

Assembly

MINUTES OF MEETING - WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE
 1968 SPECIAL SESSION - FEBRUARY 23, 1968

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Glaser at 12:10 PM in the Ways and Means Room.

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

Absent: None

S. C. R. 9: Directs legislative commission to study state plan for assistance to medically indigent

Mr. Howard moved that S.C.R. 9 be reported out with a DO PASS.
 Mr. Ashworth seconded the motion.
 Motion passed unanimously.

S. C. R. 8: Urges department of health, welfare and rehabilitation to adopt administrative practices calculated to effect economies in Title XIX program

Mr. Webb moved that S.C.R. 8 be reported out with a DO PASS.
 Mr. Bowler seconded the motion.
 Motion passed unanimously.

S. C. R. 10: Requests Western Conference, Council of State Governments, to seek congressional relief for states from inequities in Title XIX

Mr. Bowler moved that S.C.R. 10 be reported out with a DO PASS.
 Mr. Jacobsen seconded the motion.
 Motion passed unanimously.

S. J. R. 4: Calls attention of Federal Government to financial crisis prompted by Title XIX

Mrs. Tyson moved that S.J.R. 4 be reported out with a DO PASS.
 Mr. Mello seconded the motion.
 Motion passed unanimously.

S. B. 8: Makes appropriation to Title XIX fund. Cost to state: \$1,800,000
 Amended to \$600,000

Mr. Webb, representing the subcommittee, reported that there are some programs going on not actually intended by the last Legislature. However, they do not materially effect the overall costs because they are most likely of a preventative nature and will eliminate future costs. This, though can be considered an abuse of the program to a certain degree. It was their feeling that for the first time the management situation is on the right track with capable administrators. The IBM system is almost complete now and points up very glaringly any abuses. These show up in the various reports on the same point. The meetings in Washington, D. C. attended by Mr. Hannifin pointed out the lack of federal direction as yet from new controls. However, with the Resolutions passed, good management from administration of the department and the task force working with the department, the situation will be helped a great deal. These obligations have been incurred and

must be taken care of.

Mr. Young pointed out the summary relative to the \$1,800,000 not amended - this is normal procedure - it has been amended in the bill to \$600,000.

Mrs. Tyson pointed out that the subcommittee had considered taking out the optional programs carried on by the department but then they would fall back on the counties. It was the feeling of the subcommittee that the administration is very encouraging. They decided to write a letter to the Governor commending Mr. Hannifin.

Mr. Young moved that S. B. 3 be reported out with a DO PASS.

Mr. Bowler seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

S. B. 10: Makes appropriation to reserve for statutory contingency fund; provides state expenses under Uniform Criminal Extradition Act to be paid from reserve for statutory contingency fund. Cost to state: \$17,529

Mr. Barrett revised his earlier estimate of average claim from around \$300 to 400 or 500 dollars. Discussion on the rapid depletion of the fund.

Mr. Russ McDonald said this bill had a conflicting portion with A. B. 20 so will amend it (S.B. 10) to remove the conflict.

Mr. Young moved that S.B. 10 with amendment be reported out with a DO PASS.

Mrs. Tyson seconded the motion.

Mr. Bowler voted no.

Mr. Jacobsen voted no.

Mr. Mello voted no.

Motion passed.

Assignments for the floor: S.B. 8- Mr. Webb; Resolutions - Mrs. Tyson

S. B. 7: Creates welfare categorical grant fund; specifies its uses and makes appropriation. Cost to state: \$50,000

Mr. Barrett said that if no appropriation were made to child welfare, they would want the authority to go into next year's funds to help this year's problems. They have this authority already in ADC. If neither of these things were done, it would cut off payments to take care of foster care children, handicapped children, unwed mothers and children awaiting adoption. Our original recommendation was for this authority to go into next year's funds, but there was confusion and the bill did not come out this way.

Mr. Bowler and Mr. Ashworth pursued questions regarding cutting ADC out of the bill so no funds could be diverted to that category from child welfare. There was concern over foster home care being cut off. Mr. Barrett said the foster home care grants are based on age factors and amount to either \$60 or \$70 per month plus items as clothing and their medical expenses are taken care of under Title XIX.

This bill creates the fund of \$50,000 to be used by any of the 4 categories. If all but child welfare were removed and the \$50,000 appropriated to them, it would do little good because ADC would be back next session for a supplemental.

In answer to question, Mr. Barrett said the way to bring ADC payments back to the minimum would be to change the minimum to maximum. You would have to give some kind of legislative direction to the Welfare Division to cut back. As for a freeze, there would then be a freeze on both ends, both federal and state, Mr. Barrett explained the freeze by the federal government limiting the percentage of ADC to the same percentage of ADC children to total population for the present quarter of the year. If the state did not pick up any excess, it would get no federal funds at all.

Mr. Bowler expressed his wish to see a thorough investigation of ADC. Mrs. Tyson agreed but felt that the new administrator should be given the chance to get things straightened out. The subcommittee felt we now have a much better organization and with the task force with Welfare Division should not cut this off in the middle until we see where we are going.

Mr. Ashworth felt that with the cut off of federal funds on July 1, we should cut back the average individual grant. Mr. Glaser felt this would be a solution to the problems in ADA but cannot be dealt with at this session. Mr. Ashworth said there is relief in every fund except child welfare so would rather handle ~~that~~ one problem now even if we need to give a supplemental next year. This would cause closer attention to ADC next session.

Mr. Webb moved that a bill be drawn allowing child welfare services to draw money from the second fiscal year of a biennium into the first. Mr. Bowler seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Webb moved that S.B. 7 be indefinitely postponed. Mr. Mello seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

S. B. 20: Creates unclassified position of state park construction engineer, establishes annual salary and makes appropriation therefor

Mr. Howard moved that a new bill be drafted the same as S. B. 4 but adding that the Administrator may appoint one construction engineer who shall be in classified service of the state and appropriate the sum of \$11,142 with an effective date of July 1, 1968. Mrs. Tyson seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

A. B. 24: Provides for psychiatric treatment at Nevada state prison

Mr. Marvin White, Chairman of Assembly Institutions Committee, said this was suggested by the committee after a tour of the prison. By an order effective now, all mental patients criminally convicted will be transferred

to the prison. Therefore, we are faced with either building a security ward at the hospital or providing a psychiatrist for the prison. Besides these cases there is at least 10% of the population of the prison in need of treatment. We felt it would be better, at least until the next regular session, to provide the prison with a full time psychiatrist. This bill calls for the appropriation of \$50,000 for the psychiatrist and additional supplemental staff to effect this. 97

Mr. White told of the bill from the Senate in the making to increase the chief psychiatrist's salary to \$25,000. They felt that by decreasing the number of positions they can't fill anyway, they could use this extra money for the increased salary. The salaries would be \$23,000 for psychiatrists; \$25,000 for chief psychiatrist; and raise the superintendent's salary to around \$26,000 because of the 95% rule. A. B. 20 will require an amendment to take the limit off which is now \$20,000.

Discussion on authority given to put one of the 8 positions at the hospital at the prison. The concern of the Institutions Committee was they did not want this man diverted back to the hospital. If the open positions at the hospital were deleted, there would not be the money in the budget to hire the psychiatrist for the prison. The figure of prisoners was given - 632.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.