

MINUTES

Assembly

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

April 3, 1973

Meeting called to order by Chairman Mello at 7:10 AM in the Ways and Means Committee Room.

PRESENT: Chairman Mello, Vice-Chairman Schofield, Messrs. Capurro, Robinson, Hafen, Smith, Prince and Howard. Mr. Dreyer had an excused absence.

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

Motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting of March 30, 1973, made by Mr. Capurro. Second by Mr. Howard. Motion passed.

Mr. Robinson presented the Subcommittee Report on the Property Tax Assistance for Senior Citizens bills. Mr. Robinson stated that the Subcommittee had come to an agreement on amending S.B. 31 and that no action was taken on A.B. 201. Recommended that all reference to renters be amended out of the bill. A new section, Section 34, was added which allows for the bill to be automatically terminated on June 30, 1975. A new section was also included to make the bill effective upon passage and approval.

The budget for this bill is on page 547 of the Executive Budget. Mr. Hafen moved that the budget be closed, amending the General Fund Appropriation to \$750,000 for each year of the biennium. Second by Mr. Prince. MOTION PASSED.

The following appeared in support of A.B. 754: Nancy Gomes, Ruby Duncan, Eddy Scott, Thelma Bishop, Sister Carol and Marilyn Ingram.

Nancy Gomes started off the discussion. She stated that the State of Nevada had been out of compliance with Federal regulations many times and nothing ever happened. If there is a Federal regulation that applies to A.B. 754, the State has the option of applying for a waiver to the Federal agency. She stated that this bill will not cost the State any money because it has already been budgeted for.

She stated that the \$25.00 deduction that is now allowable is insufficient to keep the ADC payments coming in. She stated that any student whether he be part-time or full-time or working up to thirty hours per week should be allowed to earn this money without it affecting the ADC payments. To put restrictions on this bill would create a lack of incentive because of income earned affecting the ADC payments.

Mr. Scott reiterated Mrs. Gomes' remarks and stated that as far as he could see there would be no conflict with Federal regulations and any amendments to the bill would cut down incentive.

Mrs. Bishop also stated that she felt that any amendments to this bill would create a lack of incentive and this would just lead to people remaining on welfare for generations.

Dave Tomlinson, representing the Welfare Department, stated that they support the disregarding of children's income; but that at the same time there are Federal guidelines which must be followed and not be conflict with if Federal funds for the ADC program are going to continue coming into the State. If the amendments proposed are included in the bill this would just be restating the Federal guidelines that are presently in existence and would be a duplication and unnecessary.

As far as a waiver is concerned, and taking into consideration the Administration's position on funding at this time, any waiver that would cost the Federal government more at this time would be denied because of the additional costs.

Mr. Robinson stated that since they (Welfare) have been and are at the present time disregarding this income under the Federal guidelines, what is the purpose of this bill.

In answer to this question Mrs. Gomes cited a personal experience which she felt set forth exactly what was happening and that there is no disregarding of income.

Mr. Tomlinson answered that at the time of this occurrence there was a Federal regulation which did not include college students.

Mr. Scott set forth the viewpoint that many people on welfare are tired of the hassle and do not completely understand the rules and regulations of the Welfare department. He blames this on a total lack of communication. He also cited several cases that he was aware of in Washoe County.

Mr. Capurro asked what these cases were exactly. After Mr. Scott and Mrs. Gomes stated that they occurred last summer, Mr. Tomlinson again stated that the regulations had been changed since that time.

Ruby Duncan stated that she knew of instances at this time in Las Vegas and gave a very impassioned speech regarding the Legislature's apparent lack of interest in the needs of the people of this State.

Sister Carol stated that a major portion of the problem seems to lie in the fact that the rules and regulations of the Welfare Department are not understood by the welfare recipients.

Mr. John Meder, Mr. Russ McDonald and Mrs. Barbara Jones appeared on behalf of A.B. 479.

As this bill is presently written it would delete that portion of NRS 428.050 wherein it is required by NRS 428.370 that the counties pay to the State an 11¢ ad valorem tax for deposit in the Title XIX fund.

Mr. Meder stated that there are two reasons why they would like to see the tax removed from the counties: (1) when the program was set up it was to take care of most of the medical expenses, however it has been found that most of the counties are involved in medical indigent programs at least as much as what they are paying into Title 19; and (2) in the various budgets that have come about there seems to be a gradually increasing surplus at the end of the year.

The counties are concerned about this because it seems that some of the local governments are having a very difficult time in financing their own medical programs.

While it may not be possible to relive the counties of the entire 11¢ tax they feel at least a portion of it should be removed.

A.B. 597, Elko Community College. Assemblyman Roy Young, Neil Humphrey, Dr. Donnelly and Mike Marfisi appeared on behalf of the bill.

While Chancellor Humphrey is in support of the request it is not a University request.

While the original appropriation for the building and equipment was made, it was felt that to complete the buildings it would be necessary to use part of the funds for equipment and furnishings for the construction costs. It is now necessary, to be able to utilize the buildings fully, that an appropriation be made for the equipment and furnishings necessary.

Mr. Marfisi stated that the requested appropriation is the bare minimum needed and that each item is itemized in the bill.

Mr. Young stated that the Phase 1 building would be completed this weeks and the Phase 2 building would be completed in July which would be in time for the Fall semester.

Administration Personnel, page 33: John Dolan presented to the Committee the figures which were requested on the .0075 and .0080 agency assessment. Mr. Capurro moved that we accept the .0080 figures and amend the budget accordingly. Second by Mr. Schofield. MOTION PASSED. Mr. Schofield moved that we close the budget according to the Governor's Recommendation as amended. Second by Mr. Capurro. MOTION PASSED.

Controller's Office, page 17: Mr. Capurro moved to close the budget according to the Agency Requests on the amended budget. Second by Mr. Hafen. MOTION PASSED.

FMIRS Development, page 19: This budget is now contained in the revised budget submitted by the Controller. Mr. Capurro moved for Indefinite Postponement of this budget. Second by Mr. Smith. MOTION PASSED.

Advisory Council for Career Education, page 153: Mr. Dolan stated that if this budget is entirely abolished it would affect over a million dollars in Vocational Education funds from the Federal government.

Mr. Schofield moved to reopen the budget. Second by Mr. Prince. MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Robinson moved that the budget be closed deleting the General Fund appropriation of \$5,000, the position of Executive Director and placing the unused funds in the contractual services and in-state travel categories. Second by Mr. Prince. MOTION PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10.