

## SENATE LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE

APRIL 15, 1975 - 12:00 P.M.

The eleventh meeting of the Senate Legislative Functions Committee was called to order at 12:17 p.m.

Chairman Warren Monroe was in the Chair.

PRESENT: Chairman Warren Monroe  
Vice Chairman Mel Close  
Senator James Gibson  
Senator Mahlon Brown  
Senator Gene Echols  
Senator Floyd Lamb  
Senator Cliff Young

TESTIMONY FROM: Kate Butler, individual  
Barbara Weinberg, individual  
Senator Raggio  
Senator Dodge  
Bob Guinn, individual  
Father Larry Dunphy, Common Cause  
Joe Midmore, individual

ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE FOLLOWING BILLS:

SJR 17 Memorializes Congress to declare Susan B. Anthony Day, February 15, a national holiday.

Kate Butler stated Susan B. Anthony was the leading image of the women's suffrage movement; explained that the proposed holiday would center somewhere between Valentine's Day, Washington's Birthday and Lincoln's Birthday; and felt that it would be significant for women to have a national holiday.

Barbara Weinberg felt it would be very important, to women, to recognize such a powerful woman by honoring her with a national holiday.

Senator Young moved "do pass"  
Seconded by Senator Echols  
"BILL LOST" Senator Brown abstained. (close not present yet)

AB 281 Relieves legislative auditor of function of auditing certain groups which contract with bureau of alcohol and drug abuse.

Senator Gibson moved "DO PASS"  
Seconded by Senator Young  
Motion carried unanimously.

## Senate

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SB 503      Regulates conflicts of interest of public officers.

Senator Raggio, cosponsor of the bill, stated there is a compelling demand, by the public, to deal with alleged conflicts of interest; that there is a need for guidelines to assure a public official he is not, unknowingly, guilty of conflict of interest; and felt the problem should be met now, rather than invite rigid initiative. He said that the bill deals with all political subdivisions, exclusive of the judicial department; that even though the bill is not a perfect document, it would establish confidence in government and establish greater pride in public service; and that it would possibly deter "bad apples" from seeking public office. He urged the committee to address itself to doing away with possible conflicts of interest among public officials, and reach into the area of great public interest, i.e., disclosure. He stressed that the bill would restore public confidence, and would be the best goal that could be accomplished this session; and added that he was neither blaming the Republicans nor the Democrats, but that the public has completely lost confidence in their officials.

Senator Dodge explained the amendment, which prohibits legislators, who are practicing attorneys, from introducing, influencing, or voting on measures that either their clients or firms have a disclosed interest. He stressed that disclosure was the most important part of SB 503; recommended a screening process through an ethics commission; felt forever disqualifying a person from running for public office again was not warranted; said that annual filings should reflect types of assets; and agreed with Senator Brown's suggestion of adopting a senate rule for, at least, a beginning.

Senator Echols strongly favored the idea of an ethics commission, and suggested an interim study (to allow time for discussion with various public officials) for legislative recommendation to the next session.

Bob Guinn emphasized progress should be made, this session, regarding disclosure, and reiterated Senator Raggio's concern for action now, rather than being exposed to public initiative. He voiced concern regarding the bill's disclosure requirements, as he felt that a certain class of people (who are desperately needed at decision making levels) would be lost, and felt the bill denies public servants the opportunity of serving in the area in which they are best qualified. He concluded with stating that whatever the committee decided, he hoped they would not make it too difficult for professionals and business people to seek public office and/or serve on appointive boards and commissions.

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Father Larry Dunphy stated one of the prime goals of Common Cause is to deal with the public's lack of trust and confidence, and felt legislation is needed in the areas of disclosure, disqualification, identification of major clients of lawyers, ethics commission, categorization of interests, and a code of ethics. He informed the committee that AB 610, creating an ethics commission, as well as dealing with disclosure, had been referred to the Assembly Elections Committee.

Joe Midmore felt there should be some provision for holding the ethic commission's hearings in camera, in order to deter an accuser from merely seeking to have the accused disclose his interests.

Having heard all those who wished to testify, and the Senate due to go into Session, Chairman Monroe adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Quilici  
Beth Quilici, Secretary

APPROVED:

Warren L. Monroe  
SENATOR WARREN "SNOWY" MONROE, CHAIRMAN

## A. B. 281

## ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 281—ASSEMBLYMAN DREYER

FEBRUARY 14, 1975

Referred to Committee on Legislative Functions

SUMMARY—Relieves legislative auditor of function of auditing certain groups which contract with bureau of alcohol and drug abuse. Fiscal Note: No. (BDR 40-903)

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

AN ACT relating to the bureau of alcohol and drug abuse in the rehabilitation division of the department of human resources; relieving the legislative auditor of the function of auditing certain groups which contract with the bureau; 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 458.080 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 2 458.080 The bureau may, by contracting with organized groups,
- 3 render partial financial assistance in the operation of facilities estab-
- 4 lished by these groups. Each such contract shall contain a provision
- 5 allowing [the legislative auditor to perform] for an audit of all accounts,
- 6 books and other financial records of the organization with which the
- 7 agency contracts.