

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Eighty-second Session
May 9, 2023**

The Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair James Ohrenschall at 3:43 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, in Room 2149 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4412E of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator James Ohrenschall, Chair
Senator Skip Daly, Vice Chair
Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro
Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert
Senator Lisa Krasner

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Jill Dickman, Assembly District No. 31
Assemblyman Reuben D’Silva, Assembly District No. 28
Assemblyman Richard McArthur, Assembly District No. 4
Assemblywoman Brittney Miller, Assembly District No. 5

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nicolas Anthony, Policy Analyst
Bryan Fernley, Counsel
Jeff Koelemay, Counsel
Diane Rea, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Athar Haseebullah, Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada
Alex Tanchek, Sierra Cannabis Coalition
Elyse Monroy-Marsala, Nevada Public Health Association
Bri Padilla, Executive Director, Chamber of Cannabis

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Jason Greninger, CEO, Atlas Alchemy
Julie Monteiro, Integrative Providers Association; Coalition for Patient Rights
Susan Proffitt
Katree Saunders, Cofounder and Vice President, Pardon Me Please
PJ Belanger, Wellness Forum Health
Vicki Higgins
Kimberly Maxim
Shelbie Swartz, Battle Born Progress
Bryan Wachter, Vice President, Retail Association of Nevada
Abigail Kaufmann
Chandler Cooks, Cannabis Equity and Inclusion Community
Matthew Wilkie
Andrew LePeilbet, United Veterans Legislative Council
Lynn Chapman, American Legion Auxiliary
Michael Ryan
Stephen Wood, Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities
Shelly Capurro, City of Sparks
Nic Ciccone, City of Reno

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

I would like to start with our work session on Assembly Joint Resolution (A.J.R.) 6.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 6: Proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to adopt the National Popular Vote Compact. (BDR C-389)

NICOLAS ANTHONY (Policy Analyst):

Assembly Joint Resolution 6 was presented in this Committee by Assemblyman Howard Watts on May 2, 2023. There were no amendments proposed. Assembly Joint Resolution 6 proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to adopt the National Popular Vote Compact. I will review the work session document ([Exhibit C](#)).

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

I would accept a motion on A.J.R. 6.

SENATOR DALY MOVED TO DO PASS A.J.R. 6.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I will be opposing the motion. There were several issues, some of which are changing the way the Electoral College is used versus changing the Electoral College.

This type of legislation has come several times, and this is another version of it. In the Compact, the language presented as to why we must change the Constitution did not make a lot of sense. When we change the Constitution, it takes a couple votes, two times through the Legislature, and then gets voted on by the people.

This legislation circumvents the way we process things for amending our Constitution. It would dilute the power of a small state like Nevada. When we have six members of the congressional delegation, we do not have a lot of votes. Right now, we can be early in the Presidential primary. We have many of the candidates visit our State and consider what is important to Nevadans. Our vote in Nevada is important to fight for. That is why I will be a no on this. It is the wrong way for Nevada to go.

Last Legislative Session, former Governor Steve Sisolak made a very clear statement about diluting the power Nevada has, and we should not be supportive of legislation like this.

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

I have seen legislation like this in the past. The first time I saw legislation for us to join the National Popular Vote Compact was from Assemblywoman Peggy Pierce. This was an issue Assemblywoman Pierce cared a lot about and was close to her heart. Assemblywoman Pierce's bill did not make it to the Governor's desk. We did see it proceed to the Governor's desk last Session and then was not successful. This is a different way of approaching it in terms of a proposed constitutional amendment.

If passed this Session, the 2025 Legislature would have to consider this in identical form and must approve. Then the voters would have a say as to whether they want to approve the amendment.

There was a question asked during the hearing about what if Nevadans decided they did not want to be part of the Compact, would it require a subsequent constitutional amendment? The answer from the Legal Division is it would be

able to pass through State statute. If members of the Legislature decided they did not want us in the Compact, action through legislation would enable removal.

I am comforted by the fact another Legislative Session will look at this and the voters will get to vote on it. I believe Nevada is a unique and diverse state. Whether this Compact reaches 270 electoral votes or not, Presidential candidates will still come to Las Vegas, Reno, Elko, our urban and rural areas to meet with voters. We will still get the attention from the Presidential candidates during those campaigns.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATORS KRASNER AND SEEVERS GANSERT VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

We will close the work session on A.J.R. 6 and open the hearing on A.J.R. 8.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 8 (1st Reprint): Urges the Congress of the United States to deschedule marijuana as a schedule I controlled substance. (BDR R-615)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BRITTNEY MILLER (Assembly District No. 5):

Assembly Joint Resolution 8 urges Congress to deschedule marijuana as a schedule I controlled substance. Assembly Joint Resolution 8 is built upon decades of Nevada law and reflects the will of the people in most states across our great Country. The people of Nevada have enshrined the right to use both medical and recreational cannabis in our State Constitution. It has been legalized for medical use in 37 states and recreational use in 21 states. Despite widespread support for legalization, cannabis remains a schedule I controlled substance.

Federal scheduling places state legal cannabis businesses in a difficult position. What I can attest to is I am a former bank trainer in Nevada and Michigan. I can attest to the struggles in the financial institution. My job was to train on all the state and federal regulations around banking. I know firsthand the challenges and the actual burden pressed upon our legal businesses.

Cannabis is still federally illegal. Distributors are locked out of traditional banking and financial institutions which are unwilling to risk criminal prosecution. Businesses lose out on the many services and protections offered by our banking institutions that could simplify their efforts if they had access to the available business and safety products. This includes loans which creates a further equity divide.

Our cannabis businesses are currently forced to be cash businesses. This creates a safety risk for employees, owners and customers. I want you to imagine if the 7-Eleven on the corner had to operate as a cash-only institution, the risk it would have for employees when and where they must deposit that cash.

In Nevada, it is time for our cannabis industry to be freed of these burdens of outdated laws. It is time for Congress to support the will of the people if not the will of the States. This Session, there have been many bills presented in the Assembly that involved cannabis and hemp. Businesses, medical facilities, agriculture and farming are demonstrating multiple ways to utilize cannabis and hemp to further assist Nevadans.

This resolution urges Congress to remove cannabis from the scheduled I controlled substance list which would allow Nevada businesses to operate with greater safety and financial security. This measure has 36 sponsors from both Houses and both parties. We are willing to add more. It was voted out of the Assembly with bipartisan support, 37 to 5.

ASSEMBLYMAN REUBEN D'SILVA (Assembly District No. 28):

Schedule I drugs are those which have no accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse. Despite medical research confirming cannabis has many beneficial medical usages, it is still classified as a schedule I substance.

Assembly Joint Resolution 8 urges Congress to correct that error and remove cannabis from schedule I in states where cannabis is legalized for medical use. Cannabis is prescribed to treat a wide variety of debilitating medical conditions including cancer, multiple sclerosis, HIV, AIDS, epilepsy and glaucoma. Despite widespread medical use and low potential for abuse, patients are unable to receive prescription health insurance coverage for medical marijuana due to federal scheduling.

Without health insurance coverage, costs are astronomical. To purchase medical marijuana, patients must first obtain a state medical marijuana registration card, which can cost as much as \$350 and must be renewed regularly. Once the card is obtained, monthly costs for medical marijuana range from \$50 upward to \$1,500.

Assembly Joint Resolution 8 urges Congress to acknowledge the medical value of cannabis by removing it from schedule I. This should allow patients to receive prescription health insurance coverage for medical marijuana and help relieve the financial burdens.

ATHAR HASEEBULLAH (Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada):
I am going to go over some of the technical specifics of A.J.R. 8, why we view it as being necessary and why it is coming in resolution form. It is important to draw a distinction between State and federal law. At the State level, there are litigation efforts.

Cannabis has been descheduled, not only removed from schedule I at the State level but descheduled entirely. Part of the reason it was descheduled is because there is a comprehensive regulatory regime in place in the form of the Cannabis Compliance Board which precludes its need to remain a scheduled substance.

Dating back 23 years, Nevada recognized the medical value of cannabis in the Nevada Constitution. Article 4, section 38 of the Nevada Constitution specifically requires the Nevada Legislature to provide by law the ability to utilize marijuana during treatment by a patient upon the advice of a physician.

Several years ago, we approved recreational cannabis. A conflict of laws still remains. The federal Controlled Substances Act precludes the ability to treat marijuana in a normal fashion as we have done in Nevada. The reason why is it remains on schedule I despite having recognized medical value for use and treatment.

We have only asked this be removed from schedule I at this point rather than being descheduled because the federal government does not have a comprehensive regulatory regime in place, as we do in Nevada. We often show up to the Legislature to complain that Nevada ranks dead last in almost every indicator for quality of life. When it comes to cannabis policy, we have been a national leader.

Occurring now is a state-by-state push for Congress to act on this issue. Delaware is running a concurrent resolution which mirrors our language. This becomes important because an entire level of instability affects financial industries supporting cannabis. There is the ability to bank under federal law, even as a cannabis dispensary, but most banks will not accept cannabis retailers, dispensaries, cultivation facilities or the like because of the associated risk level. The cost of doing so is immense in large part because cannabis remains on schedule I.

The impact at the State level might be nominal when it comes to addressing issues from the criminal justice perspective, but when it comes to the banking elements, it becomes critical. When looking toward a push for consistency across the board, there is no reason why cannabis should remain on schedule I in any state or at the federal level when it has recognized medical value. For more than two decades, the will of Nevada voters has demonstrated cannabis contains medical value. It is important for Nevada to put that position forward and make sure Congress is clear on Nevada's position.

I also want to highlight that we had a couple of hundred individuals sign our online petition ([Exhibit D](#)) in support of this resolution rather than having them call in.

We have also shared two letters of support ([Exhibit E](#) and [Exhibit F](#)) from A'Esha Goins and another letter of support ([Exhibit G](#)) from Christine Saunders. This bill had wide support in the Assembly, and we are glad to see this many bipartisan cosponsors. The only amendment added cosponsors. The number of folks across both party lines who are supportive of this resolution are a testament whether you have personal thoughts on cannabis use and efficacy. We have recognized it as a legitimate business industry in Nevada with legitimate medical value as enshrined in the Nevada Constitution. The will of Nevada voters suggests it should apply across the board.

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

I served in the Assembly with former Assemblywoman Chris Giunchigliani, Assemblyman Tick Segerblom and Assemblyman Joseph Hogan who worked so hard on the constitutional amendment in terms of medical marijuana. This is another brave bill in the tradition of a lot of great Legislators we have served with who worked on this issue, trying to make sure this will not be a criminal offense anymore, whether State or federal law.

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ALEX TANCHEK (Sierra Cannabis Coalition):
Sierra Cannabis Coalition is in support of the resolution.

ELYSE MONROY-MARSALA (Nevada Public Health Association):
Nevada Public Health Association is in support of this measure.

BRI PADILLA (Executive Director, Chamber of Cannabis):
The Chamber of Cannabis is Nevada's largest and most diverse business trade organization for the cannabis industry. We would like to express our support for A.J.R. 8. We believe this proposed legislation represents a significant step toward achieving a fair and equitable way to operate within our state.

At present, the cannabis industry in our state is operating under a glass ceiling. Despite the progress made in legalizing cannabis for medical and recreational use, the true potential of our industry remains hindered by the federal scheduling of cannabis as a controlled substance. This outdated classification poses numerous challenges for legal cannabis businesses, limiting their access to financial services, banking facilities and tax benefits.

We urge this body to champion this bill and actively work towards its passage. Together let us seize the opportunity to create a robust legal cannabis industry that benefits our State and serves as a model for others.

I have submitted a written statement ([Exhibit H](#)) in support from the Chamber of Cannabis.

JASON GRENINGER (CEO, Atlas Alchemy):
I have provided peer-reviewed documents and a link to an amalgam of hundreds of experiments and data on our endogenous cannabinoid system ([Exhibit I](#) contains copyrighted material. Original is available upon request of the Research Library.).

I will read my written testimony ([Exhibit J](#)) in support of A.J.R. 8.

JULIE MONTEIRO (Integrative Providers Association; Coalition for Patient Rights):
The Integrative Providers Association and Coalition for Patient Rights thanks the Assembly for bringing this bill. We are in favor of this bill. The medical providers who give care across the Nation would love to see this come out of scheduling

so we can treat it as the true medicine it has been for over 5,000 years. We want to concur with everybody in favor of the bill.

SUSAN PROFFITT:

I am vice president of the Nevada Republican Club, but I am going to speak for myself just in case there are a few who disagree with me. I support Assembly Joint Resolution 8, which urges the Congress of the United States to deschedule marijuana.

I have been a patient for the last six years on medical marijuana and had to give it up recently because in Nevada you cannot have a concealed weapons permit if you are taking medical marijuana at night. I had to make a choice between my safety and being able to sleep through the night because I cannot lay down without nerve pain. In 1990, I was hit by a truck.

Big Pharma was behind the push saying it was a gateway drug, but it is not. I had to apologize to my son for getting on his case about pot because I discovered it is a miraculous drug and has healed me in so many ways. The wonderful thing about it is after a while it no longer affects you—it does have the medical effect but you do not get the high feeling. It really does work, is not dangerous to take, and it is not addictive.

It is important to note many states have already legalized marijuana for medical purposes. We need marijuana to be allowed for medical use at the federal level because I can still get arrested if somebody wants to turn me in if I go across state lines or have something mailed to me in the wrong state. It is important to realize any substance can be abused or misused if not used responsibly. From personal experience, I have discovered it is not a gateway drug and it is not as addictive as tobacco and alcohol.

I would also like to bring a dangerous situation to your attention regarding overprescribed opioids in Nevada. While President Donald Trump's opioid mandates were in place, fewer people became addicted to prescribed drugs. Street drugs became the source for those already addicted. The cartels took advantage of that, as did China. Our citizens are dying from fentanyl today, including my daughter. That is a blatant act of warfare. Every seven minutes someone dies. President Joe Biden lifted the mandates that protected us, and my pain doctor wrote me a scrip for 90 hydrocortisone pills at one time. I was shocked and concerned because the year before I could only get one week's

worth after surgery. Something has got to be done because we are going to see a lot of people become addicted if we do not.

I am providing additional written testimony ([Exhibit K](#)) in support of A.J.R. 8.

KATREE SAUNDERS (Cofounder and Vice President, Pardon Me Please):
My written statement ([Exhibit L](#)) is in support of A.J.R. 8.

I have helped over 800 patients get signed up on our medical program. I have also helped establish local dispensaries and cultivations. Nevada changed the law to exclude felons from working in the industry. I have a federal cannabis conviction, and I am urging you to pass this law to help right some of the wrongs for people who have been affected federally by the war on drugs.

I hear everyone talking about financial issues and banking. There need to be regulations put in place for those people who have been affected. I have been unable to work in the industry because the Nevada State Legislature changed the laws to exclude felons from working in the cannabis industry.

PJ BELANGER (Wellness Forum Health):

I am a certified health and wellness educator under Dr. Pam Popper of Wellness Forum Health. I am also a molecular hydration specialist and certified in the technique of kinesiology. I have spent my entire life researching, teaching and practicing natural healing because I am a victim of autoimmune diseases. I overcame lupus in my thirties. I am now beating Graves' disease and am shrinking goiters and saving my thyroid from complete destruction. The only thing the medical industry offers is to butcher me and make me a prisoner of the pharmaceutical industry for the rest of my life, which I am not willing to do. Cannabis has shrunk these goiters; they are almost nonexistent. I probably have six months left to get rid of them and save my thyroid.

I am 60 years old. Never dyed my hair. I have been battling autoimmune diseases my whole life. Find one other woman my age doing half as well. They are not on the pharmaceutical medical route. I have been all natural. I am on no pharmaceuticals. I just came from my cardiologist because I survived two heart attacks in 2019. My heart is doing fantastic.

Cannabis is not a drug. It is an herb. It comes from the earth; it came from God. It is not a schedule I drug. As living proof, we can save our organs and do not

need to be butchered and do not need to be strung out on the pharmaceuticals. I urge everyone to please help make this not a schedule I drug and let it be accessible, affordable and rid of the stigma.

VICKI HIGGINS:

I am in support of A.J.R. 8. I believe this is important to get done to reduce the threat of federal interference.

KIMBERLY MAXIM:

I believe this should be passed. I am 61 years old. I have problem sleeping. I used to smoke a lot. I am an electrician, so I am not someone who is allowed to smoke. I am on two different medications so I can sleep through the night. I wake up groggy. Back in the day when I smoked weed, I did not wake up groggy. I do smoke hemp, but even that comes up as positive on a test.

I think a lot of people are illegally smoking marijuana right now and having to find other ways to make sure they can still function in society. The only thing that gets them is the drug test. If you hurt somebody or yourself at work, you are subject to take a urinalysis and that is where the penalty comes in. It is not that anybody else got hurt because of you smoking, it is because you got hurt more often because somebody else has done something stupid and you were involved in an accident. I think this could help remove this stigma from people who are just trying to go to work and live their lives.

SHELBY SWARTZ (Battle Born Progress):

My written statement ([Exhibit M](#)) is in support of A.J.R. 8.

BRYAN WACHTER (Vice President, Retail Association of Nevada):

I will not reiterate a lot of the comments you have heard except from Assemblywoman Brittney Miller about the dangers of an all-cash business. This is something dispensaries in Nevada struggle with daily. We also are cautious about the employment issues that happen because of federal law versus state law.

We have many businesses that accept federal contracts or do work on behalf of the federal government. They are under the federal guidelines instead of the State guidelines. We believe the passage of A.J.R. 8, and eventual action with Congress, can resolve those issues. We can continue forward.

ABIGAIL KAUFMANN:

I am in support of A.J.R. 8. It is critical that Congress not only deschedule but remove cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act.

This Act was introduced in 1970. Since then, all but 12 states have legalized access to high THC cannabis in some form. This Act states schedule I substances have no medical use. According to your data, there are roughly 4.5 million registered medical cannabis patients in the U.S. The federal status of cannabis as a schedule I substance is not only outdated but inaccurate.

Last October, President Joe Biden publicly asked regulators to review how cannabis is scheduled, pointing out the incongruent fact that cannabis is classified as more dangerous than fentanyl and methamphetamine. No one has died from a cannabis overdose, and I do not see there being a cannabis epidemic.

In addition to my role as board secretary for the Chamber of Cannabis, I am employed by CRB Monitor, which empowers financial institutions to manage cannabis-related risk. The current scheduling of cannabis carries a risk of federal prosecution for financial institutions, which keeps many of them from providing services to these organizations. When cannabis is no longer illegal, requirements for filing suspicious activity reports will likely shift, lessening the disproportionate amount of time cannabis friendly banks can spend providing services to these businesses and ultimately encouraging more banks to participate in this needed service. Cash is king, and cannabis is the reason credit card networks will not support federally illegal cannabis transactions.

In addition to the costly logistical aspects of having an industry that is nearly all cash sales, the abundance of cash increases the likelihood of robbery. If the purpose of the Controlled Substances Act is truly to protect the public, cannabis needs to be completely descheduled to achieve this.

CHANDLER COOKS (Cannabis Equity and Inclusion Community):

Cannabis Equity and Inclusion Community supports of A.J.R. 8. The current federal classification of cannabis as schedule I has resulted in decades of mass incarceration and many other negative outcomes as we have heard from earlier testimonies. Federally descheduling cannabis allows for greater research into the benefits and risk and provides greater access to medical treatment for those who truly need it. This bill will get us closer to providing opportunities for

those who have been negatively impacted by the criminalization of cannabis to participate in the legal cannabis industry. This could include opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship and overall economic growth for those communities that have been historically marginalized.

Assemblywoman Brittney Miller stated in her presentation that cannabis as a schedule I drug has resulted in legal businesses having limited access to traditional banking, forcing them to operate using only cash. I am a newly licensed cannabis business owner in Nevada, and descheduling marijuana would allow my business to access traditional banking and financial services. This would immeasurably reduce the risk associated with operating solely in cash. As a firsthand victim of the criminalization of cannabis, I appreciate the hard work done to bring this bill to fruition.

MATTHEW WILKIE:

I am calling in support of A.J.R. 8. It is undeniable marijuana has numerous medical benefits and has been recognized by medical organizations for its therapeutic uses. The Nevada medical marijuana law and the initiative to regulate and tax marijuana have legalized marijuana for medical and recreational uses, demonstrating the evolving attitudes toward its use and acceptance. It is unacceptable that legal patients are burdened by the financial cost of medical marijuana because of its federal designation as a schedule I substance. I urge Congress to act and reconsider the classification of marijuana as a schedule I controlled substance to ensure patients have access to safe and effective medical treatment without undue financial burden.

MR. HASEEBULLAH:

Methamphetamine, cocaine and fentanyl all remain on schedule II. Whether Congress chooses to act is a decision Congress must make. The reckless nature of categorizing cannabis as a schedule I substance by the Controlled Substance Act is the definition of government overreach that does not serve the will of the people.

The passage of this resolution to Congress is paramount in bringing forward consistent, logical and pragmatic law across the Country. This bill reflects the will of Nevada businesses, advocacy groups and voters and is in the Nevada Constitution. We remain open to additional cosponsors so when this resolution arrives in D.C., the intent of this Legislature can be clear—cannabis should not be classified as a schedule I substance.

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CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

I will close the hearing on A.J.R. 8 and open the hearing on A.J.R. 1.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 1: Urges the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to study the effectiveness and use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy for veterans. (BDR R-838)

ASSEMBLYMAN RICHARD MCARTHUR (Assembly District No. 4):

Assembly Joint Resolution 1 urges the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to study the effectiveness and use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) for veterans and share the results with Nevada. The main and obvious question is what is hyperbaric oxygen therapy? It is breathing pure oxygen in a pressured room or tube where the air pressure is increased to three times higher than normal. Then it can put more oxygen into the lungs. This increases blood oxygen and temporarily restores normal levels of blood gasses and tissue function, which promotes the healing process and fights infection.

To get the benefits from HBOT usually requires about 20 to 40 sessions. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has cleared 13 different disorders for treatment by HBOT. The FDA has not approved the treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI). Studies show positive results using the HBOT treatment for PTSD and TBI.

In 2016, Congress created a commission to examine mental health conditions and to research alternative medicine therapies that included HBOT. There appears to be good reasons to continue this research and study of HBOT as it pertains to PTSD and TBI.

The resolution sends a message to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that this Body supports the further study of HBOT for veterans in the hope HBOT may lead to new solutions for persistent veterans' disorders like PTSD and TBI.

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

There is a lot of untapped potential to this treatment, and I am glad you support this being available for veterans.

ANDREW LEPEILBET (United Veterans Legislative Council):

This resolution meets one of our top ten priorities for veterans across the State. In March of last year and January of this year, hundreds of veterans got together and voted on priorities. This was in the top ten.

All past tests on this therapy have demonstrated great effectiveness. We believe this will transfer over to PTSD. If you did not know, TBI is traumatic brain injury, and most of my time as a veteran we were not aware that was a possibility. I was blown up by a grenade many decades ago, before some of you were born. I did not know I had TBI. This HBOT seems to have a direct and positive impact.

We have a lot of TBI veterans from Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan a lot more than from past wars. I am sure you have seen the news of improvised explosive devices and how many of our young veterans have been blown up. This may be one of the solutions for all our veterans.

LYNN CHAPMAN (American Legion Auxiliary):

I am a 48-year member and 10-time past president of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 30 in Sparks. The veterans deserve healing and the best we can give to them for all their sacrifices. Leaving their families behind to go around the world to keep Americans safe, many times they come home with severe body wounds or mental problems. I believe we should support our veterans in any way we can. This is a study that deserves to be done for those that served us. Please vote yes on A.J.R. 1 for a study to help with our veterans' health care. Congress needs to hear from Nevada.

MICHAEL RYAN:

I am a long-time resident of Nevada and a Marine Corps veteran. I support the passage of A.J.R. 1. This will be meaningful for veterans who are impacted by TBI and PTSD.

ASSEMBLYMAN MCARTHUR:

I appreciate all the bipartisan support this bill has received. This is a good resolution.

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

I will close the hearing on A.J.R. 1 and open the hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 104.

ASSEMBLY BILL 104 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions governing the submission of legislative measures for city charters. (BDR 17-141)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JILL DICKMAN (Assembly District No. 31):

Assembly Bill 104 aims to offer more flexibility for Nevada's incorporated cities to submit legislation to amend their charters. If cities wish to amend their charters, they must either use one of their allotted bill draft requests (BDR) or look for a sponsor to submit the bill on their behalf. This can create several challenges for cities, especially those only allowed one BDR per Legislative Session. Those cities include my own home, the City of Sparks, as well as Carson City, Elko, Carlin, Boulder City, Caliente, Mesquite, Wells and Yerington.

Cities may struggle to find a sponsor at times due to the required charter review process prescribed by the Legislature within certain city charters. This process allows cities to vet proposed changes to their charter. It also creates certain time constraints.

Ideas for individual Legislators come from many different constituents and those spots fill up quickly. If cities have any other legislative priorities, other than their charter, they may be put in a situation where they must choose and possibly wait another two years.

Section 1, subsection 6 of A.B. 104 simply allows cities to have an additional BDR solely for the purpose of amending their charters. They would only be able to use this additional BDR if the change has gone through the regular review and approval process. They will have to submit proof to the Legislative Counsel Bureau regarding approval from the governing Body to submit the BDR.

At the request of the Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections, the bill was amended to restrict the use of this provision to no more than twice in any ten-year period or once every five sessions. If cities are given the option to amend their charters, it will allow them to have more thorough and serious discussions about legislative priorities that aim to help the people who

they serve. Their constituents are our constituents, and it is our duty to make sure their voices are being heard.

STEPHEN WOOD (Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities):

There are 13 incorporated cities in Nevada that operate under what is called a special charter, meaning their charter is unique and separate from the general law provisions of *Nevada Revised Statutes* 266 which govern the other cities in Nevada. Nine of these cities are only allocated one BDR per regular Legislative Session. When these cities need to come before the Legislature to amend their charters, this limitation can put them in somewhat of a tight spot, especially if they have other needs requiring the Legislature's attention.

One such example is Carson City. The Carson City Charter Review Committee and the Board of Supervisors approved Senate Bill 16 which revises various sections of the Carson City Charter. This bill was submitted as the only BDR the city has for this Legislative Session. Although the city chose to prioritize these charter amendments this Session, the limitation was discussed during the presentation Assemblywoman Jill Dickman gave. This prevented the City from having a thorough discussion around other potential changes to NRS that would benefit the residents of Carson City.

SENATE BILL 16: Revises various provisions of the Charter of Carson City.
(BDR S-350)

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

If this passes, how many BDRs do you think this will translate into over a ten-year period?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DICKMAN:

There would be a maximum of 26 additional bills in 5 sessions if every city used every available BDR.

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

This would apply to cities that have charter committees and those that do not as well, correct?

MR. WOOD:

This would impact all 13 chartered cities. This would apply to any city that has one of the special charters mentioned that can bring a bill affecting its charter.

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SHELLY CAPURRO (City of Sparks):
We support this bill.

NIC CICCONE (City of Reno):
We support this bill. With our charter committees having to meet every two years and provide recommendations or changes, this will greatly help even the cities which have more than one BDR.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DICKMAN:
Thank you on behalf of the cities who do their best to serve our constituents.

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CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 104. Seeing no further business for the Legislative Operations and Elections Committee for this day, we are adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Diane Rea,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator James Ohrenschall, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit Letter	Introduced on Minute Report Page No.	Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	1		Attendance Roster
A.J.R. 6	C	2	Nicholas Anthony	Work session document
A.J.R. 8	D	7	Athar Haseebullah / American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada	Petition in support
A.J.R. 8	E	7	A'Esha Goins / NAACP Las Vegas	Statement in support
A.J.R. 8	F	7	A'Esha Goins / Cannabis Equity and Inclusion Community	Statement in support
A.J.R. 8	G	7	Christine Saunders / Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada	Statement in support
A.J.R. 8	H	8	Bri Padilla / Chamber of Cannabis	Written testimony in support
A.J.R. 8	I	8	Jason Greninger / Atlas Alchemy	Support material
A.J.R. 8	J	8	Jason Greninger / Atlas Alchemy	Written testimony in support
A.J.R. 8	K	10	Susan Proffitt	Written testimony in support
A.J.R. 8	L	10	Katree Saunders / Pardon Me Please	Written testimony in support
A.J.R. 8	M	12	Shelbie Swartz / Battle Born Progress	Written testimony in support