

NEVADA LEGISLATURE  
ASSEMBLY

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57TH SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS  
MINUTES

DATE: Monday, February 12, 1973

ATTENDEES: Foote, Chairman  
Gojack, Vice Chairman  
Crawford  
Ford  
Huff  
Smith  
Vergiels

ABSENCES: None

GUESTS: Gary Mathern - Boy Scout  
Joe Dini - Assemblyman  
Dave Morgan - Boy Scout  
Riley - AP  
Robt. Warren - Nev. Mun. Assn.  
Al Wittenberg - Assemblyman  
Carole Hurray  
Nick Lauri - KOH-Sparks Trib. etc.

Special meeting called at 11:45 A.M. by Chairman Foote to act on AB 253, which provides for referendum in certain cities upon election of members of governing body by voters of individual wards. There is also an appropriation measure asking for \$10,000 for the City of Sparks to have a special election.

Discussion

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of the passage of this bill. It was felt that it was hastily constructed, ill-advised, and does not solve the problems that do exist or do the things they as legislators intend to have done. They believe it is a case of an "hurrier we go, the behinder we get" bill, and feel it will delay the passing of legislation they are after. However, in order to get about their business to prepare a piece of legislation to accomplish what they have been pursuing and what they feel they want to accomplish, they feel it would be a stop-gap measure and they should consider a "Do Pass."

Assemblyman Dini advised he believes the majority of cities on ballot would turn this down anyway. He believes it should be on the charter.

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Assemblyman Wittenberg advises he believes this probably is not the best solution and not the best legislation; it was merely to facilitate breaking up the log jam we have. If the majority were to feel single member districting is what was needed, we had that on the floor in the amended version of SB-61. This will at least put it on the ballot. He stated he is sorry about the cost involved in Sparks but it was unavoidable if it is to be passed in its present form. He does not believe it will fail in all six of these cities and this will at lease give them something to base their opinion on.

Assemblyman Vergiels made motion we pass onto the floor with "Do Pass" Assembly Bill 253. Motion was seconded by Assemblyman Ford.

Assemblyman Huff stated we did have an alternative up and it apparently was losing grounds, that Mr. Smith apparently was opposed to that and doesn't like this one, either.

Assemblyman Smith stated he said from the first days he was for getting reapportionment - one seat, one district. He believes in it. There are levels, however, one cannot reduce it. What those levels are, he's not to determine them. He stated they knew last session they could not consider every ramification a single piece of legislation would require. Without the new members having been exposed to the sheer mechanics of accomplishing some of these things, he has suggested from the very beginning we have to, to act rationally and intelligently, expose each program to each vicinity to see what we are in fact to do. We have made an arbitrary decision of 15,000 people. We have nothing to support our position on this. All he has ever asked is for us to approach this from statesmanship and intelligence, not emotion. All SB 61 would have been was to take ambiguity out of the law. If cities are not acting responsibly from their charters, that is something else. He is going to vote "Do Pass" on this but he doesn't feel it does what is being expressed by the body.

Assemblyman Huff stated we are dealing about something that will affect the people of the state. Assemblyman Smith agreed; we haven't given it fair exposure and it isn't solving the problems we are all interested in. However, he feels if we pass this, we can get the show on the road.

Bill No. AB 253

Date: February 12, 1973

Sponsor:

Subject: Provides for referendum in certain cities upon election of members of governing body by voters of individual wards.

Committee Action: Assemblyman Vergiels made motion for "Do Pass."

Date: 2/12/73. Seconded by Assemblyman Ford.

Committee Vote:	Yes	No	Excused	Absent
Foote	X	-	-	-
Gojack	X	-	-	-
Crawford	-	X	-	-
Ford	X	-	-	-
Huff	X	-	-	-
Smith	X	-	-	-
Vergiels	X	-	-	-

Disposition: Do Pass

Date: 2/12/73.

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Assemblyman Smith stated he believes it is appropriate to say at this time that the measure going into Ways and Means be strongly supported by every member of this Committee; he believes it is important. The Committee concurred.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Marion Smith  
Assembly Attache

*msf*

GUEST LIST

Business Meeting  
2-12-73

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NAME

ORGANIZATION

Gary Malvern

Boy Scout

Joe Dini

ASSEMBLYMAN.

Dave Morgan

AP

G. J.

ROBT. WARREN

NEV. MAN. ASSN.

Al Wittedberg -

Assemblyman

Marcus Murray

NICK LAURI -

KOH-SPARKS TRIB, ETC