

Minutes of Meeting - HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE - 56th ASSEMBLY SESSION - February 1, 1971

Present: Wilson Homer, Swallow, White, Glaser, Smalley, Prince, and Valentine

Absent: Poggione

Guests: Assemblyman Getto and Mr. Wahrenbrock, Department of Health, Welfare, and Rehabilitation

Meeting was convened by Chairman Wilson at 3:15 P.M.

Assemblyman Getto was present to introduce his bill, A.B. 7. He said the reason for this bill was that years ago there wasn't enough qualified people for the position without being an arrested alcoholic. So one of the requirements were that a director must have been an alcoholic at one time or a member of Alcoholics Anonymous prior to this position. He said that since then, there have been many other people to qualify for this position who are not alcoholics. He said the group found a man they thought would make an excellent director who is not an alcoholic. Mr. Getto also said that this man has worked very thoroughly with these people and Alcoholics Anonymous highly recommended him.

Mr. Prince suggested doing away with the whole section of the bill.

Mr. Wilson suggested holding this bill and requested that Mr. Getto bring in the amendment for this bill.

Mr. Swallow made a motion to hold the bill, pending the revised bill or amendment; Mrs. White seconded; Mr. Wilson said they would hold the bill until the revision or amendment comes in from the Legislative Counsel Bureau. Motion was carried.

Mr. Smalley suggested they talk with the man applying for this position before the committee voted. Mr. Wahrenbrock said he would bring the applicant any time the committee wished. It was then decided he appear before the committee on Febraury 10.

Mr. Wilson brought up the bills that were placed on the committee members desk for their consideration for possible introduction. He said it is now the prerogative of the committee to vote these bills up or down. The first bill was BDR 38-844* which:

Relates to aid to dependent children; including a child under 21 years of age who attends a college or university within the definition of the term "dependent child"; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Mr. Wilson then asked for comments on this subject.

Mr. Glaser made a motion to introduce BDR 38-844; Homer seconded; motion carried.

*A.B. 150

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The Assembly Concurrent Resolution was then discussed which:
Directs the legislative commission to conduct a
study of the Welfare laws of the State of Nevada
and report and recommend corrective revision
to the next regular session of the Legislature.

Mr. Prince felt this should be looked into further.

Mr. Glaser said that "there was a change of welfare officers
too often." He said "We now have very few public nurses left so I
think we should definitely look into this."

Mr. Wilson suggested they bring people in for discussion to
see what the people would like to have done. It was agreed by
all.

Mr. Wilson brought up the fact that the Senate of the State
Institutions was making a trip to southern Nevada to check on some
of these institutions, such as Caliente Girls Home. Mr. Wilson
said he had told Assemblyman Ray Young that this committee
should have more involvement even if the committee looked at
this in a social way. Mr. Wilson asked for volunteers to
make this trip Thursday to Las Vegas so they could make the
trip to the institutions. Volunteers were: Mrs. White,
Mr. Valentine, and Mr. Swallow.

Mr. Wilson brought up the fact that he had been swamped with
requests by the people and the members of the Legislature,
requesting a hearing to look into the matter of welfare re-
cipients. He also felt that it was the responsibility of the
Legislature to get all the facts they could so the people would
know both sides of the story. He thought there should be a
separate committee of the Health and Welfare Committee to
investigate it and select a group of people that could speak
at the hearing. The Health and Welfare Committee, he felt,
could go from there.

Mr. Valentine suggested that the chairman appoint this separate
committee.

Mr. Wilson then asked Mr. Glaser, Homer, and Prince to serve
on this committee.

Mr. Glaser suggested that Mr. Smalley should also be on the
separate committee since he is from that area. Mr. Smalley
agreed.

Mr. Wilson then set A.B. 101 to be discussed at their meeting
on Monday, February 8. He also said there would be no
meeting this Wednesday, February 3 and Thursday, February 4.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

resent, the subjects or measures considered, actions taken by the committee, a record of individual voting, completed committee reports and for other duties specified by the chairman. Minutes are acted upon at the next regular meeting of the committee and are subject to correction and approval only by a majority of the quorum assembled except for the last meeting of the Legislative Session which approval may be by individual contact by the chairman. The clerk takes to each meeting or hearing sufficient copies of bills being considered, if available, for the use of all persons attending.

DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Committee members, including the chairman, may participate freely in committee discussions and debate, make and second motions and assert points of order and privilege, subject to rules of parliamentary procedure set forth in Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure. In hearings and other formal proceedings, a committee member may question or comment to a witness through the committee chairman.

It is the duty of committee members to attend and participate in all committee meetings. If unable to do so, he should notify the chairman or clerk in advance, indicating where he can be reached if needed. Continued unexcused absences must be reported to Assembly leadership for action.

A member may resign from the committee by submitting his resignation in writing to the committee chairman.

No member of the committee may vote by proxy under any circumstances. No member may vote on a question in committee where his private right or interest, distinct from the public interest, is immediately concerned.

Disciplinary action against a committee member may be taken by the committee chairman in concert with the Speaker of the Assembly and the majority or minority floor leader, as appropriate.

COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

All committee meetings except those designated as "executive session" are open to the public and public hearings may be held on any matter before the committee.

The chairman will schedule meetings and hearings each legislative day for at least the eighth day ahead. (For example: On Monday he will give to each committee member, post on a public bulletin board in Assembly Chambers and send by mail to those persons and organizations he believes interested an agenda of all matters to be considered by the committee on the following Monday.) Matters for consideration may be arranged systematically in order of importance, order of reference, order in which testimony is available or by other pre-arrangement. Measures may be considered out of order as the chairman finds necessary.

The chairman notifies in advance the introducers (in either Assembly or Senate) of bills to be considered by the committee of the time and place of consideration of the measure and offers them opportunity to testify. Witnesses with long testimony on matters before the committee may be encouraged to present their information in writing and make oral summary limited to five minutes before the committee.

Subcommittees made up of committee members may be appointed by the chairman to consider and report back on specific subjects or bills. Rules governing the committee govern also its subcommittees.

Decisions of the committee are made after witnesses have spoken, been questioned and are excused. Committee reports are adopted at a committee meeting actually assembled with a quorum present. A Minority report may be filed with the Chief Clerk of the Assembly at the same time the majority report is submitted. A minority report is signed by each dissenting member present when the vote was taken.

Within 48 hours after committee action on any matter referred to it, the chairman must report this action to the Chief Clerk of the assembly. At any time prior to reporting of a matter back to the Assembly, the committee may reconsider its previous action. All official bills must be returned to the Chief Clerk of the Assembly at the time the chairman makes his report.

If the chairman fails to call a meeting upon request of a committee member, a majority of the committee may order a special meeting and in the absence of the chairman and vice chairman designate an acting chairman and conduct business, provided a quorum is present.

All minutes, records and documents in the possession of the committee and the chairman are filed with the Legislative Counsel immediately prior to adjournment sine die.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Provision is made for public hearings on important bills and other matters of high public interest in a place with adequate facilities for all who wish to attend. Advance notice states time and place of the hearing and identifies subject matter under consideration. Sufficient copies of the bill and other printed matter to be considered are available for use of committee members and others attending. Presence of a quorum of the committee is desirable but not required.

Public hearings are opened by the chairman who calls to order committee members and others attending promptly at the scheduled hour. He announces the bill number and title or other matter which is the subject of the hearing, and points out that applause is not permitted. If so requested by a committee member, he may read or summarize the bill or other matter under consideration or have it done.

After opening the hearing, the chairman inquires whether anyone present wishes to be heard in favor of the bill or other matter being considered. These persons rise in an order determined by the chairman, address the chair, furnish their names, addresses, firms or other organizations represented and then address the committee on the subject. As each completes his remarks the chairman gives committee members opportunity for questions. If any wish to use this opportunity, they address the chair for permission and then question the witness. The chairman maintains supervision of the questioning to avoid debate or argument between committee members and witnesses. Questions from other than committee members are not in order and are not allowed.

After all persons wishing to be heard in favor of the matter have been heard the chairman inquires whether there are those present wishing to be heard in opposition. Any such are heard in the same manner as the proponents with similar opportunity for questioning by committee members.

The chairman is especially careful throughout the hearings that he is fair and impartial to both sides as the cases are presented. When all have been heard, the chairman declares the public hearings closed on the matter before proceeding to other matters.