

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 9, 1975

513

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 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 Clifton Young
Senator Lee E. Walker
Senator Warren L. Monroe

OTHERS: Charles Collins, State Retirement Board
Jim Wittenberg, State Personnel
Richard Morgan, NSEA
Bob Gagnier, SNEA
Howard Barrett, Budget Director
Ron Sparks, Fiscal Analyst
Cy Ryan, UPI

SB 190

Mr. Charles Collins said that in reference to NRS 286.160, SB 190 should provide the unclassified salary for the assistant Executive officer given this status in SB 336 (Page 5, Lines 11 - 14). Mr. Collins also said that the Board would like to increase the salary of the Executive Director to \$32,500, which would be larger than a 20% increase. Senator Lamb said that all the increases must be consistent. Mr. Collins said that the salary is made from the Administrative fees, and not from the General Fund.

Mr. Jim Wittenberg said that the unclassified positions are the least equitably paid in the State. Senator Lamb asked if anyone had ever quit. Mr. Wittenberg said yes, or dismissed by the Governor. Mr. Wittenberg said that the former Director of Economic Development had quit. Senators Lamb and Raggio agreed that to their knowledge no one had quit because of salary.

Mr. Wittenberg said that when one is discussing the leadership for a \$100 million payroll, this is no area to cut corners.

Senator Young asked what the total amount of money would be, and when they last received a raise. Mr. Wittenberg said \$804,000 per year (slightly over 400 people involved), and their last raise was received on January 1, 1973.

Senator Gibson asked about the turnover. Mr. Wittenberg said the average is 60% every four years, which is lower than the overall classified. Mr. Wittenberg added that many of these people have been through three administrations, and have worked their way up through the system.

Mr. Howard Barrett said that the Head of Employment Security, and the Public Defender resigned.

21

PAGE TWO

SB 190 (Cont.)

Senator Monroe stated that it appears that incompetent people stay in their positions longer. Mr. Wittenberg said yes, but keeping salaries down just contributes further to the problem. Senator Young asked if Mr. Wittenberg was saying that to raise the salaries will increase efficiency. Mr. Wittenberg said that there will be more interest, and therefore more competition.

Senator Gibson remarked that it is inadequate to compare other political sub-divisions, as what other single person than the Governor has the same pressure as the City Manager for an area like Las Vegas. Senator Gibson said that it doesn't bother him that Nevada ranks 30th or so in government salaries, when it is 47th or 48th in population.

Mr. Wittenberg said that there is a reluctance to move unclassified positions at a differential rate, and that size of staff as well as many other variables must be taken into consideration. Mr. Barrett said that there has been an attempt in the past to consider these positions in a differential manner, but it was not successful. Mr. Barrett continued by saying that only three or four are not receiving a 20% increase, excepting the Attorney General's salaries, which were not determined by the Budget Office.

Senator Raggio stated that he was in accord with Senator Gibson that it appears that at times the salaries are not set for the position, but for the individual. Mr. Wittenberg said that at times, the individual capabilities are considered.

Senator Young asked if the benefits will be the same for the unclassified, as the classified. Mr. Barrett said yes, except that housing is provided at the Children's Homes, and Boys and Girls schools. Senator Young asked about the vacation rights. Mr. Wittenberg said that the Board of Examiners adopted the policy of three weeks per year, per employee for up to 10 years service, and sick leave is fifteen days.

There was a general discussion on the portion of the Retirement bill dealing with employer paid benefits. The bill proposed to maintain the 50% - 50% shared cost by employee and employer at 8% each, instead of the 7% each as it now stands. Mr. Bob Gagnier said that the proposal for 100% employer paid benefits was voted down by the Employees Association nine to one. Mr. Gagnier said that the employees felt that such a motion would give too much control to the Retirement Board, and not to the employees. Mr. Richard Morgan said that the public school teachers are in favor of the 100% proposal because

PAGE THREE

this would mean a 2% (average) increase in take-home pay for them, and revenues are short this year.

Senator Young asked Senator Gibson why such an option would not be beneficial. Senator Gibson said that if the basis were changed it should apply to everyone. Mr. Morgan said that every one of the school districts would go for the 100% proposal.

Mr. Gagnier suggested that the 100% Employer Paid Retirement deserved to have an Interim Study. The Senators concurred with this and felt that now was not the right time to introduce this option.

Mr. Barrett gave the Sales Tax Figure for March as the following:
a) \$42,936,102 (8.4% increase)

BUDGETS CLOSED ON APRIL 9, 1975

Consumer Protection:

Senator Young - Approve the Governor's recommendation
Senator Brown - 2nd
Motion Carried.

Environmental Protection:

Senator Young - Approve the Governor's recommendation
Senator Raggio - 2nd
Motion Carried.

Cancer Screening Project:

Senator Brown - Approve the Governor's recommendation
Senator Walker - 2nd
Senator Lamb - Absent
Motion Carried.

Office of State Health Officer:

Senator Raggio - Approve the Governor's recommendation
Senator Young - 2nd
Senator Lamb - Absent
Motion Carried.

Renal Disease Advisory Committee:

Senator Gibson - Approve the Governor's recommendation
Senator Brown - 2nd
Motion Carried.

PAGE FOUR

Comprehensive Health Planning:

Senator Walker - Approve the Governor's recommendation
Senator Young - 2nd
Motion Carried.

Division of Mental Hygiene-Mental Retardation:

Senator Lamb - Amend and Do Pass to remove the
New Position, and the \$25,000 appropriation
each year for the "People" Magazine
No 2nd was received.

Senator Brown - Amend the motion and Do Pass
to remove the \$25,000 appropriation each year
for the "People" magazine, and remove the
position titled, Human Service Educator.
Senator Raggio - 2nd
Senator Walker - "NO"
Motion Carried.

Senator Gibson - Approve the budget as amended.
Senator Young - 2nd
Motion Carried.

Nevada Mental Health Institute:

Senator Gibson - Amend and Approve to remove
the Pastorial Director.
Senator Monroe - 2nd
Senator Young - "NO"
Motion Carried.

Mr. Barrett said that the agency requested that the utilities be
increased to \$232,000 the first year, and \$267,000 for the second
year, and that this be moved into a new catagory.

Senator Gibson - Amend and Approve to also
increase the utilities by the given figures,
and put into a new catagory.
Senator Walker - 2nd
Motion Carried.

Facility for the Mental Offender:

Senator Walker - Approve the Governor's recommendation
Senator Monroe - 2nd
Motion Carried.

Reno Mental Health Center:

Senator Walker - Amend and Approve to decrease the

PAGE FIVE

Reno Mental Health Center (Cont.):

the Regular Appropriation by \$8,000 each year, and increase the Receipts and Recoveries by \$8,000 each year.

Senator Raggio - 2nd
Motion Carried.

Rural Clinics:

Senator Gibson - Amend and Approve to decrease the Regular Appropriation by \$4,251 the first year, and \$4,032 the second year; and, add a new category of Receipts and Recoveries for \$9,000 each year; and, add a new 1/2 time Principal Account Clerk.

Senator Young - 2nd
Motion Carried.

Las Vegas Mental Health Center:

Senator Gibson - Amend and Approve to decrease the Regular Appropriation by \$10,000 each year, and increase the Receipts and Recoveries by \$10,000 each year.

Senator Walker - 2nd
Motion Carried.

Henderson Mental Health Center:

Senator Gibson - Amend and Approve to increase the Receipts and Recoveries by \$8,335 the first year, and \$8,668 the second year; and, add a Senior Account Clerk whose salary will be the amount of the Receipt and Recovery increase.

Senator Walker - 2nd
Motion Carried.

Clark County Emotionally Disturbed Children's Program:

Senator Walker - Amend and Approve to add seven new positions, which will increase the Federal Social Service Funds by \$84,730 the first year, and \$88,654 the second year; increase the In-State Travel by \$3,900 the first year, and \$3,900 the second year; and, increase operating by \$8,798 the first year, and \$11,713 the second year, all to be funded by Federal Social Services.

Senator Gibson - 2nd
Motion Carried.

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518

PAGE SIX

Children's Behavioral Services - Washoe County:

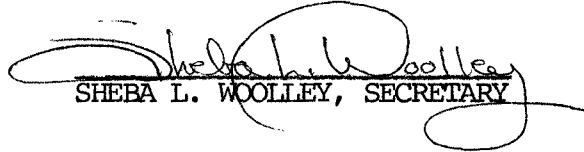
Senator Brown - Approve the Governor's recommendation
Senator Raggio - 2nd
Motion Carried.

Mental Retardation:

Senator Walker - Amend and Approve to increase
the utilities to \$23,498 the first year, and
\$27,000 the second year.
Senator Brown - 2nd
Motion Carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


SHEBA L. WOOLLEY, SECRETARY

APPROVED:


FLOYD R. LAMB, CHAIRMAN