

Meeting Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021

Time: 9:32 AM to 10:09 AM

Location: Zoom Meeting ID: 161 277 7875

**MINUTES**

2019/2020 County Clerk Legislative Committee Members

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Candace Grubbs, Butte | X | Joani Finwall/Lorelay Faussier, San Bernardino | T/X |
| Elizabeth Gutierrez, Contra Costa | T | 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/X |
| Kammi Foote, Inyo | X | Gina Alcomendras/Louis Chiaramonte/Belinda Gamutan, Santa Clara | X/T/T |
| Portia Sanders/Monique Blakely/Jaime Pailma, Los Angeles | T/T/T | Deva Proto/Carrie Anderson/Amanda King, Sonoma | T/T/T |
| Erik Karhu/Lisa Anderson, Riverside | T/T | David Valenzuela/Sheila Jetton, Ventura | T/T |
| Donna Allred/Andrew Graham, Sacramento | 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*** |
| Cindi Wilde | Butte |
| Abims Aguda, Joseph Barton | Contra Costa |
| Debbie LaGrande | Glenn |
| Kristine Legg, Kelly Sanders | Humboldt |
| Susan Morris | Kings |
| Abrial Scheff | Lassen |
| Jacquelyn Luna | Madera |
| Jodi Olsen | Marin |
| Scheereen Dedman, Shannon Kendall | Mono |
| Frederick Garcia | Placer |
| Tammie Buie, Andrew Ellingwood, Melissa Garcia, Antionette Garrett | Riverside |
| Nicole Barber, David Gonzalez, Diana Moore | San Diego |
| Diane Rea, Guillermo Sandoval | San Francisco |
| Julie Hughes | Santa Clara |
| Julieanne Bryant | Shasta |
| Marnie Ardis, Harjeet Kumar, Donna Linder | Stanislaus |
| Donna Johnston | Sutter |
| Michael Works | Yolo |

1. **Approval of Minutes (February 24, 2021)**

Motion to approve: Carrie Anderson, Sonoma, Second: Elizabeth Gutierrez, Contra Costa. Minutes were approved.

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

The deadline to introduce bills is now past 30 days, meaning all measures that have been introduced are now eligible for amending and to be set for hearing. The deadline to submit language for amending spot bills has also passed, meaning that many bills that the Committee is looking at could become substantive bills soon, if they have not already. Additionally, the many bills that were not ready will be designated as “two-year bills” if they are not populated with substantive language.

The deadline for policy committees to hear bills and pass to the Appropriations Committee is April 30. This deadline includes Spring Recess. Legislature will adjourn today and will return April 5.

**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 bill 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.

This is the only bill the CACEO County Clerks Legislative Committee opted to sponsor this year.

Assemblyperson David Chu has agreed to author the bill with Senator Nancy Skinner as the Principal Co-Author. The measure was subjected to its first hearing in the Assembly Judiciary Committee earlier this week. Louis Chiaramonte represented the Clerk Leg Committee and he and Matt received a number of questions and requests for information regarding how the program will work and what our solutions are to various issues. The Judiciary Committee suggested making the program a statewide mandate, but after a survey demonstrated only a dozen counties are currently moving forward with remote marriages/electronic issuance of licenses, we rejected the effort and insisted that it remain as a county option. The Judiciary Committee also requested that we consider allowing for participants in the ceremonies to appear “in state” rather than together. We were also able to keep this language out of the bill.

The bill was unanimously approved by members, including Republicans who ignored the recommendation from staff to oppose.

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

1. **Bill Tracking**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Contra Costa | AB 621 | Will continue to monitor |
| AB 819 | Neutral |
| AB 1260 | Will continue to monitor |
| SB 33 | Drop |
| SB 44 | Will continue to monitor |
| Riverside | AB 346 | Will continue to monitor |
| AB 583 | Will continue to monitor |
| Sacramento | AB 218 | Bill tracking transferred from Los Angeles to Sacramento; will inform Committee of any additional changes |
| AB 439 | Will continue to monitor |
| AB 1093 | Will continue to monitor |
| San Bernardino | SB 554 | Currently in Government Finance, due to be heard April 8. Will continue watching |
| Santa Barbara | AB 245 | Drop |
| AB 1286 | Will continue to monitor |
| 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 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ventura | AB 751 | Will continue to monitor |
|  | AB 1168 | Scheduled to be heard in committee on April 21 |
|  | SB 286 | Will continue to monitor |

1. **Legislative Proposals**

**FBNs**

Matt stated that there have been no prospective bills to include this as an amendment.

1. **CRAC Report**

Assembly Bill 218 will now be tracked by County Clerk Legislative Committee.

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

**Remote Marriages**

Donna Allred, Sacramento asked if any counties have been notified from prisons of their interest in performing remote marriages. She stated that Sacramento is requiring the non-incarcerated party appear in the County Clerk office and through video conferencing they will perform the ceremony.

Portia Sanders, Los Angeles states that there is a push from prisons statewide to perform the remote ceremonies. Los Angeles has a process in place that the license is issued to the non-incarcerated party and they are responsible for completing the ceremony.

1. **Adjourned**

Meeting ended at 10:09 A.M.