

MINUTES OF MEETING - COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS
56TH ASSEMBLY SESSION

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March 26, 1971

Present: N. Lauri, Chairman, R. Young, W. Wilson, N. Glaser,
D. Mello, J. Schofield and R. Torvinen.

Others

Present: Lawrence Jacobsen, Speaker of the Assembly.

✓ The meeting was convened at 11:30 a.m. by Chairman, Nick Lauri in the Assembly Lounge to discuss:

A.B. 784 Restricts public employees from serving as elected officers under certain conditions.

and amendment thereto:

Amend Section 1, Page 1, Line 3 by inserting "1" before "No Public Employee".

Amend Section 1, page 1, by inserting after Line 7, "2. Nothing in this section shall prohibit any public employee serving in an elective office on the effective date of this act from completing the term for which he was elected."

Mr. Lauri requested that A.B. 784 be put on the floor without recommendation, as amended. Mr. Torvinen so moved with second by Mr. Glaser. Discussion followed.

Mr. Mello thought there was some good points in the bill, but believed that this measure, and other like measures regarding conflict of interest, should be considered together. He also felt that these "public employees" had a right to run for office and the voters should decide this question at the polls.

Mr. Lauri cited the examples - that a school teacher cannot sit on the Board of Trustees and a firefighter can't sit on the City Council. Mr. Young stated that noone could hold two public offices. Under the provisions of this measure, a public employee could secure a Leave of Absence, withdraw his funds from the retirement system and then later pay these back, when he was through serving.

Mr. Schofield had discussed this bill with Russ McDonald and presented a list of bills that have passed this session of the Legislature which could be termed "conflict of interest" measures. He cited other examples that he believed would directly affect some legislators in the conflict of interest area.

Mr. Lauri stated that these examples were all relating to the private sector of business and did not directly affect public employees who received their money from the State and taxes and then, in turn, were directing how this money should be spent.

A vote on the motion was taken. Mr. Lauri, Torvinen, R. Young and Norman Glaser voted in favor and Mr. Mello, Schofield and Wilson voted against the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Jacobsen spoke briefly about a possible group picture, saying that Mrs. Randall would be glad to meet with the committee and discuss prices. This will be done as soon as possible.

Mr. Lauri presented the committee members with a list of studies that had been recommended for the Legislative Commission - this included seven from the Senate and 14 from the Assembly. These studies are to be reviewed by the committee members and a priority list given to Mr. Jacobsen before Monday noon, March 29th.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.