

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETINGS
FEBRUARY 27, 1973

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Senator Lamb was in the chair.

PRESENT: Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman
Warren L. Monroe
B. Mahlon Brown
James I. Gibson
William J. Raggio
Clifton Young
Archie Pozzi

Earl Oliver, LCB Fiscal Analyst
Howard Barrett, Budget Director
Howard Hill, Director, Department of Motor Vehicles
Jack Williams, DMV, Administrative Services Div.
Hale B. Bennett, Chief, Automation Division, DMV
John B. McSweeney, Safety Coordinator, Highway
Safety, DMV
John Ciardella, Chief, Registration Division, DMV

REGISTRATION DIVISION (DMV) - Pages 520-523:

Mr. Hill said the registration division averaged 600 across the counter transactions a day in Las Vegas. There are now seven employees who work the counter, and there are 12 windows. In the old building this wasn't too bad, but in the new building there are 12 counters. He is asking for five new employees because people have to wait sometimes for two hours to process their new registrations. The seven girls can process about nine transactions across the counter per hour, which comes to 63 per employee per day or 441 per day for the full crew. However, due to sick and annual leave, lunch hours, etc., they rarely have a full staff.

In Reno they are averaging 340 claims per day and 85,000 mail and counter registration transactions. They are requesting three additional clerks for Reno. There has been a 20% increase in Las Vegas and a 15% increase in Reno. There are 118,160 vehicles registered in Washoe County.

67% of the registration renewals come into the office and do not use the mail renewal forms. This is because people often wait until the last minute, or wait until payday.

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Mr. Hill said that the five clerks in Las Vegas and the three clerks in Reno had the highest priority and that the request for two clerks in Carson City were at the bottom of the priorities.

Mr. Hill said that they get so many new people in the state and that most of the neighboring states have a December renewal, so December is their heaviest month.

AUTOMATION DIVISION - Pages 524-526:

There is no request for staff. With regard to facility charges on page 525 they have not been able to present a final figure because this would depend on whether or not the legislature authorized purchasing a new computer. Mr. Barrett said, "We ask you to not close this item of the budget on computer facility charges until you decide whether or not you will buy the new computer. If you don't buy the new computer these costs will be higher." The automation division has data processing personnel or software facilities but they rent the computer equipment time.

Currently DMV trades information to R. L. Polk, a nationwide registration service listing state registrations, and R. L. Polk gives the state ten books for rural areas utilized by law enforcement. However, now that the automation division is going to microfish instead of microfilm they don't need these books, and the committee asked them about the feasibility of selling these lists for additional revenue.

HIGHWAY SAFETY - Pages 527-528:

Ten percent of these funds are state and 90% are federal. They are asking for one new position, a management analyst, to give technical assistance to establish a five-year plan on highway safety to meet federal requirements. The state will only have to fund 10% of this salary.

Senator Gibson asked if these federal funds were in jeopardy. Mr. McSweeney stated that they were not being cut and he didn't anticipate that they would be in the future.

S.B. 119:

Senator Raggio said that the Transportation Committee held hearings and were told that the state already had a person

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employed and that there wouldn't be any cost to this bill. He said this would provide a resource to hospitals and care facilities to meet bomb threats and provide safety education and to give direction in this area. No action was taken.

The committee discussed the fact that while agencies and state administration were required to add a fiscal note on bills requiring funding legislators bills did not require this. They felt that a fiscal note of "no" was deceptive on legislators bills, that it should read "not required." Senator Raggio MOVED THE COMMITTEE INTRODUCE A MEASURE THAT FISCAL NOTES BE REQUIRED ON ALL BILLS. Senator Monroe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

S.B. 175:

Section 1 (1) - See Stale Claims on page A21 of the budget. The stale claim fund, set at \$50,000 and under the control of the Board of Examiners, is to pay claims presented by a state agency after the fund from which the claim should have been paid has reverted. The \$21,167 requested would bring the balance of this fund back to \$50,000.

Section 1 (2) (a) - See Statutory Contingency Fund on page A21 of the budget. These funds can be spent only for purposes listed on A21, see that page for past expenditures. The \$85,181 is to bring this fund back to the original balance of \$150,000.

Section 1 (2) (b) - See above, same as above.

Section 3 (See) page A22. During the past they have spent \$47,260 and are asking that they have that appropriated back to bring the fund back to its original balance.

Senator Gibson moved that they recommend do pass on this bill. Senator Pozzi seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

S.B. 296:

Senator Pozzi said Del Frost, administrator of the rehabilitation division, wanted the revolving fund changed to a permanent fund and funded at \$10,000 instead of \$5,000. Mr. Frost didn't want the money to revert. The fund is used if rehabilitation finds a person a job but the individual needs tools and perhaps transportation to another town.

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Mr. Frost didn't want to go through state purchasing because there is a delay in advertising and he felt items were needed immediately.

Earl Oliver felt that the way it is set up now is adequate and this bill was unnecessary. Senator Brown said, "I can see where they might need more money, maybe \$10,000, but the word permanent (rather than revolving fund) looks like the money would just build up." Mr. Barrett said, "This would give them the authority to automatically circumvent the purchasing division. I would have had that the purchasing division could authorize them to go outside of purchasing, but this should be at the discretion of the purchasing division instead of the rehabilitation division. I think it would be better." Senator Pozzi said, "I have to admit I agree with Howard Barrett, because if you let one person do this you will have others requesting the same."

Senator Young moved that this bill be killed. Senator Raggio seconded the motion, and the committee voted unanimously to kill the bill.

S.B. 247:

See page A19 for explanation. Howard Barrett said that the reason they request one-shot items rather than putting these items into state budgets is because this builds up the state budgets so that next biennium they will ask for increases in total dollars. Also Senator Gibson said that they began this because the university has a separation of power. They would request money for such items and end up spending it for another, so to force them to spend the funds for specific items they turned to one shots. When they put it outside their budget they have to spend it for specific items. Mr. Barrett also added that the problem with equipment is that if money is needed to pay overtime or for some type of emergency money can be taken from equipment because agencies can get along without equipment more than salaries.

Under Section 3 the \$61,200 equipment is for a mobile lab for environmental health for \$20,000 and the rest is for technical equipment such as a carbon monoxide analyzer, etc.

Section 4 - the laundry equipment is over 30 years old at the state hospital and is very hard to repair.

Section 5 - the \$8,000 for office furniture for the attorney general is because they have moved from very cramped quarters and expanded into what used to be the library facilities after the library was moved to the old courthouse. This

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is for conference tables, etc.

Section 6 (1) This is because they are phasing out the old nursery because there is a possibility the land might be sold. They have found land in Washoe Valley suitable for a nursery and are asking to purchase this land. If this were approved it would also affect the staff they are asking to maintain the nursery. Mr. Barrett said that if the committee approved of a nursery program they should approve this request.

Section 6 (2) Mr. Barrett said this is to replace the plane which forestry is currently seldom able to fly due to age and mechanical problems.

Section 7 - This would provide the replacement of two truck trailer vehicles. The highway department is required by the federal government to have contractors checked out to see that they are supplying the amount of fill that they say they are. These units are needed to weigh heavy vehicles.

Section 4 - The equipment required is for auto mechanics program, dry cleaning equipment, laundry equipment, carpentry equipment, welding equipment, upholstery equipment, book binding equipment, and other equipment.

Section 5 - This is for second floor restrooms, self teaching labs, reroofing buildings, plumbing, air conditioning in the men's gym rather than the swamp cooler now used, and other items.

The committee decided to hold this bill, and to postpone action.

S.B. 251:

This appropriation is to the attorney general for the defense of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Senator Young moved that the appropriation be raised to \$100,000 and be earmarked solely for TRPA. Senator Raggio seconded the amendment, and the motion carried with Senator Monroe the only one to vote no.

Senator Young moved that the committee recommend do pass as amended. Senator Raggio seconded the motion. Everyone voted to pass as amended except Senator Monroe who voted no.

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S.B. 105:

Section 1 - Mr. Barrett said presently the state contingency fund pays for some of the costs for indigent legal services. "We want to have that done by the public defender and if he runs out of funds to have him come to the statutory contingency fund," Mr. Barrett said. Senator Raggio asked if the court appoints an attorney other than the public defender, would the courts look to the state for payment from the public defender. Mr. Barrett said, "We would like to get these payments out from my office and into the division that has a feel for them. We have girls in my office making these payments who can't read legal documents. Some claims come in written on the back of an envelope, others are billed, but we don't know really whether these are legitimate claims. How do we know whether they actually did the work. Somebody involved in this area should pay these claims."

Section 2 - On page A21 under eligible expenses from reserve for statutory contingency fund, expenditures, attorney fees, they have paid \$24,671.61, and have also paid tort claims, return of parole violators, expense of prison escapes, court reporter, witness fees, and terminal leave.

Senator Gibson said that they should keep the language in the bill (regarding section 1). The committee is aware that they are giving the public defender no funds, but the public defender will review all claims. Senator Gibson stated that two years from now after the state has experience Mr. Barrett can build a budget into the public defender's budget.

Senator Gibson moved that they recommend a do pass on this bill. Senator Brown seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

MEAT INSPECTION:

Ernest Scruggs, Walter Christensen, Leslie Biegliari, and Lillian Bergevin, of the health division and meat inspection program, came into the meeting to discuss a proposal to allow the state to inspect retail stores and their meat primarily in the areas of protecting consumers in the area of quality. They said they were told that the money which has been funded for the whole-some meat act could be redirected into this program. They said the counties and federal government don't have personnel trained for this particular type of work. The state in this program would try to stabilize products as far as

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labeling and consumer protection such as fat content in hamburger. The division has picked up samples for the consumer affairs division where the \$1.25 per pound hamburger contained 28% fat and the 89¢ per pound had 30% fat. Mrs. Bergevin said that the counties don't do very much food and drug inspection, and that this proposal was a little different concept. The county people are more concerned with whether the shops are clean. The health division wants to integrate this into environmental health and would have no overlap with local authorities. Mr. Christensen said that retail stores in Las Vegas were in sad shape as far as sanitation. The local authorities are doing inspections, but they are not getting the job done. He said they are selling canner and cutter cows which shouldn't be sold over the counter.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Ellen Hocker, Secretary

APPROVED:


Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman