

Meeting Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021

Time: 9:32 AM to 10:24 AM

Location: Zoom Meeting ID: 161 801 0904

**MINUTES**

2019/2020 County Clerk Legislative Committee Members

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Candace Grubbs/Cindi Wilde, Butte | X/T | Joani Finwall/Lorelay Faussier, San Bernardino | T/T |
| Elizabeth Gutierrez, Contra Costa | X | Val Handfield, San Diego | T |
| Brandon Hill, Fresno | T | Teresa Williamson, San Joaquin | X |
| Chuck Storey/Victoria Wong, Imperial | X/X | Joe Holland/Danielle Rifilato/Melinda Greene, Santa Barbara | X/T/T |
| Portia Sanders/Monique Blakely/Jaime Pailma, Los Angeles | T/T/X | Gina Alcomendras/Louis Chiaramonte/Belinda Gamutan, Santa Clara | X/X/X |
| Lisa Anderson/Melissa Garcia, Riverside | T/X | Deva Proto/Carrie Anderson/Amanda King, Sonoma | T/T/T |
| Donna Allred/Andrew Graham, Sacramento | T/T | David Valenzuela/Sheila Jetton, Ventura | T/T |

(**T** – Teleconference; **X** – Not on call)

1. **Call to Order**

Meeting started at 9:32 AM

1. **Roll call**

**Also attending:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Attendee*** | ***County*** |
| Abims Aguda/Joseph Barton | Contra Costa |
| Debbi LaGrande | Glenn |
| Kelly Sanders | Humboldt |
| Susan Morris | Kings |
| Jacqueline Luna | Madera |
| Jodi Olson | Marin |
| Patti Houbein | Merced |
| Frederick Garcia/Susan McCormick /Tanya Newburn | Placer |
| Tammie Buie/Andrew Ellingwood/Antoinette Garrett/Erik Karhu | Riverside |
| Nicole Barber/David Gonzalez/Diana Moore | San Diego |
| Diane Rea/Guillermo Sandoval | San Francisco |
| Rosette Keopadubsy | San Joaquin |
| Helen Nolan | San Luis Obispo |
| Julie Hughes | Santa Clara |
| Margarita Williams | Santa Cruz |
| Julieanne Bryant | Shasta |
| Katherine Campos | Yolo |

1. **Approval of Minutes (March 25, 2021)**

Motion to approve: Monique Blakely, Los Angeles; second: Melinda Greene, Santa Barbara. Minutes were approved.

1. **Legislative Advocate Update – Matt Siverling**

The first key deadline of the Session is at the end of this month. April 30th is the last day for policy committees to hear bills and pass to Appropriations. Prior to this hearing, any measure that was not amended and prepared for analysis and approval will be tabled and become a two-year bill. Since this is the first year of a Session, the measures that fail to overcome deadlines have a brief opportunity next year to be heard and move either “as is” or with amendments to secure votes for passage.

The Legislature is continuing to adhere to a limited bill load and is anticipating potentially intermittent activity on the Floor due to the potential of a surge in COVID-19 infections. That being said, the Governor has signaled that it is his intention to officially “reopen” California by June 15, 2021. It remains to be seen whether that includes a more traditional Committee and Legislative process in the Capitol building. Until then, we will be forced to participate in hearings and Sessions virtually.

**AB 583 Remote Marriage License Issuance and Solemnization**

This bill would authorize, between January 1, 2022, and January 1, 2024, a county clerk to issue a marriage license or solemnize or witness a marriage ceremony using remote technology, as defined, except for the marriage of a minor. The bill would prescribe the procedures and requirements for marriage license applications, marriage license issuance, and the witnessing or solemnizing of the marriage ceremony using remote technology, including the requirements that the couple be in the same physical location in the State of California while using remote technology to solemnize their marriage. The measure would authorize a county clerk to require a couple to complete an affidavit affirming that they and each individual participating in a marriage solemnization using remote technology are physically present within the State of California, as required. The bill would authorize a county clerk to provide guidance relating to marriage license applications, marriage license issuance, and the witnessing or solemnizing of the marriage ceremony within their jurisdiction using remote technology.

The measure was unanimously approved by members and will now move directly to the Floor since it is optional for counties and non-fiscal.

We are also exploring the prospect of amending this measure into an “urgency” bill, since the Executive Order currently authorizing the remote and electronic processes for marriage ceremonies and licenses may expire once the “stay at home order” is lifted. This may occur as soon as June. We have reached out to the Governor’s office and the notified the Author of the issue.

**AB 1286 Marriage: Local Registrar**

Current law requires the State Registrar to create a document, no later than March 1, 2020, with annual updates, containing information received by local registrars concerning marriage certificates in which one or both of the parties were minors at the time of solemnization of the marriage. Current law requires the local registrar, at least annually, to submit information, as specified, to the State Registrar for those purposes. Existing law restricts the local registrar from submitting that information if the local registrar did not accept any marriage certificates in the same calendar year. This bill would require the State Registrar to also provide that document to the Legislature annually.

This measure would amend the Code to require the counties to report to the State Registrar four times per year the number of minor marriages administered. The bill would specify that the county would be required to report “zero” if there were none, rather than not filing.

We need to assess the process and the workload associated with this new mandate.

The Committee agrees to remain neutral on this bill.

**AB 819 California Environmental Quality Act: notices and documents: electronic filing and**

**posting.**

CEQA requires, if an environmental impact report is required, the lead agency to mail a notice of determination to each responsible agency, the Office of Planning and Research, and public agencies with jurisdiction over natural resources affected by the project. CEQA requires the lead agency to provide notice to the public and to organizations and individuals who have requested notices that the lead agency is preparing an environmental impact report, negative declaration, or specified determination. CEQA requires notices for an environmental impact report to be posted in the office of the county clerk of each county in which the project is located. This bill would instead require the lead agency to mail or email those notices, and to post them on the lead agency’s internet website. The bill would also require notices of an environmental impact report to be posted on the internet website of the county clerk of each county in which the project is located.

The bill was amended in early April from being counties having to post the information on their websites to being mandated. Val provided information to Matt supporting the language be changed that the word “shall” that is included in the measure to “may,” making the action optional instead of mandatory. Though some counties have already started posting the information on their websites, the ability for those counties that are not currently posting to implement this by January 1, 2022 could be difficult.

Committee Co-Chairs Donna Allred, Sacramento and Val Handfield, San Diego will send out an invitation for members to sit on a subcommittee to identify how to move forward on this measure. Matt will reach out to Assemblyperson Levine’s office to let them know that the Committee has some concerns regarding this measure and would like to meet next week.

1. **Bill Tracking**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Contra Costa | AB 621 | Will continue to monitor |
| AB 819 | Motion to oppose bill unless amended: Monique Blakely, Los Angeles; second: David Valenzuela, Ventura. Motion approved. |
| AB 1260 | Will continue to monitor |
| SB 44 | Will continue to monitor; set for hearing on May 5, 2021 |
| Riverside | AB 346 | Was set for hearing; hearing was cancelled at the request of the author. Will continue to monitor |
| AB 583 | Has been ordered to its third reading. Will continue to monitor |
| Sacramento | AB 218 | Will continue to monitor |
| AB 439 | Will continue to monitor |
| AB 1093 | Will continue to monitor |
| San Bernardino | SB 554 | Was set for hearing April 8; hearing was cancelled at the request of the author. Will continue watching |
| Santa Barbara | AB 1286 | Neutral |
| Sonoma | AB 886 | It appears that all reference to public records has been struck through in amendment and has moved on to committee for Public Safety. Will continue to monitor |
| Ventura | AB 751 | Bill passed |
| AB 1168 | Will continue to monitor |
| SB 286 | Drop |

1. **Legislative Proposals**

**FBNs**

Matt stated that the Committee was too late in trying to have this added to an amendment, but he will continue to watch for an opportunity.

1. **CRAC Report**

There are bills out regarding affordable housing or restrictive covenants that are being reviewed to have some language removed.

1. **For the Good of the Order**
2. **Adjourned**

Meeting ended at 10:24 A.M.