

## Senate

### COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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Minutes of Meeting -----January 30, 1969

The fourth meeting of the Committee on Federal, State and Local Governments was held on January 30, 1969, and 4:00 P.M.

Committee Members present: Chairman James Gibson  
Warren L. Monroe  
Vernon E. Bunker  
Marvin L. White  
Francis W. Farr  
Chic Hecht  
Carl F. Dodge

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gibson at 4:00 P.M. Under consideration were various bills.

SB-32 Amendments were not ready as yet and it was decided to take this bill up when that was done.

SB-7 Proposed by Senators Slattery and Farr.  
Requires creation of certain county commissioner districts.

Chairman Gibson drew attention to page 2, line 23. Amendment would delete line 23 and insert amendment. "In counties where a commissioner district is created pursuant to the mandatory provision of subsection 2, the commissioner from that district shall be elected by the qualified electors of that district and: (a) if the remainder of the county is divided into districts, each commissioner shall be elected by the qualified electors of his district; and (b) otherwise the other two commissioners shall be elected at large by the qualified electors of the county residing outside the mandatorially created districts. County commissioners of other counties shall be elected at large."

Senator Farr commented that various citizens of the area, ranchers and others who live in the river district on the other side of the river in the Truckee Canyon area of Storey county have indicated that they have not had representation at the Storey County Commissioners for a number of years. They would like very much to have a commissioner come from that district. Inasmuch as it is one of the most lucrative districts in Storey county and they have industry down there, and a great deal of farming, ranching and utilities, they should have some consideration; so we informed them that we would submit the legislation and create a district. The majority of the voters live in Virginia City itself, and they always elect the commissioners from those people in Virginia City, at the heart of the county. These citizens mentioned above have some real problems and have asked if we couldn't establish districts in Storey county and have the commissioners come from those districts and represent the population in those respective districts. Senator Dodge then asked if they were over-powered by virtue of population and the answer was affirmative.

There was a brief discussion regarding boundaries of the river district and percentages of population, and it was suggested by the Chairman that the population figures be obtained by Senator Farr. The bill was set aside until this investigation could be done.

SB-22 Proposed by Senator Farr  
Prohibits deductions from salary of public employees for service as volunteer firemen during working hours.

Senator Farr explained that there had been a serious fire in Carson City in recent months. Because the State capitol properties are non-taxable, a volunteer fire department is required. Many of the employees, who are working in government, left their jobs here to protect this county. It was a serious fire and several companies from Washoe County were also brought in for twelve hours. When the employees went back, the day after they had left their jobs, their salaries were deducted by the State government here. The employers had no provisions to pay them when they were not on the job. However, the Governor had called out and activated the National Guard and everyone on that job, including the Civil Defense personnel, were paid except these State employees that work here in the capitol and defend it as a volunteer fire department. He added that this was thought to be wrong and that it had been discussed with the Governor, but there was nothing the Governor could do because there was no provisions for him to pay the volunteer firemen ---- even though the National Guard was paid when they left their professions. Mr. Russell McDonald has worked on the language of the bill and it was decided that not only State employees, but employees who work elsewhere should be covered by the bill....those who give of their services and time for the protection of those communities who can not afford paid firemen. Thus, they would not be docked for that service during that period of time.

There was a brief committee discussion.

Senator Monroe moved "Do Pass", seconded by Senator Hecht. The vote was unanimous for passage.

SB-36 Proposed by Senator Monroe.  
Provides for tax-supported county museum of historical society.

Senator Monroe explained that the bill authorized cities to included museums in their building projects and the only thing about the provision is that there is no limit set for tax-levy which could be levied for this specific purpose. He said it might be more palatable for some of the people if there was a "lid" put on the tax rate. It was pointed out that there was no authorization to budget for this (museums) at this time and the cities and counties have no authority under the law to issue any monies for the support of a museum.

Senators White and Bunker asked various questions regarding the language and implications of the bill. Chairman Gibson mentioned that Judge Guild had aroused quite a bit of interest in various parts of the State for branch museums, and that there was not nearly enough room in the museum in Carson City to display what is available.

Senator Dodge brought up the point of writing in the phrase "non-profit historical society" to satisfy possible objections to language in the bill. He added that we have got to be trying to establish some heritage as far as Nevada is concerned. We are only a few years removed from the mining camps, but we are indeed getting to the age now where we ought to do what we can to begin to create this heritage. He stated that this bill is the sort of thing that will contribute in that direction.

MCNROE  
Senator ~~Dodge~~ pointed out that the People in Elko had raised a tremendous amount

of money for their museum and built a very attractive building. Their museum is, in fact, already in place and their big concern now is trying to keep it going.

Senator Gibson asked that Senator Monroe take care of the amendment which would add the "non-profit" phrase to the bill, and the bill was put aside at this time.

SB-61 Proposed by Senator Monroe  
Amends Elko city charter.

Senator Monroe requested to hold this bill over.

SJR-1 54th Session  
Proposed by Senators Swobe and Pozzi  
Limits term in office of governor.

This bill states that no one should be elected to the office of Governor more than twice. Senator Dodge spoke in favor of this bill, stating that he felt it was a healthy thing not to perpetuate a position, regardless of how good a job is being done in that position. In the brief discussion, all members of the committee concurred.

Senator Farr moved "Do Pass" and Senator Dodge seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for passage.

SJR-5 54th Session  
Proposed by the Committee on Federal, State and Local Governments.  
Conforms apportionment of Nevada to requirements of United States Constitution.

Senator Gibson explained the bill, and read the deleted passage from line 8 to 10. He state that this language was ruled unconstitutional by the special federal court.

Senator Hecht moved "Do Pass", seconded by Senator Farr. The vote (a quorum) was unanimous. Senators Bunker and White were briefly absent from the room during this vote.

SJR-27 54th Session  
Proposed by the Committee on Federal, State and Local Governments.  
Proposes constitutional amendment concerning compensation, expenses of legislators.

Chairman Gibson explained the language was patterned after the language adopted in California several years ago. This bill sets up compensation of members of the legislature and reimbursement for travel and living expenses in connection with their official duties. He then read lines 17 through 28. Senator Dodge drew attention to the fact that the language in the upper part of the bill was being amended out. He stated that past inequities would be equalized out by this bill and that there is no self-serving concept involved here.

Senator Farr moved "Do Pass", seconded by Senator Hecht. The vote was unanimous for passage.

At this time, Chairman Gibson called attention to five bills referred to this committee, which he wished the members to study: SB-27, SB-28, SB-29, SB-47 and SB-73. He stated that some had general application in addition to applica-

tion concerning Boulder City. He stated that in Boulder City, they are entering into a contract with the federal government on a water project. The government is going to furnish half the money. A prerequisite for federal government participation on any project is a court declaration that all the actions of the city on their part are valid. They required this on the Colorado water project. We have, he said, in our statutes, provisions for this with the county and with the State, but there is no provision in the law for a city and that is why this is requested.

He further stated that these bills had implication lutside of Boulder City and it was presently known that the bond attorneys are involved. There was additional brief discussion and Chairman Gibson stated that he personally was wary of bills which gave bond attorneys precedence on the procedures. A great deal of the North Las Vegas "mess" has come about because of the laxity of the law at the request of the bonding people.

He again stressed the need to thoroughly study these bills.

There being no further business, Chairman Gibson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patricia F. Burke*

Patricia F. Burke  
Committee Secretary.

**S. B. 22**

## SENATE BILL NO. 22—SENATOR FARR

JANUARY 21, 1969

Referred to Committee on Federal, State and Local Governments

SUMMARY—Prohibits deductions from salary of public employees for service as volunteer firemen during working hours. (BDR 20-135)

EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [ ] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to public employees; prohibiting deductions from salaries of county, city, town and state employees for service as volunteer firemen during working hours.

*The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 245 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto a new section which shall read as follows:

3 *All county employees shall be paid their salaries as fixed by law or*  
4 *ordinance without diminution on account of any time spent away from*  
5 *county employment while acting as volunteer firemen of any regular*  
6 *organized and recognized fire department in the protection of life or*  
7 *property during working hours or fractions thereof which should otherwise*  
8 *have been devoted to county employment.*

9 SEC. 2. Chapter 268 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a  
10 new section which shall read as follows:

11 *All employees of incorporated cities which have been organized either*  
12 *under general law or by special charter shall be paid their salaries as fixed*  
13 *by law or ordinance without diminution on account of any time spent*  
14 *away from city employment while acting as volunteer firemen of any*  
15 *regular organized and recognized fire department in the protection of life*  
16 *or property during working hours or fractions thereof which should other-*  
17 *wise have been devoted to city employment.*

18 SEC. 3. Chapter 269 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a  
19 new section which shall read as follows:

20 *All employees of unincorporated towns shall be paid their salaries as*  
21 *fixed by law or ordinance without diminution on account of any time*  
22 *spent away from such town employment while acting as volunteer fire-*  
23 *men of any regular organized and recognized fire department in the pro-*  
24 *tection of life or property during working hours or fractions thereof which*  
25 *should otherwise have been devoted to town employment.*

Original bill is 2 pages long.  
Contact the Research Library for  
a copy of the complete bill.

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**S. J. R. 1**


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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1—SENATORS SWOBE  
AND POZZI

JANUARY 18, 1967

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Referred to Committee on Federal, State and Local Governments

SUMMARY—Limits term in office of governor. (BDR C-203)



EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [ ] is material to be omitted.

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Proposing to amend section 3 or article 5 of the constitution of the State of Nevada, relating to the eligibility of persons to hold the office of governor, by limiting the terms in office which a person may serve.

1     *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of Nevada, jointly,*  
2     That section 3 of article 5 of the constitution of the State of Nevada be  
3     amended to read as follows:  
4     [Sec:] Sec. 3. No person shall be eligible to the office of Governor,  
5     who is not a qualified elector, and who, at the time of such election, has  
6     not attained the age of twenty five years; and who [except at the first  
7     election under this Constitution,] shall not have been a citizen resident of  
8     this State for two years next preceding the election [.] ; *nor shall any*  
9     *person be elected to the office of Governor more than twice; and no per-*  
10    *son who has held the office of Governor, or acted as Governor for more*  
11    *than two years of a term to which some other person was elected Gover-*  
12    *nor shall be elected to the office of Governor more than once. This limi-*  
13    *tation shall not apply to any person holding the office of Governor at the*  
14    *time when this section was proposed by the Legislature or ratified by the*  
15    *people.*

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**S. J. R. 5**


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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5—COMMITTEE ON  
FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

 JANUARY 23, 1967
 

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Referred to Committee on Federal, State and Local Governments

**SUMMARY**—Conforms apportionment of Nevada legislature to requirements of United States Constitution. (BDR C-298)

 EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [ ] is material to be omitted.
 

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION**—Proposing to amend section 5 of article 4 of the constitution of the State of Nevada, relating to the apportionment of the state legislature, to conform to the requirements of the Constitution of the United States as interpreted by the Supreme Court.

- 1     *Resolved, by the Senate and Assembly of the State of Nevada, jointly,*  
 2     That section 5 of article 4 of the constitution of the State of Nevada be  
 3     amended to read as follows:  
 4     Sec. 5. Senators and members of the assembly shall be duly qualified  
 5     electors in the respective counties and districts which they represent, and  
 6     the number of senators shall not be less than one-third nor more than  
 7     one-half of that of the members of the assembly.  
 8     【The senate shall consist of one senator from each county. The mem-  
 9     bers of the assembly shall be apportioned on the basis of population;  
 10    provided, that each county shall be entitled to at least one assemblyman.】  
 11    It shall be the mandatory duty of the legislature at its first session after  
 12    the taking of the decennial census of the United States in the year 1950,  
 13    and after each subsequent decennial census, to fix by law the number of  
 14    *senators and* assemblymen, and apportion them among the several coun-  
 15    ties of the state, *or among legislative districts which may be established*  
 16    *by law*, according to the number of inhabitants in them, respectively.

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**S. J. R. 27**


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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27—COMMITTEE ON  
FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

MARCH 23, 1967

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Referred to Committee on Federal, State and Local Governments

**SUMMARY**—Proposes constitutional amendment concerning compensation, expenses of legislators. (BDR C-1010)



**EXPLANATION**—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [ ] is material to be omitted.

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION**—Proposing amendment of section 33 of Article 4 of the constitution of the State of Nevada, relating to the compensation and expenses of members of the legislature.

- 1     *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of Nevada, jointly,*  
2     That section 33 of article 4 of the constitution of the State of Nevada be  
3     amended to read as follows:  
4     **【Sec:】** *Sec. 33. 【The members of the Legislature shall receive for*  
5     *their services, a compensation to be fixed by law and paid out of the*  
6     *public treasury, for not to exceed 60 days during any regular session of*  
7     *the legislature and not to exceed 20 days during any special session con-*  
8     *vened by the governor; but no increase of such compensation shall take*  
9     *effect during the term for which the members of either house shall have*  
10    *been elected Provided, that an appropriation may be made for the pay-*  
11    *ment of such actual expenses as members of the Legislature may incur*  
12    *for postage, express charges, newspapers and stationery not exceeding*  
13    *the sum of Sixty dollars for any general or special session to each mem-*  
14    *ber; and Furthermore Provided, that the Speaker of the Assembly, and*  
15    *Lieutenant Governor, as President of the Senate, shall each, during the*  
16    *time of their actual attendance as such presiding officers receive an addi-*  
17    *tional allowance of two dollars per diem.】 1. Compensation of mem-*  
18    *bers of the legislature, and reimbursement for travel and living expenses*  
19    *in connection with their official duties, shall be prescribed by statute*  
20    *passed by roll call vote entered in the journal, two-thirds of the member-*  
21    *ship of each house concurring.*  
22    2. *Commencing with 1971, in any statute enacted making an adjust-*  
23    *ment of the annual compensation of a member of the legislature, the*  
24    *adjustment may not exceed an amount equal to 5 percent for each calen-*  
25    *dar year following the operative date of the last adjustment of the salary*  
26    *in effect when the statute is enacted. Any adjustment in the compensa-*  
27    *tion may not apply until the commencement of the regular session com-*  
28    *mencing after the next general election following enactment of the statute.*