

## MINUTES

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

May 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, Bill Bible, Senator James Gibson, Dr. Lloyd D. Smith, Mike Melner, Senator Mary Gojack, Kate Butler, Frank Fahrenkoff, John Meder, Chancellor Humphrey, Dr. Fred Anderson, Colonel Pratt, and Major Tony Clark.

SB 552 "Makes appropriation for construction of solar energy research laboratory in Clark County, Nevada as additional facility of Desert Research Institute of University of Nevada." BDR S-688

Senator Gibson explained that most of the emphasis in the Desert Research Institute has been placed in weather modification rather than solar energy and felt that Nevada could make a real contribution in solving the energy crisis. \$370,000 would be needed for the construction of the facility.

Dr. Lloyd P. Smith stressed the importance of solar energy and stated that Boulder City, Nevada has much interest in having the facility in that location.

SB 381 "Prohibits discrimination against credit applicants on basis of sex or marital status." BDR 52-432

Senator Gojack felt that granting of credit should be done on a broader and more fair basis and not based on sex or marital status. It has also been shown that it is to the benefit of the bank as their deposits increase. The first reprint brings the bill in closer conformance with Federal Law.

Mike Melner stated that the fiscal note could be eliminated as they could do without the Investigator and related expenses. This would be more of an educational program rather than an investigative program.

Kate Butler stated that Nevadans for ERA support this bill.

Frank Fahrenkoff stated that the Small Loan Companies also support this bill.

Mrs. Brookman made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" without the fiscal note. Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed.

SB 360 "Transfers subdivision review assistance functions to state land use planning agency and makes an appropriation." BDR 26-697

John Meder explained that this would be a transfer to an agency that is in a position to handle and deal with the functions. He stated that \$5,000 has been spent and \$120,000 should be reverted.

Mr. Weise felt that this was a function of the local planning boards.

Mr. Meder explained that this cannot be executed without the request of the local government and that this bill is at the request of the Legislative Auditors.

SB 584 "Requires contracts from students certified under Western Regional Higher Education Compact." BDR 34-1988

Dr. Fred Anderson stated that this would provide for repayment to the state by the students and he did not feel the students should have to repay the money as it is discrimination to the out of state student. They have to pay more than the in-state student in expenses as they

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do not have the opportunity to live at home. This bill also provides that a student shall practice in Nevada in a town of less than 7500 people or repay the money.

Chancellor Humphrey stated that the university suggestion would accomplish encouraging vets to come back to the small counties, but this bill does not do that.

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

SB 133 "Fixes responsibility for cost of counsel to defend members of Nevada National Guard in certain civil and criminal actions." BDR 36-503

Major Tony Clark explained that if a defendant retains his own counsel he must pay the cost. But under this bill, he can be defended by the Attorney General in civil actions or a Judge Advocate in criminal actions provided the incident occurred while in the performance of his duty. This has not had to be used before, but it would provide a vehicle in case the occasion arises.

Mr. Bremner felt that "in performance of duty" was rather vague and could apply to traveling to and from work.

Mr. Weise stated that it might be a safeguard that the case has to go before the Board of Examiners, but felt there should be some way to amend the bill so that willful or negligent actions are not included.

Mr. Weise made a motion to amend the bill to not include gross or criminal negligence. Mr. Glover seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Bremner made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as amended. Mr. Weise seconded. Motion passed.

AB 164 "Establishes minimum daily pay and allowances for Nevada National Guard members called to active duty." BDR 36-205

Major Clark explained that this bill has not been amended since it was enacted in 1967. \$30 per day would be paid to any member that was called to state active duty and was not paid by the Federal Government. The financial obligations remain the same when they are called to active duty but the pay runs from \$11.40 to \$27.89.

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

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SB 151 "Makes appropriation to state distributive school fund." BDR S-775

Bill Bible explained that this is a \$1 million one shot to the local school districts for non-recurring capital outlay.

Mr. Wittenberg stated that he felt the amount should be increased since some of the One-Shots and surplus funds have been curtailed by the Capital Improvements and Arden Complex. They are using some of the \$1 million for new buses.

Mr. Bible stated that the school districts would tend to work these dollars into equipment and move the appropriation for equipment into salaries.

Mr. Robinson felt that the school districts have received a fair amount of money and any extra should be given to an area where people would benefit.

Mr. Wittenberg stated that the only money that could be used to increase this amount is money from other One-Shots.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to increase the \$1 million to \$2 million. Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion failed. Mr. Weise made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass". Mr. Robinson seconded. Motion passed with Mr. Wittenberg voting no.

AB 245 "Makes appropriation to division of state parks of state department of conservation and natural resources to provide for consulting and contract services and capital improvements for Nevada state park system." BDR S-858

Chairman Mello stated that there is a Resolution that gives the Interim Finance the authority to try to find a home for the V and T Railroad and restore it. He does not feel that it would deteriorate much more in two years.

Mr. Weise felt that the Resolution would provide a means of protecting the equipment without spending \$1/2 million.

Mr. Weise made a motion to amend the amount to \$1,372,500. Mr. Howard seconded. Motion passed with Mr. Glover and Mr. Wittenberg voting no. Mrs. Brookman made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as amended. Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed

AB 332 "Removes certain ceiling and comparative standards in classified employee's salary plan." BDR 23-829

AB 472 "Increases maximum salaries for classified employees and provides salary adjustments." BDR 23-1394

John Dolan stated that both these bills are amending the same NRS and the bills should go along as a package. This would eliminate the 95% clause and allow some of the employees to get the salary that was just passed.

Chairman Mello stated that there are 60 positions impacted by the new salary schedule.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to amend AB 472 by deleting Section 7; amending Section 6 from 7% to the 4% and 2% and also Section 2 "this action shall become effective upon passage and approval and be retroactive to January 1, 1975." Mr. Weise seconded. Motion passed with Mr. Howard voting no. Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as amended. Mr. Glover seconded. Motion passed with Mr. Weise and Mr. Howard voting no.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.