

Meeting Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021

Time: 9:32 AM to 9:51 AM

Location: Zoom Meeting ID: 161 827 4539

**MINUTES**

2020/2021 County Clerk Legislative Committee Members

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Candace Grubbs/Cindi Wilde, Butte | X/T | Joani Finwall/Lorelay Faussier, San Bernardino | T/T |
| Elizabeth Gutierrez, Contra Costa | T | Val Handfield, San Diego | T |
| Brandon Hill, Fresno | X | Teresa Williamson, San Joaquin | T |
| Chuck Storey/Victoria Wong, Imperial | X/X | Joe Holland/Danielle Rifilato/Melinda Greene, Santa Barbara | X/T/X |
| Portia Sanders/Monique Blakely/Jaime Pailma, Los Angeles | T/X/T | Gina Alcomendras/Louis Chiaramonte/Belinda Gamutan, Santa Clara | X/T/T |
| Lisa Anderson/Melissa Garcia, Riverside | T/T | Deva Proto/Carrie Anderson/Amanda King, Sonoma | T/X/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 |
| Debbie LaGrande | Glenn |
| Kristine Legg | Humboldt |
| Susan Morris | Kings |
| Maria D. Garcia, Gabriel Montez | Los Angeles |
| Jacquelyn Luna | Madera |
| Jodi Olson | Marin |
| Nicole Bettencourt, Patti Houbein, Matt May, Philip Robinson | Merced |
| Frederick Garcia, Sheri Kasza | Placer |
| Tammie Buie, Andrew Ellingwood, Erik Karhu | Riverside |
| Alexis Allston | Sacramento |
| Daniel Sanchez | San Bernardino |
| David Gonzalez, Diana Moore | San Diego |
| Diane Rea | San Francisco |
| Helen Nolan | San Luis Obispo |
| Margarita Williams | Santa Cruz |
| Elizabeth Brooks | Sutter |
| Robbie Bergstrom | Tuolumne |
| Katharine Campos, Michael Works | Yolo |
| Marnie Ardis | Stanislaus |
| Shannon Kendall |  |

1. **Approval of Minutes (April 22, 2021)**

Motion to approve: Lisa Anderson, Riverside; second: Joani Finwall, San Bernardino. Minutes were approved.

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

The 2021 Legislative Session is nearly halfway complete. June 4th is the last day for any bill to clear the House of Origin Floor. 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. A significant number of bills were tabled or amended into non-fiscal bills during the first Appropriations Suspense Hearing earlier this month on May 20th. The committees heard, analyzed, and determined the outcome for nearly 1,000 bills over the course of just under an hour.

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 the middle of June. 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.

The Leadership in each House has also instituted a strict “12 bill limit” for each member of the Legislature. This is forcing Members to choose favorites or identify creative ways to move their priorities.

**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.

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, we approached the Author and requested that he amend the bill to contain an “urgency clause,” which would make the bill effective immediately. He agreed, and the measure has now been amended.

We have also shifted the principal author status to one of the co-authors, Assemblywoman Laurie Davies. She is a wedding planner by trade and spoke highly of the bill and concept in committee when she voted for it and asked to be added as a co-author.

The measure has already cleared the Floor and is now in the possession of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**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 concern that was communicated to the Author and staff was that the counties would not be ensured to be in compliance with GC 6254.21, which states that no state or local agency shall post the home address or telephone number of any elected or appointed official on the Internet without first obtaining the written permission of that individual. There is a threshold of “knowingly” attached to the posting; but there is still concern that wholesale posting of notices could result in conflicts with this Section.

We have discussed proposing that, rather than posting individual notices; a link to the county index be posted on the website. Matt has reached out to the Author’s staff to schedule a meeting and determine if they are willing to work with CACEO. Thus far, the bill has received unanimous support.

If Matt determines that a subcommittee is needed, Committee Co-Chairs Donna Allred, Sacramento and Val Handfield, San Diego will send out an invitation for members to sit on said subcommittee to identify how to move forward on this measure.

1. **Bill Tracking**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Contra Costa | AB 621 | Will continue to monitor |
| AB 819 | Matt has reached out to the Author’s staff to schedule a meeting and determine if they are willing to work with CACEO. |
| AB 1260 | Will continue to monitor |
| SB 44 | Will continue to monitor |
| Riverside | AB 346 | Will continue to monitor |
| AB 583 | Was read for the third time. An urgency clause was adopted and passed. Has been ordered to the Senate. |
| Sacramento | AB 218 | Bill would not take effect until Jan 1, 2023. |
| AB 439 | Will continue to monitor |
| AB 1093 | Became 2-year bill. Will continue to monitor |
| San Bernardino | SB 554 | Became 2-year bill. Will continue to monitor |
| Santa Barbara | AB 1286 | Neutral |
| Sonoma | AB 886 | Drop |
| Ventura | AB 751 | Bill passed. Will continue to monitor |
| AB 1168 | Became 2-year bill. Will continue to monitor |

1. **Legislative Proposals**

None to report.

1. **CRAC Report**

There will be discussion regarding AB 721 and AB 1466.

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

Meeting ended at 9:51 A.M.