

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES

349

APRIL 29, 1975

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Hickey
Vice Chairman Price
Mr. Coulter
Mr. Jeffrey
Mr. Howard

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Robinson
Mr. Getto

GUESTS: Joe Frade, Conservation Commission
Ted P. Benduro, Conservation Commission
Leonard A. Anker, Nevada Association of Conservation Distri
Frank Soares, Conservation Commission
Ed Greer, Clark County School District
Orville Wahrenbrock, Department of Human Resources
Phyllis Berkson, Dairy Commission

A quorum being present, Chairman Hickey called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. on April 29, 1975. The purpose of the meeting was to hear AB 654, 655 and AJR 41.

AB 654, exempts public schools and certain juvenile correctional institutions from dairy price regulation.

Mr. Greer, Clark County School District, spoke in behalf of the the bill, stating that they were interested in it because they are quire aware that states that do have competitive bidding benefit from 2-3¢ per 1/2 pint because of that bidding. They use approximately 4,000,000 1/2 pints per year and thus if they could put this out to bid, they probably could save from \$80,000-\$120,000 per year. This would allow them to give a better price break to their students. At the present time they are selling milk for 10¢/1/2 pint. They are only able to sell it at this price because they have federal subsidies. However, should the price go up at all, they would have to raise the price to 15¢. Even if it only went up one penny they would have to raise it 5¢ since they can not deal in pennies.

Mr. Greer stated that they have observed that in the case of their milk shakes, which are competitively bid, they do receive a better price break.

Mr. Jeffrey asked if they felt they could hold the line at 10¢ if they were allowed to have competitive bidding. Mr. Greer stating that this is true. They are presently just at the point where they are losing about 1/2¢ on each 1/2 pint. They will soon have to raise the price. This is suppose to be a self-supporting business.

Mr. Price inquired if Mr. Greer was familiar with the prohibition on the use of powdered milk. Mr. Greer stated that he was not familiar with it but that they have assumed that they could not use it.

Mr. Hickey asked if they would deal strictly with local people if this bill were passed. Mr. Greer stated that they would allow anybody to make a bid but it would have to be a local supplier who would handle it since they require delivery daily.

Orville Wahrenbrock, Department of Human Resources, stated that although they had not been a proponent of the bill they had been included and it was very advantageous to them to be included. They have 160 boys at the Boys Training Center in Elko and 100 girls at the Girls Training School in Caliente. Both places do consume a great deal of milk. He further stated that they would buy locally. He said that he had talked with the sponsor of the bill, Mr. Mann, about including the Southern Nevada Children's Home and the Northern Nevada Children's Home in the bill. He stated that Mr. Mann had no objections to this.

Mr. Wahrenbrock went on to say that at the present time the North Nevada Children's Home, located in Carson City, gets their milk from the Prison Farm, so it is not so important for them to be included. However, they can not be sure how long this will continue. Hopefully it will continue for ever. Including them would effect their budget as they do spend a great deal of money on food items.

He further stated that they feel competitive bidding is very advantageous, however, in Elko and Caliente there probably would not be that many competitors. He ended his statement by saying that do support this bill and would like consideration of the Children's Homes in Nevada being included.

Mr. Hickey asked him if they would take bids locally only or also from out of state. Mr. Wahrenbrock stated that it would be mainly local bids, however, they would still have to work through the State Purchasing Division as they presently do.

AB 655, changes voter eligibility and boundary requirements for conservation districts.

Joe Frade, Chairman of the State Conservation Commission, gave a brief background regarding how this bill came into being. Mr. Frade stated that at their meeting in November of last year, their Clark County Commissioner stated they would like to have conservation district elections on the general ballot. They then asked the Attorney General about what procedure they would have to go through to establish this. Then at their February meeting they voted on this and it was decided to proceed with it. They brought it to this Committee and they introduced the bill.

APRIL 29, 1975

Page 3

They feel this bill is very beneficial in that in the past they have had elections from the first of January until the first of July. Now they would have all the elections at the same time from the first of November to the 10th of November. The districts would still be able to decide if they wished to go the general ballot way or continue to hold their elections as they presently do.

Leonard Anker, Nevada Association of Conservation Districts, then presented the committee with copies of a prepared statement from Van Petersen, President of the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts. This is attached to these minutes as Exhibit I and herewith made a part of this record.

AJR 41, Urges the President, Congress and federal land management agencies to authorize and implement predator control management on federal lands in Nevada.

Chairman Hickey explained that this is the legislation that came about as a result of the Western Governor's Conference on Agriculture held in Billings, Montana as well as the various discussions the committee had around the state with farmers and ranchers who have a serious predator problem. It is particularly aimed at the use of 10-80.

Chairman Hickey then again opened the meeting to further discussion on AB 654.

Phyllis Berkson, Consumer Representative on the Nevada State Dairy Commission, then spoke on behalf of the bill. She stated that she was in favor of allowing bids, although she did not know how it would effect the local distributor. She stated that she would hope that it would reduce the cost and allow more students to participate at a lower cost then they do now.

Mr. Price inquired whether the Commission had discussed this over the years. Mrs. Berkson stated that she felt this used to be the method used but that it gotten back to the position where they alternate in Washoe and in Clark County and that is they way it is operated at the present time.

Chairman Hickey then called for motion on AJR 41, Mr. Jeffrey moved "do pass" and Mr. Price seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. (Dr. Robinson and Mr. Getto absent)

AB 655, Mr. Jeffrey moved "do pass" and Mr. Coulter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hickey stated that he would check and see if the bill could be acted upon without re-referring it to Elections.

Chairman Hickey then instructed the Secretary to contact the various distributors and reschedule AB 654 for next week.

As there was no further business for this day, Chairman Hickey adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Gagnier,
Assembly Attache

ASSEMBLY
AGENDA

348

~~MEMORANDUM~~

COMMITTEE ON..... AGRICULTURE.....
Tuesday,
Date... April 29, 1975 Time... 8:00 a.m. Room... 240.....

Bill or Resolution
to be considered

Subject

AB 654	Exempts public schools and certain juvenile correction institutions from dairy price regulation.
AB 655	Changes voter eligibility and boundary requirements for conservation districts.
AJR 41	Urges President, Congress and federal land management agencies to authorize and implement predator control management on federal lands in Nevada.

NAME	REPRESENTING	
Joe Frade	Conservation Commission	655
Ed P. Bandura	Conservation Commission	
Leonard A. Amber	Nev. Ass'n. of Cons. Dist's.	
Frank Soares	Conservation Commission	
Ed Stacey	Clark Co. School Dist	
Charles W. Wahrénbrock	Left. of H-R. -	654?
Wahrénbrock		

Statement by VAN PETERSEN, President
NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The Nevada Association of 33 conservation districts fully support A.B. 655. We urge that you report it out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation. You all received letters to this effect from our association secretary, C. W. Cleary, a few days ago. It was a unanimous decision of our ten directors.

Let me discuss this bill. We assisted in its preparation. We believe it will do these things:

- a. Provide conservation districts election alternatives best suited to their areas.
- b. Have all district supervisors elected and take office at the same time.
- c. Enlarge voter eligibility to all qualified electors.
- d. Provide for biennial rather than annual elections.

The first five and last two pages of the bill apply largely to formation or dissolution of a district. With about 99% of Nevada's land already in our 33 conservation districts, this part of the bill merely changes the statute so that all election procedures are uniform.

Sec. 9, on page 5, enables any registered voter to take part in an election. The former definition of "land occupier" may well have been unconstitutional. We were never really able to determine who was a land occupier, or more important, who was not one.

Section 11, page 5, changes elections from an annual to a biennial basis.

Section 12 offers each district the opportunity to select a mass meeting election or to be a part of the general ballot.

It provides all elections will be held in the first ten days of November with all supervisors taking office the first Monday in January.

These proposed changes will aid our conservation districts to obtain good leadership. A similar election procedure has been adopted in fourteen other states and is working well.

On behalf of our association, I again urge your committee to approve this proposed legislation.

Van Petersen, President
Nevada Association of Conservation Districts