

Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, WELFARE AND STATE INSTITUTIONS

Minutes of Meeting - February 14, 1973

The third meeting of the Committee on Health, Welfare and State Institutions was held on February 14, 1973, at 9:00 a.m.

Committee members present: Chairman Walker
Senator Young
Senator Neal
Senator Herr
Senator Drakulich
Senator Swobe

Witnesses: Dan Quinan, State Fire Marshall, Carson City
Les Groth, Fire Chief, Carson City
Frank Sullivan, Probation Officer, Carson City
Gloria Handley, Chief, Family & Children's Service
D. T. Tomlinson, Chief, Welfare Eligibility and
Payment, Carson City
Dr. Gwen O'Brien, Program Director, Mental Hygiene
and Mental Rehabilitation, Reno
Orville Wahrenbrock, Asst. Director, Health, Wel-
fare and Rehabilitation, Carson
City.
Sharon Greene, Exec. Dir., Nev. Hospital Association
Merle Knighton
Keith Henrikson, Chairman, Nev. Joint Leg. Committee

Also present were:

Dan Murphy, Chief P.O., Carson City
Allen Chamberlain, Chief P. O. Humboldt County.
Juv. Probation
Bob Yost, Supr. Probation, Clark County
Earl Yamashita, State Plan Coord., Carson City

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

S.B. 119:

Dan Quinan began testimony on S.B. 119. This bill refers to a fire safety training program. Mr. Quinan commented that there are three categories that result in fire hazards: 1. Poor construction 2. No fire protection 3. Uninformed employees and staff. Mr. Quinan further stated that they have taken care of the first two problems. What they wish

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now is to adopt, as standard operating procedure, a fire safety training program. They presently have personnel employed by various health facilities throughout the State that are not properly informed or advised as to the procedure to follow in the event of a fire. They would like to employ one person to travel throughout the State's 84 facilities - to inspect these facilities and to provide adequate fire safety training to the employees.

Chairman Walker asked if one health specialist would be able to cover the entire State. Mr. Quinan stated that he felt one would be sufficient in order to get the program started and developed; possibly after the initial development period, they would need additional staff personnel.

Mr. Quinan stated that approximately \$17,000.00 annually would provide for this health specialist position.

Les Groth commented that they do have fire drills every month, but they should have a specialist to set up one standard procedure.

Mr. Quinan stated that he has brought with him today, Merle Knighton, Coordinator of Health Facilities, and is in charge of licensing of all state licensing facilities in Nevada.

Chairman Walker commented that possibly a change should be made in line 3 - change "shall" to "may".

Mr. Quinan stated that this bill was drawn up by Health Facility Inspectors in Clark County. Two members of two fire departments are responsible for inspecting and maintaining health facilities in Clark County.

Mrs. Knighton stated that she does have some survey reports from Clark County. This is the only place they get fire drill reports. Other areas do have a program but they do not get reports.

Senator Young commented that he felt that the odds were against them obtaining the funds to attain this health facility inspector. Senator Young further commented that he felt they have the power, the fire departments in each area.

Mr. Quinan stated he needed this man desperately.

Mr. Keith J. Henrikson commented that he would like to leave with the committee the copy of the Resolution passed by the State Fire Advisory Board. The Advisory Board is becoming more violently opposed to this added responsibility such as happened in this particular program to carry out additional duties. The Advisory Board is advising the Legislature, that unless positions are created to carry out these additional responsibilities that the Fire Marshall has told you about, we are violently opposed to carrying out these programs, and decreasing the efficiency of the Fire Marshall's office.

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S.B. 119 (cont'd.):

Therefore, if you want these programs carried out, they need the personnel. They are tired of having people taken away from their regular duties in order to carry out additional responsibilities. (See copy of resolution attached hereto as Exhibit A).

Sharon Greene testified next on S.B. 119. In a four month period the Rose DeLima Hospital had three bomb threats. The first two required evacuation. As a result of a meeting they had conducted, they came to the conclusion that they need someone to come in and work with the hospital personnel, going through evacuation procedures.

S.B. 192:

Orville Wahrenbrock testified on S.B. 192. This would continue the probation subsidy program for the next biennium. The purpose of the act is to keep child offenders out of state institutions. The intention is to clarify the purpose of the act. The purpose of the act is not to restrict any program. Senator Walker commented that we should have someone in Mr. Wahrenbrock's Department look into the matter.

S.B. 189:

Dr. Gwen O'Brien testified that this bill would provide consistency in name usage in facilities they have throughout the state, also to reduce the stigma that is attached to some of the names of their facilities. For an example, the mental health facility in Southern Nevada is known as The Southern Nevada Comprehensive Mental Health Center. The changes they would like are noted on page 26. Senator Young moved "Do Pass", seconded by Senator Herr

S.B. 193:

Dr. Gwen O'Brien gave testimony on S.B. 193, stating that this would provide greater flexibility of treatment. It will allow the Courts to refer persons who have come under jurisdiction, under court proceedings, to the custody of the Administrator of Mental Hygiene-Mental Retardation

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S.B. 193 (cont'd):

Division of Department of Health, Welfare and Rehabilitation. The purpose of having a person put to the care of the Division Administrator rather than to the Superintendent of the State Hospital will provide greater flexibility in treatment. In the past they did not have community based services to refer to. As their programs are developing, by allowing the committment to go to the Administrator, you can perhaps treat the person in the community they were referred from. Senator Neal moved "Do Pass", seconded by Senator Herr.

A.B. 180:

Mr. Dave Tomlinson testified on A.B. 180, stating that this bill changes in two ways. The current definition of law of a dependent child for purposes of the aid to dependent children program. The first part of the change is contained primarily on the first page, Lines 15 through 21. Changes what is now age 16 to age 18 and changes what is now passing grades in high school, vocational school to college or university. These changes are verbatim of the federal regulations themselves. There was a Supreme Court decision on the 20th of December, 1971. This particular case held that in the State of Illinois, which had a similar law as to what we have now, that it was more restrictive than the federal regulation; and therefore because of the supremacy of the federal over the state, the federal must rule. Since that United States Supreme Court decision, the Welfare division has had to operate under that policy. This then, would bring the state law in conformity with the U.S. Supreme decision. The second change on Page 2, from line 6 to 18, expands that part which is being deleted. Following discussion, Senator Drakulich moved "Do Pass", seconded by Senator Young.

A.B. 181:

Gloria Handley testified on A.B. 181, stating that she would like to request that we table this bill at this time. The bill was requested because of federal regulations, new federal regulations in the process of being issued right at this point and time. The draft we have of those regulations indicate some changes. They will come back when they do get the regulations. Chairman Walker moved that this bill be tabled, seconded by Senator Young.

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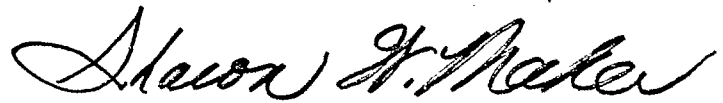
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A. B. 184:

Gloria Handley testified next on A.B. 184, stating that our current law does give the welfare division the responsibility for the child abuse program. The only thing they are asking is to give persons who are going to make a report on possible neglect or abuse an alternative as to whom to report to. There are some people who do not report to law enforcement. Now the requirement is for the initial report to go to the law enforcement division. Following discussion, Senator Drakulich moved "Do Pass", seconded by Senator Young.


Chairman Walker adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon W. Maher, Secretary

APPROVED:



Chairman Lee E. Walker

WHEREAS: The Legislature of the State of Nevada is continuously adding responsibility to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and

WHEREAS: The same said Legislature in adding these responsibilities is not properly funding for the additional personnel to properly implement these responsibilities and

WHEREAS: These added responsibilities have continually detracted and reduced the efficiency of the present personnel in the State Fire Marshal's Office in performing the duties prescribed in NRS 477, by requiring present personnel to assume duties other than those set forth in NRS 477.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Nevada State Fire Marshal's Advisory Board is opposed to the additional proposed responsibilities of the Mobile Homes Standards Act and Factory Housing and Manufactured Buildings Law unless the Mobile Homes Standards Act and Factory Housing and Manufactured Buildings Law provide for authorization by the Board to hire additional and properly qualified personnel to adequately implement the laws as presently proposed.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That such aforementioned personnel be provided for in the proposed statutes that these personnel shall be under the total jurisdiction of the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the additional personnel required, as determined by the Board, to properly implement the aforesaid Mobile Homes Standards Act and Factory Housing and Manufactured Buildings Law shall be funded out of fees promulgated by the Fire Marshal's Advisory Board and State Fire Marshal's Office.

Proposed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Nevada State Fire Marshal's Advisory Board in Carson City, Nevada, on the 7th day of February, 1973.