

NEVADA LEGISLATURE - 54TH SESSION

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTSMinutes of Meeting Held
February 20, 1967

The seventh meeting of the Senate Committee on Federal, State, and Local Governments was called to order at 11:30 a.m., Monday, February 20, 1967, in Committee Room 50, State Capitol, by Chairman Gibson. All committee members were present except Senator Allaman. Also present was Oscar Scherer of ~~First~~ *Nevada Test* Western, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The chairman asked the members to turn to:

S.B. 45: Provides for soil tests and regulation of construction in subdivisions. Introduced by Senator Herr.

Chairman Gibson said Mr. Scherer wished to comment on the bill to the committee. Mr. Scherer has a test laboratory in Southern Nevada and is familiar with the need for the bill. Mr. Scherer stated he is an engineer and has been in the Las Vegas area since 1941.

Mr. Scherer said the need for the bill was brought about by a unique problem in the Las Vegas area, a phenomenon called "salt heave". This condition results in settling of the ground and ruin of building foundations. Because the condition is found nowhere else in the United States, engineers outside of the area do not evaluate the situation properly in their soil reports, according to Mr. Scherer.

S.B. 45 calls for counties to require soil reports from registered professional engineers and for the waiving of such a report if the county building department or other enforcement agency deems such a report unnecessary. Mr. Scherer felt that the bill should specify a civil engineer with a master's degree to make such a report. In the first place, a "registered professional engineer" might be a specialist in a field requiring no knowledge of soil testing, and in the second place, even the degree of "civil engineer" does not guarantee a sufficient knowledge of soil testing to insure that the job is done properly, Mr. Scherer stated. Mr. Scherer felt there should be a further qualification that the engineer should have been a resident and have practiced in the area for not less than one year--thus insuring familiarity with the "salt heave" problem.

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Senator Gibson asked how many firms in the State would qualify under such regulations. Mr. Scherer indicated that possibly Sprout Engineers and three or four outside engineers familiar with the area would qualify in northern Nevada and that in Las Vegas two testing laboratories, or about five resident engineers, and one Los Angeles firm familiar with the Las Vegas area would qualify.

Senator Farr suggested that S.B. 45 should provide a minimal requirement for all localities in the state, with a provision that local governments could draw more restrictive regulations if they deemed such necessary. He also noted that the bill specifies it is to apply to subdivisions, and he felt that public buildings and custom homes should be included. Senator Farr asked Mr. Scherer to make notes on a copy of the bill to indicate Mr. Scherer's requested changes.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Louise Glover - Secretary

I certify that the foregoing minutes are correct.

Senator James I. Gibson
Chairman