

ARIZONA STATE SENATE

SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE

Minutes of the Meeting

January 19, 2022

2:00 P.M., SHR 1

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:

<https://www.azleg.gov/videooplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2022011048>

Members Present:

Senator Sonny Borrelli
Senator Sean Bowie
Senator Rosanna Gabaldon
Senator Theresa Hatathlie
Senator David Livingston
Senator Tyler Pace
Senator Raquel Terán
Senator Michelle Ugenti-Rita

Members Excused

Senator J.D. Mesnard, Chair

Staff:

Jason Theodorou, Senate Research Analyst
Caila Young, Senate Research Intern
Ashton McGee, Democratic Intern

Senator Ugenti-Rita called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and attendance was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Livingston stated without objection, the Senate Commerce Committee of Reference minutes of January 12, 2022 are approved as distributed.

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA OFFICE OF TOURISM

Presentation by the Office of the Auditor General

Rosa Ellis, Performance Audit Manager, Office of the Auditor General, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Office of Tourism" (Attachment A). Ms. Ellis answered questions posed by the Committee.

Response by the Arizona Office of Tourism

Debbie Johnson, Executive Director, Arizona Office of Tourism, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Office of Tourism" (Attachment B). Ms. Johnson answered questions posed by the Committee regarding the COVID grant money provided by the Governor's office and the findings of the Auditor General's report.

Lindsey Perry, Auditor General, answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee discussed decreasing the recommended time for the Office of Tourism, requesting a follow up audit and compliance issues.

Ms. Perry and Ms. Ellis continued to answer questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee discussed the tribal gaming funds in reference to the Office of Tourism.

Public Testimony

No public testimony took place.

Discussion and Recommendations

Senator Ugenti requested a motion on the recommendation that the Office of Tourism continue for four years.

Senator Livingston made a substitute motion that the Senate Commerce Committee of Reference make the recommendation to continue the Arizona Office of Tourism for eight years or until July 1, 2030. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 5-3-1 (Attachment 1).

Senators Pace, Terán and Ugenti-Rita explained their vote.

SUNSET REVIEW OF THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND EMBALMERS

Presentation by the Office of the Auditor General

Marc Owen, Performance Audit Manager, Office of the Auditor General, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers" (Attachment C). Mr. Owen answered questions posed by the Committee.

Response by the Arizona State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

Natasha Culbertson, Executive Director, Arizona Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, introduced her staff in the audience, Lemuel Cannon, public member of the board and Tracie Smith, Investigative Manager. Ms. Culbertson gave an update in response to the Auditor General's review and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Public Testimony

Karoline Davidson, Vice President, Arizona Funeral Cemetery and Cremation Association, spoke in support of the Arizona State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers.

Ms. Culbertson returned to the podium to answer questions posed by the Committee.

Discussion and Recommendations

Senator Ugenti-Rita requested a motion on the recommendation.

Senator Livingston moved that the Senate Commerce Committee of Reference make the recommendation to continue the Arizona State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers for two years until July 1, 2024. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 8-0-1 (Attachment 2).

Senators Gabaldon and Borrelli explained their vote.

Attached is a list noting the individuals who registered their position on the agenda items (Attachment D).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey Gardner
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)