

LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 58TH SESSION

April 15, 1975

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dreyer at 7:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Brookman  
Mr. Jacobsen  
Mr. Mello  
Mrs. Wagner  
Mr. Chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Bennett - excused  
Mr. Sena - excused

The purpose of this meeting was to hear testimony on the following bills:

AB 469	ACR 27
ACR 49	ACR 28
AR 24	ACR 38
AJR 24	

Testimony was first heard on ACR 38 which:

Directs the legislative commission to study electric utility companies, gas utility companies and the public service commission of Nevada.

Assemblyman Demers spoke on behalf of this bill saying it was the result of a committee on utilities formed during the last Session. He said the time was too short for this committee to go into all the areas that were desired and it was felt that the study should be extended in order to pursue those areas where there are problems. He also felt the scope should be broadened from just electric and gas utilities into the other areas governed by the Public Service Commission. He proposed some amendments to the bill. They are:

On line 13, page 1, it should read "...alerted all Nevadans to the increased cost of public utility service and to..."

On line 19 and 20, page 1, it should read "...study the public service commission of Nevada and other companies regulated by that commission..."

Delete lines 21 through 24 to and including the word "governor" relating to the appointing of a bipartisan committee.

Mr. Noel Clark of the Public Service Commission spoke saying he believed the work of the existing committee has been very productive; however, he did not think they had even begun to scrape the surface. He said the Public Service Commission was originated in 1918 and has never really been studied and he felt much good could come from volunteered service of the Commission to do whatever service they can do to assist this committee. He highly recommended the passage of this measure.

Mr. Demers commented that he felt more study was needed and gave an example of Fort Mojave Power Plant purchasing \$200,000,000 worth of equipment and he said that according to testimony received by that committee, this equipment was not necessary.

Mr. Clark went on to say that this field is highly technical and he felt that a considerable part of the committee's time had been taken up just getting familiar with and knowledgeable in this field. He also felt there needed to be study of the Public Service Commission to see if it is providing all the functions that the public demands. Mr. Clark touched on the problem the Commission has finding auditors that are qualified in this highly technical field and presently, since there is a shortage of auditors within the Public Service Commission, Sierra Pacific Power Company is undergoing an audit which is costing \$25,000 because outside auditors had to be brought in. Mr. Clark said the reason they have difficulty getting auditors is because of the salary and the fact that the field is so technical. He said he is presently considering the possibility of an on-going training program in which each auditor will have and intern, so to speak, who will study under him and through this method over a period of time they should have sufficient auditors on their staff. He also said he is considering hiring someone from the outside to come in to tutor trainees because the chief auditor doesn't have the time to do this.

This concluded testimony on this measure. Testimony was then heard on AB 469 which:

Provides procedure for distribution of executive agency reports to legislators.

Assemblyman Bremner spoke on behalf of this bill saying the purpose of this bill was to alleviate the problem now existing of the legislators getting reports they don't read or that they are not interested in. He said these reports are printed and mailed at State expense. This bill would provide that the Legislative Council Bureau prepare a list and send it to all legislators who will indicate on this list those reports which they wish to receive and those are the only reports that would be issued to them. He said he had not projected what savings would result from this but he did believe it would result in much time saved and would reduce this cost to the State. He went on to say it does not eliminate any reports, it only eliminates the mailing of them to those who do not want to receive them. He added that he did not think this would cut down the production cost to the State but would cut down the mailing cost.

Mr. Jacobsen commented that the bill should perhaps be amended in the respect of how many excess copies should be produced and kept on hand by the Bureau since it would probably be the case that though a legislator did not want a report mailed to him he might want it after he gets here during the Session.

Mr. Bremner felt that the list which would be mailed out to all legislators requesting them to indicate which reports they wanted to receive should be handled centrally by the Counsel.

Bureau, for example, rather than having each State Agency doing it separately. He felt it should be uniform. He concluded his statement by saying that the bill does not say exactly what he wanted it to say but he did feel it to be a good concept and if it would save the State some money, it would be a worthwhile endeavor. Chairman Dreyer asked Mr. Bremner to work out some amendments to the bill to make it more in accordance with what he initially wanted.

This concluded testimony on AB 469. Testimony was then taken on AJR 24 which:

Memorializes Congress to provide for Veterans' Administration to contract with hospitals in local communities to provide care to veterans.

Assemblyman Hickey spoke on behalf of this measure stating that this was requested by the Veterans Organization. He said in meetings with Dr. Smith of the Medical School and with heads of the Veterans' Hospital and veterans, it was determined that the only way to receive funds in this area was to apply continued pressure on the Congress and this is the reason for this measure.

Mr. Jacobsen said he was concerned about smaller hospitals such as Carson Tahoe Hospital if this measure would result in the desired action since sometimes they are overloaded and sometimes they are empty and if we are talking about catering to nursing patients that don't really require medical care but rather just observation, this could cause a real problem with small hospitals which presently have a limit of so many days in the hospital after which a patient is sent to a nursing home.

Mr. Hickey said the real problem in this area is the coronary patient in Clark County who must be transported out of the State in order to receive medical attention that will be paid for by the veterans' benefits. He said patients have died because of this procedure.

Sharon Greene spoke saying hospitals would like to accept these patients since there is a bed excess but the Federal Government will not pay for their care unless they go to a veterans hospital.

Mr. Jacobsen commented that he would not want to subject the veterans hospital in Reno to receive less consideration because before involvement in Viet Nam, it was going to be phased out.

Sharon Greene said the majority of patients they are concerned with are the ones going to Arizona and Utah. Mr. Hickey said \$8,500,000 has been appropriated to update the hospital in Reno.

Mr. Dreyer commented that in the past the aim has been to get a veterans hospital in Southern Nevada but since there is no medical school, this has been impossible so this is a new approach asking the government to contract with local hospitals.

Sharon Greene said that now on an out-patient basis veterans no longer have to go out of state or to Reno but when it comes to be admitted to a hospital, they must go to a veterans hospital and this is confusing to many veterans. She said the man currently in the military may enter any hospital and the Federal Government will pay for it but not so for the Veteran, he is the one stuck out on a limb. (providing such military man cannot for some reason be treated at the nearest military hospital)

This concluded testimony on AJR 24. Testimony then was taken on ACR 27 which:

Directs legislative commission to conduct study of hospital charges in state and anticipated effects of enactment of national health insurance act on health care.

Mr. Hickey also spoke on behalf of this bill saying in a meeting with regard to hospitals and hospital costs chaired by Senator Walker, they discussed national health insurance and were warned that it is coming and it could be within a year or as long as six years away. It would be up to the State or the Federal Government to set up the guidelines to control cost.

Sharon Greene said the Nevada Hospital Association supports this bill commenting that they get a great amount of "heat" about hospital costs and how they compare with costs charged among the different hospitals and she felt a study like this would determine if the hospitals in Nevada are well or poorly managed. She felt this bill would answer the public concern and answer the legislative concern. She said she would have no qualms about the Legislative Commission conducting the study but if anyone else were to do it, i.e. another State agency, for example, she would then be concerned. If the Commission does not do it, then it should be an independent agency so that the study would be unbiased. She felt the study was necessary and that it would answer many questions.

Mr. Mello commented that he did not believe the Commission was equipped to conduct such a study. He did not feel that they had the expertise to do it and have the study mean anything.

Mr. Hickey said because of the technical nature of hospital accounting, people with expertise in the area would have to be brought in. He said this would cost somewhere in the area of \$20,000 and if it was to be of service to the public, this amount of money did not seem to be much.

Sharon Greene said there is a reason behind the charges a hospital makes that the public and the legislators don't understand and she said she would be willing to amend the bill so that the hospitals would be assessed for the costs of this study in order that the study could be made.

Mr. Hickey said unless the State wanted the Federal Government to control this, he felt it was a good time for the State to set up some kind of structure in these hospitals so that when the time came, they would be prepared.

Bob Gagner then spoke as a private citizen saying in his history of public employment, he has never found any classification that is as mismanaged and as poorly defined as hospitals and he felt some study was certainly warranted. Something has to be done to prove who is right - the employer or the employee (speaking with regard to negotiations between employer and employee in hospitals). He said he personally felt the public hospitals are poorly directed and a study of this nature would prove this once and for all. He said perhaps there needs to be a uniform rate schedule for all public hospitals. He said when comparing rate structures of all Nevada hospitals, they are all different and they charge different amounts for the same services.

This concluded testimony on ACR 27 and testimony then was taken on AR 24 which:

Amends Assembly Standing Rule 110 for the 58th regular legislative session.

Assemblyman Ford spoke on behalf of this bill saying the intent was to streamline procedures on the Floor during the Session. It would remove the motion that we now have that says we want to dispense with the reading of amendments and vote on the amendment by number only. The Chief Clerk would read the amendment number and the motion for adoption could be made right after the reading of this number. The Speaker would then not have to recognize a person making a motion to dispense with the reading of an amendment. He would not then have to repeat the motion and a vote be taken. She felt this would save time and eliminate much confusion on the Floor. She said this would not take away the reading of the amendment if someone did wish to hear it.

Mr. Jacobsen said at first he thought this was a good idea but he said he finds himself utilizing the time now being spent reading an amendment to find that amendment and study it and if this time was not available, he was afraid he would not be ready for the vote. Mrs. Ford, however, felt that if this was the rule, each legislator would gear himself accordingly. Mouryne Landing commented that this change in procedure would not affect the front desk.

There were some suggested amendments:

On line 5, it should read "...the second time on the first legislative day after they are reported by committee unless a different day is designated by motion".

On line 14, "any member requests" should be changed to "any member may move".

This concluded testimony on AR 24. ACR 49 was then taken up. It:

Directs the legislative commission to study training, qualifications and workloads of supreme court justices, district court judges, justices of the peace, municipal court judges and district attorneys.

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Mrs. Wagner said the Judiciary Committee unanimously supported this measure. There was concern with the kinds of answers that have been received with regard to what actually should be required in training in the judicial system in the State.

Mr. Jacobsen said this might be accomplished in-house and he said we would not want judges studying judges or attorneys studying judges. He wondered if it might be in order to ask the Research Department if they think this is something they could handle and ask our Counsel if they can suggest how we could proceed. Mrs. Brookman suggested that perhaps another state has done this and could give us some direction.

This concluded testimony on this measure and testimony was then taken on ACR 28 which:

Directs legislative commission to review compensation plans of classified and unclassified state employees.

Mr. Mello spoke on behalf of this bill saying it is obvious why this measure is needed because it is a \$90,000,000 package and there are many irregularities. There is a State formula which was created by State Personnel which has many irregularities for which they just keep adding steps. He said he would think that since we are spending this kind of money every Session that we should at least take a better look at what is being done. He said the study would be made up of legislators and perhaps some of our staff and perhaps Jim Wittenberg. He said this problem is not going to be solved unless we take a look at it.

Bob Gagner then spoke saying there have been three bills introduced dealing with this same subject and he felt this to be the best of the three. He said the Senate Finance Committee indicated it should be expanded to include all public employees but the bill was not changed. SNEA has long sought a very detailed classified study in State government but have not been able to convince that it is necessary. He said this could not be done under ACR 28 because there is no funding and they would like to see that added and the necessary funding provided for. He said he did not believe the Legislative Counsel Bureau had the expertise to do this kind of a study and that someone outside would have to be obtained and this would answer many of the questions that have been asked in this area.

Mr. Jacobsen commented that if this study is done and recommendations reported back to the next Session, it would not be utilized that Session so it would be 4 years before recommendations could be implemented.

Mr. Gagner said he thought the study could be completed in less than a year if it is properly funded and directed. He said he would not say the State currently has the expertise to do it and added that the State Employment Department is an inbred group and he would not want them to conduct this study. He said he would rather the Counsel Bureau conduct the study although ~~he did not believe they have the expertise.~~ He said funds were needed to hire someone from the outside. Mr. Mello thought perhaps it could be amended to provide for the funds and that the Legislative Commission contract it. Mr. Jacobsen said it should also be amended to provide for a time limit, July 1976 for example, so that the report would be completed prior to the next session. Mr. Mello said he would get the amendments for this measure.

Mr. Jacobsen moved a "do pass" on AB 628. This was seconded by Mrs. Brookman and carried the committee.

With regard to AB 629, Chairman Dreyer said he was holding this bill for more input from Earl Oliver.

Mr. Jacobsen moved a "do pass" on AR 9. This was seconded by Mrs. Wagner and carried the committee unanimously.

After considerable discussion on AR 11, it was decided that it should be amended deleting Section 9 and Section 8. Mr. Jacobsen then moved that these amendments be adopted to AR 11. This was seconded by Mrs. Wagner and carried the committee. Mr. Jacobsen then moved that AR 11 be passed as amended. This was seconded by Mrs. Wagner and carried the committee.

After discussion on AR 12, it was decided that it should be amended to provide for 10 days notice rather than 5. The motion for adoption of the amendment to AR 12 was made by Mrs. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Jacobsen and carried the committee. Mrs. Wagner then moved "do pass as amended" of AR 12. This was seconded by Mr. Jacobsen and carried the committee.

Mouryne Landing commented on AR 13 that the present rule was a good safety factor to keep from putting out an illegal bill. Mr. Jacobsen moved that AR 13 be "Indefinitely Postponed". This was seconded by Mrs. Brookman and carried the committee.

Chairman Dreyer had a measure for committee introduction with regard to introduction of guests on the Floor. Mr. Mello was the sponsor of this measure and since he was out of the room at that time it was decided that this would be held until he could speak on it.

A measure calling for the Session to begin in March rather than in January was briefly discussed. Mrs. Ford said it would

allow more time between election and session in order for each legislator to better prepare himself. Mrs. Brookman commented that this would not be possible because of the agricultural element in the state which would be precluded from running for office if such a time change was made.

Chairman Dreyer adjourned this meeting at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Anderson, Secretary



ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS

Date April 15, 1975 Time 7:00 P.M. Room 222

THIS AGENDA SUPERSEDES PREVIOUS AGENDA POSTED FOR THIS DATE (IN TIME)  
 Bills or Resolutions to be considered Subject Counsel requested\*

- ✓ AB 469 - Provides procedure for distribution of executive agency reports to legislators.
- AR 21 Adds Assembly Standing Rule 5 for the 58th regular session of the Legislature.
- ✓ AR 24 - Amends Assembly Standing Rule 110 for the 58th regular legislative session.
- ✓ AJR 24 - Memorializes Congress to provide for Veterans' Administration to contract with hospitals in local communities to provide care to veterans.
- ✓ ACR 27 - Directs legislative commission to conduct study of hospital charges in state and anticipated effects of enactment of national health insurance act on health care.
- ✓ ACR 28 - Directs legislative commission to review compensation plans of classified and unclassified state employees.
- ✓ ACR 38 - Directs the legislative commission to study electric utility companies, gas utility companies and the public service commission of Nevada.
- ACR 44 Directs legislative commission to study feasibility of establishing state home for veterans in Nevada.

ACR 49  
 AB 628  
 AB 629

AR 9 AR 13  
 AR 11  
 AR 12

LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE April, 15, 1975

SUBJECT AB 628 - Increases compensation of legislators.

MOTION:

Do Pass  Amend \_\_\_\_\_ Indefinitely Postpone \_\_\_\_\_ Reconsider \_\_\_\_\_

Moved By Mr. Jacobsen Seconded By Mrs. Brookman

AMENDMENT:

Moved By \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDMENT:

Moved BY \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_\_\_

VOTE:	<u>MOTION</u>		<u>AMEND</u>		<u>AMEND</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Mr. Bennett	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mrs. Brookman	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mr. Jacobsen	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mr. Mello	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mr. Sena	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mrs. Wagner	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mr. Chairman	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

ORIGINAL MOTION: Passed  Defeated \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDED & PASSED \_\_\_\_\_ AMENDED & DEFEATED \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDED & PASSED \_\_\_\_\_ AMENDED & DEFEATED \_\_\_\_\_

Attached to Minutes April 15, 1975

LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE April 15, 1975

SUBJECT AR 9 - Adds Assembly Standing Rule 1 for the 58th regular session of the legislature.

MOTION:

Do Pass  Amend \_\_\_\_\_ Indefinitely Postpone \_\_\_\_\_ Reconsider \_\_\_\_\_

Moved By Mr. Jacobsen Seconded By Mrs. Wagner

AMENDMENT:

Moved By \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDMENT:

Moved BY \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_\_\_

VOTE:	MOTION		AMEND		AMEND	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Mr. Bennett	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mrs. Brookman	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mr. Jacobsen	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mr. Mello	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mr. Sena	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mrs. Wagner	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mr. Chairman	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

ORIGINAL MOTION: Passed  Defeated \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDED & PASSED \_\_\_\_\_ AMENDED & DEFEATED \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDED & PASSED \_\_\_\_\_ AMENDED & DEFEATED \_\_\_\_\_

Attached to Minutes April 15, 1975

LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE April 15, 1975

SUBJECT AR 11 - Amends Assembly Standing Rule 42 and repeals Assembly Standing Rules 43, 44, 46, 47, and 48 for the 58th regular session of the legislature.

MOTION: 1. Adopt amendments X 2. Do pass as amended X

Do Pass \_\_\_\_\_ Amend \_\_\_\_\_ Indefinitely Postpone \_\_\_\_\_ Reconsider \_\_\_\_\_

Moved By 1. Jacobsen 2. Jacobsen Seconded By 1. Wagner 2. Wagner

AMENDMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Moved By \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Moved BY \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_\_\_

VOTE:	<u>MOTION</u>		<u>AMEND</u>		<u>AMEND</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Mr. Bennett	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mrs. Brookman	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mr. Jacobsen	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mr. Mello	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mr. Sena	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mrs. Wagner	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mr. Chairman	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

ORIGINAL MOTION: Passed X Defeated \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDED & PASSED \_\_\_\_\_ AMENDED & DEFEATED \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDED & PASSED \_\_\_\_\_ AMENDED & DEFEATED \_\_\_\_\_

Attached to Minutes April 15, 1975

LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE April 15, 1975

SUBJECT AR 12 - Amends Assembly Standing Rule 49 and adds Assembly Standing Rule 92 for the 58th regular session of the Legislature.

MOTION: 1. Adopt amendments X 2. Do pass as amended X

Do Pass        Amend        Indefinitely Postpone        Reconsider       

Moved By 1. Wagner 2. Wagner Seconded By 1. Jacobsen 2. Jacobsen

AMENDMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Moved By \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Moved BY \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_\_\_

VOTE:	<u>MOTION</u>		<u>AMEND</u>		<u>AMEND</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Mr. Bennett	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Mrs. Brookman	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Mr. Jacobsen	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Mr. Mello	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Mr. Sena	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Mrs. Wagner	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Mr. Chairman	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

ORIGINAL MOTION: Passed X Defeated        Withdrawn       

AMENDED & PASSED        AMENDED & DEFEATED       

AMENDED & PASSED        AMENDED & DEFEATED       

Attached to Minutes April 15, 1975

LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE April 15, 1975

SUBJECT AR 13 - Amends Assembly Standing Rule 109 for the 58th  
regular session of the legislature.

MOTION:

Do Pass \_\_\_\_\_ Amend \_\_\_\_\_ Indefinitely Postpone X Reconsider \_\_\_\_\_

Moved By Jacobsen Seconded By Brookman

AMENDMENT:

Moved By \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDMENT:

Moved BY \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_\_\_

VOTE:	<u>MOTION</u>		<u>AMEND</u>		<u>AMEND</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Mr. Bennett	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mrs. Brookman	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mr. Jacobsen	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mr. Mello	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mr. Sena	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mrs. Wagner	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mr. Chairman	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

ORIGINAL MOTION: Passed X Defeated \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDED & PASSED \_\_\_\_\_ AMENDED & DEFEATED \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDED & PASSED \_\_\_\_\_ AMENDED & DEFEATED \_\_\_\_\_

Attached to Minutes April 15, 1975