MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Eighty-second Session April 14, 2023

The Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair James Ohrenschall at 11:39 a.m. on Friday, April 14, 2023, in Room 2149 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, 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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL: We have two items in our work session.

NICOLAS ANTHONY (Policy Analyst):

The first is <u>Senate Bill (S.B.) 404</u>. This bill makes various changes relating to elections and was heard in Committee on April 13, 2023. The work session document (<u>Exhibit C</u>) includes the proposed conceptual amendment submitted by Senator Ohrenschall.

SENATE BILL 404: Makes various changes relating to elections. (BDR 24-843)

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

I would be open to a motion to amend and do pass with the amendments listed in the work session document.

SENATOR DALY MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 404.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

In looking at the bill and amendment, I have several issues. One is starting to count the ballots the first day of early voting.

The current statute talks about the Nevada photo identification (ID) and then proof of residency. We are eliminating the official photo ID we have in Nevada, whether it is an ID or a driver's license. We have a list of proposed different things to satisfy the check for residency. The language is too loose because we really do not know what type of photo ID will be used, and things like a utility bill and bank statements could be used. I am not comfortable using those to demonstrate residency. There are the military ID cards. It would be valid and useful, but some of the other items on the list are not strong enough for what we need for our elections.

SENATOR KRASNER:

I had some concerns yesterday, but there are lengthy amendments I have not had a chance to go through. I will be a yes but reserve my right to change my vote prior to floor.

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

I appreciate the Minority Leader's comments. Nothing in the bill changes the statute that keeps any tally private until after Election Day. This would simply give the clerks or registrars a head start on counting.

The provisions for utility bills and other things for a residency challenge do not change the current statute if there is a challenge to identity. This would still require a government-issued photo ID to fight for the voter's challenge.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT VOTED NO.)

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MR. ANTHONY:

The next item before the Committee is <u>S.B. 443</u>. The work session document (<u>Exhibit D</u>) includes the conceptual amendment from Senator Ohrenschall.

SENATE BILL 443: Revises provisions relating to voter registration. (BDR 24-842)

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

I have received testimony (<u>Exhibit E</u>) in support of this bill from Brian Harris on behalf of Battle Born Progress. I would accept a motion to amend and do pass with the amendments in the work session.

SENATOR DALY MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 443.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I will be a no on this with some similar reasons as provided on the earlier bill.

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

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CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

Seeing no further business for the Legislative Operations and Elections Committee for this day, we are adjourned at 11:46 a.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
	Α	1		Agenda
	В	1		Attendance Roster
S.B. 404	С	1	Nicolas Anthony	Work session document
S.B. 443	D	3	Nicolas Anthony	Work session document
S.B. 443	E	3	Brian Harris / Battle Born Progress	Written testimony in support