

Assembly

MINUTES

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

May 14, 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. Robinson, Mr. Weise and Mr. Wittenberg. Mr. Howard was absent.

ALSO PRESENT: John Dolan, Bill Bible, William Rendall, Vern Bennett, Paul Lumos, Dr. Ken Hansen, Smokey Davis, Dr. Ted Tower, Dr. Jack Campbell, Ken Guinn, Dick Morgan, Shirley Wedow, Speaker Keith Ashworth, and Bill Swackhammer.

AB 788 "Permits purchase of retirement credits by certain employees of the Nevada State Museum." BDR S-2075

Mr. Glover stated that this bill concerns three employees of the museum. These employees have a legitimate claim and they need relief in this area.

Bill Rendall stated that in 1972 the Internal Revenue Service ruled that salaries of public institutions by foundation are not exempt. The Museum carried three people under this foundation. The foundation stated that they would no longer carry these people and therefore the state picked up the salaries. Their retirement contribution was then raised from 7% to 11% but they were not allowed anything for their credits for the years they worked.

Vern Bennett, Public Employee's Retirement System, stated that SB 336 has the necessary enabling legislation that will help these people. He stated that they do need assistance but it can be handled through SB 336.

Chairman Mello stated that if that is the case, this piece of legislation would not be needed.

AB 166 "Changes formula utilized to calculate state's share of operation and maintenance costs of Carson City sewerage system." BDR S-558

Mr. Paul Lumos explained that this bill was drafted to adjust the annual sewer service fees to state buildings and take the new state buildings and remove the clause in the contract that waives the hookup fee for these buildings. He requested the following amendments:

Sec 2, line 12 following "buildings" add "which were existing or under construction on July 1, 1975."

Lines 19 and 21 change from "\$1.60" to "\$2.10"

Add Paragraph 3 "Should new state prison facilities be constructed after July 1, 1975 the sewer use fee shall be computed and paid monthly utilizing the rate established for Residential customers within the Urban District of Carson City (Presently a monthly service charge of \$1.00 plus 0.28 per 1000 gallons of metered domestic water delivered to the premises) should experience prove that the Residential rate is not equitable to the State of Nevada after comparisons be made to private consumption in Carson City, the rates herein established may be negotiated to a mutually acceptable lower figure."

Add Paragraph 4 "Connection fees for new prison constructed in Carson City shall be that established in the Carson City Municipal Code for hospitals. (Presently \$270 for each 6 beds.)"

Paragraph 5 "Contracts shall delete reference in existing contract to waiver of hookup fees for new state buildings."

Mr. Glover made a motion to approve the above amendments. Mr. Weise

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seconded. Motion passed with Mr. Bremner voting no. Mr. Weise made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as amended. Mr. Glover seconded. Motion passed.

AB 525 "Creates state publications information center." BDR 33-506

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

AB 791 "Authorizes appropriate disposition of Virginia and Truckee Railroad rolling stock." BDR S-1930

Mr. Dreyer made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass". Mr. Wittenberg seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Glover stated that the supporters of this bill have come up with a way to try and raise money for this project.

SB 350 "Makes state ad valorem tax levy for fiscal years 1975-1976, 1976-1977." BDR S-705.

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

SB 352 "Expands age range within which special instruction or services to certain handicapped minors are provided." BDR 34-1125

Dr. Hansen explained that this bill increases the age limit downward on mentally retarded in order to give them an earlier start.

Smokey Davis stated that 5% of Nevada's population is Mentally Retarded. Early education for the Mentally Retarded is extremely important. Parents are advised that there is no hope for the child and they are institutionalized at a cost of over \$1 million for life. These programs can prevent institutionalization and help the child be transferred from an institution into society. With the passage of this legislation these children can have the opportunity to reach their maximum potential and not be institutionalized at all. The cost per special education unit is \$14,500 or from \$1300 to \$3100 per child depending on the severity of their retardation.

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Dr. Campbell stated that 50% of a child's intelligence is established by the time a person is four years old. This is a crucial time particularly for the Mentally Retarded. These Mentally Retarded individuals can be changed. He then showed a videotape of several children's achievement. He stated that the earlier they get them, the better chance they have of becoming contributing members of society.

Mrs. D. Davis, Nevada Mental Health Institute, stated that since the availability of the special education program the population in the institute has been reduced along with the cost. A large portion of the population in the institute cannot care for themselves and have never had any type of education. If an individual receives some education at age 3, this can be prevented.

Ken Guinn, Superintendent of Schools, stated that they support this. They feel that if the parent keeps the child at home rather than placing him in an institution, the education department should do their part by putting them into the schools for 2-3 hours per day.

Richard Morgan, NSEA, stated that they also support this bill.

Shirley Wedow, Parent Teacher's Association, stated that they too support this bill.

Mr. Robinson questioned why the age limit is not lower than three if it is better to get the child at the early age.

Mr. Davis stated that the same studies that proved early education intervention also showed that a child younger than age three needs the care and understanding they get from their parents.

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Dr. Tower stated that training skills are part of the learning process and teaching the children to dress themselves, etc., is a part of the school curriculum.

Dr. Hansen felt that one reasonable step at a time should be taken. It would be possible to have a more extensive program but it must be done on a building block basis.

Dr. Campbell also stated that they are trying to reach the children in the rural areas and have in the past even had only one child with one teacher.

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

Speaker Keith Ashworth stated that he is interested in a bill (AB 447) that provides a uniform notary public act. This will be taken out of the Governor's office and placed in the Secretary of State's office.

Bill Swackhammer, Secretary of State, stated that this Act is badly needed in Nevada, but if it is placed in his office he will need an additional clerk to handle the job. He stated that the position could be placed in the bill rather than the budget.

Mr. Robinson made a motion that all bills in committee shall be considered emergency bills and the five day notice of hearing be waived. Mr. Dreyer seconded. Motion passed.

AB 701 "Provides for special fishing permits for certain institutions for the blind and physically and mentally handicapped." BDR 45-1720

Mr. Bremner stated that Fish and Game has no objection to this bill as it will have little or no fiscal impact.

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

SB 153 "Makes appropriation to contingency fund created by NRS 353.266 for Interim Finance Committee." BDR S-771

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.