

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nancey Harrington at 10:45 a.m. on May 1, 2003 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator O'Connor  
Senator Teichman

Committee staff present: Russell Mills, Legislative Research Department  
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor  
Nikki Kraus, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: John E. McElroy III, Acting Executive Director of the State Gaming Agency

Others attending: Please see attached.

Chairperson Harrington opened the confirmation hearing for:

**Executive Director of the State Gaming Agency**

Mr. McElroy presented his confirmation information summary to the committee. (Attachment 1)

He briefly went over his experience in law enforcement with the committee and explained that he had worked almost exclusively with white collar crime.

Senator Gooch stated that that would be useful experience, and asked Mr. McElroy what his personal opinion of gaming was.

Mr. McElroy replied that in his lifetime, he had been to a casino three or four times. He stated that his position would be one of a regulator, which was one of strictly oversight, not of promotion, and he would be happy to stick with that rather than to be for or against it.

Senator Lyon stated that he would like to follow up the issue of regulation with a question about the speaker's views on the fact that with the expansion of gaming, the government would be promoting slots at the tracks. The Senator asked Mr. McElroy if he was familiar with that.

Mr. McElroy stated that he did not think that casinos at the tracks would impact his agency, however, a free standing casino would.

Senator Gooch asked additional questions about specifics on Mr. McElroy's information summary and the speaker clarified that following ROTC in college, he was medically discharged.

Following further discussion, Chairperson Harrington asked about the duties of the position. Mr. Hodgins stated that the executive director would be an unclassified position requiring residency, no felonies, and a familiarity with the gaming industry. He went on to state other qualities including previous work as a law enforcement officer, at least a Bachelor's degree in criminology or law-related field, ten years law enforcement experience, and ability to supervise personnel and others.

**Senator Gooch made a motion to recommend the confirmation of Mr. McElroy to the full Senate. Senator Gilstrap seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.