were ambushed, the British general was fatally wounded, and Washington had to take charge. He quickly built a fort that he dubbed Fort Necessary and literally saved the remnants of the patrol. He emerged from the war a bit of a heroic figure.

He was introduced to the widow Martha Custis and, as you know, they courted, married, and had a lifetime together. The two of them truly loved one another and most people miss this. Most historians do not do their relationship justice. They genuinely enjoyed each other's company their entire lives. It is a story that is overlooked, probably because of all the other things that George Washington did. Martha did not seek the limelight. She was very dedicated

and dutiful throughout her life. I guess the other part is that Martha burned all his love letters to her when he died, so WikiLeaks could not get them.

George Washington was not just a farmer. He was a land surveyor in the wilderness, an amateur scientist, a very successful businessman, community leader, justice of the peace, and one of the best equestrians in all of the colonies.

As we know, the British imposed a lot of taxes on us, we got into a revolutionary mode and when the Congress decided that they needed a general to lead the Continental Army, there was George Washington standing in front of them, six-foot-three, in uniform. So they commissioned him the General of the Continental Army, and he had to forge it from nothing. At first, he really was not a very good general; but he was always a spectacular leader. The army faced multiple defeats throughout 1776, but General Washington never blamed anyone else for the losses. He always took responsibility for that. But he also learned from his mistakes and did become a great general. By ingenuity, he developed the attacks on Trenton and Princeton around Christmas, which save the army because they were about to disband.

An interesting tidbit that I learned about the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War is that it practiced a rather unique form of environmentalism. At Fort Mifflin there were 450 soldiers who were tasked with stopping the advance of British ships up the river. The problem was that they had no cannonballs. So, what they did was wait for the British to fire on them, and then they chased all the cannonballs, put them back in their own cannons and shot them back at the British. It seemed to work pretty well and this may be the army's earliest recycling effort and superfund cleanup.

After five years of fighting, the world superpower under Lord Cornwallis finally admitted that they were defeated. The Congress had made many promises to the army and they did not live up to them, many times because they simply could not. It caused great consternation in the ranks. Many do not know that George Washington personally stopped two attempted coups, including one that offered to make him king. But he had fought for liberty. The bottom line is that without George Washington we would never have won the Revolutionary War.

After the Treaty of Paris was signed, the nation was independent, General Washington surrendered to Congress his sword, which was the symbolic tool of his power and his authority. This was never done in those days. To hand over power to the civilian authority and just go away to retirement was an amazing feat.

General Washington returned to Mt. Vernon to retire, but he saw that the nation was floundering under the Articles of Confederation. When called upon to serve as the President of the Constitutional Convention, he of course said yes. A lot of people do not realize that in the Constitutional Convention he used his influence thoroughly in order to keep the discussions on track, and to come up with the compromises that made the Constitution possible. I guess we can say that without George Washington, we also would not have such a great constitution.

After the Constitutional Convention, he returned to Mt. Vernon again hoping to retire. But shortly thereafter, he got the call to serve as President. He did not want to serve as president, he wanted to stay retired. George Washington was elected and left Mt. Vernon, went up to New York City for the inauguration. One of the things he was very happy about was that his mother Mary Ball Washington was still alive to see her son become President.

Though he never earned a college degree, George Washington spent his life constantly learning. He established many of the most important, wisest, and enduring presidential precedents. Some of them are: humbly using the simple title of Mr. President; creating the cabinet system that we still use today; being the first president to lead troops as the Commander in Chief; and serving only two terms. Frankly, he wanted to only serve one term, because, as you remember, the press was rather vicious toward him and he endured a lot of criticism. I guess some things never change. He established the Farewell Address tradition, and the other thing that most people do not realize is that George Washington traveled around the entire country when Congress was not in session. He felt it his obligation to bring the national government all the way down to the ordinary person, and he did that from Georgia all the way up to Maine. The bottom line is that we would never have had such a great model of presidential leadership without George Washington.

After his presidency, George Washington retired to Mt. Vernon again and for the last time. After inspecting the grounds of Mt. Vernon in a rainstorm, Washington caught a cold and within

a fortnight he died. Rarely in human history has any nation enjoyed the selfless public service of such a great leader. Rarely has a leader accomplished so much for so many. Today we remember George Washington and the lesson of his life; public servants can achieve greatness just by doing their duties faithfully and courageously.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF ASSEMBLY FLOOR

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

On request of Assemblywoman Bilbray-Axelrod, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Susie Lee.

On request of Assemblyman Edwards, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Sheryl Giordano.

On request of Assemblyman Ellison, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Christa E. Secord and Carl Battorf.

On request of Assemblyman Frierson, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Tiffany Tyler and Ricky D. Gourrier Sr.

On request of Assemblyman Hambrick, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Susan VanBeuge.

On request of Assemblyman Hansen, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Sharon Hansen and Melissa Washabaugh.

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

On request of Assemblywoman Krasner, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Meghan Stice.

On request of Assemblyman Ohrenschall, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Amanda Conner.

On request of Assemblyman Oscarson, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Donna Miller and Diane McGinnis.

On request of Assemblyman Sprinkle, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Patricia Fries.

On request of Assemblyman Thompson, the privilege of the floor of the Assembly Chamber for this day was extended to Mary Kuan and Linda Paulic.

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

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson moved that the Assembly adjourn until Thursday, February 23, 2017, at 11:30 a.m., in honor of George Washington who taught us how to say goodbye.

Motion carried.

Assembly adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Approved:

JASON FRIERSON
Speaker of the Assembly

Attest: SUSAN FURLONG
Chief Clerk of the Assembly