

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 19, 1975

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The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Senator Floyd R. Lamb was in the Chair.

PRESENT: Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman
Senator James I. Gibson, Vice-Chairman
Senator B. Mahlon Brown
Senator William J. Raggio
Senator C. Clifton Young
Senator Warren L. Monroe
Senator Lee E. Walker

OTHERS: Howard Hill, Division of Motor Vehicles
Leonard Winkleman, Division Of Motor Vehicles
Hale Bennett, Division of Motor Vehicles
William A. Fitzpatrick, DMV
Grant Bastian, Highway Department
James Lambert, Highway Patrol
Winston Richards, DMV
John Skillern, DMV
John Borda, DMV
Howard Barrett, Budget Director
Cy Ryan, UPI
Ron Sparks, Fiscal Analyst

DMV - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Senator Lamb stated that there has been some comment concerning the cost increases in this Division. Mr. Howard Hill said that as the population increases, so must the services.

Senator Lamb asked about the Legal and Court expenses. Mr. Hill said this includes the salary of the Deputy Attorney General.

Senator Brown asked about the other Public Relations Expense. Mr. Hill said this is for notices on hearings, tapes and photos, and that "PR" is really a misnomer.

Senator Young asked if the Department could comply with regulations without the auditors who were not recommended. Mr. Hill said that these would help with the budget.

Senator Brown asked what could be done about enforcing the No-Fault Insurance Law. Mr. Hill said that the State of Utah has a program whereby an individual's signature on their registration indicated that they do have insurance, and if necessary, legal action can be taken on this. Mr. Leonard Winkelman said that the ad hoc committee he served on concerning this insurance said that there are no penalty provisions. Mr. Hill said that in Utah the program is basically working, but for Nevada it would take an increase in staff to actually initiate enforcement. Senator Monroe asked if it was possible to make it mandatory that No-Fault coverage be non-cancellable for one year. Mr. Winkleman said that the average individual applying cannot pay for annual or six-month coverage.

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ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - DMV

There were no questions asked on this area.

AUTOMATION - DMV

Senator Lamb noted that there will be a \$100,000 increase from the first to the second year of the Biennium. Mr. Hale Bennett said this is due to \$24,000 for salaries, and the cost of Data Processing equipment.

Mr. Bastian said that it is not the Highway Department's place to question the programs of DMV, and they will work with the Governor's recommendation.

Mr. Howard Barrett said that there is a possibility that Facility Charges may change, and if ESD does not pay part, then this budget's request will have to be increased. Mr. Barrett said that at this time, the Federal Government has not decided how much they will give ESD for this.

Senator Raggio asked about the Shift Differential, and if this was done differently from department to department. Mr. Barrett said that this is five percent, and is done by classification.

LAW ENFORCEMENT HIGHWAY PATROL

Chief James Lambert said that the Special NHP Officer is really a court hearing officer, and the two Communication Operators recommended are for the dispatch agency on the 24 hour law enforcement system. Senator Raggio asked if it was possible to charge the radio users. Chief Lambert said that this cannot be done until budgeted.

Chief Lambert said that the Overtime Pay is needed to comply with the Fair Labor and Standards Act, and the Holiday Pay is for an average of five holidays (time and one-half), for eight hour shifts.

Senator Brown said that it showed in the Fiscal Analyst's handout that the DMV request has increased by 81%. Mr. Hill said that \$185,000 will be reverted from the Highway Patrol budget. Mr. Barrett said that the request is based on higher cost/mile figures than the Budget Office used. Mr. Ron Sparks said that this item of operating costs and other items has been historically over-budgeted. Chief Lambert said that part of this is because it cost from \$1,200 to \$1,300 every time and engine is blown, and this happens much too often.

Senator Gibson asked how many miles are put on the patrol cars. Chief Lambert said an average of 20,000 miles, before they are checked.

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(Mr. Barrett in response to an earlier inquiry of Senator Raggio's, said that the Shift Differential is paid from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.)

Senator Brown asked if new cars are issued every 60,000 miles. Chief Lambert said that this is the policy of the State. Chief Lambert said that for Automobiles, this is a two-year projection and the Department has never expended all of this allocation.

Senator Lamb asked about the Remote Base Construction. Chief Lambert said this is for two bases for Northern Nevada.

HIGHWAY PATROL SPECIAL FUND

Chief Lambert said that for 1975-76 and 1976-77, revenue is expected from the proposed increase on \$1,00 on registration.

Senator Gibson said that it was not the intent of the Legislature to hire more people under this fund than it can support. Chief Lambert said that in the past, there has been an annual 10% increase in registration, however, last year there was no increase, and so this accounts for the request. Senator Lamb noted that this seems like a backdoor request in order to impose another tax. Senator Gibson said that originally it was stated that an individual could not be hired without the available revenue, and now this is being done on projected revenue. Chief Lambert said that there are 61 employees now, and they were projected on reserve funds, however, this depleted.

Senator Gibson asked why there will be a transfer to the Highway Patrol budget. Chief Lambert said that this will probably not be possible now. Mr. Barrett said that this was justified because it allowed them not to ask for an increase in the regular budget. Senator Gibson stated that they were to adjust manpower in accord with the special tax income for the special fund, and not to adjust the fund in order to accommodate the manpower. Mr. Bastian said that the manpower increase is due in part to the Highway Act on the 55 m.p.h. speed limit which is monitored federally. Mr. Bastian said that the federal government has said that it will not approve any projects unless there is adequate enforcement.

Senator Walker asked about the Special Reports. Chief Lambert said that this was for blood test, and for narcotic screening.

DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Hill said that the federal government has said that it will fund this program, so no approval is needed on this.

DRIVERS LICENSE - DMV

Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the workload increase and the increase in print duplicating copy is due to the advent of the Driver's Handbook. Senator Gibson asked if this was done by State Printing. Mr. Hill said yes.

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Senator Raggio asked if the license with a photograph operation can be handled by the \$15,000 starter cost. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the \$1.00 increase in cost will finance the Department for the increased operating and personnel costs. Senator Lamb asked why the \$15,000 was needed. Mr. Hill said that the money collected immediately would not be available to the agency for one month, and in six months this amount will be paid back.

Mr. Grant Bastian said that he is concerned that the \$1.00 charge will not actually cover costs, and the costs of duplicates. Mr. Bastian said that the Highway Department would be willing to subsidize at this level, but does not want the deficit to worsen.

MOTOR CARRIER SECTION

Senator Monroe asked why there is a 65.8% increase in operating. Mr. Winston Richards said that new employees will cause an increase in revenues. Mr. Hill said that the increase is largely due to vehicle operation. Mr. Richards said that there has been an increase in the cost of raw materials, i.e., aluminum, and reflective sheeting.

Senator Young asked what was the insurance on the State Vehicles. Mr. Barrett said that all are on an Independent Insurance basic policy, and most are only covered for liability.

REGISTRATION - DMV

Mr. John Skillern said that the two new positions were granted if funded by a charge to other agencies. Mr. Skillern said that the Welfare Division is receptive to the idea of paying for the service.

MOTOR VEHICLE POLLUTION CONTROL

Mr. Skillern said that this is basically self-sustaining, and is located in Clark County.

Senator Gibson asked about the Equipment Repair costs. Mr. Skillern said that this was for periodic checks on the equipment.

Senator Young asked if this was an annual inspection. Mr. Hill said that this is only done during the registration process on a used car purchase.

Senator Gibson said that he had heard a great number of complaints on this because there isn't only the fee charge, but the cost of repairs too imposed on the citizen.

HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM


Mr. John Borda said that this program expects \$415,000 from the Federal Government, and \$200,000 from a grant due to the reduction in highway deaths in Nevada. Mr. Borda said that the Out-of-State request has

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increased because the Federal government has said that the participants must attend certain conferences, and In-State is because the agency must monitor all projects.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


SHEBA WOOLLEY, SECRETARY

APPROVED BY:


FLOYD R. LAMB, CHAIRMAN