

Assembly

MINUTES

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

April 9, 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 and Bill Bible

AB 409 "Makes appropriation from state general fund to office of inspector of mines." BDR S-1015.

Mr. Bible stated that they have drafted some amendments to the bill (see attached). The General Fund would support only the non-safety and non-health duties of this office.

Mr. Dreyer made a motion to adopt the amendment. Mr. Wittenberg seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Dreyer made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as amended. Mr. Wittenberg seconded. Motion passed.

SB 157 "Makes appropriation to health division of department of human resources to provide monies for emergency medical services training and purchase of ambulances for rural areas of state." BDR S-855.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to amend this bill back to the \$250,000. Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as amended. Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed.

SB 177 "Makes appropriation from general fund in state treasury to department of highways for continuation of state and county road improvement program." BDR S-793.

Mr. Howard made a motion to amend this bill back from \$300,000 to \$600,000. Mr. Dreyer seconded. Motion passed.

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

SB 183 "Increases monthly benefit payable to widow of Justice of Supreme Court." BDR 1-794.

Chairman Mello stated that they wanted to amend the age from 65 to 60 and raise the \$400 to \$500. Mr. Bible stated that this is an administration bill and they do not make recommendations, but they do recommend the \$50 increase. John Dolan stated that it would cost \$6000 to raise this to \$500 and there are presently five widows. He also stated that it was more advantageous for a judge to belong to the judicial retirement system rather than the Public Employees Retirement System.

Mrs. Brookman made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass." Motion failed because of lack of second.

Mr. Glover made a motion to amend the age from 65 to 60. Mrs. Brookman seconded. Motion failed.

Mr. Bremner stated that he felt it should not be lowered because they are not contributing to this at all and it is given to them free.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to amend the \$400 to \$500. Mr. Glover seconded. Motion failed.

Mr. Dreyer made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as written. Mr. Weise seconded. Motion passed.

SB 184 "Increases monthly benefit payable to widow of District judge who had qualified for state pension." BDR 1-795.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass". Mr. Glover seconded. Motion passed with Mr. Robinson, Mr. Dreyer, and Mr. Bremner voting no.

AB 165 "Requires state controller to transfer from general fund to Fish and Game fund an amount equivalent to moneys collected for violations of certain laws enforced by game wardens." BDR 45-259

Mr. Robinson stated that he felt the game wardens would become more zealous and issue more citations as a way of generating funds.

Mr. Bremner stated that they are in a position of selling more licenses rather than protecting the game. He did not think the wardens would become more zealous and felt they did need help.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to recommend an "indefinite postponement". Mr. Glover seconded. Motion passed.

SB 113 "Permits temporary transfer of moneys from general fund to fish and game fund in certain circumstances." BDR 45-255.

Mr. Bremner made a motion to amend this bill to be effective upon passage and approval. Mr. Howard seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Bremner made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as amended. Mr. Howard. Motion passed.

SB 58 "Consolidates two revolving funds in rehabilitation division, removes requirement for bond on deposits insured by FDIC and set inventory requirement." BDR 38-114.

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

SB 74 "Revises fund structure in health division of department of human resources." BDR 40-139.

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

SB 77 "Creates various welfare division funds." BDR 38-148.

Chairman Mello stated they have received a conflict notice with **AB** 111.

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

SB 93 "Revises provisions relating to funds for alcohol and drug abuse."
BDR 40-115

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

SB 94 "Revises fund structure for Nevada's children's homes." BDR 38-215.

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

Nevada Council on the Arts - Mr. Robinson stated that he felt this program was doing very good for the people of the state of Nevada. Mr. Bremner stated that it would be a big mistake to have two program directors and the organizational chart shows that they will have two. Mr. Weise felt that the program funds were not going for programs. Mr. Dolan stated that if this were approved a letter of intent could be written but he did not think

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the Governor would allow them to apply the funds for additional positions. Mr. Robinson stated that the sub-committee met with Syd Robinson and the Council was made more clear to them. The Federal Government keeps a close watch on the funds and the people on the Council keep a close watch on how the funds are used. The position shown on the chart is not true. Mr. Weise stated that they already have one position out of these funds and assumes that this could be done again.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to recommend approval of the budget as recommended by the Governor. Mr. Dreyer seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Weise voted no.

Mr. Bremner requested a letter of intent stated that it is not the intent to have more than one program director.

Comprehensive Statewide Planning - Mr. Robinson made a motion to delete the two new positions of senior account clerk and clerk typist. Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed. Mrs. Brookman voted no.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to reduce the print duplicating copy in both years by \$1500 each which would allow \$3000 in the first year and \$3500 in the second year. Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Weise is recorded as not voting.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to recommend approval of the budget as recommended by the Governor and as amended. Mr. Robinson seconded. Motion passed.

Secretary of State Archives - John Dolan stated that they presently have 1166 feet of extra storage space in the basement of the capital. For the same amount of rent money they could have 5000 feet of storage space in a private warehouse.

Mr. Weise made a motion to amend this budget by adding a storekeeper, steel shelving, record storage containers, extension phone and electric typewriter. Mr. Robinson seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to recommend approval of this budget as recommended by the Governor and as amended. Mr. Bremner seconded. **Motion passed.**

over

Administration Personnel - Mr. Weise made a motion to delete the two Rehab Coordinators. Mr. Robinson seconded. Chairman Mello stated that he has received many letters from employees who have been help through the OAP program. It also saves the state money by helping an employee who has worked for the state many years and of which the state has invested time and money. Mr. Robinson stated he could not see duplicating services as most of these services are already being offered, such as the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Mrs. Brookman stated that this is a referral service. Mr. Bible stated that these Rehab Coordinators refer troubled employees to the proper agency for help. Mr. Robinson felt it was an awful expensive referral service. Mr. Glover stated that these positions are needed as the people with problems do not seek help and need to be referred to people they can trust. Mr. Howard stated he believed that the Personnel Division should just handle applicants and personnel matters and does not feel this division should get involved with rehabilitation. Chairman Mello stated that the counselors are trained people and require counseling skills to refer people to the proper place for assistance. Motion failed.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as recommended by the Governor. Mrs. Brookman seconded. Motion passed with Mr. Howard, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Weise and Mr. Dreyer voting no.

Computer Facility - Mr. Glover made a motion to recommend approval as recommended by the Governor. Mr. Wittenberg seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Weise asked for a committee introduction on a bill that would "Require review by state board of examiners of certain state contracts." BDR 27-1643.* Mr. Bible stated that they see all of the contracts when it is time to pay them and are reviewed by the budget office to see what the agency is contracting for but they do not have the authority to deny them. John Dolan

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stated that if the bill comes back and passed he would like to see that a copy of all the contracts are sent to the Office of Fiscal Analysis.

Mr. Bremner moved for committee introduction and referral to the Committee on Government Affairs. Mr. Howard seconded. Motion passed.

Supreme Court - Mr. Weise stated that he did see a need for the two new positions for law clerks as they currently have a law clerk that is paid out of LEAA funds which have not been terminated. He felt there was good justification for the one and perhaps the other for back-up. Mr. Glover stated that he had no objection to one law clerk but he thought two would be out of line. There is a back-log and a need for help, but the Judges do not work a full day nor do they work a full year. He felt the elected officials should work a full year so the new positions would not have to be constantly added to the budget. He felt that if they did their work there would be no need for new positions. He did not think that they could direct another branch of government but it would help by not approving these positions. The court works only one week out of the month. He feels they have an obligation to the taxpayers of the state.

Mr. Robinson stated that for the Supreme Court to educate the district judges is a presumptive thing as some of the district judges have more experience than the Supreme Court judges. He does not think that the Supreme Court should get into any education aspect and agrees with Mr. Glover.

Mr. Glover made a motion to amend this budget by deleting the law clerk and the secretary. Mr. Howard seconded. Motion passed. Mrs. Brookman voted no.

Mr. Glover made a motion to include the Unclassified employees in the Supreme Court budget in the Unclassified act. Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Glover explained that he felt the salaries should be set because they presently can take money appropriated for a position and increase another employee's salary with it.

John Dolan stated that the Contractual Services are for the law school student intern program for screening appeals. Mr. Robinson stated he could not see the need for the law student screening program since they have the law clerks and made a motion to amend the budget by deleting the \$5000 for these Contractual Services. Mr. Weise seconded. Motion passed. Mrs. Brookman voted no.

Over

Mr. Weise made a motion to recommend approval as recommended by the Governor and as amended. Mr. Dreyer seconded. Motion passed. Mrs. Brookman voted no.

District Judges travel - Chairman Mello stated that Senate Finance cut the Out of State travel \$2748 which lowered the amount to \$4000 each year.

Mr. Weise made a motion to amend the Out of State travel to \$4000 each year. Mr. Glover.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to amend the Out of State travel to \$3000 each year. Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed. Mrs. Brookman voted no.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to recommend approval as recommended by the Governor and as amended. Mr. Glover seconded. Motion passed. Mrs. Brookman voted no.

Supreme Court Justices and Widows Pensions - Mr. Glover made a motion to recommend approval as recommended by the Governor. Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed.

Education Commission of the States - Chairman Mello stated that in the past the Ways and Means Committee has always passed this. He had the opportunity of being sent to the last seminar which was very productive. Senate Finance does not like this and one of the Senators has stated that he cannot understand why we should pay the money which was \$10,000 last year to receive all the notifications that are sent out. At the last seminar they found out that Nevada only receives certain notifications and do not receive

the important ones. The panel is made up of Legislators with a Governor as Chairman of each panel. The purpose is to get Legislators more involved in education and not to inform the educators. They have been in favor of more reform as far as education is concerned. More in favor of accountability of teachers.

Mr. Wittenberg stated that the Education Committee has gone through the Research Department on different bills that they have had to consider. They were able to get some information out of the Education Commission but it has changed even since the last seminar. He is informed that if we were a member, information could be sent right away. Letters are sent out offering different research projects they have done that can be brought in for education Legislators ahead of time in areas of accountability, community school concept, etc. They have research projects that cannot be obtained because we are not a member.

Chairman Mello stated that we are also informed on how Nevada stands in teachers salaries. They do not go to the local school districts for the information but they have a chart that shows the average and everything else. This is not the same information that is obtained from the school districts.

Mr. Dreyer made a motion to recommend approval as recommended by the Governor. Mrs. Brookman seconded. Motion passed.

AB 39 "Provides for participation in compact on education." BDR 34-47.

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

Mr. Glover gave a short sub-committee report on human resources. He stated that they have finished the first phase of their report. He provided the committee with a list of 40 budgets that they are recommending approval as recommended by the Governor. These are non-controversial budgets that had no problems. The four that are crossed out on the list have bills pending.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT BLANK

Amendments to Assembly Bill

No. 409 (BDR _____)Proposed by _____
_____AMENDMENT NO.

Amend section 1, page 1,

line 3: by deleting \$100,215 and inserting \$26,880.

line 4: by deleting \$197,579 and inserting \$53,760.

line 5: by deleting \$202,113 and inserting \$53,760.

Amend section 2, page 1, by deleting line 25 and inserting:

"NRS 512.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

512.100 FUNDS. Funds for the operation of the office of the inspector of mines shall be provided by direct legislative appropriation from the general fund and from premiums collected under the provisions of chapter 616 and 617 of NRS. Upon receiving a monthly-statement showing the amount of salaries paid for the month to the persons entitled thereto pursuant to the provisions of chapter 284 of NRS, the state controller shall pay an amount equal to that shown on the statement from the sum appropriated in subsection to the commission."

Add section 3, by inserting:

"Sec. 3. NRS 512.105(5) is hereby amended to read as follows:

5. Members shall [receive no compensation for their services but shall] be entitled to receive \$40 per day for attendance at meetings and their traveling expenses and subsistence allowances in the transaction of public business in the amounts authorized by law for other state officers. Claims for such [traveling] expenses [and subsistence allowances] shall be approved by the inspector of mines. [and paid from appropriations made to the office of the inspector of mines.]"

Add section 4, by inserting:

"Sec. 4. NRS 512.110(1) is hereby amended to read as follows:

1. [Within the limits of legislative appropriations, the] The inspector

of mines [has the power to appoint] may employ deputy [or] and assistant inspectors to assist in the performance of the duties of the inspector of mines. All deputy or assistant inspectors so employed shall have the power to perform all duties required of the inspector of mines."

Add section 5, by inserting:

"Sec. 5. This act shall become effective upon passage and approval."