

Senate

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting - February 15, 1973

The fourth meeting of the Committee on Education was held on February 15, 1973 at 3:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Chairman John Foley
 Senator Walker
 Senator Young
 Senator Neal
 Senator Hecht

Also present were:

Kenneth Hansen, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Carson City
 Floyd L. Edsall, Nevada Military Dept.
 John R. Gamble, Dept. of Education, Carson City
 Richard Morgan, NSEA
 Cheryl Clift, Boulder City, P.T.A.,
 Rhoda Goussak, L.V. area councils, Las Vegas
 Mary Knox, William E. Ferron School, P.T.A., Las Vegas
 Kay Woodall, William E. Ferron School, Las Vegas
 Cliff Lawrence, Clark County School District, Las Vegas
 Ray Guffec, William E. Ferron School, Las Vegas
 Claude H. Parson, Matt Kelly, P.T.A., Las Vegas
 H. E. Hollingsworth, Las Vegas
 Carol Wallace, Rex Bell, P.T.A., Las Vegas
 Gail Smith, Laura Dearing, P.T.A., Las Vegas
 Lois J. Smith, Helen J. Stewart P.T.A., Las Vegas
 Juanita Walden, Ruth Fyfe P.T.A., Las Vegas
 Margee Gayle, President, P.T.A. Council, Las Vegas
 Marlene M. Cace, Secretary, L.V.A.C.
 Lucille Hughes, Carson City
 Reba Dolan, Nevada P.T.A., Las Vegas
 John Nielsen, Carson City
 Chairman Foley called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

S.B. 134:

Floyd Edsall testified on S.B. 134. They feel that the purpose of the bill is to act as an incentive to the young men that are in the Guard program that are giving up their time to be members of the Guard, at the same time it would be an incentive to some that are not now in school. Some type of incentive is necessary to maintain the strength of

the Guard but also to attain the quality they would desire. Senator Young asked how many are in the Guard at present.

Mr. Edsall replied just under 2,300.

They surveyed each unit and came up with approximately 554 in FY74 and about 579 in FY 75.

Senator Hecht asked if other states have this program or would Nevada be the first.

Mr. Edsall replied that Alaska has one that is similar

Senator Neal asked how many are in the Guard at present.

Mr. Edsall replied that there are 1500 Army Guards and 689 Air Guards. They have within the system, schools that the active Army support. Most of these are skilled or vocational. They feel that this bill would give them a shot at the youngster that is college bound - give them an opportunity to get their education and fulfill the Guard program.

Chairman Foley asked how many have expressed an interest in this program. Are these mainly young people.

Mr. Edsall replied the 75% are under the age of 30. This would be mainly the young people, and a good many are in school at the present time. The figures that he gave - FY 74 and FY 75 - in FY 75 includes all the youngsters that would be approaching both in the first and second semesters. FY 74 - on their pole, they came up with 83 youngsters in the 1st semester Army Guard, 87 in the second semester and 64 in the summer session. The Air Guard would be 140 in each of the two semesters and about 40 in summer session. FY 75 - the Army would move up to 95 in the first semester and 100 in the second semester and still 64 in the summer session. No tuition, just consolidated fee. This would run about \$260 per semester. They would pay half in each semester or if they are going to Community College, they would pay half of the hourly fee. You do not have to be a resident of Nevada for six months, there is no difference as far as the consolidated fee.

Senator Walker asked if there was a high turnover in the Guards; and if so, did he have a figure.

Mr. Edsall replied yes, higher than they would like.

They are trying to encourage the 20 year period.

Chairman Foley commented that this would have to go to the Senate Finance Committee, but it is proper to bring up any questions here.

S.B. 209:

Chairman Foley asked of Mr. Kenneth Hansen to give a background summary of this bill.

Mr. Hansen testified as follows. The Interstate Compact for Education is one of many kinds of Interstate Compacts.

It is most similar to the Western Interstate Compact. It is an agreement entered into formally through Legislative action among the states for cooperative work in some field. There are some 30 existing Interstate Compacts. The Interstate Compact of Education, of which the operating arm is the Education - Commission of the States, is one of the newer - has been in operation approximately six or seven years. It is the one opportunity the states have to get together on a national level with school concern and state problems in education. It is the only group that brings together the educational and the political decision makers in one group. Each state is entitled to seven Commissioners. The Governor is, by Compact language, the Chairman of the Commission, each House of the State Legislature appoints one member and the Governor then appoints the other four, representing public and private education and elementary and secondary and higher education. The Compact does give the political education decision makers a chance to get to get together at an inter-state level rather than just the political people and the great number of educational organizations.

Chairman Foley commented that he has received literature from the Education Commission and it certainly keeps you informed as to the changes taking place in education.

Senator Young commented that it is another bill for money. Mr. Hansen stated that this is the third time it has been in the Governor's budget. Twice the money has not been appropriated.

Senator Young asked how much the cost is to join. The figure of \$9,000 was voiced by a member of the audience. Senator Young commented that it was impossible for anyone to absorb all the material that they receive.

Mr. Hansen stated that this program is so carefully keyed to the interest of Legislators and primarily keyed to the educational input for political decision making.

It was commented that one of the Senators on the committee last Session asked the question "are we getting all the material anyway", the answer was "yes". Therefore, why should we pay to get this information that we are getting free.

Mr. Hansen stated that when they first began, if a state did not sign up, they were sent everything. Now they can no longer service the non-member states.

Senator Foley asked Mr. Hansen if he has copies of the Michigan Legislation.

Mr. Hansen replied that he would get these copies along with samples of what other states have done with their assessment program.

S.B. 210:

Mr. John Nielsen testified on S.B. 210. This relates to the section of the law that sets up requirement regulations for the operation of private schools. This language was also in the public school law, however it was repealed either two or four years ago. This merely removes the requirement for private to do the same thing; in other words, they should be allowed to teach their courses in the most appropriate language for the class that they have. It takes the requirement out of private as well as public schools.

S.B. 211:

Further testimony was heard from Mr. John Nielsen. This is relating to part of the school law that provides for educational benefits for aurally handicapped persons who are cared for in institutions outside the State. The law provides that they can receive the benefits up to the age of 21. They have occasionally had a problem where they were in the middle of the school year and turned 21. Legally, their benefits cease at that point. This bill provides that they can receive the benefits until the school year is over even though they are 21.

Chairman Foley asked if there is fiscal impact on that. Mr. Nielsen replied no, it is carried in their budget for the aurally and physical handicapped, and there is provisions to take care of this. There isn't enough occasion to warrant a larger budget.

Senator Walker commented about a person from a rural area that might not have the opportunity to finish school before he is 21. Wouldn't this preclude such a person.

Mr. Nielsen replied yes, as the bill is now it would. Generally all the students that are applied to here are taken care of in institutions outside the State. There are some 36 students in this program at present. The cost varies upon the institution in which they are placed, also what type of handicapped - bling, deaf, etc. Approximately 2,500 to 3,000 and up.

S.B. 212:

Mr. Nielsen stated that the most important part of this bill is NRS 393.190, which stated the Board of Trustees shall expend \$1.00 per child per year for library books, with a minimum of \$10.00 for each school. This amount is quite unrealistic and outdated. In trying to determine the figure that should be put in there, there is no one figure that could be determined.

S.B. 212 (Cont'd.):

Chairman Foley asked if he had any comments from the local school districts on this issue.

Mr. Nielsen commented that this bill was approved by the Legislative acting committee, which was composed of the education association, school administrators - all approved. Senator Neal asked what the textbook commission does.

Mr. Nielsen replied that generally speaking, the textbook commission reviews those textbooks in elementary grades that have been suggested and piloted. They either approve or reject the recommendation of the local district that has applied for the issue of the textbook. If they are approved, they appear on an approved list.

S.B. 213:

Mr. Nielsen stated that a Board of Trustees of a school district shall have constructed at least two suitable, convenient toilets for each of the schools under its charge which shall be approved by the State Board of Health. If the Board of Trustees fails to provide toilets in accordance to these provisions, the State Department of Education shall cause such toilets to be built and shall pay for them by drawing its order on the County on the funds of the school district. Mr. Nielsen further stated that this has existed in the law for 50 to 60 years when it was necessary to have out-door toilets.

S.B. 214:

Mr. Nielsen stated that the Board of Trustees of schools in this State shall have the power to exclude from school all children under 6 years of age. There was some concern about this particular provision relative to a number of items, particularly special education. This would be in regards to the fact that special education be provided for education of handicapped regardless of age. It might be used to discriminate in some way because this relates to children under 6 that are not required by law to be in school but are largely in kindergarten. It would allow children to be excluded from school for no good reason.

S.B. 215:

Mr. Nielsen stated that this is in all their regulations regarding public schools - that they provide 180 days of

S.B. 215 (cont'd):

school. It changes the law only to change the wording from at least 6 months to a minimum of 180 days. 388.100 requires maintainance of nine months of school if funds available. The Trustees have the authority to call a recess for any good purpose. If a recess is called, and the teachers are recessed for more than six days, the teachers pay cannot be held back. If the Health Department closed the school for three or four days, the Trustees would call a recess. Then there would be negotiations to see if the days would be made up. Chairman Foley asked Mr. Cliff Lawrence if he would Bob Petroni to confirm the type of amendment they would like.

S.B. 216:

S.B. 216 allows the superintendent of public instruction to send delegates from his staff for annual visitation to schools in each county

Senator Hecht commented that he felt the superintendent should allow time to make the visitations himself. There is a lot to be gained by the superintendent's personal observation.

S.B. 217:

Senator Hecht commented that he felt S.B. 216 and S.B. 217 are much alike. Again, he felt that the superintendent should conduct the conferences rather than his designated staff member.

S.B. 218:

Chairman Foley commented that they had quite a discussion on this bill and felt we should hold this particular bill. Mr Neilsen commented briefly on S.B. 218. They would like to correct the language relating to the sale of property that is purchased from the platted land, if that is the proper term. Two years ago that land must be sold back to the original owner at the same price so that they could not get any profit. That is changed to the language they have now which allows the purchase price plus the property taxes. Their suggestion is that the whole thing be deleted. Platted areas are almost useless for school sites as far as size is concerned

S.B. 219:

Mr. Nielsen commented that this bill merely amends the law so that if a school piece of property comes within an assessment district for improvement, if a school is not budgeted for that area they are not liable for those outside improvements. It is very difficult for a school district who owns a piece of property, and if they sub-divide it or someone else comes in, to provide for assessment costs. Senator Young commented that this would give them the benefit of a market increase - should pay your share as you go along. Mr. Nielsen stated that the problem relates more to being able to budget than anything else.

S.B. 220:

Mr. Nielsen stated that the more important part of this is Section 2, which deals with evening schools and part-time classes and schools. This is the part of the law that has never been implemented. The school district now has authority to establish the type of schools that they need without the authority that has been given in these laws. This just cleans up the law and removes those things which are not necessary. This will guarantee the right of local school districts to establish and operate the schools that are necessary.

Chairman Foley stated that a motion on the foregoing bills would be considered at a forthcoming committee meeting. Testimonies were taken today, since many members of the Department of Education was present.

Being no further business, Chairman Foley adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon W. Maher, Secretary

APPROVED:

John Foley, Chairman