

THE NINETY-SECOND DAY

CARSON CITY (Monday), May 08, 2023

Senate called to order at 11:59 a.m.

President Anthony presiding.

Roll called.

All present except Senator Neal, who was excused.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Member Steep Weiss.

Let us take this moment to pray together in dedicated communion with our Creator, the one infinite spirit.

Our heavenly Father, our divine parent, we love You with our whole mind, our whole being and all our strength.

We acknowledge Your eternal and ever-present kingdom as the ideal government we fervently desire to see manifested and expressed on earth today in all we think, say and do.

We ask You and thank You for all Your goodness in supplying our needs. May we feel Your guidance, protection, courage, strength, patience, kindness and generosity.

May we reflect Your unconditional love as we consider the needs of others such that we may wisely walk in Your path and forgive as You forgive.

Thank You for leading us in Your ways of grace, harmony and health and revealing effective solutions for the benefit of our great State.

God, we acknowledge You as the infinite, almighty source of love, life, truth and intelligence over all, and we thank You for showing us how to walk in Your way.

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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Mr. President:

Your Committee on Commerce and Labor, to which were referred Assembly Bills Nos. 21, 27, 29, 78, 107, 146, 236, 276, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

PAT SPEARMAN, *Chair*

Mr. President:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which were referred Assembly Bills Nos. 354, 355, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

MELANIE SCHEIBLE, *Chair*

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Senator Cannizzaro moved that Senate Bills Nos. 159, 167 and 275 be taken from their positions on the General File and placed on the General File for the next legislative day.

Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING AND REFERENCE

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 453—AN ACT making appropriations to restore the balances in the Emergency Account and the Contingency Account; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 454—AN ACT making appropriations to the Office of the Governor for the replacement of certain equipment and computer hardware and associated software and licenses to upgrade a computer operating system; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 455—AN ACT making an appropriation to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 456—AN ACT making appropriations to the Office of Finance in the Office of the Governor for the costs of leases and furniture for state offices and training for state employees; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 457—AN ACT making an appropriation to the Office of Finance in the Office of the Governor for certain costs related to the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and costs for interdisciplinary opportunities for health students at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 458—AN ACT making an appropriation to the Office of the State Treasurer for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 459—AN ACT making an appropriation to the Account for Pensions for Silicosis, Diseases Related to Asbestos and Other Disabilities; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 460—AN ACT making an appropriation to the Office of the State Controller for a debt collection information technology system; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 461—AN ACT making appropriations to the Office of the State Controller for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software and certain equipment; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 462—AN ACT making an appropriation to the Nevada Indian Commission for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 463—AN ACT making an appropriation to the Nevada Arts Council within the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 464—AN ACT making an appropriation to and authorizing the expenditure of money by the Office of State Public Defender within the Department of Indigent Defense Services for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 465—AN ACT making an appropriation to the Department of Taxation for the costs of a feasibility study and request for proposals for a real-time sales tax point-of-sale system; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 466—AN ACT making an appropriation to the Department of Taxation for the costs of a contract with an information technology consultant to perform the backlog of updates to the Unified Tax System; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 467—AN ACT making an appropriation to the Department of Taxation for the relocation of its Carson City office; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 468—AN ACT making appropriations to the State Department of Agriculture for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software and deferred maintenance projects; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 469—AN ACT making an appropriation to the Nevada Gaming Commission for employee training and registration fees for conferences; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 470—AN ACT making appropriations to the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for deferred maintenance projects; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 471—AN ACT making an appropriation to the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a visitor center at the Valley of Fire State Park; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 472—AN ACT making an appropriation to the Division of Water Resources of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for projects at the South Fork Dam; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 473—AN ACT making an appropriation to the Division of Water Resources of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a study of extreme rainfall events; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 474—AN ACT making an appropriation to the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program Account; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 475—AN ACT making appropriations to and authorizing the expenditure of money by the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation for the replacement of computer hardware and associated software; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

By the Committee on Finance:

Senate Bill No. 476—AN ACT making appropriations to and authorizing the expenditure of money by the Office of the Military for facilities maintenance projects and the replacement or purchase of certain equipment and computer hardware and associated software; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Senator Dondero Loop moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Motion carried.

SECOND READING AND AMENDMENT

Senate Bill No. 452.

Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the Senate recess until 4:45 p.m.

Motion carried.

Senate in recess at 12:21 p.m.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 4:44 p.m.

President Anthony presiding.

Quorum present.

REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR

Senator Hansen requested that his remarks be entered in the Journal.

We had a wonderful prayer this morning from the First Church of Christ. I do not know if everyone was aware, but last Thursday was National Prayer Day. So I asked our staff to give me a list of all the different religions that have offered prayers in this building. We had Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Hilltop Community Church, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Airport Road Church of Christ, First Christian Church, Temple Sinai, Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, the Catholic Diocese of Las Vegas, Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church, Hope Crossing

Community Church, the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Nevada House of Prayer, the Pax Christian Church, the Bridge Church, the Universal Society of Hinduism, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and the Reno Hillside Foursquare Church.

The reason I bring it up is in my lifetime, there have often been discussions about organized religion. A common thing that people have said to me is, "I do not need an organized church to tell me how to worship God." I agree completely with that sentiment—I really do—but what I think people overlook is the tremendous amount of good these churches do. They are there to meet the needs of others. You will notice in his prayer this morning he said that.

I am going to focus on one group for a minute. Catholic community services came to my office. I do not know if everybody else had that same opportunity. If you do, I hope you listen to them. Think about this. This is just one religious group in Northern Nevada. They provide, every day, 1,200 meals, seven days a week. They deliver to 10,000 households every month. They have delivered over three million pounds of food. The people who saw me were Nick Klaich, Marie Baxter and a Catholic priest. His name is Chuck Durante, and I know him. I call him Father Chuck because all my kids went to Catholic high schools, and Father Chuck was there. Father Chuck is a different kind of father than I am, but he has been a father figure to thousands of kids in those schools. He was always a constant reminder that there is more to life than eat, drink and be merry.

More importantly regarding Father Chuck are the things we do not see with people like him and all the priests, rabbis and religious leaders that come and share these prayers with us every day is the amount of good they do for people that are struggling in our societies. The number of people that feel lonely and abandoned and are addicted—all sorts of human problems—it is these religious communities and religious leaders who go out of their way to help people that are down and out. Jesus said, "if you have done it to one of the least of these my brothers, you have done it unto me." When we start thinking about organized religion, we sometimes miss the bigger picture.

I will give you one more example. A block from my plumbing shop in Sparks is Saint Vincent's Thrift Store, a former JC Penney outlet store. The largest group in poverty in America today are single women with children. I have been observing the type of folks that go into Saint Vincent's Thrift Store, and a disproportionate share of them are young women with children. When those children go with their moms into these stores that are provided by Catholic charities, the children experience a shopping experience like you would in any other store. What they do not realize though is the Catholics are providing the goods and services in those stores at literally pennies on the dollar. One of the things I found out as well is if people are truly down and out, they will literally give the people the services they need.

The children do not know their mothers are probably staying up at night worrying about how they are going to make their rent payment or how they are going to put food on the table. But when those kids get older, and somebody starts talking about organized religions and whether or not you need them, the child will say, "What you say about that may be true, but the reality is when my mom was struggling years ago, it was the Catholic Church that helped provide her with the fundamentals to help raise me." When you think about that and you multiply those types of experiences for who knows how long, it helps explain why an institutional organization like the Catholic Church has been around for 1,500 years. And why the Lutherans, the rabbis and all the various churches—they provide fundamental services.

For those that may be more skeptical about religion, look at it from a pragmatic standpoint. If the Catholic Church and all these other religions on a smaller scale are doing these sorts of things, in the absence of them, we would have to raise taxation and we would have to force the State to provide the same services these people are providing out of the concepts of love, charity and service. When the State provides it though, it is based out of taxation and compulsion.

So when you see these differences and when these religious leaders come and give our prayers, I have gone out of my way whenever I can to thank them for their prayers, but more importantly, to thank them for the services they provide in our communities, for all those folks that are not as well off as we are and struggle with so many human difficulties. Grief, abandonment, loneliness—it is the Father Chucks of the world that do so much good in our society.

So whenever we can, especially when you hear people bad mouth organized religions, whether we realize it or not, those are fundamental, backbone, foundational things in our society and do so much good behind the scenes. In my heart today, I have a little prayer for all the Father Chucks and Mr. Weiss who gave his prayer today and all those people and these organized religions going

out of their way day after day, week after week without any relief or thanks other than knowing in their hearts they are doing what is the right thing in a theological concept. They are helping take care of the poor and the needy, which is a fundamental concept, as far as I can tell, in every religion, whether it is the Hindus, the Christians, the Jews or whatever it may be.

I want to get that on the record today because I have been thinking a lot about that. I want to say thank you for the people that do so much for those in our societies that have so little. Join me today, have a little prayer in your heart and thank all those religious people. When those people come in here and say a little prayer, if you have a chance to just shake their hand, please thank them for what they do because they do so much behind the scenes that you and I will never experience. Thursday was National Day of Prayer, but in my heart today, I am going to have a little prayer for all those great people that do so much for our societies and for organized religions, whatever they may be in our society, and all the great things they have done for our country.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF SENATE FLOOR

On request of Senator Seevers Gansert, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Jake Carrico, Winnie Dowling, Bonnie Drinkwater and Jerod Schulz.

On request of Senator Stone, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Katie Jorquez.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the Senate adjourn until Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

Motion carried.

Senate adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Approved:

STAVROS ANTHONY
President of the Senate

Attest: BRENDAN BUCY
Secretary of the Senate