

MINUTES

ASSEMBLY COMMERCE COMMITTEE

February 2, 1977

Members Present:

Chairman Harmon
Vice Chairman Mello
Mr. Demers
Mr. Moody
Mr. Weise

Members Absent:

Mr. Barengo
Mrs. Hayes
Mr. Price
Mr. Sena

All Excused Because
of ERA Meeting.

Guests Present:

Stan Jones, Nevada State Labor Commission
Merle Snider, Nevada State Labor Commission
Assemblyman Banner
Assemblyman Robinson

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Harmon at 3 p.m. Vice Chairman Mello moved that the minutes of the meeting of January 31, 1977, be approved. Seconded by Mr. Weise and carried unanimously.

Assembly Bill 16

Assemblyman James J. Banner introduced this bill and appeared in support thereof. Mr. Banner stated this proposed legislation was the result of a request from a babysitting employment agency in his district. The last session of the legislature reduced the fees for babysitting agencies to 15 percent, and this bill would raise such fees to 20 percent.

Assemblyman Robert E. Robinson was called to explain what had happened in the 1975 Session when he was chairman of the Commerce Committee and it considered A.B. 455.

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Dr. Robinson said that A.B. 455 was handed to him by the Labor Commissioner to be introduced and he was under the impression it was a bill that had been agreed upon by all parties concerned. He assumed that the babysitting agencies had some input to the bill but later found that agencies in the southern part of the state claimed they did not. Dr. Robinson has received many complaints on the reduced fee and he would hope that this bill is passed to raise the commissions back to the original fees.

Dr. Robinson further stated that he felt the babysitting agencies should not be included in the employment agencies' law, but should be under a separate law which would include booking agencies.

Regarding that portion of A.B. 16 which deletes the address, many of these agencies operate out of their homes and they do not want customers bringing babies there.

Mr. Stanley P. Jones, Labor Commissioner, appeared in opposition to the bill. They feel that it is directed to the babysitting senior citizens who are least capable of standing a 33 percent increase in the placement fees.

By way of history of A.B. 455 of the 1975 Session, the employment agency industry and the Nevada State Labor Commission met and arrived at an equitable bill acceptable to the industry. The bill was given to Dr. Robinson for introduction. The babysitting agencies as well as babysitters had input into the bill. The prior fee was 25 percent for all private employment agencies. This bill raised the fee to 40 percent for all agencies other than babysitting agencies and they were reduced to 15 percent.

The babysitting agencies pay no employer taxes since they are not the employer, but rather brokers. These agencies give up a substantial amount of their potential profit for "bird-dog fees" which they pay telephone operators and others to channel business to them. Mr. Jones does not feel that the senior citizens who perform the services should be the ones to pay such fees.

Mr. Jones also feels that the bill creates a substantial problem in the deletion of the address for the agencies. Addresses should be known as well as the name.

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Chairman Harmon stated that he had received many calls and complaints from babysitting agencies who said they were not aware of the bill in the last session. Further, he does not recall that the babysitting portion of the bill was discussed by the Commerce Committee. He asked Mr. Jones what percent of babysitters were senior citizens and Mr. Jones estimated 95 percent.

Chairman Harmon said that any action on A.B. 16 would be withheld until A.B.74, a Labor Commission bill, and bills submitted by the employment agency industry had been heard.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Dunne
Assembly Attache