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SENATE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE
JOINT MEETING WITH ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1973

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Senator Drakulich in the Chair.

PRESENT: Senator Herr
Senator Pozzi
Senator Swobe
Senator Blakemore
Senator Lamb

Mr. Banner, Chairman of Assembly Committee
Mr. Bickerstaff
Mr. McNeel

John Reiser, representing NIC

S. B. 186 - Eliminates numerical exemptions to industrial insurance and occupational disease coverage and broadens occupational coverage.

John Reiser of NIC spoke briefly explaining certain aspects of the bill.

Deloy Satterthwait, from Tuscarora, Nevada, representing the Nevada Wool Grower's Association spoke in opposition to S.B. 186. His objection was that agriculture should be left out of the bill. He stated that it takes away one's free agency when a law is made mandatory. The bill, he said, was not good for the State of Nevada. He feels that the agricultural environment was put in the bill to support an insurance which was already too costly. He further stated that they have adequate private coverage for their people. He requested that agriculture be left out of the bill, leave insurance on a competitive, free port basis.

Von Sorensen from Elko County, representing the Nevada State Farm Bureau, the Elko Farm Bureau and the Sorensen Ranch and Co. Mr. Sorensen was opposed to the bill because it includes agriculture on a mandatory basis. He stated that his company carries private insurance and is also under NIC coverage at this time. He requested that Agriculture and Livestock businesses be left out of the bill.

In answer to Mr. Drakulich's question as to what provision is made for disability on the job, Mr. Sorensen stated they had private carriers.

John Reiser stated that the NIC would like to see all workers covered under NIC program.

Senator Herr objected to the number being dropped from 2 to 1 concerning employees. She said this is a hardship on the small business.

A question was asked that if the rate goes up 25% what would be the figure paid. The answer was \$8.42 at the present time.

S. B. 7 - Reduces minimum age requirement for general lines insurance agents and insurance brokers.

Mr. Reiser stated that this bill was merely to help rehabilitate the worker and get him back to work. The commission may take part in any measures and make such expenditures from the state insurance fund as it may deem necessary to accomplish this purpose. Also, the workman would not be eligible for rehabilitation benefits if he refuses counseling, training or other rehabilitation services offered him by the commission.

Bob McCoy of the Gibbons Company spoke in favor of the bill but wanted to know if the funding would come out of NIC or would it be charged back to the individual. The answer was it would come from NIC.

A question was asked as to how long an injured workmen would undergo rehabilitation and the answer was the each individual would considered separately. Some would go back sooner than others.

Ruby Duncan asked if there were any injured workmen on the NIC Board. The answer was the board is made up of medical men.

In answer to a question as to can the injured have right of appeal, he can go to any doctor of his own choosing.

A. B. 24 - Provides that Nevada industrial commission medical board's findings shall be binding on employee and empowers commission to set compensation of medical board.

Dr. Gerald Higgins, who was introduced by Dr. Petty spoke and answered questions concerning the medical review board.

Donald Day, Vinita Runkle, John Massey each spoke of their medical problems and problems which they had had with NIC.

Gordon Rice, attorney and former judge, stated that the provisions of the bill would be binding on the Court.

Dr. Petty, representing the NIC medical review board was next speaker and his remarks are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Bob Kerns, representing the Nevada Peace Officers Association. He stated they had no objection to the medical board's decision being binding, but he feels that if his own doctor told him he couldn't go back to work and the medical board decided that he could, it was his feeling that his own doctor would know more about the case. He feels that you should have some right to see your own doctor and have some recourse.

S. B. 183 - Revises schedule of workmen's compensation benefits.

John Reiser spoke concerning this bill. On page 6, Section is deleting lines 26 through 34. The purpose of the bill is to increase workman's

compensation benefits and eliminate the arbitrary maximums.

Page 1, the average monthly wage is defined. Section 1, increases the percentage from 65% to 66 2/3%.

Line 22 is amended to provide that any previous disability would be considered in arriving at what a workman would get if he were disabled.

Page 2, we are talking about 66 2/3% of his weekly wage. Temporary disability stops at the end of 100 months.

Claude Evans, representing the NIC, appeared before the committee with a document entitled A look at the proposed legislation through the eyes of the working men and women of Nevada. Said document is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

S. B. 187 - Enables Nevada industrial commission to enter into agreements with other states concerning extraterritorial problems and to effect insurance coverage to prevent double liability against employer.

The bill permits the commission to enter into agreements or compacts with appropriate agencies, bureaus, etc, for the purpose of eliminating duplicate claims or benefits.

S. B. 184 - Allows Nevada industrial commission to invest in buildings anywhere in the state whether occupied by commission or not.

A proposed amendment to this bill was presented eliminating the proposal the they lease out offices to private individuals.

S. B. 185 - Defines total disability under the Nevada Industrial Insurance Act and Nevada Occupational Diseases Act.

A new section will be added to 616 defining total disability.

S. B. 188 - Clarifies Nevada industrial commission's right of subrogation.

There is simple clarifying language in this bill, whereby a qualified actuary, employed by the commission can estimate outstanding liability for future compensation.

S. B. 368 - authorizes issuance of stop order to employers failing to provide industrial insurance.

Under this act an order to cease business operations can be issued and the employer shall order all employees to leave the place of employment, for failure to pay industrial premiums.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. to reconvene at 3:00 p.m. March 8, 1973.