

NEVADA LEGISLATURE - 54TH SESSION

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Minutes of Meeting Held
February 17, 1967

The sixth meeting of the Senate Committee on Federal, State, and Local Governments was called to order at 11:15 a.m., Friday, February 17, 1967, in Committee Room 50, State Capitol, by Committee Chairman Senator James I. Gibson. All committee members were present, as follows:

- Senator Gibson, Chairman
- Senator Monroe, Vice Chairman
- Senator Alleman
- Senator Bunker
- Senator Farr
- Senator Hecht
- Senator Young

Also present were Mrs. Magee and Messrs. Willard, McCormack, Sheppard, and Houssels of the Executive Board of the Nevada State Council on the Arts; also Mrs. Warren Swanson representing Governor Laxalt, and Chancellor Miller of the University of Nevada.

Chairman Gibson announced that the purpose of the meeting was to hear the proponents of Senate Bill 104. (Creates Nevada state council of the arts; defines council's powers and duties. Introduced by Clark County Delegation.) He called on Mr. Willard to introduce the proponents of the bill who were present and to explain to the committee the reasons for this bill. After introduction of the visitors named above, Mr. Willard urged the committee to get this bill out of committee. He said an executive order of 1963 created an advisory council on the arts made up of various Nevada citizens interested in the arts. In the three years since creation of the advisory council, meetings have been held, but nothing of any value resulted because there were no moneys, no budget, and nothing really solid as to the base. State councils on the arts are coming into being throughout the United States, and his group feels an official Nevada council should now be created so that Nevada can get in the swim with the rest of the states--get into the picture nationally. Therefore, they prepared this enabling act which would get the group on a firm footing as a state agency able to do effective programming to reach throughout the state. They feel they have a very good start with the present executive board. They are asking for up to 21 members to form this

Senate Committee on Federal, State, and Local Governments
Minutes of Meeting Held February 17, 1967
Page 2

council as a working council on the arts which will be able to determine what arts will go where.

Senator Monroe asked what cost to the state the program would involve. Mr. Willard said the group has set up an ideal program, to get this off the ground and moving, at a cost of \$161,978 for two years. This would include all administration costs and an eight-part program, including an artsmobile, study projects, assistance to communities on their art programs, etc. However, this is an ideal, which they thought they would strive for in order to get maximum matching federal funds, which are available in the amount of \$150,000 per state, from the Federal Foundation on Arts and Humanities. Senator Young asked whether this \$161,000 sum was a maximum or minimum or average amount that would be needed in subsequent bienniums. Mr. Willard said he would not be able to project beyond 1968 and 1969. Senator Young asked, "If other states have a similar program, what do they spend?" Mr. Willard quoted sums that various states were asking for as continuing sums, as follows: Washington and Utah, \$100,000 for a year; New Mexico and Arizona, \$50,000 for a year; Idaho, \$50,000; Colorado, \$120,000; Minnesota, \$502,000.

Senator Young requested that he be furnished copies of the funding programs of other states who now have art councils, and Mr. Willard said he would send this information to Senator Young.

Senator Farr said if there were no objections he would like to see all funds donated to the council go into the state general fund and be subject to budget control, as is done with other state agencies. Mrs. Magee stated her only concern in such an instance would be that the funds be tax exempt, since such tax exempt status is their greatest point in obtaining donations. Senator Monroe stated if someone is asked to donate to the program and is told the money goes to the state general fund and there is no guaranty it will be available to the council, this might inhibit some donors. Mr. Willard said it was the council's plan that all funds be made payable to the council. Mrs. Magee, who is a Regent of the University of Nevada, said donors who wish to support a specific program at the University give their money to the University with the understanding that it is to be used for a specific purpose, and this specification has always been honored.

Senator Gibson stated that the funding of the program would have to be considered by the Finance Committee, but that this bill does not provide for the funding and that in order to expedite our committee's part in the bill we should consider just the program itself.

Senate Committee on Federal, State, and Local Governments
Minutes of Meeting Held February 17, 1967
Page 3

Senator Hecht, to clarify the issue, asked Mr. Willard if the group was asking the legislature to create officially a council of the arts so that it can go out and solicit funds for the council? Mr. Willard said yes.

Senator Gibson said that Senators Monroe's and Farr's questions are germane, in that, even though there is no funding in the bill itself, the legislature wants to know what funding problems will be involved, but that, insofar as whether funds go into the general fund or a special fund is a matter to be taken up later with the money committees.

Senator Young asked whether this bill gives the council something it does not have now. Mrs. Magee said, "It's like a wedding ring. It makes us legal." Senator Young persisted, "You can't get federal funds now by virtue of executive board action?" Mr. Willard said they could, but they would have to reprocess the whole thing, and that private donors won't consider the council if it doesn't have official status as a state agency. Mr. Sheppard said the council has been operating as a state agency, as far as travel and miscellaneous expenses are concerned, through the University's business office, which is keeping the council's audit. Chairman Gibson asked where the funds came from that the council has had available. Mr. Sheppard said they constituted a one-shot grant from the federal government to get the council started.

Senator Gibson asked for justification for creation of the state agency. Mrs. Magee said material benefit will result from a state-created council. As an example, she said she was recently in Dallas where they have a very on-going program in support of the creative and performing arts. They attribute their emphasis on the cultural activities of the community as a direct source of their material well being, because the presence of cultural facilities attracts business leaders and intellectuals, who have the most to contribute to material prosperity. Mrs. Magee said, further, that the University of Nevada gets requests for help from many remote Nevada communities, but does not have the money to provide such help. Mr. Sheppard pointed out that some projects that result from a cultural program become self supporting, although admittedly not all.

Chancellor Miller commented that there is a real awakening of interest in the arts nationally, that this is materially reflected in the creation and funding at the national level of the Federal Arts Foundation. He feels creation of a state council is a way of giving coordination to Nevada's efforts in this direction.

Mr. Willard offered closing remarks expressing the hope this committee would consider this bill very seriously and get the council started, at least, and then they can take it from there.

It was noted by Senator Farr that a tape recording of the meeting was being made by the proponents of the bill, and Senator Gibson stated that he had given permission for this to be done.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Louise Glover - Secretary

I certify that the foregoing minutes are correct.

Senator James I. Gibson - Chairman