

MINUTES OF MEETING - WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE
54th Session - March 16, 1967

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Norman Glaser at 2:30 PM.

Present: Glaser, Jacobsen, Mello, Harris, Young, Ashworth, Howard, Bowler, Tyson

Absent: None absent for the entire meeting.

Also present: Bob Bruce

AB 139: Reorganizes Nevada National Guard and adopts Nevada Code of Military Justice.

Mr. Harris moved that AB 139 be reported out with a DO PASS as amended.

Mr. Ashworth seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

SB 81: Excludes certain state and political subdivision employees from participating in both state and federal retirement systems.

This prevents dual participation in retirement systems; such as the University of Nevada - Extension Service - being under two retirement systems.

Mr. Glaser received a letter from Kenneth Buck, Executive Secretary of Public Employees Retirement Board, stating no objection to this bill.

Mr. Ashworth moved that SB 81 be approved.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

SB 80: Creates and makes appropriation to 1967 state general obligation bond commission fund.

SB 80 held for capital improvement program.

SB 214: Places employees of Colorado River commission in state personnel system; provides that salary of commission secretary be fixed by law.

Mr. Glaser said that we now set this person's salary and the commission also does; so, this establishes who shall set the salary of the commission secretary. It also places this person under the retirement system, and says this secretary shall not be a member of the commission.

Mrs. Tyson said she would like to check it out before action is taken.

SB 214 held for further information.

AB 119: Authorizes issuance and sale of \$1,811,000 of state's general obligation bonds for construction of Southern Nevada Comprehensive Mental Health Center and Southern Nevada State Children's Home in Clark County and cottages for retarded children.

Present to speak on this subject: Dr. Ravenholt
Mr. Walter Merrell (previously with Sparks Mental Hospital; now with Dr. Ravenholt's Office)

Dr. Ravenholt sketched an outline of the proposed complex in Clark County. He said the State has 80 acres with 160 acres available from BLM. This actually would be more than we need right at the present time. There would be 2 cottages arranged on a family type basis with substitute parents such as the situation here at the Carson Children's Home. Primarily stressed would be out-patient care, and getting these children back into their normal homes instead of allowing them to just remain institutionalized for the rest of their life. There would also be 2 other cottages, making a total of 4 for the Las Vegas area. There would be acute-care facilities available here. The 4 cottages would house from 20 to 30. There is \$200,000 available from the Federal Government for the mental retardation program. At the end of the fiscal year the states not using it can yield it to other states or it reverts back to the general treasury. So, it may be possible for us to acquire something more than \$200,000. Federal subsidy would provide 80% monies for the professional staff for the first year. After 5 years, only 40% of the professional staff cost would be borne by federal subsidy. At the present time there is no plan beyond the 5 years for the staff costs. Dr. Ravenholt pointed out the need for additional facilities saying that the Sparks Hospital now houses 600. He also pointed out the need for housing these patients nearer to their own homes. Again emphasized was the stress on out-patient care rather than in-patient.

Mrs. Tyson questioned the number of cottages at Sparks and Las Vegas both, as provided in this bill. She said the Governor's budget shows only 4 in Las Vegas.

Mr. Merrell said that 40% of the patients in Sparks are from Las Vegas; this helps support the need for facilities in Las Vegas. Statistics pointing to adaption difficulties when away from their home area are: acute facility patients average 81 days when from Sparks and 112 days when from Las Vegas. He said Sparks was an ideal size right now. There was discussion on transportation to the hospital from Las Vegas. It is done by ambulance. Under this new proposal there still will be certain types of patients who will require hospitalization at Sparks, so there will still be some need for this transportation - mainly for chronics.

There was some discussion as to the needs for placement of the cottages in the 2 different areas. Also, it was pointed out by Dr. Ravenholt that these cottages in Las Vegas could provide some experience for us in learning what proportion of patients benefit from this type of care, what age group, etc.

Dr. Ravenholt and Mr. Merrell left at 3 PM.

Mr. Howard moved that AB 119 be reported out as amended with a Do Pass.

There was some discussion as to the number of cottages and thus the amount of financing.

Mr. Howard withdrew his motion.

Mr. Bowler moved that AB 119 be held for further information.

Mr. Ashworth seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Mildred Heyer was present to speak at 3:05 PM on AB 165 and 166.

Jack McCarthy

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Also present: Mrs. Knox Johnson, Chairman of Nevada Council on Libraries (Gardnerville)
 Mrs. Russell Thayer, Member " " " (Carson)
 Mrs. Dora Witt, Member " " " (Fallon)
 Mr. Robert Walker, Lay Member " " " (Gabba)
 Mrs. Mildred Heyer, State Librarian, also Secretary to Council

AB 165: Provides for preservation of official state publications.

This bill provides for 30 copies of all official state publications, with the exception of the Nevada Revised Statutes and any publication supported by sale, to be deposited in the stockroom of the printing office. The state printer is called to mail out to named libraries 1 or 2 copies; 2 copies to the University of Nevada at Reno; 2 to Las Vegas; 1 to the Legislative Counsel; 2 to Archives; 2 to Historical Society; 2 to the Library of Congress; 1 to California on exchange; 2 always to remain at the State Printing Office and the rest at the Nevada state library. Mrs. Heyer, in addition to pointing out the above, also stated the need for these documents to be preserved and available to the various interest parties and always, of course, to the public.

Mr. McCarthy spoke in favor of the bill. He said, although it wasn't provided by law, he had been doing this same thing for many years. In fact, he has a copy of everything he has printed since 1942. However, Mr. McCarthy pointed out 2 requirements if this bill should pass. He would have to be provided with a stockroom because of lack of space; he would have to have the authority to hire an extra man for full time work. He said this man's salary could come out of the monies provided at the present time, so all he would need is the authority to hire such an employee. He had some questions as to the number of copies required to be printed, whether in addition to the number required now and inclusive of this number.

Mrs. Heyer said the library would prefer to have loose copies rather than bound in book form so this would cut down on work load. She also pointed out that most of these additional copies would be distributed after printing, so is the additional space asked for really required. Mr. McCarthy said he probably could get along with the space he has, but still would need the additional employee.

AB 166: Provides for financial grants by state to local public libraries. (List No. 79 of Official Nevada Publications dated January, 1967, distributed to comm. Mrs. Johnson said that in addition to the members present, Mrs. Palmeri and Mr. Carroll Russell were also members of the Nevada Council on Libraries. Mrs. Johnson pointed out that this bill is a public library bill with none of the monies going into administration costs. The Nevada Council on Libraries was set up by the Legislature in 1965. As a result of its 1½ year study and survey of all libraries in Nevada, financed with \$25,000 from the Fleischmann Foundation it presented its preliminary findings and then its definite recommendations which resulted in this legislation. A copy of its first report was mailed to all Legislators in January, 1967. The approximately \$440,000 appropriation would be distributed on a population basis to the 4 regions arbitrarily set up. Some counties already operate on a cooperative system, for example with the validity of library cards. There is at the present time an average of less than 1 book per person in the State. The minimum standard is 3; we went on the basis of 1½.

There was some questioning on Section 6. Mrs. Heyer said the purpose of this was so that local support would not be reduced when getting state aid. It was anticipated that the local and federal aid would allow state aid to decrease.

In answer to Mr. Glaser's question of this being a "one shot deal" or continuing for every biennium, Mrs. Heyer said that the distribution of funds would have to be re-evaluated each Session. If other funds increase, the state aid may go down.

There was a question directed by Mrs. Johnson as to the intent of the Legislation in possibly allowing the hiring of an architect or paying for some of the preliminary services before the library could be built or supplied.

Mr. Glaser said that he couldn't speak for the Committee, but it would seem **138** reasonable that it should cover the first steps needed. He expressed the doubt of new programs being passed unless a new source of revenue was found because of the tight budget situation.

The guests interested in the subject of the library bills were thanked and excused from the meeting at this point.

SB 152: Amends provisions relating to moneys administered by the superintendent of the Nevada state hospital.

Mr. Bruce said this was a Legislative Counsel bill - result of an audit.

Mr. Howard Barrett, present for the discussion of this bill, said that this bill provides an incentive for the hospital to collect monies due rather than just depend on the general fund. This bill adds the language, after monies credited to the general fund, "for the use of the hospital. The superintendent may include in the budget for the hospital the amounts expected to be received under this section! There was discussion as to the patients' money being applied to the general fund after a certain maximum was reached.

Mr. Jacobsen suggested we wait for action on SB 152 until Norm Terrell could be present for explanation.

A recess was declared at 3:45 PM - meeting resumed at 4 PM.

Present to discuss AB 305, 370, 374, 375, and 378 were:

- Mervin J. Flander, Supervisor, State of Nevada, Services to the Blind Division
- Audrey Tait, President of the Nevada Federation of the Blind
- K.O. Knudson, Chairman, Nevada Federation of the Blind, Legislative Committee (Las Vegas)
- Catherine Callahan, Member " " " " " (Reno)
- Carl Clontz, Member " " " " " (Hawthorn)

Mr. Emery, Welfare Division

Mr. Knudson distributed to members of the committee a mimeographed sheet on various bills and the Federation's position on them.

AB 370: Increases financial aid to blind.

Mr. Knudson spoke in favor of the bill. He also pointed out the need for the blind to receive the highest proportion of aid. He approved of the set-up in California whereby three categories are established with the aid to the blind being the highest level, then aid to the totally incapacitated, then aid to the aged.

C. Callahan protested the cutback as of November 1 from a total budget of \$119 to \$100. So, she is asking for the legislation raising the floor to \$125. She pointed out that this will make no great difference in the amount the state has to provide, because of the federal grants, income from other sources as Social Security, disability insurance, etc.

Mr. Cloontz said any person under 65 declared not eligible for aid to the blind, loses his medical coverage too.

C. Callahan, after questioning concerning earnings allowed, said that the consideration of earnings is not involved in this. However, she said they are allowed earnings of \$85 plus \$5 from any other source, plus 1/2 of anything above the \$85 until equal to the estimated grant, and this is to encourage them to get off aid as much as possible.

Mr. Emery spoke in favor of any increase in the grants, because they are presently inadequate. The cut referred to became effective November 1. Up to this time they had been allowing expenses even if the person did not use them for such specific item as the allowance was for. Now, under new Manual regulations, only those items actually incurring expense are included in the individual budgets. However, the federal grants and such are still being passed on to the individual. They have just changed their budgeting practices. This increase would increase the budget standards across the board. It would be an increase in state funds of \$25 to \$30,000. In addition to increasing the basic budget items, it would mean that the level need to determine medical indigents under title 19 would increase from \$3840 to \$5040. The state law says that the state level should be equal to the most liberal program the state has. 70% of the blind are over 65 years of age.

Assemblyman Mel Close, present for part of this discussion, asked if the cut made in the aid to the blind was to equal that with other aid programs in the state.

Mr. Emery said they would still allow individual allowances, but it would be dependent on their use of these. It seems the Division had been criticized for discrimination in favor of the blind. He said the average grant to aged is \$83; to blind \$105. Before the cut, it had been up to \$114. 150 receive aid to blind.

AB 378: Provides for changes in amount of aid to blind in accordance with cost-of-living index.

C. Callahan spoke in favor of this bill, pointing out that such states as Colorado and California have this clause for adjustments once a year. She said Los Angeles and San Francisco areas were chosen as models because their cost of living most nearly approximates that in Nevada.

Mr. Emery said that not very many states have this clause. However, he is in favor of some escalation clause. However, the increase in grant would increase the test for medical indigency. Based on 150 blind persons in the state, an approximation of \$3,600 increase for the year was reached.

AB 374: Authorizes construction of facility to rehabilitate the blind.

AB 375: Appropriates money for construction of facility to rehabilitate the blind.

The reason these requests were separated into two bills was that even if the appropriation was not approved, they would still, if AB 374 were passed, be able to build a facility with help from the federal government, private funds, or foundation funds.

Mr. Flanders pointed out that at the present time there are no rehabilitation facilities operated in the State of Nevada. To be effective, rehabilitation of the blind has to cover orientation and adaptation in addition to re-training. This service could be obtained in other states, but expense and openings prohibit it. In the last 5 years there have been only 3 or 4 people sent out. Therefore, there has been established here in Carson City a tutorial service which operates at half the cost of sending these people out. In order to be effective, a ratio of 1 teacher to 4 or 5 students should be maintained.

In answer to the question as to the approval of the Planning Commission, Mr. Flanders said the Nevada Federation of the Blind requested the introduction of these bills. The master plan does not recommend construction of this at the present time. However, the Board does not object to their being built, as long as they are not taking away the priorities they had set up. Mr. Flanders said the federal government would provide 100% design and architect fees, and up to some \$60,000 for construction.

AB 305: Establishes services to the blind division revolving fund for purchase and sale of items used by the blind.

C. Callahan said the reason for this bill is that there is a great demand for tools and such made especially for the blind. There are only a few places now which can provide such supplies, so they are mostly obtained from the Division. There is a great need for a local source from which these supplies can be obtained. The Division currently loans out supplies in its services to the blind, but with this bill these supplies could be bought locally. Also, they could be used by the Division in service to the blind. This fund once set up would be self-perpetuating. The minimum cash need was estimated at \$5,000. Again, emphasis was placed on the red tape necessary to obtain these items from the Division. Rather than make application and get approval for services to blind, this would allow any blind person to buy what special items he needs.

The guest present for discussion on the aid to blind bills were thanked and excused from the meeting at 4:50 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 4:51 PM.