

## DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or [library@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:library@lcb.state.nv.us).



**WASHOE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
INVESTIGATORS' ASSOCIATION**  
P.O. Box 3372 - Reno, Nevada 89505

---

March 3, 2003

**Position Paper – Senate Bill 45**

Chairman Raggio and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate Finance Committee;

My name is Mike Neville. I am a Criminal Investigator with the Washoe County District Attorney's Office and have been so employed for over 13 years. Prior to that I served a total of 17 ½ years with the Reno and Sparks Police Departments. In coming before the Committee to ask for your support for SB 45, I do so not only as the president of the Washoe County District Attorney Investigators' Association (WCDAIA), but also as a director of the Peace Officers Research Association of Nevada (PORAN). In that capacity I speak for professional peace officers throughout the state.

SB 45 is similar to SB 393, introduced in the 2001 legislative session. That bill was heard by this committee on May 14, 2001. Therefore Chairman Raggio, Vice Chairman Rawson, and Senators Coffin and Mathews have heard much of what I will present today. I believe that it is important to present all of the relevant material in context, particularly for the benefit of Senators Rhoads, Cegavske and Tiffany. So I extend my apologies to those of you who will experience some *déjà vu*.

**The Issue And Its History**

SB 45 seeks to simplify the definition of "police officer" under NRS 286.061 in a manner that will allow the inclusion into approved police/fire coverage of a small minority of Nevada peace officers, approximately 3½%, who are currently excluded. There are approximately 8500 peace officers in the state of Nevada as defined under NRS 289.010. Under the current system, the PERS Board has chosen to exclude approximately 310 of them from approved police/fire coverage (Exhibit 1).

The Public Employees' Retirement System of Nevada maintains two separate funds for the payment of retirement benefits. One fund is for "police officers" and "firemen" as defined in NRS 286.061 and 286.042 respectively, and the other fund is for all other "regular" employees. The police/fire fund provides early retirement and enhanced survivor benefits for its members that are not available to the regular members. Accordingly, the contribution rate for police/fire membership is greater than that of regular membership.

Prior to 1987, the determination of what law enforcement or fire suppression positions would be included in the definitions of "police officer" and "fireman" was made by the legislature. Chapter 289 contained a list of those peace officer positions that were