

Assembly

MINUTES

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

April 4, 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. Dreyer, Mr. Glover, Mr. Howard, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Weise and Mr. Wittenberg.

ALSO PRESENT: John Dolan, Bill Bible, Noel Clark, Chancellor Humphrey, Dr. Milam, Dean Bohmont, Larry Miller, Lou Hirschman, Bill Wright, Jack Walther, Roland Westergaard, Dr. Carr, Dr. Herman, Kirk Adams, Pat Apodaca, Howard Hill, Leonard Winkleman, Jim Deere, Ray Knisley, Assemblyman Getto, and John Ciardella.

AB 452 "Establishes consumer division within public service commission." BDR 58-1309. Noel Clark stated that the most economical and effective way to handle complaints is to do it within the commission. This bill will be amended and Mr. Clark will provide the committee with the amendments at a later date. In order to raise money for this, the mill tax might be increased from 3 mills to 4. They would have a way to handle complaints from informal levels to the formal level.

AB 390 "Appropriates funds to establish program in veterinary medicine within the University of Nevada." BDR S-1205. Chancellor Humphrey stated that this bill has 28 sponsors, but is not a university bill. He has received information from WICHE that the Colorado veterinary program is closer to being a regional veterinary program and would provide for 5 places for Nevada students each year for a 20 year period. This guarantee for five qualified students at a rate of \$7775, \$6000 provided by the state. It is next to impossible to get students in the veterinary schools in California and Washington state and Colorado is the only one that will even accept out of state students and at a charge over the normal WICHE payment.

Dean Bohmont stated that the demand for space exceeds that of which Colorado provides. The student must have a 3.5 grade average and even then they might not be accepted for one of the five spaces. The classes would be packaged and there are approximately 200 students who would like to get into veterinary school, but only approximately two will be able to.

Assemblyman Getto stated that he introduced AB 389 because there is a shortage of veterinarians in Nevada and many of the agricultural communities have no veterinarians. Students are complaining because they cannot get into these schools although they qualify. There are several students interested in the larger animals and are interested in the smaller communities and their problems.

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Larry Miller is a rancher in the Fallon area who had completed his Master's program, but could not get into a veterinary school. He is interested in the larger animals and would have returned to Nevada after he graduated. He made application to several schools six times in a period of seven years. The WICHE schools were the only schools who considered his application, but he was not accepted.

Dean Bohmont explained that through contract with the Colorado school the students are assured of five spaces if they have a 3.5 grade average.

Mr. Knisley felt that the Ways and Means Committee had done more to institute programs in the university than the university itself. Scientific Research is a big field and there is a need for this school.

Lou Hirschman is a senior student in pre-vet at the university and is interested in veterinary medicine, but feels there is no chance of getting in. He has the qualifications and grades but since he is an out of state resident, he cannot get in. The only alternative would be to provide a veterinary school in Nevada. He had applied to Washington State and California schools but has not heard anything.

Bill Wright lives on a ranch in Elko County and stated that they have only two

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veterinarians and must wait several days before the veterinarian can respond to a call. He would return to this area if he graduates from a veterinary school.

Dean Bohmont stated that the cost would be low because the university already has the facilities and the talents to teach the first year sciences. This appropriation would allow for two veterinary teachers to teach anatomy. With Colorado they would have contract packages and the students in this first year school would study the same books and listen to the same tapes as the Colorado school.

Jack Walther is a veterinarian in Reno and stated that he hires good pre-vet students and watches them work and feels there is a need for a school. He felt he was very lucky to have been accepted in a veterinary school and the students he had talked to were interested in returning to their home towns. At the time he went to school they did not have WICHE and he went to Davis in California for his pre-med.

Dean Bohmont stated that there are 19 veterinary schools in the United States and two new ones are being built, but not in the west. There is only one Nevada student in Davis and in Colorado they usually get 3 or 4. He stated that there is \$500,000 that was willed to the state provided they created a veterinary school. This must be used by July 1976 or by default it will be given to California. They are not sure, however, that this first year school will qualify for the \$500,000.

Assemblyman Getto felt that if the bill language was changed from veterinary program to first year veterinary school there would be no problem because "school" is not clearly defined.

SB 206 "Makes general fund appropriation to division of water resources of state department of conservation and natural resources for certain legal fees, court costs and consulting costs." BDR S-848. Mr. Roland Westergaard stated that \$500,000 is needed to defray legal costs and they have three cases pending in court presently.

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AB 430 "Requires state health officer to allocate and expend a minimum amount from the crippled children's fund to purchase hearing aids."
BDR 40-1274. Dr. Carr explained that they would like at least \$8500 for hearing aid purchases which would present no problem to the budget. Kirk Adams, Principal of Ruby Thomas School in Las Vegas, stated that this school has the largest program for the profoundly deaf students. He felt that the state has a responsibility to help deaf children in helping them acquire hearing aids. Their major concern is for the children who have the most severe hearing losses. These children are deprived language input and speech input and they feel the financial help from the crippled children is not enough. Parents have a hard time buying \$900 hearing aids. They are presently restricted to \$180 per aid. Emotional problems and frustrations occur in children who cannot hear. They suggest to parents that babies should have hearing aids so they can begin to hear sounds. Parents whose incomes are limited become very protective of the child's hearing aid and do not allow them to wear them while they play which is a very important time for them to be listening to other children. They are not in favor of the \$240 restriction for each aid as they need some flexibility. There is no ceiling on the requested amount because each problem is different and they are not sure how much will have to be spent but they need to start with at least \$8500. They presently have 15-20 children who need help.

Chairman Mello stated that the bill is not clear and this amount could go up to any amount of money. There is also nothing in the bill that states the person has to meet specific requirements. Dr. Carr stated that they have requirements that must be met. 24 children were outfitted with hearing aids at a cost of \$4500. Mr. Robinson stated that a bill was passed last session that hearing aid specialists must be licensed. Dr. Herman stated that \$180 is the present maximum which they can contribute to a child's hearing aid. They have a scale that is used to determine how much of the hearing aid will be paid for. Chairman Mello questioned the need for Legislation if this amount could be raised by a regulation.

AB 350 "Authorizes transfer of monies from highway fund salary adjustment account to department of motor vehicles administrative services account."
BDR S-1097. Howard Hill stated that the purpose of the transfer is to allow for an increase in postage as the rates have gone up. Mr. Bible stated that an estimated \$300,000 would be reverted. The intent of

this bill is to use an existing appropriation rather than making a new one.

AB 325 "Credits fund for engine emission control implementation back to state highway fund and removes requirement that fees collected for such programs be credited back to state highway fund." BDR 40-271. John Ciardella stated that if this is not passed the monies now in the fund would revert to the highway fund on July 1, 1975 and they do not feel enough money could be generated fast enough to keep the program going. Mr. Hill stated that the Legislative Auditors had suggested several amendments: Section 1, Page 1, Line 5: After the word "treasury" add: "To the credit of the motor vehicle special fund which is hereby created."

Section 1, Page 1, Line 10, 11 and 12: Eliminate "and deposited in the state treasury pursuant to subsection 1 of this section shall be held in trust as a credit to the department of motor vehicles to be withdrawn by that". Replace with "shall be used by the". It would then read "2. All fees collected shall be used by the department as needed...".

Add a new section to read as follows: (A new subsection could be added to Section 1). "Fund transactions of the motor vehicle special fund shall be accounted for in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for special revenue funds and the provisions of the fiscal and accounting procedures law."

Mr. Winkleman stated that they are in agreement with the recommendations made by the Legislative auditors.

AB 206 "Makes general fund supplemental appropriation for support of Nevada State Council on the Arts." BDR S-833. Jim Deere stated that there is some misunderstanding that still exists regarding this agency. The original request was for \$5280 which would provide for one full-time secretary and operational expenses. They are now requesting \$2518 for this secretary and increased expenses and \$2500 to contribute to the Western States Arts Foundation. They feel that with this contribution they could reach the whole state. They are also afraid that if a contribution is not made, some of the tours might be routed away from Nevada. Mr. Bible stated that they thought the supplemental would be used to make up deficit spending. Mr. Deere stated that they at first wanted to make a contribution of \$1900 but now it is \$2500. The Council would not stop if this \$2500 contribution is not made, but they would like to carry their weight.

Chairman Mello stated that they now have a program director and the budget shows that they are only requesting one and wondered if he was not talking about two program directors. One that is being paid with separate funds and one being requested to be funded by the state. Mr. Deere stated that this was funded by the National Endowment of the Arts, but now they would like it funded with state funds. Usually, this funding would have had to have been matched, but because they need the director, the National Endowment allowed them enough funds for a program director. If the position is not approved they would write an emergency request to the National Endowment to approve this position for another year, but on a matching basis from the program funds. Mr. Weise stated that the program funds have not been spent for the past two years and felt that state money could be deleted from the budget without jeopardizing the programs.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.