

Assembly  
HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE MINUTES

FEBRUARY 28, 1973

MEMBERS PRESENT: BENNETT, CRADDOCK, WITTENBERG, McNEEL,  
GETTO, FRY & HICKEY

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

GUESTS: Joe Braswell, Inter-Tribal Council  
Myrl Nygren, Nevada Health Division  
Tom Wilson, Comp. Health Planning  
Melissa Cobb, Title XIX Welfare  
Wm. Edwards, M.D., State Health Division  
Kathryn Lima, NLPNA  
Ellen H. Pope, NLPNA  
Gloria Handley, Welfare  
Robert Holland, Welfare  
W. LaBodie, Welfare  
Earl Yamashita, Welfare  
Roger Trounday, Dept. Health & Welfare  
Orville A. Wahrenbrock, " "  
Roy D. Yowell, ITD of Nev.  
Dorothy J. Button, Nev. Nurses Assn.  
Jean Peavy, Board of Nursing  
Sister Carole Hurray, Welfare Coalition  
Kate Butler, League of Women Voters

Chairman Bennett called meeting to order for the purpose  
of discussing

1. AB 364

Mr. Joe Braswell of Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, stated  
the Nevada Indian Affairs Commission had a suggested amend-  
ment to the bill as follows:

Section 22, Paragraph 4, Line 19, after NRS insert:

"or each Indian tribe in this State organized  
under the Indian Reorganization Act (25 U.S.C.  
subsection 461 et seq) having a duly con-  
stituted tribal court" because \*\* abused.

The Welfare Division currently accepts custody from the  
Tribal courts, and this amendment would legitimize such  
actions and assure the continued recognition of juris-  
diction of Tribal courts where applicable.

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Mrs. Hadley, W. J. LaBodie and Robert Holland of the Welfare Department appeared. Mr. LaBodie stated what they were trying to do by this bill was spell out the responsibilities and duties of the Welfare Department regarding child welfare, and try to get away from legal battles. They have been trying to clarify these duties and responsibilities for the last two or three legislative sessions.

They also want to amend the bill by adding:

Sec. 22.6. When a child is placed in the custody of the welfare division pursuant to court request or order, such order shall not become effective unless an opportunity for a hearing has been given to the welfare division pursuant to summons or other notice, or upon request of the welfare division.

The question arose as to whether AB 364 conflicted with AB 187. Chairman Bennett stated that no notice of such conflict had been given to him by bill drafters' office.

The discussion turned to

2. AB 373.

Myrl Nygren of Nevada Health Division appeared in support of bill. She stated that the purpose was to amend it to incorporate statutes governing child care facilities and adult group care facilities. They are also trying to incorporate Chapters 424 and 431 into this Chapter 449 to make it more manageable. It also redefines skilled nursing facilities to be in keeping with Federal law. It is basically a consolidation bill to clear up any conflicts. Mr. Getto asked for changes in law to be explained and Ms. Nygren reviewed each section.

Mrs. Melissa Cobb, Medical Services of Welfare Division, proposed an amendment to bring their division into compliance with Federal requirements rather than have them introduce a separate bill. A copy of such amendment is attached hereto, marked "Exhibit A", and made a part hereof.

Tom Wilson, Comprehensive Health Planning, requested an amendment on Page 7, under Section 28, to add a paragraph 5. He is to submit such amendment to Chairman Bennett.

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The discussion returned to AB 364 at the request of Sister Carole Hurray who is against giving the Welfare Department more services to children, as she is against Welfare's attitude toward children. She asked that the Committee delay final action until another bill which she had heard of was introduced. It was suggested the discussion be postponed until Sister Carole could bring in further information on Friday, March 2nd.

The next bill to be discussed was

3. AB 345

Mrs. Dorothy Button, Chairman of the Nevada Nurses' Association Committee on Legislation, appeared in support of bill. A copy of Mrs. Button's statement is marked "Exhibit B", attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Dr. William Edwards of State Health Division appeared in opposition to the bill. He stated he was appearing for Dr. Carr of the State Board of Health who was unable to attend. There are now three medical men on Board and two laymen. If a nurse is on the Board it would further throw the balance off and make it more cumbersome.

All witnesses were excused.

After discussion by the Committee, Chairman Bennett appointed a sub-committee composed of Mr. Getto, Mr. Craddock and Mr. Wittenberg, to work out an amendment or compromise on AB 345.

It was also agreed to postpone decision on AB 364 until Sister Carole had additional information on Friday.

It was further agreed that Mr. Fry would work on an Amendment to AB 373 to clarify "confidential information" on Page 8, lines 18 through 24. Chairman Bennett is also to check with bill drafters' office regarding conflicts between AB 187 and AB 373.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Dunne, Secretary

ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & WELFARE  
Wednesday

Date February 28, 1978 Time 8:00 a.m. Room 240

<u>Bills or Resolutions to be considered</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Counsel requested*</u>
AB 345 ✓	Adds registered nurse to membership of state board of health.	
AB 364 ✓	Expands public child welfare and youth services.	
AB 373 ✓	Revises licensing provisions for health and care facilities and administrators of certain such facilities.	
AB 363 <i>not today</i>	Expands state authority to contract with local narcotic addiction treatment clinics.	<i>to be rescheduled</i>

\*Please do not ask for counsel unless necessary.

EXHIBIT A

AN ACT relating to the Nevada state board of examiners for nursing home administrators; providing for amending the board composition to conform to federal standards; and other matters properly relating thereto.

NRS 654.060 is hereby amended to read as follows:

654.060: The board shall be composed of:

1. The director of the department of health, welfare and rehabilitation or his designee; and

2. Four members appointed by the governor. [Three] Two of the appointed members shall be nursing home administrators and the third and fourth appointed [member] members shall be an administrator of a general hospital or a member of the medical profession or paramedical professions.

3. The director of the department of health, welfare and rehabilitation, or his designee, and the third and fourth appointed members shall have no direct financial interest in nursing homes.

I am Dorothy Button. I live at 1590 Hillside Drive in Reno. I am chairman of the Nevada Nurses' Association Committee on Legislation. The Nevada Nurses' Association is the professional organization of registered nurses.

I am speaking in favor of A.B. 345. The Nevada Nurses' Ass'n. believes a registered nurse should be added to membership on the State Board of Health because nursing is a separate distinct profession which has its own unique contribution to make to health care. Apparently an assumption is made that the medical profession speaks for nursing. The truth is that medicine has little comprehension of what nursing is all about, and that it does not speak for nursing.

The majority of people care services performed by the State Health Division are performed by nurses. Nurses do the case finding, health teaching, health counseling and follow through in the community.

The rules and regulations of hospitals and other health care facilities written by the State Board of Health are more and more concerned with patient care. Patient care is the province of the registered and licensed practical nurse, who make up the largest group of <sup>licensed</sup> health care providers in the State. There are approximately 4000 licensed nurses (R.N's and L.P.N's) living in Nevada. We believe that the expertise of the registered nurse should be available to the State Board of Health, especially in the area of patient care.

There is not one decision made by the State Board of Health that does not affect nursing in some way. ~~We think~~ It is time that nursing had a voice in making those decisions.

It is interesting that the lay members of the State Board of Health have been and are women. One wonders if this were done to placate nurses, who, after all, are mostly women. But gentlemen, <sup>all</sup> women are not nurses, and while I am sure the lay women members of the Board make a valuable contribution to its decisions, I expect that the contributions of a professional nurse will be different and will add a new dimension which is needed.

Another question which we were asked is: why do you want this, other than for the prestige value? The prestige value is not a consideration. Unless the nurse appointed to this Board is <sup>has had at least the basic preparation in public Health nursing,</sup> well qualified in nursing, /knows what the current practice of nursing is, <sup>and is not afraid to speak up on behalf of patients,</sup> ~~and~~ has some breadth of experience in nursing, we do not believe that anything is to be gained for the public <sup>a nurse</sup> by naming ~~one~~ to the State Board of Health. And, once again, <sup>here its</sup> our concern is protection of the public/health, wherever the patient happens to be--at home, in hospital or nursing home, in the rural community, in the ghetto areas of cities.

The Nevada Nurses' Association favors A.B. 345 and urges that you give it a "do pass" recommendation because we believe that a professional nurse can be a valuable member of the State Board of Health.