

Minutes of March 17, 1971 Meeting

56

PRESENT: Frank Young, Vice-Chairman, Nick Lauri, Juanite White, Darrell Dreyer, Ross Prince and Marge Foote

ABSENT: Mary Frazzini

GUESTS: John Koontz, Secretary of State and Dennis Wright, Deputy Legislative Counsel

Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman, Frank Young, at 8:00 a.m. Room 222 for discussion on the following bills.

S.B. 384. Clarifies petition requirements for independent candidates.

Frank Young commented that it appeared from this bill that it would preclude new residents. Mr. Lauri noted that it was in conflict with the committee's Omnibus Bill, A.B. 564. The bill is apparently in conflict since one of the two changes Paragraph 1 and the other changes Paragraph 2. Mr. Koontz remarked that the last bill signed by the Governor takes precedence. If S.B. 384 was signed after the Omnibus Bill, then this would take preference.

The committee discussed the new wording in Sub-section 2 of the Senate Bill and approved of this language. Mr. Koontz remarked that the Governor wanted to add the words "who voted in the last General Election". (Mr. Wright joined the committee later and discussion returned to this bill). Mr. Young noted that the committee's Omnibus Bill changes sub-paragraph 1 and the Senate Bill, being considered, changes sub-paragraph 2. Mr. Wright commented that this would be considered a conflict. Discussion followed on whether to amend the Senate Bill or let the Senate amend the Omnibus Bill.

Motion was made by Nick Lauri, seconded by Ross Prince, for a Do Amend and Do Pass on S.B. 384 to conform to Sub-paragraph 1 of the Omnibus Bill, A.B. 564. Motion carried.

A.B. 569 - Authorizes persons 18 years old and over to vote in national, state elections, depending on result of state special election.

Reference was made to A.J.R. 8 and that it had been approved in the Senate. This bill puts into the statutes the constitutional amendment if it is passed. Mr. Koontz concurred - that the bill brings the constitutional amendment into the code (or statutes)

Motion was made by R. Prince, seconded by N. Lauri, for a Do Pass on A.B. 569. Motion carried.

A.B. 661 - Prohibits electioneering on polling place properties and within 100 feet of polling place boundaries.

Motion for a Do Pass was made by N. Lauri, seconded by Darrell Dreyer on A.B. 661. Motion carried.

A. B. 597 - Authorizes "new residents" and former Nevada residents to vote for President and Vice President in compliance with federal Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1970

Frank Young explained that this bill provides for new residents to vote on the President and Vice President, conforming with the Constitutional Amendment. These new residents would not be voting at the precinct level but by mail and will be counted with the absentee ballot.

However, on Page 4, Section 11, Line 24, [the 21 years of age] should be changed to 18. Mr. Koontz concurred with this, saying that, in view of the Supreme Court ruling, it should be age 18.

On page 4, Section 11, Line 16, Mr. Young felt that the word envelope should be preceded with the word Identification, to conform with Section 12. Mr. Wright also confirmed these two changes in the bill.

A motion for Amend and Do Pass was made by Mr. Dreyer, seconded by N. Lauri and carried.

S.B. 175 Changes definition and qualifications for registering to vote to include 18-year olds for federal elections; and grants equal political party status.

Discussion followed on this measure, Mr. Young commenting that, if the June 8th election gives the 18 year old the vote throughout the State, Section 1 would not be needed. Mr. Koontz commented that you have to be a registered voter to participate in elections. Lines 3-5 of the bill would permit their inclusion in the political party. It was also noted that S.B. 175 and A.B. 569 were similar, except for Section 1 of S.B. 175. Mr. Koontz remarked that Lines 3-5 would not be needed if the constitutional amendment is passed in June.

Motion for indefinite postponement was made by Mr. Prince on S.B. 175. Motion was seconded by Mr. Dreyer and carried.

A. B. 426. Adopts extensive provisions relating to voting machines.

Mr. Koontz gave the committee information on the various types of voting machines available, referring to the Shoup, Automatic and the IBM voting device (the type used in the Carson City elections). He also stated that Washoe County had over a million dollars invested in their machines. The laws now say that these machines shall be approved by the Secretary of State. In addition, they have to be approved by the County Clerk and the County Commissioners. The Party Chairmen are generally called in too for their opinions.

The Espinoza-Smith case was referred to and discussion followed on various methods of handling such contested precinct elections. S.B. 264 was referred to which indicates the way this could be handled. It was decided that A.B. 426 should be studied more carefully and considered at a later meeting.

A meeting was scheduled for Friday, March 19, 1971, at 8:00 a.m. to discuss A.B. 426 further and also some additional material on re-districting

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.