

Chapter 288 of NAC

PROPOSED TEMPORARY REGULATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS BOARD

LCB File No. T001-12

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: NRS 288.110.

A REGULATION relating to the practice and procedure before the Local Government Employee-Management Relations Board, and providing other matters properly related thereto.

Section 1. Chapter 288 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as section 2, by amending the provisions set forth as sections 3 to 14, inclusive, of this regulation, and by repealing therefrom the provision set forth in section 15.

Sec. 2. Chapter 288 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

Settlement Conference

- 1. Upon the motion of any party or on its own motion, the Board may order the parties to participate in a settlement conference.*
- 2. The Commissioner shall conduct any settlement conference ordered by the Board.*
- 3. The Board will not order a settlement conference for any matter that is:*
 - (a) An appeal of a bargaining unit determination brought pursuant to NRS 288.170(5);*
 - (b) A proceeding relating to the recognition of an employee organization brought pursuant to NRS 288.160; or*
 - (c) A declaratory order proceeding brought pursuant to NAC 288.380-.410.*
- 4. A settlement conference may be requested any time:*
 - (a) after all parties have submitted prehearing statements; and*
 - (b) not any later than 60 days before the date of a scheduled hearing.*
- 5. The Commissioner may establish any reasonable guidelines to conduct a particular settlement conference, except that the Commissioner may not:*
 - (a) require the parties to submit any additional statements or briefing in advance of a settlement conference; or*
 - (b) establish any other guideline which will impose an undue expense on any party.*
- 6. The Commissioner may not be called as a witness in any proceeding in which a settlement conference has taken place.*

Sec. 3. NAC 288.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Elections.

1. All elections conducted in accordance with subsection 4 of NRS 288.160 will be conducted under the supervision of the Board or its agent.

2. Any party may be represented at the election by observers selected in accordance with such limitations as the Board may prescribe.
3. Any observer or the Board's agent conducting the election may challenge for good cause the eligibility of any person to vote in the election. The ballots of challenged persons will be impounded.
4. Upon the conclusion of the election, the ballots will be counted in the presence of the parties or their observers and the Board's agent conducting the election. The agent will furnish parties with a tally of the ballots.
5. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the ballots must be kept for at least 6 months after an election, after which period the ballots may be destroyed. If a timely objection to the election is filed with the Board or a petition for judicial review concerning the election is filed in district court, the ballots must be kept until after the conclusion of any Board or court proceeding concerning the election.
6. Provisions may be made for a nonunion vote and for linguistic assistance.
7. If the results are inconclusive, the Board ~~[will]~~ *may* conduct a runoff election.
8. Within 5 days after the election, any party may file with the Board objections to the conduct of the election or conduct affecting the results of the election. The objections must be in writing and contain a brief statement of facts upon which the objections are based. A sworn original and four copies of the objections must be signed and filed with the Board. The party filing the objections shall serve a copy upon each of the other parties.
9. If challenges which affect the results of the election or objections raise a substantial question which cannot be resolved without a hearing, the Board may issue and serve notice of a hearing on these issues.
10. An employee organization will be considered the exclusive bargaining agent for employees within a bargaining unit, pursuant to an election, if:
 - (a) Challenged ballots are insufficient in number to affect the results;
 - (b) No runoff election is to be held;
 - (c) No timely objections are filed; and
 - (d) The election demonstrates that the employee organization is supported by a majority of the employees within the particular bargaining unit.

Sec. 4. NAC 288.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Answer.

1. The respondent may file an answer in the form of a pleading and not later than 20 days after the receipt of a complaint.
2. The answer must contain a clear and concise statement of the facts which constitute a defense. The respondent must specifically admit, deny or explain each of the allegations in the complaint unless he is without knowledge, in which case he shall so state and the statement shall be deemed a denial. Any allegation in the complaint not specifically denied in the answer, unless it is stated in the answer that the respondent is without knowledge, shall be deemed to be admitted to be true.
3. If an answer is not made within the prescribed time, the dilatory party is precluded, except with the consent of the opposing party or the Board, from asserting any affirmative defense in the proceeding.
4. ~~[A sworn]~~ *An* original and four copies of the answer must be signed and filed with the Board.

Sec 5. NAC 288.273 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Prehearing conference.

1. The Board or Commissioner may, upon written notice to all parties of record, hold a prehearing conference to:

- (a) Formulate or simplify the issues;
- (b) Obtain admissions of fact which will avoid unnecessary proof;
- (c) Discuss proposed exhibits which ~~[should have been previously]~~ *shall be* exchanged between the parties *at least 5 days before the date of the prehearing conference*;
- (d) Limit the number of witnesses; and
- (e) Establish any other procedure which may expedite the orderly conduct and disposition of the proceedings.

2. Upon action of the Board, the action taken and the agreements made at a prehearing conference by the parties concerned must be made a part of the record. When so ordered, the action controls the course of subsequent proceedings unless modified by the Board at the hearing.

3. In any proceeding, the Board may call all parties together for a conference before the taking of testimony or may recess the hearing for a conference to carry out the intent of this section. The Board will state on the record the results of the conference.

Sec. 6. NAC 288.306 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Allowance of oral argument.

The Board may, following the filing of briefs or upon contested motions~~[,]~~:

- 1. set the matter for oral argument upon 10 days written notice to each party of record, unless the Board considers a shorter time advisable; and*
- 2. limit the amount of time available to each party for oral argument.*

Sec 7. NAC 288.322 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Admissibility of evidence.

1. In conducting any investigation, inquiry or hearing, the Board is not bound by the technical rules of evidence, and no informality in any proceeding or in the manner of taking testimony will invalidate any order or decision of the Board. The rules of evidence of courts of the State will be generally followed but may be relaxed at the discretion of the presiding officer or Board when deviation from the technical rules of evidence will aid in ascertaining the facts.

2. An objection to the admissibility of evidence may be made by any party of record and the objection will be ruled on by the ~~[Board]~~ *presiding officer*. When an objection is made to the admission or exclusion of evidence, the grounds upon which the relief is sought must be stated briefly. The Board, either with or without objection, may exclude inadmissible, incompetent, repetitious or irrelevant evidence.

3. Any evidence offered at the hearing must be material and relevant to the issues of the hearing.

4. An offer of proof for the record must consist of a statement of the substance of the evidence to which an objection has been sustained.

Sec. 8. NAC 288.328 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Admission of evidence into record.

The ~~[Board]~~ *presiding officer* will rule on the admissibility of all evidence subject to the provisions of NAC 288.324 and 288.326. At the conclusion of the hearing, all evidence will be

received into the record subject to the rulings of the Board on evidence to which timely objection was made.

Sec 9. NAC 288.345 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Briefs: Order to file; procedure for filing.

In any proceeding the presiding officer may order briefs to be filed within a reasonable time. An original and four copies of each brief must be filed with the Board and must be accompanied by ~~[an acknowledgment of or an affidavit]~~ *a certification* showing service on each party of record as provided in NAC 288.200.

Sec. 10. NAC 288.360 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Rehearings: Petition; procedure; failure to file.

1. Either party may, within ~~[10 days after any decision by the Board]~~ *15 days after service of a final decision of the Board*, file a petition for a rehearing stating the reasons therefor.

2. The Board may order a rehearing by requiring the parties to submit any additional evidence or data in support of their respective positions. The Board will not require the repetition of evidence or data previously submitted. Further proceedings and deliberations will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

3. The failure of either party to submit a petition for rehearing within ~~[10]~~ *15* days constitutes an agreement that the Board's decision is a final decision for the purposes of NRS 233B.130.

Sec. 11. NAC 288.364 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Rehearings: Grant or denial; decision.

1. The Board will consider a *timely* petition for rehearing and may grant or deny it ~~[within 20 days after the date of its filing]~~ *within 5 days before the expiration of time-frame to file a petition for judicial review set forth in NRS 233B.130*. If no action is taken by the Board within the time specified, the petition shall be deemed denied.

2. If the Board grants the petition for rehearing, its order granting rehearing will state the issues upon which the petition has been granted. The Board may request the filing of briefs by the parties on issues raised by the petition. No evidence will be taken nor will any hearing be held under this section.

3. After reconsidering the issues, the Board, if it is of the opinion that the original order or decision is in any respect unjust, unwarranted, unlawful or in need of change, may abrogate, change or modify the decision, the order or both.

4. A decision will be rendered within 45 days after granting a petition for rehearing.

Sec 12. NAC 288.368 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Rehearings: Order for modification.

1. Any order modifying a decision or order of the Board issued pursuant to NAC 288.364 incorporates those portions of the prior order or decision which have not been changed or modified by the subsequent order.

2. For purposes of ~~[appeal]~~ *judicial review* a modifying order is to be considered the final order of the Board.

Sec 13. NAC 288.390 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Response to petition for declaratory order.

1. Any party served with a petition for a declaratory order may respond to the petition within 20 days by filing the original and four copies of his ~~[sworn]~~ response with the Board. The responding party shall also serve a copy of the response upon the petitioner.

2. The response must include:

- (a) The full name and address of the petitioner;
- (b) The full name and address of the respondent;
- (c) A clear and concise statement of the facts, including the time and place of the occurrence of the particular acts described in the petition and the names of persons involved; and
- (d) ~~[The legal authority under which the response is made]~~ *A memorandum of authorities, including legal authorities in opposition to, or in support of, any position or contention raised by the petitioner.*

Sec 14. NAC 288.400 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Request for hearing.

1. Any ~~[petitioner]~~ *party* who desires a hearing on a petition for a declaratory order shall set forth in detail in his request the reason why the matters alleged in the petition and the supporting affidavits or other written evidence in briefs or memorandum of legal authorities do not permit the fair and expeditious disposition of the petition ~~[and, if a request for hearing is dependent upon factual assertions, shall, by affidavit, establish those facts].~~

2. A request for a hearing must be filed within 10 days of service of any response to the petition. Failure to file a request for a hearing may be construed as consent for the Board to issue a declaratory order without holding a hearing.

Sec . 15. NAC 288.410 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Consideration by Board.

1. The Board may, for good cause, refuse to issue a declaratory order if:

- (a) The question is speculative or purely hypothetical and does not involve existing facts or facts that can reasonably be expected to exist in the near future;
- (b) The petitioner's interest is not of the type which would give him standing to maintain an action if he were to seek judicial relief;
- (c) The issuance of the declaratory order may adversely affect the interest of the Board or any of its officers or employees in a litigation which is pending or may reasonably be expected to arise; or
- (d) The matter is not within the jurisdiction of the Board.

2. The Board will consider each petition submitted for a declaratory order and will, within a reasonable time after the submission:

- (a) Deny the petition in a written statement containing the Board's reasons for the denial;
- (b) Set the matter for hearing and proceed according to NAC 288.280 to 288.370, inclusive;

or

- (c) Issue a declaratory order on the matters contained in the petition.

~~[3. The Board may issue a declaratory order without holding a hearing on a petition which has been opposed if all of the legal issues raised by the petition have been previously decided by the Board and the Board adopts its previous decision or decisions as precedent.]~~

~~—4.] 3.~~ The Board may order a hearing on an unopposed petition for a declaratory order if it is in the best interests of those who may be affected by the order.

Sec . 16. NAC 288.366 is hereby repealed:

~~[Rehearings: Effect of filing or granting.~~

~~—Except as otherwise ordered by the Board, no filing of a petition for rehearing or granting of the petition excuses compliance with or otherwise suspends the effectiveness of the final decision or order upon which the petition for rehearing was filed.]~~