

SENATE LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday, February 20, 1975

The fourth meeting of the Senate Legislative Functions Committee was called to order at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, 1975.

Chairman Warren Monroe was in the Chair.

PRESENT: Chairman Warren Monroe
Vice Chairman Mel Close
Senator James Gibson
Senator Mahlon Brown
Senator Gene Echols

ABSENT: Senator Floyd Lamb
Senator Cliff Young

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Robin Morgan, League of Women Voters
Larry Dumphy, Common Cause
Debbie Dreggs, Legislative Intern
M. Douglas Miller, Miners & Prospectors Assn.
Barbara Weinberg, Nevadans for ERA
Peggy Westall
Clint Knoll, Nev. Ass'n. of Employees
Robert Guinn, Nevada Motor Transport Assn.
Bob Alkire, Kennecott Copper Corporation
Frank Johnson, Hilton Hotels Corporation
Wally Warren, Southwest Gas
Stan Warren, Nevada Bell
Rowland Oakes, Associated General Contractors
John Madole, " " "
Fred Davis, Nevada Chamber of Commerce
Joe Midmore, Soft Drink Industry
Senator Mary Gojack
Senator Thomas Wilson
Senator Gary Sheerin
Senator William Raggio
Brian Bland, KOLO-TV
Cy Ryan, Press
Richard DeWitt, Press
Brendon Riley, Press

ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE FOLLOWING BILLS:

SB 19 Provides for public access to meetings of legislature and its committees. *

Senator Wilson was asked to testify regarding an amendment which had been added to SB 19: (2. Legislative committee meetings may be closed if, in an open meeting of the committee, two-thirds of the members of the committee determine that it is in the public interest and vote to close the meeting for the hearing of specified testimony. No final action on a bill or resolution shall be taken at a closed meeting.

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SB 19 (Continued)

Senator Wilson felt that that the bill was a little open-ended; and that it would be better to develop some criteria. "In setting down guide-lines, not only for this, but for future legislation, it seemed to him that the more guide-lines we have the more protection we have against potential abuse. I think that the areas and categories of testimony to be taken behind closed doors is so limited, in deed so narrow, and would occur so rarely that you can prescribe the criteria that it would justify. I believe that the committee is probably getting tired of hearing it, but what you have perscribed with this amendment is that you can have a closed meeting if 2/3rds happen to concur. This sets up no criteria except if 2/3rds happen to agree. So, I've got problems with an an amendment which eliminates criteria for closure in the first instance and substitutes an open-ended method of 2/3rds vote, with no guide-lines, no criteria at all."

Senator Monroe stated that this suggestion came from Assemblyman Jean Ford and this seemed to be the consensus of legislators from all over the nation, that this was the best way to handle the problem of closed hearing.

Mr. Miller of the Miners & Prospectors Association advised the committee that by advice from the Attorney General's office, his association could not hold any closed meetings, except in matters of personnel. "I don't see any reason to have closed meetings except in cases of personnel matters.

Mr. Dumphy from Common Cause testified that from experience nationally there were 4 specific causes in which a closed meeting could be held. They were: (1) Discussions of personnel matters; (2) Potential contracts; (3) Strategics on collective bargaining; and (4) Installation of security devices. With these specific reasons a closed meeting could be held with 2/3rds vote of the committee in an open meeting. This is the Common Cause position.

Mr. Sheerin testified that he was in favor of open-meeting laws. Must start with some kind of open-meeting law. Nothing can be decided during a closed meeting. I believe this is at least some kind of compromise in at leasting adopting some type of open-meeting law.

After further discussion amongst the Committee:

Senator Brown moved the amendment be adopted
Senator Close seconded the motion
Motion carried unanimously.

Senator Brown then moved DO PASS WITH AMENDMENT
Senator Close seconded the motion
Motion carried unanimously.

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Senator Monroe announced that he had received a copy of a "Code of Ethics" which had been presented to him by the Legislative Advocates (Lobbyists) which they would like to have drafted into a bill.

After reading the proposal, Wallie Warren, representing the Legislative Advocates testified as to the purpose of the bill. They felt that this would serve as a guideline for all new Legislative Advocates on manners, rules, etc., which they should follow when attending the Legislature.

Senator Brown moved that the proposal be drafted.
 Senator Gibson seconded the motion
 Motion carried unanimously.

Senator Monroe then announced that the next meeting would be on Tuesday, March 4, 1975 at 12 Noon and the agenda would consist of SJR6, SR7, SR8, SR9, SR10, SB193, and SCR #1.

AB 1 Repeals provisions relating to prefiling of legislative bills and resolutions.

After much discussion, Senator Close suggested that since this was discussed at thorough length by the Assembly, that we ask Mr. Ashworth to attend the next meeting at which this bill would be discussed and have him testify before the committee. The Committee concurred.

AB 31 Amends provisions on legislators' stationery. *

There was discussion relating to the fact that because of controversial bills such as the E.R.A., that most Senators had already used up their complete stationery allowance.

Senator Gibson moved we AMEND to read: Those in multiple district would be allotted and increase to 1500 sheets of stationery and 1500 envelopes," and DO PASS.
 Senator Close seconded the motion
 Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION: Senator Close remarked that a bill was being introduced regarding payment of expert witnesses who came in from California. These witnesses were needed in some of the Judiciary Committee hearings.

Senator Gibson moved DO PASS
 Senator Echols seconded the motion.
 Motion carried unanimously.

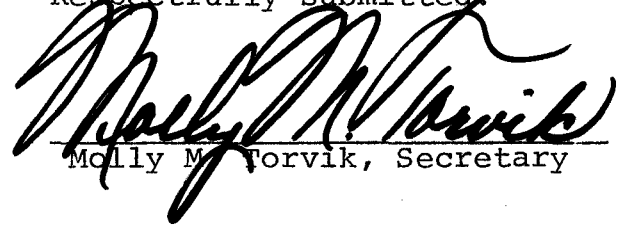
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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until call by the Chairman.

Respectfully submitted,


Molly M. Torvik, Secretary

APPROVED:


Senator Warren Monroe, Chairman

(REPRINTED WITH ADOPTED AMENDMENTS)

FIRST REPRINT

S. B. 19

SENATE BILL NO. 19—SENATOR SHEERIN

JANUARY 22, 1975

Referred to Committee on Legislative Functions

SUMMARY—Provides for public access to meetings of legislature and its committees. Fiscal Note: No. (BDR 17-416)

EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT providing that meetings of the legislature and its committees shall be open to the public; providing exceptions for legislative committees under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 218 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
 2 thereto a new section which shall read as follows:
 3 1. *Except as provided in the constitution of the State of Nevada and*
 4 *subsection 2 of this section, all meetings of the legislature and its com-*
 5 *mittees shall be open to the public.*
 6 2. *Legislative committee meetings may be closed if, in an open meet-*
 7 *ing of the committee, two-thirds of the members of the committee deter-*
 8 *mine that it is in the public interest and vote to close the meeting for the*
 9 *hearing of specified testimony. No final action on a bill or resolution shall*
 10 *be taken at a closed meeting.*

(REPRINTED WITH ADOPTED AMENDMENTS)

SECOND REPRINT

A. B. 31

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 31—ASSEMBLYMAN JACOBSEN

JANUARY 22, 1975

Referred to Committee on Legislative Functions

SUMMARY—Amends provisions on legislators' stationery.
Fiscal Note: No. (BDR 17-659)



EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to legislators' printing allowances; amending provisions of NRS on legislators' stationery, cards and other materials; authorizing additional purchases by legislators; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. NRS 218.225 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 218.225 1. [Each senator and assemblyman is entitled to expend as
3 a printing allowance an amount not to exceed the total sum of \$60 for the
4 period which begins with the first day of a regular session of the legisla-
5 ture and ends with the 3rd Wednesday in July of the following year.

6 2. The printing allowance shall be used for reimbursement of the
7 superintendent of the state printing and records division of the depart-
8 ment of general services for the printing of a legislator's official station-
9 ery, cards and other material appropriate to his official duties and shall
10 not be used for the purpose of political advertising.] *At each regular*
11 *session of the legislature, each senator and assemblyman is entitled to*
12 *receive at the expense of the legislative fund from the state printing and*
13 *records division of the department of general services not to exceed 500*
14 *letterheads (8½ inches x 11 inches) and 500 half size, or 1,000 of either*
15 *variety, 500 No. 10 envelopes and 500 No. 6¾ envelopes, or 1,000 of*
16 *either variety, 1,000 business cards and 1,000 memorandum sheets (500*
17 *each of the small and large type or 1,000 of either type). Selections must*
18 *be made from samples submitted by the superintendent of the state print-*
19 *ing and records division of the department of general services and all*
20 *printing must be done in the state printing and records division of the*
21 *department of general services.*

22 2. *Materials furnished legislators pursuant to subsection 1 shall not*
23 *be used for the purpose of political advertising.*

24 3. All orders for the printing specified in subsection [2] 1 shall be
25 placed by legislators with the director of the legislative counsel bureau,