

MINUTES

ASSEMBLY COMMERCE COMMITTEE

January 31, 1977

Members Present:

Chairman Harmon
Vice Chairman Mello
Mr. Barengo
Mr. Demers
Mrs. Hayes
Mr. Moody
Mr. Price
Mr. Sena
Mr. Weise

Guests Present:

C. A. Fisher, Senior Citizens, Carson City
George Brookman, Citizens of Nevada
Assemblyman May
Assemblyman Brookman
G. Holbrook Hawes, Senior Citizens
Les Kofoed, Gaming Industry Assn.
Ed Bowers, Gaming Industry Assn.
Jerry Higgins, Sparks Nugget
R. E. Cahill, Nevada Resort Assn.
Philip Hannifin, Gaming Control Board
John Stratton, Gaming Control Board
John B. McSweeney, Aging Services, Human Resources
John Gianotti, Harrah's Resort Hotel

Chairman Harmon called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.
Vice Chairman Mello moved that the minutes of the meeting of
January 24, 1977, be approved. Seconded by Mr. Demers and
carried unanimously.

Assembly Bill 133

Assemblyman Paul W. May stated this bill is designed to clear
up some confusion within the pawnbroking industry. Pawn-
brokers do make a charge of \$3 for any loan and, in addition,

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charge interest at the authorized rate. The language added in Line 8 is to clarify this practice.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Assembly Bill 133: Mr. Mello moved Do Pass, seconded by Mr. Sena and unanimously passed.

Chairman Harmon asked Mr. Demers to present the amendments to Assembly Bill 28 which had been prepared. Mr. Demers said that the bill would now go to Ways and Means and the amendments are the Public Service Commission's suggestions.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Assembly Bill 28: Mr. Demers moved that the committee adopt Amendment 22-A to A.B. 28, seconded by Mr. Barengo and unanimously carried.

Mr. Demers moved Do Pass A.B. 28 as amended and refer to the Committee on Ways and Means. Seconded by Mr. Barengo and unanimously carried.

Assembly Bill 148

Assemblyman Eileen Brookman appeared in support of the bill. Mrs. Brookman stated that about a year ago the Gaming Control Board stopped the senior citizens from playing bingo. She knows that this bill may not be a panacea, but hopefully the introduction of the bill will enable some action to be taken whereby senior citizens can enjoy a social bingo game without being fearful that they are breaking the law.

Philip Hannifin, Chairman of the Gaming Control Board, read NRS 463.409 which is entitled "Games Operated by Charitable or Educational Organizations". A.B. 148 refers to gaming by "senior citizens' groups". This needs to be defined. Mr. Hannifin does not know what a senior citizens' group is or if there is a legal or lawful definition of a "senior citizens' group". He feels that loose language in a statute creates a great deal of difficulty later on. If the Aging Services Division is to certify these groups to the Gaming Control Board, certain qualifications should be set forth for Aging Services to follow.

Mr. Hannifin also feels that "charitable or educational organizations" needs to be further defined.

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Mr. Hannifin expressed concern that promoters acting as agents for senior citizens might make high personal profits unless limits were set on the amount of prizes and number of sites. He asked that the law be set up with some precision so that he would know what he was enforcing. It should be made very clear who is being exempted from the law and then the Gaming Control Board would be relieved of the responsibility.

Mr. John B. McSweeney, Administrator of Aging Services, Department of Human Resources, stated that he could offer some amendments to the bill that might be in line with Mr. Hannifin's suggestions. His division would be able to certify who were bonafide senior citizen groups since they must be registered with the Secretary of State to receive federal funding. Mr. McSweeney feels that bingo games at senior citizens' gatherings are a part of the social life and do not generate enough income to even be considered taxable or of consequence. Senior citizen and nutrition sites are not affluent type groups. His division would like to have senior citizens' centers, senior citizen nutrition sites, school and churches exempt from the provisions of NRS 463.409.

A copy of Mr. McSweeney's suggested amendments to A.B. 148 is attached as Exhibit 1.

Mr. R. E. Cahill, representing the Nevada Resort Association, said it was his feeling that the Association would not object to bingo games for senior citizens if they were limited as to number and the amount of money and prizes involved. These games should be solely for the benefit of senior citizens and should not be operated by someone for personal profit. There should be definite restrictions stated in the bill.

Mr. Les Kofoed, Director of the Gaming Industry of Northern Nevada, stated they were definitely not opposed to the senior citizens having bingo games. However, they do feel that other groups will seek the same exemptions, and all those should be bound by the same restrictions as charitable or educational organizations. He also feels that prizes should be restricted to merchandise only.

Mr. G. Holbrook Hawes, a member of numerous senior citizens' organizations, urged support of the bill. He felt Mr. McSweeney's amendments would assist in clarifying the questions raised.

Mr. C. A. Fisher stated that he was a bingo operator for the

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senior citizens in Carson City. The center opened 22 months ago and he has been operating the game since that time. They have an attendance of about 15 or 20 people who play one game a week. The charge is .05 a card and they play 20 games a day. They give 25 percent of the money collected to the center to help cover the cost of lights, heat and other expenses. In the past 22 months they have collected approximately \$1570 for the center. They are now putting the money into the building fund. The prizes they award amount of \$1.50 to \$3.00. He does not feel the senior citizens would want to play for a glass of jelly or a pound of coffee. He does hope they can continue the game.

Chairman Demers appointed a subcommittee consisting of Mr. Barengo, Mr. Price and Mr. Weise to consider amendments to A.B. 148 and report back to the committee. Mrs. Brookman requested that the chairman of the subcommittee advise her when they were meeting in order that she might attend.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Dunne
Assembly Attache

A.B. 148

Amend Section 2, sub-part 2 of N.R.S. 463.409 starting on line 4:

2. "Bingo games operated in such places as, senior citizens' centers, senior citizen nutrition sites, schools and churches for the sole benefit of senior citizens' groups are exempt of N.R.S. 463.409 of Section 2, sub-part 1."
3. "Bonafide senior citizens shall consist of individuals 55 years of age and older and must be certified by the Aging Services Division of the Department of Human Resources."
4. "All certified senior citizen groups shall maintain financial records of all activities concerning the bingo games as well as the recording of the number of senior citizens participation per game, the number of games played on any given date, and any other such information upon request and/or examination of the Administrator of the Division for Aging Services or his designee."
5. "The Division for Aging Services of the Department of Human Resources shall adopt written guidelines for the certification and operation of senior citizens' bingo games."
6. "The Administrator of the Division for Aging Services of the Department of Human Resources ascertaining certain findings deemed to be contrary by him in regards of benefit to senior citizens' groups of bingo games shall have the authority to revoke and/or suspend certification for the privilege of operating senior citizens' bingo games."
7. "Any bingo games operated without valid certification by the Division for Aging Services of the Department of Human Resources shall be subject to the powers of the State Gaming Control Board."

A.B. 148 (continued)

8. "The board shall not allow outside groups, organizations or individuals from promoting bingo games on behalf of public or private non-profit certified senior citizens' groups."

59TH NEVADA LEGISLATURE

COMMERCE COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE ACTION

DATE January 31, 1977

SUBJECT A.B. 133

MOTION: _____

Do Pass Amend _____ Indefinitely Postpone _____ Reconsider _____

Moved by Mr. Mello Seconded by Mr. Sena

AMENDMENT _____

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

AMENDMENT _____

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

VOTE:	<u>MOTION</u>		<u>AMEND</u>		<u>AMEND</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Harmon	<u>x</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mello	<u>x</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Barengo	<u>x</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Demers	<u>x</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Hayes	<u>x</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Moody	Absent	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Price	<u>x</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Sena	<u>x</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Weise	Absent	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

TALLY: 7

Original Motion: Passed Defeated _____ Withdrawn _____

Amended & Passed _____ Amended & Defeated _____

Amended & Passed _____ Amended & Defeated _____

Attach to Minutes Jan. 31, 1977
Date

59TH NEVADA LEGISLATURE

COMMERCE COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE ACTION

DATE January 31, 1977

SUBJECT A.B. 28

MOTION: Amend, Do Pass and Refer to Committee on Ways & Means

Do Pass Amend Indefinitely Postpone Reconsider

Moved by Mr. Demers Seconded by Mr. Barengo

AMENDMENT

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

AMENDMENT

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

VOTE:	<u>MOTION</u>		<u>AMEND</u>		<u>AMEND</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Harmon	x	—	—	—	—	—
Mello	x	—	—	—	—	—
Barengo	x	—	—	—	—	—
Demers	x	—	—	—	—	—
Hayes	x	—	—	—	—	—
Moody	x	—	—	—	—	—
Price	x	—	—	—	—	—
Sena	x	—	—	—	—	—
Weise	x	—	—	—	—	—

TALLY: 9

Original Motion: Passed x Defeated Withdrawn

Amended & Passed _____ Amended & Defeated _____

Amended & Passed _____ Amended & Defeated _____

Attach to Minutes Jan. 31, 1977
Date