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Assembly
HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 9, 1973

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS:

Len E. Crocker, Highland Park-Juniper Hills Property
Owners Assn., Reno
Ernie Gregory, Division of Health
Lew Dodgion, " " "
Esther Nicholson, League of Women Voters of Nev.
Jack Caramella, Reno Disposal Co.
Mrs. W. H. Brown, Self
Wilma Sinfellow, Sun Valley Home Owner
LaVerne Beck, " " " "
Geri Decker, Government Student
Ellen H. Pope, Self
Jeanette Hanson, Sun Valley Trailer Owner
George A. Hanson, " " " "
Gleva Hamilton, Sun Valley Home Owner
Sarah Madden, " " " "
Donald E. Wiggin, Sun Valley resident
Edward En Ingalls, Sun Valley
Bill Buchnuff, Sun Dalley
Lorraine Trevino, Washoe Valley
Marlene Gallardo, Washoe Valley
Regina Weimar, " "
Harriett Folz, " "
Pearl MacDonald, " "
Roger Trundy, Dept. of Health
Trudy Hanson, Pleasant Valley
Mr. & Mrs. W. Frazer, Sun Valley
Dorothy Button, Nev. Nurses Assn.
Smiley Bayless, " " "
Gene Clock, Washoe Co. Dist. Health Dept.
G. F. Horner, Washoe Valley
Bill Macdonald, District Atty., Humboldt County

Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Bennett
for the purpose of discussing AB 126.

Mr. Lew Dodgion, Public Health Engineer, Division of Health,
appeared as witness and stated that the purpose of AB 126
was to amend Chapter 444 of NRS by giving Health Department
authority to issue permits to operate solid waste disposal
sites or solid waste processing systems, and authority
to enforce the rules and regulations adopted by the Health
Department.

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Mr. Dodgion stated that this bill does not apply in any way, shape or form to individual septic systems or sewage disposal systems, and read statute defining solid waste. The regulations set by Health Department go into effect July 1974, and they need this enforcement system. The Health Department received Federal funding in the sum of approximately \$14,200 last year, and this bill might enable them to receive further funds.

Mr. William Bickerstaff, Assemblyman, asked if this amendment to Chapter 444 pertained to private dwellings or homes, and Mr. Dodgion reiterated that it did not apply to private septic tanks or sewage disposal systems. Mr. Bickerstaff asked if he would object to an amendment stating this specifically, and Mr. Dodgion said he would not.

A question was raised on how often the law required that individual septic tanks be cleaned. The Health Department said there is no such law and it is only recommended that they be cleaned every three years.

Andy Hansen, a farmer, said he was concerned about disposal sites for farmers own private use. He was answered that Sec. 44461 provided that this law did not apply to any agricultural activity and exempted ranches. In answer to a question from Mr. McNeel, Mr. Dodgion said the control would not be taken away from the county commissioners.

The fees provided for in the bill will not be based on profit of owners of sites. They have not set fees as yet, but will probably be based on costs of printing permit forms, other actual costs, and expenses of travelling to inspect sites.

Mr. Bill Macdonald, District Attorney of Humboldt County, raised numerous questions regarding the dump sites and cost thereof in his county. He was told that economic hardship would be taken into consideration, and compliance could be extended.

Mr. Bickerstaff asked the Committee to withhold decision until he could get amendment out of bill drafters office.

Gene Clock, Washoe District Health Office, endorsed passing of bill. Esther Nicholson, League of Women Voters, urged support of bill and asked for certain amendments. A copy of her statement is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. McNeel made a motion not to take any action on bill until amendments could be submitted. No second to motion.

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After discussion among Committee, Mr. Wittenberg made a "Do Pass" motion. Seconded by Mr. Getto. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Dunne, Secretary

ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & WELFARE

Date Feb. 9, 1973 Time 8:00 a.m. Room 240

Bills or Resolutions
to be considered

Subject

Counsel
requested*

<u>AB 126</u>	<u>Requires health authority permit for activities pertaining to solid waste disposal systems.</u>	<u></u>
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*Please do not ask for counsel unless necessary.

HEARINGS PENDING

Date Feb. 9, 1973 Time 8:00 a.m. Room 240
Subject AB 126

Date _____ Time _____ Room _____
Subject _____

57TH NEVADA LEGISLATURE

HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE
LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE Feb. 9, 1973

SUBJECT AB 126

MOTION:

Do Pass X Amend Indefinitely Postpone Reconsider

Moved By Wittenberg Seconded by Getto

AMENDMENT:

Moved By Seconded By

AMENDMENT:

Moved By Seconded By

VOTE:

	MOTION		AMEND		AMEND	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Bennett, M.	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Craddock, R.	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Hickey, T.	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Wittenberg, A.	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Fry, L.	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Getto, V.	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
McNeel, R.	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

TALLY:

Original Motion: Passed X Defeated Withdrawn
 Amended & Passed Amended & Defeated
 Amended & Passed Amended & Defeated

Attach to Minutes Feb. 9, 1973
(Date)

Statement by The League of Women Voters of New
On AB 126 (Feb. 9, 1973)

The League of Women Voters strongly urges adoption of AB 126. At the last session of the Legislature a new solid waste law was adopted which the League supported. A new look at that law still shows it to be good but in need of some additions or improvement. AB 126, the bill before us this morning, is one of the needed improvements, since presently health authorities have the right to adopt regulations relating to solid waste management but do not have the necessary authority to review plans for solid waste sites and systems prior to their construction. Such review is essential to the protection of public health for it provides the only assurance that sites will be properly located. An improperly located site can lead to many problems. In some cases, soil may be such as to allow leachate into underground waters or drainage into surface water. There must be adequate soil at the site to assure a sufficient supply for coverage. Prevention of trouble and enforcement of continued protection based on compliance with regulations will be much easier if all plans for solid sites

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can be reviewed prior to establishment. The only penalty now available under law is to bring a violator in under misdemeanor charges which is a difficult and cumbersome approach to proper compliance.

As for AB 126 itself, the League of Women Voters would like to recommend two changes:

1. In line 14, section 2, sub-section 2, we suggest the addition of the words "state approved health authority" to make the sentence read: "Such schedule shall meet the approval of the State Board of Health or a state approved health authority."

Our belief is that in areas with good health departments, it will be much less cumbersome to handle it at the local level.

2. Secondly we feel NRS 444.620 should be amended to delete the exception of mining wastes from solid waste supervision and regulation by health authorities. Mining wastes can and often do have serious health hazards.

Examples are: hazards from uranium mining waste; hazards of cyanide from gold mining waste; hazards of lead in silver mining waste, and the well-known hazards from

mercury mining waste. The League can see
no reason why special favoritism should be
shown to one industry allowing its waste to
go unregulated, unsupervised and unchecked
while all other industries are subject to
regulation. This exemption is particularly alarming
in light of the extreme health hazards that could
be present. Having these dangerous wastes
regulated and supervised by health authorities
would put no one out of business but
would certainly provide a much needed
protection for the public health.