

MINUTES OF ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, 55TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION,
MARCH 20, 1969

Present: Lingenfelter, Foote, Prince, Wilson, Swallow, Webb
Absent: Tyson

Chairman Lingenfelter introduced to the committee Mr. John Gamble of the State Department of Education and invited his comments on SB 134 which broadens school trustees' discretion in establishing kindergartens.

Mr. Gamble told the committee that the bill was developed by the Department in response to a consensus arising throughout the state school districts that a bill should be passed that would make it permissive for the districts to establish kindergarten level instruction where it would be economically feasible to do so. Mr. Gamble told the committee that it is not practical to establish such a level of instruction where there is less than eight pupils.

The committee discussed the value of this level of instruction and received the opinion of Shirley Weedow as well as another Clark County kindergarten level teacher to the effect that this level of instruction has great value in preparing the child for the more formal instruction they meet in the first grade. It was attested that students who have the kindergarten level instruction do much better as a result of becoming conditioned and socially acclimated. This is especially true in the sparsely populated rural areas where the child has little opportunity prior to school age for association with other children.

Assemblyman Foote said that there is a danger in permissive legislation of this sort that arises from the demands that parents make for service once it is established.

Mr. Gamble explained that some of the cost of the program in the smaller areas could be offset by utilizing the first grade teacher. The kindergarten program is only a 2-hour per day schedule and the first grade teacher could be used for it.

Assemblyman Wilson asked how the program would be implemented financially. Mr. Gamble said that no program is foreseen for this fall and that the ADA budget would be used for any future projection.

Assemblyman Norman Glaser was invited before the committee to comment on AB 659 which repeals provisions of special law relating to the Elko Community College. Mr. Glaser advised that through administrative decision of the University of Nevada Board of Regents the Elko Community College program would to be brought under their jurisdiction. Therefore, this bill enables to Board to take over the college as a pilot program. He was thanked for his presentation on excused from the committee.

Swallow moved Do Pass SB 134.
Wilson seconded.
Motion unanimously passed.

Foote moved Do Pass AB 659.
Wilson seconded.

Chairman Lingenfelter asked the committee if they had any feelings at this time on ACR 44 which directs the Higher Education Advisory Committee to continue study of higher education in Nevada.

The committee discussed the work that has been done during the past two years and agreed that value could be derived from a continuance of the program.

Wilson Moved Do Pass ACR 44.
Prince seconded.
Motion unanimously passed.

At the suggestion of Assemblyman Prince the committee agreed that consideration should be directed toward establishing some sort of an accounting system within the entire school program. It has been developed that at the present time it is almost impossible to account for the exact manner in which the school funds are being utilized.

The meeting was adjourned.