

Assembly

371

MINUTES

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

April 3, 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, Mr. Bremner, Mrs. Brookman, Mr. Glover, Mr. Howard, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Weise and Mr. Wittenberg. Mr. Dreyer was absent.

ALSO PRESENT: John Dolan, Bill Bible, Manuel Cortez, John Duarte, Paul Alves, Bruce Arkell, John Reiser, Bill DuBois, Vern Bennett, Richard Morgan, Don Perry, John McSweeney, Nellie Laird, John Kimble, Terry Sullivan, Gordon Harding, and Mike Mizell.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to approve the minutes of March 24, 25, 26, and 27, 1975. Mr. Robinson seconded. Motion passed.

Manuel Cortez explained the Taxi-Cab Authority. He stated that they have three new airport taxi control officers and they have started a defensive driving course for drivers. 33 new taxi-cabs were also allocated. With all of the litigation they have had they also found it necessary to have a full time Deputy Attorney General. They are requesting one new investigator and have added a hearings officer. They are requesting one new airport taxi control officer to help with the collection of the 20¢ fare and as the officers are now eligible for vacation they have no one to cover for them.

Out of State travel will provide transportation to the FBI academy and In State travel is for the investigators and motor pool vehicles.

The Board receives \$3 per month when they meet each month.

AB 205 "Makes supplemental appropriation from General Fund to the Welfare Division." BDR S-854. John Duarte stated that two years ago Human Resources did not make provisions for adult group care facilities. They are requesting additional monies to take care of the rest of this fiscal year and next year. They are requesting **that the adult group care rate be raised.**

over

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

AB 237 "Removes durational residence requirement for aid to dependent children." BDR 38-675. The residency requirement was determined to be unconstitutional and this could not be enforced as the Federal statute takes precedence. All this bill does is bring the statutes in line.

Mr. Weise made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass". Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed.

AB 232 "Enacts State Comprehensive Planning Act." BDR 18-346. The Governor is charged with developing a comprehensive plan and this would provide the directions and guidelines to do so. They feel they need something in writing to look at so they know where they are going and any change would require Legislation. Each State agency had a plan and this would pull all the plans together. They would have a mechanism to bring about any change in a systematic fashion. Chairman Mello stated that they would then be established as an agency. Mr. Wittenberg questioned why the Administrative Secretary was an unclassified position. Mr. Bruce Arkell stated that when this program began they had only two positions, the director and the secretary. If the Planning Board director leaves the position, it would be easier for the new director to bring in his own secretary. Mr. Weise stated he would like to see what they can do in the next two years before they become a permanent budget. Mr. Robinson stated that they have completed a study setting their goals and although there might be some changes periodically, the goals should be set for 5 or 6 years and does not see where a department is necessary. Mr. Howard felt that they should be able to accomplish their goals in the next two years and cannot see a need for a new agency. Mr. Bible stated that this had started out with a

Page 2

Federal Grant, last session the General Fund provided some money and now they are requesting that this be funded as a General Fund agency. Mr. Wittenberg stated he could not see the feasibility of continuing this and making it an on-going program.

Mr. Weise made a motion to recommend an "Indefinite Postponement."  
Mr. Howard seconded. Motion passed.

AB 409 "Makes appropriation from state General Fund to office of Inspector of Mines." BDR S-1015. Mr. John Reiser explained that the intent of this bill is to provide funding for the state Mine Inspector that was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Nevada Industrial Commission. The budget was prepared on the basis of requirements under the approved state plan. SB 190 will be amended to include the salary of the Mine Inspector. Mr. Bill DuBois, State Inspector of Mines, stated that the mine industry provides \$260 million in revenue to the state. This office provides safety for mine workers which have the most hazardous and challenging jobs and they need a safe place to work. This justifies the staff and equipment set forth in the bill. There is a shortage of mine workers, particularly underground, and accidents and injuries are always occurring. A strong and effective program of Health and Safety in the mine industry is imperative. This would provide for six field personnel and the technical equipment in the field, and lab equipment for health studies, one secretary and travel expenses for the inspectors with some out of state travel. Mr. Bible stated that this was not included in the Administrative budget because it came after the budget was prepared and the Governor is not supporting it. Chairman Mello stated that there has been some confusion on this because they thought it would be funded by the Nevada Industrial Commission. He asked Mr. Bible to talk to Mr. Reiser and find out why this bill is needed. Although there is a need for some sort of Legislation it is not clear as to why it will be funded with General Funds.

over

**AB 443 "Abolishes bond trust fund and transfers its balance plus an additional appropriation to public employees' retirement system."**

BDR 23-842. Vern Bennett stated that this would provide a \$50 per month cost of living increase to those who retired before 1963. \$2,907,000 is needed for this increase. The average age of these retirees is 70 and the average benefit is \$150 per month. Mr. Glover stated that he felt this was the most important piece of Legislation to come out of this Legislature and it is the responsibility of the State to take care of these people. When these people retired they had an income that they could live with but since inflation has increased their buying power has decreased. Mr. Bennett stated that this \$2,907,000 would provide benefits for the rest of their natural life and another increase will not be requested in future years. Richard Morgan stated that the Teachers endorse this bill and believe the figures are correct. He stated that this is the first year this will come from the General Fund. John Crossley stated that the source of funding is a result of an audit report which recommended that this be abolished. He agrees with this bill. Mr. Bible stated that there is a technical amendment that needs to be made on page 14, Section 34, line 29 538.091 should be 538.090. Mr. Bennett stated that the pensioners have received a 1 1/2% cost of living increase per year for the last few years. Don Perry, American Association of Retired Persons, stated that they have worked on this increase for several years and requested that the committee give this proposal favorable consideration.

Mr. Glover made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" with the technical amendment. Mr. Weise seconded. Motion passed.

**AB 470 "Makes appropriation to aging services division of department of Human Resources for the purpose of distributing funds to nonprofit organizations for programs for the aged in Nevada."** BDR S-1292. John McSweeney explained this bill. He stated that problems that occur eventually end up in their office and they would like to receive it directly. Fr. Dunphy stated that there is a great need for services for the aged. Senior citizens have contributed to society and we owe them something in return. The opportunity to receive this Federal funds should be taken. Nellie Laird urged passage because the elderly need these services and the sponsoring agencies might not be able to continue with the cost of inflation. John Kimble urged the committee to pass this bill.

Mrs. Brookman made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass". Mr. Bremner

Page 3

seconded. Motion passed.

SB 76 "Increases working capital and operating fund of State Purchasing Act." BDR 27-125. Terry Sullivan stated that \$700,000 has been an original figure since 1960 and after stock is purchased they do not have much to pay their bills. They could borrow money needed but it presents problems with the controller's system. They are at a standstill and without this increase they would have to reduce the stock at the warehouse.

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

SB 176 "Makes appropriation from General Fund in state treasury to central data processing division of department of General Services." BDR S-838. Mr. Gordon Harding stated that eleven agencies are provided data processing services. He stated that there are several duplications of files, such as, Welfare recipients are also recipients of Food Stamps and each agency keeps its own applications. He felt that they might lose federal grants because information for the grants was not available. This would reduce data processing costs and provide better management. He stated that if the feasibility study shows that this is not worthwhile they will cease the project and the money will be reverted. Mr. Robinson stated that he would like this mentioned in the bill. Chairman Mello stated that a letter of intent would be sent.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass". Seconded by Mrs. Brookman. Motion passed. Mr. Glover is recorded as not voting.

SB 285 "Makes appropriation to division of buildings and grounds of department of general services." BDR S-851. Mr. Bible explained that this would provide carpeting for the Blasdel and Nye buildings, touching up the trim on the mansion and ceiling repair, and replacing the doors at the Blasdel Building. Mr. Mizell stated that they can bid anytime and would try to provide a price on the carpeting to the committee. Approximately 4,134 yards are needed for the Nye Building and 534 yards for the Blasdel building. Chairman Mello felt that since they would be buying the carpeting from a mill, other areas that need to be carpeted should be checked into to see if all the carpet could be ordered at the same time to receive a larger discount. Also, the buildings and grounds inspectors would at not additional charge to the state. This bill will be held until they get more details regarding the other carpeting jobs..

Over

SB 299 "Supplements appropriation for 1974-1975 fiscal year for Nevada state prison." BDR S-1197. Mr. Bible stated that these supplements are a result of Judge Thompson's court order. The prison has been requested to upgrade the library at a cost of approximately \$15,000 with and upkeep cost of \$8,000 per year. He stated that they are requesting that this bill be amended for \$12,640 to replace 316 mattresses which are a fire hazard. Mr. Glover stated he did not understand why the law library needed to be upgraded for the inmates.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to approve the amendment. Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Glover is recorded as voting no.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as amended. Mrs. Brookman seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Glover and Mr. Weise voted no.

SB 328 "Provides for reversion of unexpended money in senior citizen's property tax assistance fund to state General Fund." BDR 32-1218. Mr. Bible stated that when this fund was created there was no provision to rever the money. \$2.2 million have not been utilized and they would like this reverted.

Mr. Bremner made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass". Mr. Weise seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Wittenberg stated that he wished to correct a statement he had made regarding the State Library budget. The \$6,000 for the data processing is included in the budget.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as recommended by the Governor. Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Weise stated that he felt the toilets in the Museum that need to be



remodeled should be placed under the Capital Improvement Projects. Mr. Robinson stated that they had received more detail on the bid which showed profit upon profit or almost \$8,000 double profit. This remodeling would also provide another display room and a warehouse. Mr. Wittenberg stated that they went by the Planning Board's estimate and understood that some remodeling would be done at the same time. Mr. Weise stated that there was also an unexplained \$2,000 contingency fund.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to reopen the budget. Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to delete the \$35,500 recommendation from the budget for this remodeling. Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as recommended by the Governor and as previously amended. Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed.

The intent is to take this out of the Museum budget and place the project into the Capital Improvement Fund.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.