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Assembly

MINUTES OF MEETING - WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE
54th SESSION March 17, 1967

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Meeting called to order by Chairman Glaser at 2:15 PM.

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

Absent: Young, Ashworth

Also present: Bob Bruce, Howard Barrett, press

Judge Thompson was present to discuss SB 77, SB 271 and give his views on the addition of 2 judges to the Supreme Court effective January 1.

SB 77: Provides supplemental appropriation for supreme court

Judge Thompson said that this request was made through a letter to the Budget Director before the Legislature started. Mr. Barrett replied that instead of making it an emergency relief fund, he would prefer it be prepared as a bill for approval of the Legislature. They need \$3900 to cover office supplies, operating expenses, etc. and their present financial condition is \$200. The amount was arrived at through monthly average costs. Also, the retirement of the Court Recorder was unanticipated.

SB 271: Authorizes supreme court to fix salary of clerk of supreme court

Judge Thompson said that up to now the salary of the clerk was designated only by legislation, so every time a change was required, they had to ask, and amend the bill on the Statutes. It would be much better to be in a position to provide for this rather than have to keep asking and amending. This year the increase asked for would raise the salary to \$12,000. However, this does not depend on SB 271.

Judge Thompson said that they have been told that the Ways and Means Committee has tentatively approved the increase to 5 judges effective January 1, 1968. They had requested that it be effective July, 1967, because of the fiscal year running from July to July. However, they are now asking that the appointment of law clerks be made in September for the following January. One reason for this is the difficulty in getting top quality men in the middle of the year. The ideal time would be to interview them in their Senior year and then be able to hire them in September. There are 28 applications in for the new positions. If we have to wait until January, we wouldn't be able to get them, and they are absolutely essential to the operation of the court. Another reason hinges on keeping the best men we can get. Even though they will be appointed by the Governor, they will have to seek election in 1968. The extra time will help their chances; also, possibly may allow them to run as incumbents. This election situation might also affect the persons who might apply for such positions. Judge Thompson pointed out that hiring in September would save \$7,000 plus in their salary.

SB 329: Increases the number of stenographic and law clerks authorized for supreme court

Judge Thompson says this is simply to allow each judge to have a stenographer. Presently the court reporter doubles as such. The increase in law clerks is based upon the assumption of the 2 new judges being added, and thus would allow each one a clerk.

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Judge Thompson asked the committee if there was any disagreement over the proposal to raise the salary of their law clerks from \$541 to \$625/month. This was asked so they would be in a position to hire top caliber men, as there is much competition from the office of Russ McDonald and also the Highway Department because of the higher salaries these offices offer.

Mr. Jacobsen asked his opinion in regard to the salary of the new judges. Since they are just starting, should it not be lower than the salaries of the present judges.

Judge Thompson said no - the \$22,000 salary should be given to the new judges also as they will be carrying a heavy workload too and should be paid for what they do rather than when they were hired.

As to the question of foreseeing any difficulty "constitutional-wise" in going to the 5 judges (because of the Governor appointing them until the next election), Judge Thompson said he had checked it out with Russ and they both agree there is no problem.

Judge Thompson left the meeting at 2:35 PM.

SB 388: Makes supplemental appropriation for welfare division for old-age assistance and medical assistance for the aged; authorizes transfers of portion of money previously appropriated for certain types of public assistance for old-age assistance and medical assistance for the aged.

Mr. Quenten Emery was present to discuss this bill. We originally put out 2 separate bills due to obtaining the total cost information at different times. However, the present bill is for one large appropriation which would take care of the problem instead of the two smaller appropriations. Included in this would be the \$15,000 supplemental to the Homemakers Service. The amount of money projected last Session was not all needed because of medicare being instituted. So, the extra \$15,000 was put into another program, and now, this year we find that because of additional case loads we need this \$15,000 back in the budget. We started out last year \$52,000 short and this year \$54,000 short. The justification in last session's budget is as follows: "The program at the level contemplated by the Welfare Division can apparently be financed from within the funds that will be necessary to finance the existing Old Age Assistance program. In fact, amounts of \$52,724 and \$54,654 may be saved by the adoption of MAA. Without any historical background, it is difficult to estimate the cost. Passage of the federal medicare program would also have an effect on the caseloads. Because of these reasons, it is recommended that the appropriation for this program be combined with that for Old Age Assistance, in order to provide the flexibility deemed desirable." Last year the case load for nursing home patients was 260; this January it was 358. With the anticipated high case load, an additional \$84,000 is needed over and above the need of two years ago. Therefore, out of the \$101,000 total supplemental, \$15,000 would go to continue the Homemakers program; \$84,000 to continue Old Age Assistance because of the high case load. So included in the program would be home health aids in old age assistance and aid to the blind, nursing home care, and old age assistance.

Mr. Emery left the meeting at 2:45 PM.

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

Mr. Glaser said that in talking with Norm Terrell he found out that the amount of \$20,000 put in there that the bond commission can use to advertise the general

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obligation bonds that are sold will be more than enough, as proven by experience, and what is not used will then revert back.

Mr. Jacobsen moved that SB 80 be reported out with a DO PASS.

Mr. Mello seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Glaser said that upon discussing this with Norm Terrell he was apprised that the \$15,000 amount is necessary because of the number of patients in the hospital coming and going and needing petty cash. This would satisfy their needs and anything over this amount would be put in a savings account to draw interest. This one account (checking) is in lieu of the great many needed if individual accounts. Page 1, Section 1 of this bill provides an incentive to the superintendent to go out and collect the money available in the care of the patients, rather than the former procedure of just drawing from the general fund what he needed. There are \$60,000 plus of bad debts which have not been pursued.

Mr. Barrett suggested that the general fund appropriation for the hospital be reduced in the amount of the anticipated collections. This would provide additional incentive to the superintendent for collection of debts from those able to pay.

Mrs. Tyson moved that SB 152 be reported out with a DO PASS.

Mr. Bowler seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Jacobsen moved that AB 305 be reported out with a DO PASS.

Mr. Howard seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

AB 370: Increases financial aid to blind

Mr. Glaser said that this would raise our costs from 20 to \$30,000. However, the implication here is in regard to Title 19. If we raise the medical indigency by 1975 we are required to implement full Title 19 which sets financial need level based on the maximum level that we have in operation at that time. If one of our welfare programs has a level of \$5,040 then the implication of \$5000 is set for eligibility to medical indigency under Title 19. This would include so many people there might be serious repercussions to the state. Mr. Glaser said that one of the representatives of the Nevada Federation of the Blind called him after the meeting yesterday and informed him that the high level in California for individual budgets is \$160; she again objected to Emery's cutback in the budget; and stressed the 3 separate categories mentioned in yesterday's testimony. It was pointed out by Mr. Bowler that this \$125 would be a minimum. The maximum amount would be based upon individual actual needs.

Mr. Jacobsen suggested AB 370 be held for further information on Title 19.

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AB 374: Authorizes construction of facility to rehabilitate the blind

Mr. Bowler moved that AB 374 be reported out with a DO PASS.

Mr. Jacobsen seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Howard moved that AB 375 be postponed indefinitely.

Mr. Mello seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

The commission voted to increase the salary of the secretary from \$14,000 to \$16,000. A claim was sent through Mr. Barrett's office for it to be paid. However, legislative intent only showed \$15,120, so could not approve the claim which was then appealed to the Board of Examiners, which said to wait to see what the Legislature will do. So - this bill says the Legislature will set the salary and also put the employees under the state personnel system.

Mr. Jacobsen voiced his opinion that we should not give up legislative prerogative.

Mrs. Tyson suggested that SB 214 be held til Monday so she could talk to Senator Gibson about it.

SB 181: Establishes fixed rate for subsistence allowances for public employees.

The amendment on this allows \$20 for in-state travel and \$25 for out-of-state travel. Norm Terrell advised that this would not cost any money because the employees would just travel less. There was a problem in some areas, so this bill would alleviate it.

Mr. Jacobsen moved that SB 181 be reported out with a DO PASS.

Mr. Howard seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

AB 165: Provides for preservation of official state publications.

The \$37,000 salary for the biennium for the extra employee for the State Printing Office would also include postage, etc. for his work.

Mr. Barrett said that many of the documents, in his opinion, are of no value. Any that are requested can easily and at no great cost be reproduced. He would suggest that if this be done, it be done with printing office money from all agencies rather than from the general fund.

Mr. Mello moved that AB 165 be indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

A recess was declared at 3:30 PM; meeting resumed at 3:40 PM.

Mr. Glaser read a letter from Howard Barrett, dated March 15, 1967, regarding the need for a supplemental of \$44,633 for Warden Hocker, State Prison.

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Mr. Bowler moved that we introduce this as a committee bill. (Prison supp. \$44,633)
 Mr. Jacobsen seconded the motion.
 Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Glaser read a letter from Harvey Dickerson, dated March 14, 1967, asking for a supplemental of \$300 for the 68-69 budget for .

The committee decided that after talking to Russ McDonald about this, they would if still indicated, reply to the letter to this effect: It is our understanding that the deletion of the reference to the new revised NRS in the 68-69 budget for your office to buy in that year is because there should be none printed in that year. If you have any further comments, please write or call Mr. Glaser.

SB 77: Provides supplemental appropriation for supreme court.

Mr. Jacobsen moved that SB 77 be brought back before the committee for reconsideration.
 Mr. Bowler seconded the motion.
 Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jacobsen moved that SB 77 be reported out with a DO PASS.
 Mr. Howard seconded the motion.
 Motion passed unanimously.

SB 271: Authorizes supreme court to fix salary of clerk of supreme court.

Mr. Harris moved that SB 271 be reported out with a DO PASS.
 Mr. Mello seconded the motion.
 Motion passed unanimously.

SB 329: Increases the number of stenographic and law clerks authorized for supreme court

Mr. Bowler moved that SB 329 be reported out with a DO PASS.
 Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

There was discussion as to the contingency of this on the increase in the number of judges; discussion on the budget regarding this.

Motion passed unanimously.

SB 388: Makes supplemental appropriation for welfare division for old-age assistance and medical assistance for the aged; authorizes transfers of portion of money previously appropriated for certain types of public assistance for old-age assistance and medical assistance for the aged.

There was some discussion as to the other bills (their being put into this one large appropriation). Mr. Glaser said that \$84,000 is for old age assistance and the \$15,000 Homemaker Services is also included in the \$101,000. Discussion also on the \$50,000 being taken out of the budget last time and now being put back in. Mr. Mello moved that SB 388 be reported out with a DO PASS.
 Mr. Jacobsen seconded the motion.
 Motion passed unanimously.

SB 93: Provides for 5 member Supreme Court.

Held for full committee.

Assembly Committee on Ways and Means

The following assignments were made for reports on the floor:

<u>SB 80</u> - Howard	<u>SB 271</u> - Harris	<u>SB 152</u> - Tyson
<u>SB 388</u> - Mello	<u>SB 77</u> - Jacobsen	<u>AB 305</u> - Jacobsen
<u>SB 329</u> Bowler	<u>SB 181</u> - Howard	<u>AB 374</u> - Glaser

AB 415 - Glaser with additional coverage from the other members of the committee

Page 49 Planning Board

This discussion concerned putting \$30,000 in the planning budget to plan the legislative building. Mr. Barrett would recommend a separate entry for pre-planning or make a separate appropriation of \$30,000 to the fund.

Mr. Jacobsen suggested that the committee wait on this and do not settle it at tomorrow's joint meeting with the Senate Finance.

Page 52 Tax Commission

Held for Mr. Ashworth's report

Page 77 Legislative Commission

The only item in difference with the Senate's is the \$2900 for dues (\$400 increase in dues for National Governors Conference and \$2500 share of National Governors Office in Washington which would funnel information back to respective states on matters pertaining especially to them.)

Committee decided to hold for further information.

Page 136 Vocational Education

Mrs. Tyson asked that this be held for recommendations in a report for Monday.

AB 415: Appropriates money for distribution to school districts for vocational education

This bill would increase the vocational training program by \$250,000. Six counties are eligible - ones that have the program in operation.

There was much discussion as to the worth (favorable) of this program. Also discussion on the head of the program. It was pointed out that this bill would multiply the money because the county must do some matching. Mr. Jacobsen would like to see other counties start participating in this - now primarily only 2 counties. However, Elko, Humboldt, White Pine and Douglas would be eligible, too, according to the requirements listed so they could improve the programs.

Mr. Harris moved that AB 415 be reported out with a DO PASS.

Mr. Mello seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mello moved that the budget on Vocational Education (with the supplemental of AB 415) be approved.

Mr. Jacobsen seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

There was some discussion on the Red Rock Canyon Park and related subjects. This will be the subject for the committee's meeting on Wednesday.

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE, 54th SESSION

AGENDA

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1967

MORNING

No meeting

AFTERNOON

TIME

2:00 PM Review SB 77 Supplemental Appropriation - Supreme Court - Chief Justice Thompson

2:30 PM SB 388 Supplemental Appropriation - Welfare - Quenton Emery

SB 80 Bond Commission

SB 152 Patient Funds

AB 305 Revolving Fund - Services to Blind

AB 370 Financial Aid to Blind

AB 374 Authorizes Construction - Facility for Blind

AB 375 Appropriation for Facility for Blind

AB 378 Change in Blind Act - Cost of Living Index

FINALIZE BUDGETS

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Page 52 Tax Commission

Page 77 Legislative Commission (Dues \$2900 each year)

Page 136 Vocational Education