

THE TWENTY-SECOND DAY

CARSON CITY (Monday), February 22, 2021

Senate called to order at 11:19 a.m.

President pro Tempore Denis presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Reverend Chad Adamik.

Gracious God, make each of us an instrument of Your grace. Weave us into a people showing forth Your power and tenderness. Bless us and our differences and undergird our courage to stand together. We call on You today to gather us in love. Lead us to know You better and glorify You on each step of life's journey as we lead the people of this great State.

In Your many and Holy Names, let us now keep silence and breathe in the love of God.

AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

By previous order of the Senate, the reading of the Journal is dispensed with, and the President pro Tempore and Secretary are authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Senator Neal has returned to full participation in the Senate Chamber, and the use of remote-technology systems to attend, participate, vote and take any other action in the proceedings of the Senate is no longer necessary.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1.

Resolution read.

Senator Hardy moved the adoption of the resolution.

Remarks by Senators Hardy, Ratti and Spearman.

SENATOR HARDY:

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the virus that causes COVID-19 spreads easily from person to person. Personal protective equipment, such as face coverings and hand sanitizer, is critical to reduce transmission. The risk of death or severe health outcomes posed by the COVID-19 pandemic makes it important for employers in this State to protect employees against exposure in the workplace.

SENATOR RATTI:

I would like to thank Senator/Doctor Hardy for bringing forward this resolution. It has the full support of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. I appreciate the notion that employers should be requested to make sure their employees have protective equipment like we have had benefit of as members of this Body such as masks, hand sanitizer and plexiglas dividers. It is important to emphasize the importance of wearing facemasks. Today, I have worn my Dr. Fauci-themed facemask for this occasion, but for today, I am going to call it the Dr. Hardy-themed facemask. It is a close-enough resemblance, and I appreciate the promotion of wearing masks. Even though things are looking up and we are all happy that is occurring, we are still deep in the pandemic with some levels of community spread that are alarming. It is still important to wear masks. I would like to work with Senator Hardy to ensure we promote taking care of ourselves and others.

SENATOR SPEARMAN:

I would like to thank Senator Hardy for bringing this resolution forward. We have an alarming number of more than 500,000 fellow Americans who have died because of complications from COVID-19. It is my hope, my prayer and my dream that we will be one step closer to making sure everyone has not only the right to life but also can live life.

Resolution adopted.

Resolution ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the following person be accepted as an accredited press representative, and that she be allowed the use of appropriate media facilities: THE NEVEDA INDEPENDENT: Jazmin Orozco-Rodriguez.

Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

By Senators Seevers Gansert, Pickard, Buck, Donate, Hammond, Hardy, Kieckhefer, Ratti, Settlemeyer; Assemblymen Tolles and Roberts:

Senate Bill No. 137—AN ACT relating to public safety; authorizing the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History to monitor the agencies of criminal justice for compliance with certain requirements relating to the submission and transmission of certain information and records concerning public safety; providing that if the Central Repository chooses to perform such monitoring, then the Central Repository must prepare and post on its Internet website an annual report relating to compliance by the agencies of criminal justice in this State with such requirements; authorizing the Central Repository to coordinate efforts with the agencies of criminal justice in this State to ensure the timely submission or transmission of certain information and records concerning public safety; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Seevers Gansert moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Motion carried.

By Senators Lange, Pickard and Dondero Loop:

Senate Bill No. 138—AN ACT relating to land use planning; revising requirements for an ordinance for planned unit development; revising requirements for minimum site areas and parking for a planned unit development; eliminating the requirement that a planned unit development obtain tentative approval; making various other changes relating to provisions relating to planned unit development; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Lange moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Government Affairs.

Motion carried.

By Senators Scheible and Harris:

Senate Bill No. 139—AN ACT relating to insurance; requiring certain health insurance to include coverage for the treatment of conditions relating to gender dysphoria; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Scheible moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Motion carried.

SECOND READING AND AMENDMENT

Senate Bill No. 15.

Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

Senate Bill No. 16.

Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

Senate Bill No. 28.

Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

GENERAL FILE AND THIRD READING

Senate Bill No. 17.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Senator Brooks.

Senate Bill No. 17 revises provisions relating to driver-training schools by removing the requirement that a school that provides only online classroom instruction maintain a physical business location. It requires the books and records of the school be kept at the school's principal place of business. It provides that the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) be allowed to inspect those records during normal business hours, and it sets the retention period for such records at three years after a person ceases to be licensed as an operator of a school for training drivers. Senate Bill No. 17 grants DMV discretionary authority to renew certain instruction permits.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 17:

YEAS—21.

NAYS—None.

Senate Bill No. 17 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. President pro Tempore declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senate Bill No. 23.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Senator Hansen.

Senate Bill No. 23 revises the boundaries of areas from which certain members of the State Conservation Commission are appointed. The bill moves Mineral County from Area 3, which includes Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye and White Pine Counties, to Area 2, which includes Carson City and Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, Storey and Washoe Counties.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 23:

YEAS—21.

NAYS—None.

Senate Bill No. 23 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. President pro Tempore declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senate Bill No. 29.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Senator Hammond.

Senate Bill No. 29 allows DMV to enter into contracts appointing a person to act as its agent in the issuance of salvage titles and the collection of statutory fees provided the person meets certain qualifications. Qualifications include a background check and posting a bond of not less than \$50,000. The Department may conduct audits and investigations of such agents as it deems necessary.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 29:

YEAS—21.

NAYS—None.

Senate Bill No. 29 having received a two-thirds majority, Mr. President pro Tempore declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senate Bill No. 52.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Senators Donate, Hansen, Ratti and Denis.

SENATOR DONATE:

Senate Bill No. 52 requires the Administrator of the Division of Outdoor Recreation within the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to establish, by regulation, a program for awarding a dark-sky designation to sites in Nevada that possess varying degrees of exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural and educational value, as well as for public enjoyment. The regulation must include categories and standards for which a site may be awarded such a destination. Procedures for applying, reviewing, suspending or revoking such a destination and appealing such a suspension or revocation must be included.

SENATOR HANSEN:

I support Senate Bill No. 52 because it is based on a voluntary program. There have been rumblings in other areas where they have tried to make this mandatory and come up with programs that require screening and other things. I am in favor of the bill, but I want to make sure the record reflects that if it is a voluntary program, it is acceptable. The bulk of these issues are in my district, so I am happy to have the added tourism to help those areas. If this is switched from voluntary to mandatory, we need to carefully review it again.

SENATOR RATTI:

I would like to express my enthusiasm for Senate Bill No. 52 and thank the Committee on Natural Resources for bringing it forward. I am a volunteer on the Great Basin National Park Foundation Board of Directors. Many of you may know that Great Basin National Park is one of the best dark-sky environments in the lower 48 states. The Foundation has done work toward building an observatory within the Park, and it is the only observatory in the Nation inside a National Park. The phenomenal dark skies we experience in the State of Nevada use a lower level of power than they might be able to use anywhere else. This includes a partnership with four universities, and students are able to remotely access the observatory to fulfill additional research.

SENATOR DENIS:

My family loves to go out and take advantage of this. This is a great thing for Nevada.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 52:

YEAS—21.

NAYS—None.

Senate Bill No. 52 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. President pro Tempore declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the Senate adjourn until Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.

Motion carried.

Senate adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Approved:

MOISES DENIS

President pro Tempore of the Senate

Attest: CLAIRE J. CLIFT

Secretary of the Senate