

Assembly

MINUTES

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 58th SESSION

March 19, 1975

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mello at 8:00 A.M. in the Ways and Means Committee Room.

PRESENT: Chairman Mello, Mrs. Brookman, Mr. Dreyer, Mr. Glover, Mr. Howard, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Weise, Mr. Wittenberg, and Mr. Bremner was excused from 9:45 A.M. until 10:30 A.M.

ALSO PRESENT: John Dolan, Bill Bible, Nash Sena, Richard Vincent, Dick Ries, Paul Cohen, Roger Trounday, Janice Ayers, Manuel Wedge, Chancellor Neil Humphrey, Assemblyman Danny Demers, George Zappettini, Noel Clark, Gordon Harding, Jim Wittenberg, and Robert Gagnier, Mike Mizell and Assemblyman Tom Hickey.

AB 201 was explained by Assemblyman Nash Sena. "Makes appropriation from General Fund to department of human resources for construction of a half-way house in Clark County, Nevada." BDR S-832. He stated that a problem has been created with camps running at full capacity and Spring Mountain Youth Camp had to refuse 20 boys. Hopefully, the half-way house will supervise 12-15 boys at one time and 40-50 boys per year. This is a request for \$100,000 from the state for the purchase of land and the construction of the facility. He stated that this will save the state \$28,000 per year as the state is presently subsidizing the Youth Camp \$200 per month per boy in Spring Mountain. This program would give the boy an opportunity to be "de-institutionalized" and allow him to attend a local school and receive counseling. This type of program is in accordance with State, Federal and local agencies. This half-way house will have six bedrooms and three baths. Richard Vincent stated that Clark County will take over the operating costs of approximately \$110,000 per year and will come under the Juvenile Court budget.

Mr. Weise stated he would like to know where the half-way house would be constructed, and as of yet, they are not sure. Chairman Mello stated that there is a need for this program, but felt it was very poorly planned. He stated that the bill would be held until they receive concrete facts.

AB 379 was explained by Mr. Paul Cohen. "Makes appropriations to bureau of alcohol and drug abuse of rehabilitation division of department of human resources for purpose of continuing training and development of curricula for drug abuse prevention program in Nevada public schools." BDR S-1208. Mr. Cohen stated that there is a One-Shot for the continuation of narcotics education for Nevada public schools of \$250,000 for the biennium. This will be the last One-Shot appropriation for this program as the Community Colleges and local school districts will pick this up from now on. In the Fifth and Sixth grade program they have reached 596 teachers and 11,000 students. From Kindergarten to Twelfth grade they have reached 25,000 students.

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Motion was made by Mrs. Brookman to recommend a "Do-Pass". Seconded by Mr. Bremner. Motion passed.

SB 298 was explained by Janice Ayers. "Increases maximum funding for community training centers for retarded persons." BDR 39-1098. Roger Trounday stated that this bill was introduced to read "no less than \$300" with no maximum which just gives them a base figure to work with. Janice Ayers stated that they are objecting to the \$300 minimum and are requesting support of the amendment which allows \$500 minimum per enrollee per quarter and \$18,000 for the centers with a minimum of five enrollees and a maximum of 12. She stated that for the past six years, nine community training centers have provided a meaningful program throughout the state at a maximum cost of \$1000 per year per enrollee. To duplicate this program it would cost the state \$3 million. This year, however, they have received less than \$1000 per enrollee. She stated that the supervisor in Panaca receives \$460 per month and the staff sees no future as far as more money for salaries is concerned. They might be receiving a few CETA people and they will come in with no experience at a higher salary. A 5-1 ratio is mandated by the Act but in many instances

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this is not enough. The program is geared to making Mentally Retarded persons independent and getting them off Welfare. Mr. Manuel Wedge stated that they are only asking for assistance from the state and not total funding of the program. Their total budget is \$490,000 and the state's share is \$80,000. The centers are also servicing the developmentally disabled. They have 73 individuals at the present time and have 87 on the waiting list. They have an anticipated growth to 125 at the end of this year. Only two of the centers have lunch programs and the individuals must pay for their own lunch. They receive payment for their work and \$46,000 is for trainee salaries. These individuals are at the centers for 6-8 hours per day. They are governed by the minimum wage law and pay the handi-capped less according to their productivity. They have been very successful in placing these individuals in jobs in competitive industry. Mrs. Brookman stated that the people who work in these centers are very dedicated in their work and do a good job.

Chairman Mello stated that the amendment refers to Section 1, page 1, line 9 striking \$300 and putting in \$500. Section 1, page 1, line 10 deleting \$14,000 and inserting \$18,000. Section 1, page 1, line 12 deleting \$14,000 and inserting \$18,000. Mr. Weise stated that he was opposed to the amendment as the \$300 is only a limit and they can still pay \$500. A center may receive a grant or come into money and this would make the state have to pay \$500 to a center that might not need the money as much as another. Mr. Wittenberg stated that the state only pays \$80,000 of a \$490,000 budget and Bill Bible stated that the revenue sources are grants received from the state. Mr. Weise stated that only \$300 could be paid to a center that has received money from another source, but with this amendment the state would have to pay \$500 and stated that since the \$300 is only a limit which they cannot go below, he was opposed to the amendment. Chairman Mello stated that this was Assemblyman Schofield's amendment and since he did not appear to speak to it, the amendment will not be considered and it can be introduced on the floor by him. Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" on the bill as written. Mr. Weise seconded. Motion passed.

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AB 348 was explained by Chancellor Neil Humphrey. "Authorizes University of Nevada board of regents to acquire facilities on Las Vegas campus and lease them to Federal Government." BDR S-1100. Dr. Humphrey stated that this would be \$10 million in revenue bonds. At the present time, they have facilities occupied by the EPA with a ten year lease and two five year extensions which expires in 1976. There is no disadvantage with them being on campus. The University approves the architectural plans to make sure the building is the type that could lend itself to university work.

A motion was made by Mr. Bremner to recommend a "Do-Pass". Seconded by Mr. Glover. Motion passed.

AB 377 was explained by Bill Bible. "Increases maximum allowances for subsistence and travel expenses of state officers and employees." BDR 23-1190. Mr. Bible stated that this would increase the In-State travel to \$28, the mileage to 17¢, the private vehicle for private use to 10¢ with no increase in meals. The meals are currently \$2 for breakfast, \$3 for lunch and \$6 for dinner. The additional \$3 would be used for lodging. Mr. Bible stated that the Ormsby House rate for state employees is \$16, the Union Plaza, \$16.96, the Mint Hotel, \$18.00, the Holiday Inn in Reno \$16.00, the Ponderosa Motel in Carson City \$15.00 and Brookman's Motel in Las Vegas is \$12.00. Robert Gagnier stated that he had a study on mileage by the American Automobile Association which showed that it cost 16.5¢ per mile in 1973-74, but did not include the six months that gas went up tremendously. In regards to per-diem, Mr. Gagnier stated that he felt it was not enough and they are requesting the \$28 for the first year of the biennium, but would like \$30 in July of 1976. He stated that the survey conducted which Mr. Bible read was done during the winter. The summer rates are usually higher and often does not include weekends. In some motels the State rates do not apply at all during the summer. He also stated that Elko has the highest prices in the entire state and it is very difficult to stay there with \$14. Mr. Bible stated that Stockman's is \$12 for State employees. Mr. Gagnier replied that that is a winter rate. Mr. Weise asked why a state employee would rather use his own car than a state car. Mr. Gagnier replied that this is due to the shape of the motor

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pool cars. Chairman Mello stated that this is left up to the director and if an employee chooses to use his own car when a state car is available, he might not receive mileage.

Mr. Glover made a motion to recommend the amendment which would allow for \$30 per day in July 1976. Mr. Dreyer Seconded. Mr. Weise stated they could not look into the future. Chairman Mello felt that it would be lowered next session if the rates have not increased. Mr. Wittenberg felt that it would be impossible to lower the amount after it is passed and was opposed to the amendment. Mr. Bible stated that the motels tend to follow the rate allowed state employees. Motion failed. Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as written. Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed.

AB 239 was explained by Assemblyman Danny Demers. "Permits division of forestry of state department of conservation and natural resources to spend balance of 1973 appropriation designated for forestry nursery to be located in Washoe Valley, Washoe County, Nevada, to be used for nursery to be located in Southern Nevada." BDR S-850 Mr. Demers stated that of the \$90,000 appropriated, there is a balance of \$81,558. FHA has ruled in the last year that in the desert environment instead of lawn, people can plant desert plants. These plants do not have to be watered. George Zappettini stated that a nursery is badly needed in Southern Nevada. Assemblyman Tom Hickey stated that there is a site in North Las Vegas that has been considered for this nursery. He felt that if the nursery were placed in North Las Vegas it would be of great advantage to the city and valley and easy access by all of Clark County.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass". Mr. Dreyer seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Glover is recorded as not voting, Mr. Weise voted no and Mr. Robinson was absent.

SB 163 was explained by Noel Clark. "Makes appropriation from general fund in state treasury to public service commission of Nevada." BDR S-846. Mr. Clark stated that in 1973 the Federal Government activated a Federal Energy Office and this commission had to pick this up. This office operates the duties of petroleum allocations. He stated that this office should continue in the same posture until existing federal legislation has been determined. This program has been operating with the commission's existing staff, but if it continues beyond 1976, it will have to be separately funded.

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Mr. Howard made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass". Mr. Dreyer seconded. Motion passed.

SB 182 was explained by Mike Mizell. "Makes appropriations from general fund in state treasury to department of general services." BDR S-836. Mr. Mizell stated that last year the Clark County Sanitation District included Overton in the sewer system. The Septic System at the Lost City Museum is having problems. He stated that they might be able to get some Federal funds to help cover the cost.

Mr. Dreyer made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass". Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Glover and Mr. Weise are recorded as not voting.

SB 175 was explained by Mr. Bible. "Makes general fund supplemental appropriation for Nevada girls training center." BDR S-841.

Mr. Glover made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass". Mr. Wittenberg seconded. Motion passed.

AB 251 was explained by Gordon Harding. "Makes appropriation to central data processing division of department of general services to implement payroll and personnel data system." BDR S-839. Mr. Harding stated that the personnel department has no mechanized capability of obtaining timely information from their files. The payroll system was built in 1967 and has been modified many times. This system has no labor distribution capability and they are in need of a data processing system. One of the systems they looked into would provide all the capabilities they need and it appears to be an appropriate way to go. It would provide the capabilities of handling all applicant information, handling employee certifications, produce state's payroll and labor distribution. It would cost \$70,000 for the development and \$50,000 for operation for two years.

After this, the funding would be in the personnel budget. Under the existing payroll system, they cannot comply with the Fair Labor Standards Act. Jim Wittenberg stated that there is a need for the information and presently it must be gathered manually. This system would also provide the information that cannot be gathered now. 25% of this program has been done with Federal Grant money. The analysts and programmers presently employed will handle the project freeing some of the clerical staff. These people will not be laid off, but fewer people will be hired in the next two years. The operational cost of this program is \$2500 per month for both staff and work. There is an ever increasing demand placed on the clerical staff work force. Mr. Glover stated that he felt this would make state government more efficient and relieve the clerical positions to provide better services to the people. Jim Wittenberg stated that there have been more jobs made because of automation, but the jobs are different. He stated that services to the people have been discontinued because of the lack of clerical help and this would allow the staff to provide these services that are needed. Mr. Weise felt that this should be put in the 1977 budget and Mr. Bible explained that the preliminary work has already been done.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass". Seconded by Mr. Weise. Motion passed. Mr. Weise voted no. Mr. Robinson was absent for this vote.

SB 181 was explained by Mr. Bible. "Makes supplemental appropriation from general fund in state treasury to Nevada Youth Training Center Division of youth services agency of department of Human Resources to meet increased costs." BDR S-840

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass". Mrs. Brookman seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

INFORMATION SHEET ON PROPOSED SPRING MOUNTAIN YOUTH
CAMP HALFWAY HOUSE

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1. Statement of Problem:

The Spring Mountain Youth Camp, like other correction facilities, is operating at full capacity. In the past five months we have had to refuse admittance to twenty boys who were referred to the Youth Camp. Since the camp was already at full population, these children had to be committed to the Nevada Youth Training Center, already over crowded, or kept on probation.

Projected figures for 1975 indicate that the Institution will continue to operate at full capacity. Thus, we must find and fund a program that will serve the criteria of treatment of youthful offenders and protection of the community. By necessity, this program must provide twenty-four hour supervision and intensive counseling and programming.

Expansion of the Spring Mountain Youth Camp Facility, itself, is not realistic, due to the geography of our location. Even if expansion were possible, our programs would suffer tremendously with the increased population. We would be serving more children but helping fewer.

2. Program Proposal

The Spring Mountain Youth Camp is proposing the building of a halfway house in the community. This halfway house will house twelve boys at a time; a total of forty to fifty boys per year. These boys will be placed in the halfway house from the Youth Camp when they are judged able to handle the responsibilities of community based services. The average stay is projected at three months.

We are requesting a one time allocation of one-hundred thousand dollars from the State of Nevada for the purchase of land and construction of a six bedroom, three bath, community halfway house in Clark County. Staffing and programming would be assumed by Clark County with the operation directly under the control of the Clark County Juvenile Court Services.

The state currently subsidizes Clark County at the rate of two-hundred dollars per month per boy at the Spring Mountain Youth Camp. By placing a halfway house in the community and not requesting subsidy for the added twelve bed population, the state would save approximately twenty-eight thousand dollars a year in subsidy money.

In addition to the reasons given above for this program, there are several other benefits that will be achieved by the implementation of the halfway house. They include; attendance in community schools, opportunities for community employment, access to community agencies, such as Mental Health and counseling services, and increased family counseling and involvement. These programs, available only in the community, would complement the other programs that we are already offering at the institution and would continue to operate at the halfway house. They include; individual, group and educational counseling; drug rehabilitation; recreation and sports, and aftercare services.

This type of community treatment is in accordance with virtually every guideline and standard recommended by Federal, State and local agencies.