

HEALTH, WELFARE AND STATE INSTITUTIONS

Minutes of Meeting - May 6, 1975

The twenty-eighth meeting of the Health, Welfare and State Institutions Committee was held on May 6, 1975 at 3:20 p.m. in Room 323.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lee E. Walker
Senator Neal
Senator Hilbrecht
Senator Schofield

OTHERS PRESENT: See Exhibit A

S.B. 538 - Requires health insurance policies and health service plans that include coverage of minor children to include provisions of Newborn Children Act.

Mr. Milos Terzich, representing the American Life Insurance Association and the Health Insurance Association of America, advised that the counterpart to this bill came up in the Assembly as A.B. 112. It was passed by the Assembly, amended in the Senate and went back to the Assembly today with a conflict notice. The Assembly is willing to concur; therefore, Mr. Terzich recommends that this committee kill the bill.

Senator Neal moved that the committee indefinitely postpone this bill in view of A.B. 112 being passed; seconded by Senator Hilbrecht; motion carried unanimously.

S.B. 558 - Clarifies types of county hospital services chargeable to county in emergency cases.

Mr. Frank Fahrenkopf, representing Washoe County, stated that the commissioners question how much this is going to cost and where the money will come from. Also, paragraph 3 requires the county to be responsible for emergency room treatment and care of indigents.

Senator Hilbrecht feels that it will cost the counties more money; however, the care should not end at the emergency room. Senator Hilbrecht asked if there is a legitimate reason, if the county is responsible for a person in the emergency room, why they are not responsible for the follow-up care. Senator Hilbrecht asked if this cost would be passed on to the paying patient. Mr. Fahrenkopf stated that an indigent person can get this hospital care, but they may linger on at the hospital for two years.

Senator Walker asked what the costs are to the counties. Mr. Petroni advised that it runs approximately \$100,000 a year. Mr. Petroni further stated that they have been advised by the county that the cut-off for emergency room care is 24 hours.

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Following further testimony on this bill, Sharon Greene stated that there is a Utilization Review Committee that is composed of physicians, and this committee reviews cases to determine if a patient can be released. If the committee determines that a patient is well enough to go home, Medicare can cut that patient off if he does not go home. Page 1, line 19 of the bill should be amended to read: "recovery as determined by the Utilization Review Committee, convalescent....."

Senator Hilbrecht moved "Do Pass" and amend as above; seconded by Senator Neal; motion carried unanimously.

A.B. 579 - Creates medical care advisory group within the welfare division of department of human resources.

Mr. Bill Hadley, State Welfare, advised that they have had the advisory groups for some time now and this bill is to get it into law. There are 6 active committees that meet on a regular basis.

Sharon Greene recommended that it should be included that they hold a minimum number of meetings per year. Senator Hilbrecht suggested that they meet not less than two times a year.

Phyllis Hansen, Nevada Nurses Assn., advised that they feel they have been passed over and neglected. They would like to be a separate entity in this bill, and Ms. Hansen suggested that on page 2, between lines 24 and 25, there be a new subsection (g) inserted that would include nurses. Sharon Greene stated that the main purpose of the committee is that welfare is a third party payer to those involved; the nurses receive no direct payment for their service and, therefore, they would have no reason for being on the committee.

Senator Hilbrecht referred to page 2, lines 24 and 25, and felt that the wording should be included that the physicians committee be composed of physicians who take SAMI patients since this is what the committee speaks to. Mr. Hadley stated that this would make it very difficult for them to select the committee members.

Senator Hilbrecht moved "Do Pass" and amend as follows: On page 2, the hospital committee members be lowered to six, the physician committee members be lowered to eight, and a new subsection (g) be added to state "Establishment of a nursing committee consisting of 3 registered nurses and two licensed practical nurses". The motion for Do Pass was seconded by Senator Neal and unanimously carried.

S.B. 134 - Provides for electrologist as adviser to state board of cosmetology.

Senator Neal moved that this bill be indefinitely postponed; seconded by Senator Schofield; motion unanimously carried.

Senate

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Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon W. Maher, Secretary

APPROVED:


Lee E. Walker, Chairman

ROOM # 323
DAY Tues.

DATE May 6, 1975

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
Phyllis Harmon	Nevada Nurses Assoc	1450 Second St
Miles Terry		
Lawn Magnuson	N.S.W.D. - Title XIX	251 Jansel, C.C.
W. J. Basi	" "	" "
F. Holzner	Human Resources	C.C.
Charlene Musso	Clark County	
Linda Blake	Clark County	
Dennis Baughman	Las Vegas Review-Journal	