

Assembly

MINUTES - WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 56th SESSION - MARCH 29, 1971

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 3:15 P.M.

Present: R. Young, Howard, Hafen, F. Young, Brookman, Mello, Schofield, Swackhamer, Hilbrecht, Lingenfelter

Absent: Capurro

Guests: Earl Oliver, Fiscal Analyst; John Dolan, Budget Div.; Ernie Newton, Nevada Taxpayers Assn.; Stan Warren, Nevada Bell; Jim Wittenberg, Personnel; Bob Gagnier, State Employees Assn.

BILL HEARING

A.B. 751 - Makes general fund appropriation to Nevada educational communications commission to pay operational costs of state-wide public television network.

A. B. 752 - Makes general fund appropriation to Nevada educational communications commission for construction equipping of television station and acquisition of translators.

Mr. Ernie Newton and Mr. Stan Warren were present to testify against A.B. 751 and 752.

Mr. Newton testified that he was concerned over concept of public educational TV as production and distribution program and concerned about this proposal because it will lock the State into a program that the State cannot afford.

He referred to problem in Clark County whereby \$2 million dollars was invested in an educational TV program, hardware was purchased and Clark County cannot get out of this program because federal funds are involved. They are experiencing a cost of some \$360,000 per year for daytime operation and in addition the nighttime operation is running some \$40,000 per year (administration and other costs bring this nighttime operation cost up to \$60,000 per year). Mr. Newton stated that Dr. Guinn had remarked that he would rather hire 38 additional teachers with this money that is presently being spent on the daytime TV program.

In regards to the fiscal impact of bill, Mr. Newton remarked that it will cost a great deal more than proponents of bill have indicated. If bills are passed there would be much reliance on federal money and he remarked when federal monies are

involved, strings are attached and in addition, local operating would have to be paid by the local school districts.

He felt that Nevada school systems were prepared to buy canned TV programs but not to produce their own. He cited an article from Business Week magazine which predicted a trend whereby most educational TV programs in the future would be "canned".

In summary he reiterated that the State should not get locked into this expensive proposal that would be extremely expensive to fund within the next five years. He was in favor of video recordings rather than going into broadcasting. He also remarked that another problem in regards to broadcasting is that scheduling must be coordinated so that everyone would be able to view the program at the same time.

In answer to Mr. Hilbrecht's question whether he was suggesting everyone going out and purchasing Video tape machines, Mr. Newton remarked that he was not suggesting this. Mr. Hilbrecht remarked that the video tape machines were a bit complex and that it is difficult to find someone qualified to run these machines. Mr. Newton remarked that within a few years he felt that technologists would develop a cassette which would be easier to operate. He stated that presently there are 8 different companies that manufacture these cassettes which are not interchangeable.

Mr. Stan Warren kept most of his remarks directed to A. B. 751. He felt that the State could not afford this type of facility at this time.

A. B. 751

Mr. Lingenfelter moved INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT
Mr. Hilbrecht Seconded the motion
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

A. B. 752

Mr. Lingenfelter moved INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT
Mr. Hilbrecht Seconded the motion
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

A. B. 283 - Authorizes time and one-half for overtime for State employees.

Jim Wittenberg remarked that this would have to be handled within the existing approved budgets of the various agencies. He stated that in this bill they are talking about highway maintainers and personnel at lower levels that are requested to work overtime. He said that this was the prevailing practice in industry. Also this practice is used at the University and hospital because of the fair labor standards act.

Mr. Wittenberg said that most administrators would rather pay for overtime rather than give compensatory time off.

Bob Gagnier, State Employees Association, remarked that they were not in favor of some of the wording of this bill. State employees are not in favor of compensatory time off; overtime compensation should be on a cash basis being that many employees who work overtime lose their compensatory time off.

He felt that if agencies were required to pay cash for overtime services performed by employees, the agencies would start administering their overtime a little better. He felt that the definition of those personnel who could be excluded from this action was too broad. This definition should be left up to the Personnel Advisory Commission.

Bob Gagnier felt that most agencies kept very poor records on overtime and that employees suffered because of these poor records. Mr. Schofield questioned as to why the agencies did not keep adequate records. Mr. Gagnier remarked that most compensatory time off was just by word of mouth and usually this is not recorded.

Mr. Wittenberg disagreed and felt that some administrators kept better records than others. Mr. Mello remarked that it was pretty late in the session to "tear this bill to pieces" and felt that they should have contacted the introducer of this bill earlier.

Mr. Gagnier stated that executive and administrative personnel determine their own hours; he did not feel that these people should be paid for their overtime.

HOLD

A. B. 241 - Provides longevity pay for state employees

Mr. Gagnier clarified Subsection 3 and stated that it meant that at the end of 5 year period of employment, the employee would receive \$300 (\$60.00) for each year of employment. After this period he would continue receiving \$60.00 for each year of employment up to 30 years of employment

It has been estimated that the average State employee works for the State for a period of 8 years ($\frac{1}{2}$ of all State employees have worked at least 8 years for the State). This would cost about \$600,000 from general fund monies.

Jim Wittenberg concurred with Bob Gagnier. In answer to Mr. Hilbrecht's question regarding the annual percentage increase in cost of this proposed plan, Mr. Gagnier remarked that there would be approximately a 15% annual increase in cost. In addition he remarked that 9 political subdivisions in the State had the longevity program.

HOLD

A. B. 364 - Provides for granting of educational leave stipends to state employees.

A.B. 591 - Provides for granting of educational leave stipends to state employees.

A.B. 364 and 591 are the same bills. A.B. 364 was discussed. This bill provides for the possibility of educational leave for state employees. It would pay their tuition and employees would also be drawing their salary. This would be used for employees that need special training, i.e. special training in analyzing chemicals for dangerous drugs, stream pollution courses, etc. This would not have any bearing for reclassification.

Some agencies are able to grant educational leave stipends due to federal funding, but many agencies do not have federal funding for special training of this type.

Bob Gagnier remarked that in Section 5, they are asking for responsibility to coordinate training programs among the State agencies.

In Section 4, page 2, line 1, they are requesting that practical be changed to appropriate.

There is no fiscal note on this bill because the State agencies would have to have the money available for this educational leave stipend.

Each unit of credit at University of Nevada is \$18.00. This program would be tied in with a Board of Examiners to prevent abuse of program. Approximately 15 employees per year would be involved in this program.

HOLD

A. B. 91 - Requires payment to public employees for accumulated sick leave upon retirement or death.

This bill would provide unused sick leave pay to employees upon retirement. If the employee died, this money would go to his estate. In addition, if the employee was laid off, there is a possibility that this might also apply. Ten other states utilize this policy in various forms.

There was some disagreement as to how much this would cost per year between John Dolan and Bob Gagnier. Bob Gagnier stated that this would cost approximately \$30-35,000 per year based on 60-75 people per year who would be eligible.

HOLD

A. B. 457 - Provides for organization of county courts.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

A. B. 533 - Permits commission on crime, delinquency and corrections to administer changes in law enforcement programs.

Mr. Hilbrecht moved to amend and DO PASS
Mr. Howard Seconded the motion
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

A. B. 240 - Amends 1969 act making appropriations to state distributive school fund to provide for earmarking of surplus and carry-overs to 1971-1973 biennium.

HOLD

A. B. 277 - Allows state planning board to use grants of money for public buildings or projects.

Earl Oliver recommended that line 3 be amended to read... with concurrence of the Interim Finance Committee.

Mr. Hilbrecht moved DO PASS as amended
Mrs. Brookman Seconded the motion
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

It was the concensus of Committee members that gifts have legislative review.

S. B. 151 - Makes supplemental appropriations to various state officers, departments and agencies.

Mr. Lingenfelter moved DO PASS
Mr. Schofield Seconded the motion
PASSED

Note: Mr. F. Young requested to be recorded as not voting

S. B. 303 - Makes appropriation from general fund to state board of examiners for settlement of claim.

Mr. F. Young moved DO PASS
Mr. Hilbrecht Seconded the motion
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

S. B. 150 - Makes appropriations to various state fund accounts.

Mr. Lingenfelter moved DO PASS
Mr. Howard Seconded the motion
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

March 29, 1971

S.B. 154 - Makes supplemental appropriations to department of motor vehicles public service commission of Nevada.

Amend Section 2, line 12 to: June 30, 1972.

Mr. F. Young moved DO PASS as amended.

Mr. Hilbrecht Seconded the motion

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.