

MINUTES

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Assembly

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

March 27, 1973

Meeting called to order by Chairman Mello at 8:00 AM in the Ways and Means Committee Room.

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

ALSO PRESENT: John Dolan, Randy Webb and Ron Sparks.

Motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting of March 23, 1973, made by Mr. Dreyer. Second by Mr. Prince. Motion passed.

A.B. 405; explained by Mr. Vergiels, Ned Sullivan, Orv Wahrenbrock and Roger Trounday.

Mr. Vergiels led off the discussion. AB 405 creates a division of youth services based on the reorganization plan. Bill was drafted exactly as recommended by the reorganization plan. While the bill was in the Government Affairs Committee several amendments were made to it. There are now three official amendments to the bill.

It is now in Ways and Means because there was some criticism because there would be no personnel to monitor the approximately \$1.6 million that would be going into the probation subsidy and the institutions. Therefore, it was decided to add someone into the division and amortize it so that someone would be responsible for monitoring the money and reporting back to the State.

One amendment was proposed by the Clark County Juvenile Services Division and changed somewhat the responsibility of the agency. It took away the function of implementation and development of programs by the State. Also, it reduced the size of the Board from 9 to 7 members; 4 from Clark County, 2 from Washoe County and 1 from the smaller counties. Support of this Board composition was expressed by Mr. Ned Sullivan, representative of the Clark County Juvenile Court. He felt that the composition was justified on the basis of population, particularly in Clark County.

Chairman Mello questioned this rationalization in the fact that it would create a north-south division on the Board.

The original nine member Board was set up so that one county could not have more than three members on the Board.

Mr. Orv Wahrenbrock stated that the fiscal note sets out the moneys necessary for the position and connected operating expenses. Total appropriation for both years of the biennium would be \$39,809. This position would be classified and be titled Chief, Division of Community Services.

The other position of Administrator would be unclassified and would

be responsible strictly for administration, through the various divisions. He would not be responsible for any activities of the divisions.

Mr. Wahrenbrock stated that prior to this time the probation subsidy has been primarily Federally funded under administrative jurisdiction of the Crime Commission and the Department of Administration. Effective this July 1, it will be under the direction of the Department of HWR.

Talking in terms of money for probation subsidy an amount of \$875,000; there is also State money involved in the Spring Mountain Youth Camp and the Home of the Good Shepherd. These three budget items total \$1.6 million during the next biennium, while the Department of HWR has no control over Spring Mountain or the Home of the Good Shepherd. The Department does feel that two years from now they should be able to report back to the legislature how these moneys compliment each other and how probation subsidy is actually functioning. At this point they are not sure, but think it will work.

The one position requested would be placed in the office of the Director of HWR so that the Department will have the accountability.

The Department ought to have the authority, possibility and legal grounds to implement and develop programs if they want to. But, this does not prevent the counties from doing so also. The department is in complete accord that this is a county program and that they should have as much freedom as they can.

Mr. Trounday stated that although they are creating a position of Administrator of Youth Services at the present time they will be utilizing present staff.

Mr. Robinson stated that he had had several letters in direct opposition to this division. These letters are from members of the State Welfare Board. Mr. Robinson requested that the Committee hear from these members before a decision is made.

Mr. Vergiels stated that one of the main objection was that the Welfare Board was being relieved of its control over the Southern Nevada Children's Home. During discussions with the Executive Branch and members of the Department of HWR it was decided that the Welfare Board would be put back into the concept. Mr. Vergiels felt that these people had ample opportunity to appear before the Committee during this hearing and if they aren't here that's too bad.

Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Vergiels if he had a contract with the Crime Commission, for which he was paid, if anything in that contract had anything to do with this Youth Authority.

Mr. Vergiels stated that the contract had not been completed and it could, but it may not be included in the final report.

Mr. Wahrenbrock stated that this bill is not a youth authority and the bill has no concept of a youth authority. The Board of the Youth Services Division has no authority over the youth or any probation department. It should not be construed like at all to the California Youth Authority, which so many people allude to.

Mr. Capurro stated his concern that we are entering this new program on a piece-meal basis, and that the program could possibly lose its effectiveness by underfunding.

Mr. Howard concurred with Mr. Capurro and questioned Mr. Trounday as to whether or not his agency had the personnel capability to adequately handle this program.

Mr. Trounday said that he felt his agency could handle it with the addition of this one position. It would be stretching things quite a bit but felt that they could handle it.

Assemblyman Tom Hickey and Eric Cronkhite, Administrator of the Division of Parks testified on behalf of A.B. 438.

Mr. Cronkhite stated that this particular project is historically an important area, because this early ranch gave the beginning of Las Vegas as a settlement. The Parks Division is not really in a position to support this bill as they have supported their own budget.

Chairman Mello asked if there isn't money in the budget that could be used to conduct a feasibility study on the Kyle Ranch.

Mr. Cronkhite said that it could not be included without leaving out something else that is part of the budget. There are also other needs to consider within the State Park System. Estimated cost of the feasibility study, based on Parks Division figures, is \$13,000.

Chairman Mello pointed out that if this bill is approved and passed and the property is not donated, that the State should in no way be obligated to purchase the property.

Mr. Hickey said that the value of this land is between \$60-\$70,000. They are in negotiations now with the prime owner of the property, but there are other owners involved and that is what is holding up the negotiations.

There has been some talk that private means of funding would be available for improvements and construction on the project.

Move do pass amended to include appropriation of \$10,000 by Mr. Robinson. Second by Mr. Howard. Motion passed.

Mr. Prince explained A.B. 315. This bill is a request to delete the net proceeds of mines in determining the distributive school fund. This is based on the fact that mining fluctuates and there is no sound basis for determining the amount of money available.

In essence Mr. Liston's remarks were that there is built into the ruling on the Distributive School Fund, in paragraphs (e) and (f), that would compensate for any diminution in funding the schools.

These paragraphs allow (1) that the superintendent of a county school district may request the superintendent of public instruction, and who may grant, an additional apportionment; this apportionment shall be approved by the State Board of Examiners; and (2) the same shall apply if the local income is reduced.

Mr. Hafen explained A.B. 47. This bill was originally referred to Government Affairs, the only reason that it is in Ways & Means is because of a fiscal note for \$5,000. This appropriation would be used by the Commission members for per diem, travel and related expenses. The Commission would meet approximately four times per year.

Move do pass as amended by Mr. Dreyer. Second by Mr. Prince.
MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Robinson requested that the Committee allow time for George Miller and Keith McDonald to appear before the Committee in opposition to A.B. 405.

Mr. Dreyer moved to rescind the action previously taken on A.B. 542.
Second by Mr. Capurro. MOTION PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38.