

MINUTES

Assembly

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 57th SESSION

March 14, 1973

Meeting called to order by Chairman Mello at 8:05 AM in the Ways and Means Committee Room.

Present: Chairman Mello, Vice-Chairman Schofield, Messrs. Dreyer, Robinson, Capurro, Hafen, Prince, Smith and Howard

Also Present: John Dolan, Randy Webb, Ron Sparks and Jean Ross.

Motion to accept the Minutes of the meeting of March 8, 1973, made by Mr. Prince. Second by Mr. Hafen. Motion passed.

Chairman Mello requested status reports from the Subcommittees.

Mr. Prince reported that the Subcommittee on Health, Welfare and Rehabilitation is ready to make its report.

Vice-Chairman Schofield reported that the Subcommittee on Education will present its report to the Committee on Friday. This report, however, will not include the Distributive School Fund.

Mr. Capurro reported that the Subcommittee on the University System will present its report on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.

Mr. Howard reported that the Subcommittee on Salaries & Fringe Benefits will make its report to the Committee next week.

Mr. Dreyer reported that the Subcommittee on Commerce will make its report to the Committee next week.

Chairman Mello called on Howard Hill, Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles to introduce his staff members and to complete the budget explanations of his Department. Those accompanying Mr. Hill were:

John Borda, Highway Safety Coordinator
Leonard Winkelman, Internal Auditor
Hale Bennett, Chief, Automation Division
John Ciardella, Chief, Registration Division
Walter Hull, Inspector, Motor Carrier Division

Motor Carrier Section, page 518: New positions: Senior Auditors: Have requested one Senior Auditor for the Carson City office. This person should average enough money to pay for his cost including his salary. There are approximately 2,000 vehicle dealers in the State.

March 14, 1973

-2-

Assembly Committee on Ways and Means

Field Agent: One agent will be stationed in Tonopah. There are three vending stations in that area, with five entrances into the State where they are able to collect additional fees. One agent will be stationed in Carson City area where there are three entrances into the State. There is presently no one covering this area. The addition of these two agents would increase the collection of fees on commercial vehicles.

Adv. Public Rel. Expense: This expense was in the law enforcement budget last year. It is used mainly for signs regarding the portable scales for large commercial vehicles. These signs are used for safety and traffic control. The decrease in the second year of the biennium is because the signs will be purchased in the first year of the biennium at approximately \$500-\$600 per sign and the amount requested for the second year will be for maintenance of those signs.

Clothing & Uniform Allowance: This is the same as the request in the Highway Patrol budget.

The increase in the Out-of-State travel is due to the auditors making audits of the trucking companies for mileage outside of the State. These audits can be made in any area in the United States, depends upon where the company headquarters is located.

A.B. 160 relates to the number of Field Agents that are allowable by law.

Registration DMV, page 520: Mr. John Ciardella and Mr. Howard Hill gave the explanation of the budget requests.

Have requested five clerical positions for Las Vegas. These people would be in the branch office. At the present time the Department is only able to have 7 of the 12 windows at the office open. Needed to meet the expected growth of the area.

Three positions have been requested for the Reno office on basically the same reason as for the Las Vegas office. Although the need is not as great in Reno they are encountering a problem during the registration rush.

At this point general discussion followed relative to the impact on the Department if the proposed four day work week went through. Mr. Hill stated that although they haven't actually taken a poll of the employees on this issue, he is sure that something could be worked out to allow for the four day work week. Most of the offices are working on staggered shifts at this time. Mr. Hull responded for the Motor Carrier Division in that the employees of that Division are in favor of it. Mr. Winkelman stated that some of the employees in his office are against it and feel that 8 hours a day is enough of a workday.

Mr. Ciardella went on with the explanation of the new positions.

Field Investigator: This person would be stationed in the Carson City area. Field investigation work includes working with automobile dealers, wrecking yards, service stations, automobile salesmen, rental and leasing companies and mainly with abandoned vehicles. Mr. Capurro questioned Mr. Ciardella regarding the law passed at the last Session regarding the turning of odometers. Mr. Ciardella stated that there is presently pending one prosecution case in Washoe County. Most of the cases are settled between the Division and the offender. Also at this time federal legislation has been changed and the law affecting Nevadans will also be changed to be in accordance with the federal regulations. California working in conjunction with Nevada has had convictions of many cases. The half-time clerical position in Elko will be used as support staff for the Field Investigator in Elko. The other half of this position is requested and funded by the Highway Patrol in Elko.

Request is also made for an Inspector for the Las Vegas area. Since moving into the new Motor Vehicle Building in Las Vegas there has been the additional responsibility of a scale now being located on the premises. All out-of-state vehicles must be weighed and speedometer readings taken. There are approximately 800-1,000 vehicles that are weighed each month.

Vehicle Operation: Shows as an increase, but was actually in the budget for law enforcement last year.

Not asking for a clothing allowance increase because the increase was for enforcement type of personnel; those individuals that would carry weapons.

Chairman Mello requested an explanation of the legislation regarding the "Old Timers" license plates. These plates would be issued to persons owning automobiles of/or over 40 years of age. These plates would be nontransferrable if the automobile was sold. As presently written the plates would cost \$10.00 and be renewable at a cost of \$1.00. These plates are intended for those persons owning automobiles that are used only for parades or exhibition. These would not substitute for regular plates, if the car were driven regularly. There are 630 registered vehicles in the State that are 40 years or older.

Automation Division, page 524: Explanation by Mr. Hill and Mr. Hale Bennett.

Ron Sparks pointed out that the Budget Office is in accord with this budget recommendation if: (1) purchase of computer mainframe; (2) ESD coming into the computer facility; and (3) level of useage by the Highway Department during the next biennium.

If these variable change the Budget Office would like to have an opportunity to change the budget accordingly.

Mr. Bennett explained the microfiche which is used by the Registration, Driver's License and Highway Patrol Divisions. Have only been using this program since last November. DMV at this point does not expect to provide information to others besides the Nevada law enforcement people. One outside agency presently using information and this is R.L. Polk Company.

Highway Safety Program, page 527: Explanation by John Borda and Mr. Hill.

Basically federally funded; provides funds to local counties and cities for local safety programs. Have requested a Management Analyst to assist in the development of a statewide highway safety program. Only 10% of this salary will be state funds, actually 5% State and 5% highway. The remainder will be federal funds.

The out-of-state travel category appears to be excessive but it is not overly high because it is mandatory for the Coordinator to attend meetings, go to the Regional office in San Francisco at least once a month, etc.

In-State travel allowances allows members to travel to the various counties to monitor and advice local programs.

Inspector of Mines: Harry Springer and Mrs. Richard Bast.

See program statement page 425, revised to include one additional death.

Mr. Robinson questioned Mr. Springer regarding what method of prevention was used by the Inspector of Mines to prevent the occurrence of silicosis. Mr. Springer replied that tests were taken of the air and that protective devices were used by the mining companies, such as air filters, face masks, etc.

Chairman Mello questioned Mr. Springer regarding the proposed elimination of the office of Inspector of Mines. Mr. Springer felt that this was inequitable since he was an elected official the same as all of the Committee members.

Chairman Mello pointed out that funding for this office was for eighteen months only, pointing to a phase-out.

Introduction of James Friedlander, Executive Director of the Carson River Basin Council of Governments.

Staffing has only been in existence for a little over six months. Because of this the development of plans has slowed down and it is felt necessary that the program be continued for the next biennium to allow the completion of these plans. \$75-80,000 is the minimum required for them to complete their program. Primary responsibility of COG is prepare a plan (water, land use, sewer, open space, etc.) to obtain assistance from Federal agencies where funding is available. By reducing funding it will cause a reduction in the effectiveness of the Council and will also necessitate the dismissal of two employees. Although the plans will be completed at the end of 1975 the program should be continued after that date to take advantage of federal funding.

Assemblyman Joe Dini also appeared on behalf of COG stating that it was a very worthwhile program in that it increased the lines of communications between counties that share similar problems. He is in full support of COG.

Bi-Centennial Commission, page 177: It was suggested by Vice-Chairman Schofield and Mr. Howard that no action be taken on this budget until after the event scheduled on Thursday evening. This would allow the Commission to present their views to the Committee. It was agreed by the Committee to hold this until after Thursday.

UC Administration, page 543: Discussion relative to the limited breakdown of this budget. It was the Committee's general feeling that this budget should be set forth in much greater detail.

Mr. Prince moved to close this budget according to the Governor's Recommendation. Second by Mr. Schofield. MOTION PASSED.

OASI Administration, page 546: Mr. Capurro moved to close this budget according to the Governor's Recommendation. Second by Mr. Dreyer. MOTION PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20.