

Assembly

MINUTES

0002

COMMERCE COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 58TH SESSION

JANUARY 22, 1975

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robinson at 2:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Robinson  
Mr. Harmon  
Mr. Demers  
Mr. Hickey  
Mr. Moody  
Mr. Schofield  
Mr. Wittenberg  
Mr. Benkovich  
Mr. Getto

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

General discussion was had regarding bill books and how they are to be handled, issues which will be introduced into the Commerce Committee and how the Committee meetings will be conducted.

The bill books are to be brought to each Commerce Committee meeting and subsequently returned to each Assemblyman's desk so that they will be picked up by the bill book people in order that they are kept current.

The Committee Minute books are to be left on the table at the end of each Committee meeting so that the secretary can pick them up to insert the minutes of each meeting.

Issues which will be introduced into the Commerce Committee will include those matters regarding regulations concerning the public and the operation of businesses and professions in general.

Chairman Robinson spoke of "floor support" urging each of the committee members to watch very closely those bills being read in the Assembly and if they think a bill should come to the Commerce Committee, they should not hesitate to call a one minute recess in order that this can be accomplished. He also commented that getting a bill out of committee and passed in the Assembly is not enough. Each bill should be followed through the Senate and the committee members to cooperate to help each other to this end.

Chairman Robinson said the Minute Books for the Commerce Committee will include motions made, seconds to each motion as well as the roll-call vote. They will include testimony of guests and a brief synopsis of the pertinent facts discussed throughout each meeting. They will not be long and detailed.

The Chairman will schedule hearings on various bills and this schedule will be posted at least seven days prior to the hearing unless it is an emergency. A copy of this schedule will be placed on each committee member's desk in order that he be aware of each

scheduled hearing.

A discussion of the Committee Rules was then had. Chairman Robinson informed the members that the rules were essentially the same as in the past with a few exceptions. With regard to absences, the Chairman requested that if a member is going to be unable to attend any meeting, that he inform Chairman Robinson and in the event that person cannot contact Chairman Robinson, he should contact the Committee secretary.

Chairman Robinson emphasized the fact that all members must address the chair for recognition to speak. Regarding Rule No. 11 which reads:

Committee bill introduction will be by affirmative vote of five (5) members present. Committee introduction does not obligate a committee member in any way to support the bill.

Rule No. 11 is a new rule and Mr. Wittenberg commented that it is traditional for 2/3 on a committee introduction. He said he would be satisfied with this rule as is but he was afraid that after the 40th or 50th day of the session they [the committee] would be a target because it would traditionally have required 6 members to introduce a bill rather than 5 as stated in Rule No. 11. Chairman Robinson stated that this had been six (6) but he had changed it to five (5) because five was a simple majority. Mr. Demers said he agreed with simple majority. It was decided that Rule No. 11 would be revised in that the word "present" would be deleted so that the rule would be more definitive.

Discussion then progressed to Rule No. 13 regarding smoking. Mr. Wittenberg stated that he objected to this rule because he would hate to see such a precedent established by a committee. Chairman Robinson then commented that if the rule was adopted, the members would be granted 5 to 10 minute recesses every hour even during hearings. He stated that smoking, though not abusive to the smoker, may be an imposition upon the non-smokers. Wittenberg said he did not take the matter personally but added that these precedents are just now being established all across the country. Wittenberg then moved that the rules be adopted with Rule No. 13 stricken. Mr. Demers seconded the motion. Mr. Benkovich then moved for a five minute recess. Chairman Robinson recessed the committee at 2:20 P.M.

The meeting was called to order again at 2:25 P.M. It was suggested that the matter of smoking was a constitutional question about restricted areas. The question is an imposing of the majority on the minority. Mr. Hickey suggested the matter of Rule No. 13 be held in abeyance until the Legislative Council Bureau can give some guidance--until we find out what type of restrictions can be placed on the committee members--is this matter controllable by a committee--about infringing on personal rights--should people be denied the right to smoke in a public place. Chairman Robinson then stated that he would withdraw Rule No. 13 from the Committee Rules but he added that the Chair would exercise its authority to call recesses, etc., whenever he deemed it necessary with regard to the smoke situation. Chairman Robinson then said he was presenting

these rules to the committee for adoption but he was not including Rule No. 13. There was then a unanimous vote to Mr. Wittenberg's motion that the Committee Rules be adopted with Rule No. 13 stricken and with Rule No. 11 revised as previously stated.

Chairman Robinson discussed his intentions in chairing the committee. He plans to schedule any hearings on Mondays and Wednesdays and unless the workload becomes too great, will use Friday as a "clean up" day on which to discuss and to vote on bills previously discussed. He then talked about the changing of usuary rates for banks. He said this would probably be an issue requiring joint hearings and much discussion and testimony. He said he had already discussed the matter with Senator Echols. Chairman Robinson went on to say it would be the practice of the committee to accumulate bills of similar topics to be discussed at the same time.

Mr. Schofield moved the committee be adjourned. Mr. Demers seconded the motion.

The committee was adjourned at 2:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Anderson, Secretary

Attachment: Adopted Committee Rules with appropriate revisions.

ASSEMBLY

0001

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Date JAN. 22, 1975 Time 2:00 P.M. Room 316

Bills or Resolutions  
to be considered

Subject

Counsel  
requested\*

Organizational meeting to adopt  
committee rules.

COMMERCE COMMITTEEAMENDED RULES

1. A quorum shall consist of at least five (5) members. The Secretary of the committee shall call the roll at each meeting and record in the minutes the members present and the members not present. Excused absences will be so recorded.
2. It shall require at least five (5) members to act on a bill.
3. Motions will be moved, seconded, and passed by a simple majority of those present, except that definite action ("do pass" or "indefinitely postponed") on a bill will require a majority of the entire committee.
4. Two-thirds (2/3) of all committee members or six (6) or more "yea" votes are necessary to reconsider action on a bill.
5. All committee members shall address the chair for recognition to speak.
6. No committee action will be taken on any bill during hearings.
7. Names of movers and seconds of any action shall be recorded in the minutes.
8. A record of all votes (yeas and nays) on all bills and resolutions will be kept.
9. All votes will be by roll-call.
10. Procedures of the committee will be governed by Mason's Manual on Parliamentary Procedure.
11. Committee bill introduction will be by affirmative vote of five (5) members. Committee introduction does not obligate a committee member in any way to support the bill.
12. A minority report can be filed with the Chief Clerk at the same time as the committee action is reported, but it must be signed by all members of the committee disagreeing with the committee action who were present when the vote was taken.

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12. A minority report can be filed with the Chief Clerk at the same time as the committee action is reported, but it must be signed by all members of the committee disagreeing with the committee action who were present when the vote was taken.
13. The chairman may ban smoking in the committee meetings when in his judgement the atmosphere has become offensive.