

THE TWENTY-THIRD DAY

CARSON CITY (Tuesday), February 23, 2021

Senate called to order at 11:10 a.m.

President Marshall presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Reverend Chad Adamik.

Holy God, we come before You at this time to pause and thank You for all of the blessings You have given us. Many times, our lives are so full of work that we neglect our relationship with You. We are sorry for that. You never neglect us nor anyone else. We are all Your beloved people. We are grateful for that.

Continue to pull us toward You. Guide us in our journey and hold us close through the work done on behalf of the people of Nevada. Strengthen us as our work often challenges us. May we feel Your Divine Presence among us.

In Your many Holy Names, we pray.

AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

By Senator Neal:

Senate Bill No. 140—AN ACT relating to correctional institutions; requiring offenders who are employed in programs for the employment of offenders to be paid a living wage; creating the Offenders' Release Fund; revising provisions relating to deductions made from the wages of offenders; requiring the placement of offenders in certain programs which facilitate their employment in positions upon their release which utilize skills similar to those employed by the offender while incarcerated; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Neal moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.
Motion carried.

By Senator Brooks:

Senate Bill No. 141—AN ACT relating to public works; removing the prospective expiration of provisions relating to construction managers at risk; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

Motion carried.

By Senators Lange and Donate:

Senate Bill No. 142—AN ACT relating to local governments; repealing provisions that prohibit the budgeted ending fund balance of a school district from being subject to certain negotiations under certain circumstances; 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 Harris, Spearman; Assemblywomen Hansen and Krasner:

Senate Bill No. 143—AN ACT relating to children; revising provisions relating to the abuse, neglect and endangerment of a child; revising provisions relating to the negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

Motion carried.

By Senator Spearman:

Senate Bill No. 144—AN ACT relating to common-interest communities; requiring a unit-owners' association to create and maintain an Internet website through which its members can establish and access their individual accounts; requiring an association to perform certain duties relating to the Internet website; removing the authority of an association to foreclose on certain liens against units in the association; revising requirements concerning the provision of notice by an association; revising provisions relating to the duties of the Ombudsman for Owners in Common-Interest Communities and Condominium Hotels; requiring community managers to submit to the Real Estate Division of the Department of Business and Industry an annual report containing certain information relating to past due obligations incurred in associations; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

Motion carried.

By Senator Spearman:

Senate Bill No. 145—AN ACT relating to financial institutions; requiring a financial institution to notify the Commissioner of Financial Institutions once a certain rating of the financial institution is publicly available; requiring the Division of Financial Institutions of the Department of Business and Industry to post the rating of certain financial institutions on its Internet website; requiring the Commissioner to submit an annual report to the Legislature or Legislative Commission relating to such ratings; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

Motion carried.

GENERAL FILE AND THIRD READING

Senate Bill No. 15.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Senator Hansen.

Senate Bill No. 15 applies the standard of "the greatest extent practicable" to certain duties of the Administrator of the Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination and Management. In addition, Senate Bill No. 15 authorizes the Administrator to develop a manual of policies relating to grant procurement, coordination and management for State agencies.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 15:

YEAS—21.

NAYS—None.

Senate Bill No. 15 having received a constitutional majority, Madam President declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senate Bill No. 16.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Senator Ohrenschaal.

Senate Bill No. 16 transfers the duty to provide staff assistance to the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs of the Department of Business and Industry from the Department of Administration to the Department of Business and Industry.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 16:

YEAS—21.

NAYS—None.

Senate Bill No. 16 having received a constitutional majority, Madam President declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senate Bill No. 28.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Senator Dondero Loop.

Senate Bill No. 28 establishes the offense of sexual harassment within the Nevada Code of Military Justice and provides that a person who is guilty of sexual harassment shall be punished by way of nonjudicial punishment or as a court martial may direct. The bill also makes the existing Code regarding sexual assault consistent with the provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice of the Armed Forces of the United States and a directive from the United States Department of Defense.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 28:

YEAS—21.

NAYS—None.

Senate Bill No. 28 having received a constitutional majority, Madam President declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR

Senator Hardy requested that the following remarks be entered in the Journal.

SENATOR HARDY:

Yesterday's *San Francisco Chronicle* has an article by Gabriella Lopez, who is the new president of the San Francisco Board of Education. She makes an interesting observation in this article. She became the president of the school board six weeks ago. Since that time, her priority has been to safely reopen public schools in San Francisco as soon as possible.

She states there have been many distracting public debates on this topic but reopening will be the Board's only focus until students are back in school. Due to the importance of reopening, she states no comments will be made about renaming schools, and this topic will not be on Board agendas for discussion. The Board's time and actions will focus on children's safety and getting them back to school.

I hear from parents and families that their children need to be back in school. It behooves this Body to make a statement to that effect. We have families in crisis and children who will be left behind. We owe it to them to do something.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I would like to remind everyone of former Senator William J. Raggio's passing nine years ago. Bill Raggio held the seat I currently hold and represented most of the same area. He was a generous and thoughtful man. He approached this Body as a statesman, and there was no one like him. He did a lot of great work, especially in the area of higher education. He was a Reno native and served in 19 regular sessions and 12 special sessions for over 39 years. When I was in the Assembly, I had the privilege of serving with him. I learned so much from him about being a statesperson. I learned the importance of working across the aisle and focusing on policies that are in the best interest of Nevadans in order to improve their lives and lift our children. He focused on higher education believing a high school education was the floor, not the ceiling. I appreciate knowing him and appreciate the work he did for our State.

SENATOR SETTELMEYER:

I previously discussed the idea that we need to open up this building to the citizens of this State. I received a letter yesterday that unfairly went after one Committee Chair, but it is indicative of the entire process. We need to do something to increase public participation because things are not the same. Parity does not exist because coming into this building to testify on a bill is not the same as testifying by video conferencing or telephone.

I was fascinated by the number of individuals who signed onto this letter. These include: ACLU of Nevada; All Voting is Local Nevada; Americans for Prosperity Nevada; Asian Community Development Council; Battle Born Progress; Brady: United Against Gun Violence; Care in Action Center for Biological Diversity; Chispa Nevada; Culinary Union; EcoMadres; Faith in Action Nevada; Faith Organizing Alliance; Families United 4 Justice Las Vegas; Fines and Fees Justice Center; Food Bank of Northern Nevada; For Our Future Nevada; Forced Trajectory Project; Great Basin Water Network; Human Rights Campaign Nevada; Karen Gedney M.D.; Immigration Center for Women and Children; Indivisible Northern Nevada; Indivisible Owls Las Vegas; Innocence Project (National); Las Vegas National Lawyers Guild Chapter; Las Vegas DSA; Left Caucus; League of Women Voters of Southern Nevada; Make It Work Nevada; Make the Road Nevada; Mass Liberation Project; Mi Familia Vota; Moms Clean Air Force Nevada Chapter; MPower 360; NAACP Las Vegas Chapter 1111; NARAL Pro-Choice America; Native Voters Alliance Nevada; Nevada Attorneys for Criminal Justice; Nevada Coalition Against the Death Penalty; Nevada NOW; Nevada Open Government Coalition; Nevada Policy Research Institute; Nevada Prison Education Project; Nevada State Education Association; Nevada Strong Families; Nevada Women's Lobby; New American Leaders; One APIA Nevada; Paradise Las Vegas Indivisible; Power2Parent; Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada; Reno-Sparks NAACP; Return Strong FUJI; Sex Worker Alliance of Nevada; Silver State Equality; Silver State Voices; Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter; Sunrise Movement Reno; Sunrise Movement Vegas; UFCW Local 711; UndocuNetwork; Elizabeth MacDowell, Director,

UNLV Policing and Protest Clinic, and Nina Terzian, Certified Student Attorney, UNLV Policing and Protest Clinic.

These people and organizations came together to send a letter stating they would like more participation in this process. We need criteria to immediately move forward and start allowing citizens into this building to testify on the important matters before us. We are doing an injustice to the system by not having that.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

Both inside and outside of this building, in our everyday lives, we have all been talking with our constituents and family members whom we have not been able to see in almost a year. We have talked to people in the community who are struggling to feed their families and to keep each other safe. There is nothing like a global pandemic to place people in impossible situations. We have surpassed 500,000 deaths in the United States from this pandemic. That number sits with me in an uncomfortable space.

I know that wearing a mask, staying away from people and taking proper precautions to ensure the safety of those around us, including our loved ones and those with whom we work, is paramount. My job requires me to physically be at work. We have taken precautions to ensure the safety of those around us here, and I have done so in my daily life as well. We have seen court hearings that have proceeded in a digital format, and this is not ideal. We have had witnesses who testified by video because it was not safe for them to be inside the courthouse.

It is incumbent upon us to take these precautions, and this is what we have seen in this building. We have a lot of staff in this building during the Legislative Session, and we have an obligation to insure their safety. This is not just about individual ability to keep ourselves safe or about whether we would be able to combat and survive COVID if we contracted it. It is ensuring the safety of those around us.

We all struggle with wanting to open up and get back to normal. We want to do things exactly as we have always done them, and everyone feels that. It is our job, as policymakers, to balance that with the safety of those around us. When I hear 500,000 deaths have occurred in the United States, it sits with me. It weighs heavy on my responsibility as I work in this building or with my constituents. We need to make sure everyone we work with or come in contact within this building remains safe.

As we figure our way through this and operate as a body for the good of the people of Nevada, we want to make sure their voices are heard. We are hearing them in ways we have not heard before. There may be bumps along the way, but we are figuring it out. We are listening. All of my colleagues here listen and have heard the voices of the people they represent; that is happening in this building.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the Senate adjourn in memory of former Senator William J. Raggio until Thursday, February 25, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.

Motion carried.

Senate adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Approved:

KATE MARSHALL
President of the Senate

Attest: CLAIRE J. CLIFT
Secretary of the Senate