



NLC&M Issue Brief 2017 Legislative Session

The 79th session of the Nevada Legislature began as scheduled on February 6th and adjourned sine die shortly before midnight on June 5th. The legislature considered over 1000 bills and passed around 650 measures. Governor Sandoval vetoed over 40 of the bills passed by the legislature. Overall, local governments did fairly well though there were bills passed that will have an impact on local government operations or placed new requirements on them. This brief highlights some of the measures that will affect municipal governments in the state.

The League was successful in getting one of our bills passed this session. AB8, which was signed into law by Governor Sandoval on May 23rd and will become effective October 1st. This bill expands the existing authority for incorporated cities to place delinquent sewer bills on the property tax roll for collection to include water and storm drainage delinquencies. The other League bills did not make it through for various reasons. Our bill to create a vacant property registry had opposition from many stake holder groups. The opposition has agreed to work over the interim to try and come up with an acceptable framework for a blighted property registry. The bill that we brought to include towns that have the responsibility for the maintenance of county roads in the distribution of revenue derived from motor fuel taxes was not heard at our request. We were able to reach an agreement that our town members would work on an MOU with the county to receive funds without having to put it in statute. Our last bill, regarding Private Activity Bond cap was heard in the Senate Government Affairs committee and re-referred to Finance but not acted on by that committee.

Other bills of note are detailed below.

Main Street Program – AB417 – This bill creates a Nevada Main Street Program within GOED. The League had a similar measure in the 2015 session. Assemblywoman Swank brought the bill and was successful in getting it passed. The creation of a Main Street Coordinating agency will allow “Main Street” programs in Nevada to be recognized by the National Main Street Center of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The creation of the coordinating agency also allows Nevada programs to apply for certain grants that they were not eligible for.

Law Enforcement Body Cameras – SB176 – This measure requires that all uniformed law enforcement personnel that routinely interact with the public wear body cameras no later than July 1, 2018. The bill contains a provision that allows a board of county commissioners to impose or increase the fee charged for the enhancement of the 911 system up to \$1 from the current max of 25 cents and expands the use of the proceeds from the fee to include body cameras and related

costs. There was another bill, SB88, that would have created an opportunity for local governments to apply to the Interim Finance Committee for a grant to purchase body cameras and other costs associated with them. This bill could have been useful for cities with police departments located in a county that, for some reason, does not increase the 911 fee. However, the bill died without getting a hearing in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee despite having passed the Senate 21 – 0.

Marriage Ceremonies – SB279 – This legislation authorizes the mayors of general law cities to perform marriage ceremonies. Mayors of charter cities may perform marriage ceremonies if the city council adopts an ordinance authorizing the mayor to do so. Mayors may not be compensated for performing marriages.

Pest Control – AB32 – This bill requires all persons, including governmental agencies that use pesticides to obtain a certificate from the Department of Agriculture. Governmental agencies are only required to obtain one “governmental agency certificate”.

Workplace Accommodations

AB113 – This bill requires that all public employers and private employers with over 50 employees provide a clean private area where a woman can express breast milk. This bill became effective July 1st.

AB241 – This measure requires that cities include a provision in their building codes, or adopt an ordinance if the city does not have building codes, requiring that baby changing tables be installed in all buildings or facilities constructed after October 1, 2017 that are used by the public and have public restrooms. Buildings or facilities that restrict admission of children on the basis of age are exempted from this requirement.

SB253 – This bill establishes the Nevada Pregnant Workers’ Fairness Act to provide protections to female employees and applicants for employment who are affected by a condition of the employee or applicant relating to pregnancy, childbirth or a related medical condition.

Districts

AB5 – This bill authorizes a municipality to create a district to finance energy efficiency improvement or renewable energy projects.

AB246 – This legislation revises provisions relating to the creation of local improvement districts and tax increment areas. The bill provides that two or more contiguous municipalities may enter into an interlocal agreement for the creation and operation of an improvement district.

AB379 – This bill authorizes local governments to create a parks, trails and open space district.

SB462 – This measure authorized a board of county commissioners to create a committee to review general improvement districts.