

Assembly

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

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NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE, 54TH SESSION

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Norman D. Glaser at 2:08 P.M. February 20, 1967 in Burnell Larson's office, Education Building.

Present: Harris, Jacobsen, Howard, Young, Glaser, Tyson, Ashworth (2:30)
Bowler (2:48)

Absent: Mello

Also present: Mrs. Rudolph Talso, League of Women Voters; Mrs. Nicholson, League of Women Voters; Press; Bob Bruce; Gene Phelps, Budget Office; Department of Education members John Gamble, Burnell Larson, Bert Cooper (Consultant in Driver Education; Lincoln Liston; John Bunten.

Mrs. Rudolph Talso of League of Women Voters spoke on Vocational Education. Material on Vocational Rehabilitation was passed out to members. Mr. Bunten read statement on survey on vocational technical rehabilitation in State of Nevada. Driver Education Budget, Page 147, discussed by Bert Cooper. He gave justification for \$138,500 increase - 60% - this year and said the Governor's recommendation is far short of what they need. He spoke on behalf of AB 88. Chairman Glaser asked what constitutes the difference between the program Ormsby County had and what they have now? Mr. Cooper said trying to get the student into the car. The reason they want more money, one reason, is because of completion rate in Elko County, many did not complete. They need AB 88 so they can make equal apportionments. Chairman Glaser asked whether they would put on an additional instructor. Was told most would be used for instructors' salaries. When asked where automobiles are acquired, Mr. Cooper said 90% from dealers. There is a slight charge, depending on the dealer...replacement of tires, etc. In Nevada also, All State Insurance Co. sponsors Driver Education and gives scholarships. Mr. Liston said an independent insurance company helped pay for some equipment at Reno High. They are dealing with 7,000 eligible students he said. Discussion of satisfying letter and spirit of law, new Nevada Safety Act. Discussion of charge - Mr. Cooper said Washoe County charges \$20.00, the bigger the class, the lower the fee. School District keeps money.

Mr. Larson asked Mr. Liston to go over Peabody Formula for relation to budget. He passed out material to Committee.

Page 118 - Public School Teachers' Retirement Fund. Estimate of 6% increase in number of employees and 3% increase in salary. He thinks this is a very adequate budget and should cause no problem.

Page 121 - State Distributive School Fund. Estimate of employees and pupils determine amount of dollars necessary. Money will be very nearly \$32,000,000. Salaries for certified personnel - \$7,763 average salary for certified employees in the state. Chairman Glaser asked how County of Origin Tax would work if it was added to the Peabody Formula. Mr. Liston said the proposal for local Origin Sales Tax is the best he has heard for financing schools, he saw no reason why it couldn't apply to the Peabody Formula. Russ McDonald had said there was no problem.

Mr. Bowler discussed special assistance need to districts which have high unit costs and low local ability, first county eligible was Lincoln.

Mr. Liston said sales tax, local origin, would put about \$12,000,000 a year into school distributive fund. However, it would increase spending power of school districts by only approximately \$6,000,000.

He said Lincoln, White Pine and Lander counties have been receiving aid for the last three years as exceptional school districts in the state having necessarily higher unit costs or especially low local financing ability. Depending upon how much basic support there will be for schools, these districts will have to ^{continue to} receive special aid. Two other counties, Nye and Churchill, are at a marginal level where they will need assistance.

Mr. Liston said he is in the process now of reviewing expenditures and receipts data from the various school districts. With that information as a start, he will have guidance to a continuation of the study of the financial situation of the school districts. He said he hoped that by 1968 he would be able to furnish some very good suggestions as to how to improve the school finance picture for the State of Nevada.

Mr. Larson said he hoped to follow for the next two years the program Mr. Liston outlined. He said the most reasonable and valid approach they felt they could justify now was on the basis of the Peabody Formula.

Mr. Howard asked about teachers on the merit increase system, if this was feasible. Mr. Larson said much discussion and research has been attempted in many states. The plan was discarded because of the high subjectivity as to what merit shall be and who shall earn it, which seems to be the basic fault of the plan.

Mr. Jacobsen said it was heartening to feel some guidance coming from the Department rather than Zubrow or someone. Mr. Larson said without question in the next two years a formula of some sort will come out of the Department of Education.

Minor budgets - Page 117 - Care of Deaf and Blind, Chapter 395. Increased budget based primarily on estimate of number of children and actual cost. Travel - depends on where students are sent, which in turn depends partially on handicap and partially where there is availability. Would be too costly to have a school in the state, are not enough students to support although Clark and Washoe Counties may have a program to handle soon.

Page 119 - Training of Teachers of Handicapped Children - totally federally program, money provided to the Department for fellowships to teachers, etc.

Page 122 - National Defense Education Act, 50% reimbursed basis.

Page 123, Title 10 - Nevada has never taken advantage of this - \$50,000 has been available for improvement of statistical services, current year have attempted to initiate this program on a very limited basis. Mr. Ashworth said maybe it would help in arriving at formula. Chairman Glaser asked if we had Central Data System, would this be their share of the operation. Mr. Gamble said yes. Mr. Ashworth asked if they would be acceptable to Central Data Processing with a cable going to main machine, or if they felt they should have a computer of their own. Mr. Larson said he would be very happy to channel into a central location.

Page 125 - Western States Small School Study - Agreement with Ford Foundation.

Rental facilities - under agreement the Department is to furnish office facilities, etc. for the Director - the \$696.00 for building space rental.

Page 126 - Fleischmann Scholarships - they administer program.

Mrs. Tyson out, 3:49

Page 128 - Indian Education. Travel reduction discussed. Bode Howard mentioned administrative at McDermitt, Mr. Larson said he would discuss it with him later.

Page 129 - Indian Education, scholarships, provides additional funding for helping needy Indian students.

OASI - totally federally funded

Page 140 - Adult Basic Education. Mr. Bunten discussed - based on 10% matching funds, primarily for adults lacking the basic education to function. Brings up to 8th grade level of education, federal funds, appropriation \$50,000.00.

Page 142 - Manpower Development and Training Act. Designed for unemployed people who wish to train for gainful employment and get off Welfare rolls, based on 10% matching, 90% federal funds.

Page 144 - discussed Civil Defense & Adult Education.

Page 146 - Eight State Rocky Mountain Project. Designed to fund projects that cut across state boundaries.

Page 148 - Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Primarily remedial. Based on congressional estimates for next two years.

Title II, Page 150 - same act, little difference. State is provided a minimum allocation for libraries, books, etc.

Title V, Page 152 - discussion.

Mr. Gamble offered to give legislators tour of Department of Education.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

Norman D. Glaser, Chairman

Agnes M. Nelson, Committee Stenographer