ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES APRIL 20, 1977 5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mann

Vice Chairman Sena

Mr. Chaney Mr. Goodman Mr. Kosinski Mrs. Wagner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Horn (In Las Vegas for Clark County Consolidation

hearing.)

GUESTS: Jim Costa, Department of Education

Vaughn Smith, Carson City Clerk

Assemblyman Joe Dini

A quorum being present, Chairman Mann called the meeting to order. The purpose of the meeting was to hear AB 650, SB 361, SB 369, AB 707, SB 458 and SJR 20.

SB 361, Abolishes election filing fee for member of State Board of Education.

Jim Costa, State Department of Education, spoke in favor of this bill. His prepared statement is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A and herewith made a part of this record.

Mr. Kosinski inquired whether they would agree to a small filing fee. Mr. Costa stated that he did not think they would disagree with a smaller filing fee.

Mrs. Wagner stated that she could see the rational for not having any because everything else is a salary position. If because they are paid they must pay this filing fee, then the rational should go that all other boards and commissions that get paid similarly should have to file.

Mr. Mann stated that he was against them not paying some type of filing fee because they are an elected officer. Mr. Costa pointed out that the Board of Regents is also an elected office and there is no filing fee for them. Their per diem allowance is greater then this boards allowance.

Mr. Mann stated that he would be willing to go along with \$15.00 filing fee which is the same as the filing fee for Assemblymen.

Mrs. Wagner stated that she felt there was a real problem to get people to run. Mr. Mann stated that he would contend that this is because people do not understand the job and by lowering filing fee he stated that he does not feel that that many more people will run. This is not one of the so called "glamour positions".

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Mrs. Wagner stated that she would rather see no filing fee but would go along with a small filing fee such as \$10.

Mr. Kosinski stated that the danger in having no filing fee was in having people file as an "ego trip".

AB 650, Disqualifies candidate from holding office he weeks if he willfully fails to report campaign expenses.

Mr. Mann stated that as sponsor of this bill he would just as soon have this bill postponed. Mrs. Wagner stated that from the experience they have had with <u>AB 410</u> she felt that they would have a hard time getting this through.

Mr. Kosinski stated that he personally felt that this was a good bill and that it really didn't have that much to do with AB 410. He stated that he felt a person would probably not be disqualified unless he was actually convicted of willfully violating the law.

Mr. Kosinski moved for "do pass" and Mr. Sena seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Horn and Mr. Chaney absent.

Mr. Goodman inquired whether this bill should be amended to provide that this report should be sent to the office in which they declared their candidacy. Mr. Mann stated that they would probably receive a conflict notice on this and would correct it at that time.

AB 515, Makes certain changes to county organization of political parties.

Mr. Goodman stated that the amendment he had drafted would require that the party fill vacancies out of the precinct before they go to outside precincts.

Mr. Kosinski stated that he would like some other language which would make this clearer but that he could go along with this.

Mrs. Wagner stated that she still would oppose this as they are leaving the discretion up to the county central committee as to whether or not there are qualified people within the precinct. She stated that she was concerned about a small group of people running the party.

Mr. Sena inquired about the letter received by Mr. Mann from the Clark County Central Committee. Mr. Mann explained that the letter stated that the Clark County Central Committee was opposed to this bill which was completely opposite from the testimony received from Margeurite Segretti.

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Mr. Goodman moved for "do pass as amended" on AB 515, and Mr. Kosinski seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mrs. Wagner voting no and Mr. Horn absent.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Kosinski moved the committee rescind their previous action onf AB 650 whereby they gave it a "do pass" and Mrs. Wagner seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Goodman voting againt the motion and Mr. Horn absent.

Mrs. Wagner then moved for "indefinite postponement" of AB 650 and Mr. Chaney seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Mr. Horn absent.

AB 707, Reduces age of eligibility for candidates for state legislature.

Mr. Mann announced that he would hold this bill for testimony from Mr. Murphy, sponsor of the bill, should the committee so desire. It was determined that the committee favored the bill and that Mr. Murphy could speak on the bill on the floor, should he so desire.

Mrs. Wagner moved for a "do pass" and Mr. Goodman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Mr. Horn absent.

SJR 20, Proposes to amend Nevada Constitution to remove Lieutenant Governor as President of Senate.

Mr. Sena moved for a "do pass". The motion died for lack of a second.

SB 369, Deletes requirement that certificates of election be issued for certain public officers.

Mr. Kosinski stated that he understood that the testimony presented in the Senate on this bill stated that there was duplication on these certificates.

Mr. Sena stated that he felt that they could solve the problems the Senate had with this by just deleting the Senators from receiving these certificates and leaving in the Assemblymen.

It was decided that these were important, especially to the new legislators and that it really didn't cost that much money.

Mr. Chaney stated that he felt that the legislators really deserved these and that he understood the \$2,000 fiscal note was placed on it because the Secretary of State was not sure of the exact cost and had to put some amount on it.

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Mr. Dini stated that the duplication had come about because these certificates are originally mailed to the homes of the legislators. They are needed here in the legislature when the legislators are certified to sit by the legislative functions. Most of the legislators do not bring them along with them so duplicates have to be made.

Mr. Mann stated that he felt that once the print is made up it doesn't really cost that much to make the duplicate and it was a matter of pride to many of the legislators.

Mr. Sena moved for a "indefinite postponement" on SB 369, and Mr. Chaney seconded his motion. The motion carried with Mr. Kosinski voting no and Mr. Horn and Mrs. Wagner absent.

Mr. Mann then called for additional testimony on SJR 20.

Assemblyman Dini stated that SJR 20 had come about as a result of an interim study that had been done in 1974. This was discussed and adopted at that study. Last session they were unable to pass it in the Senate Legislative Functions Committee.

Mr. Dini stated that he felt it was good to get the Lt. Governor out of that particular position which is administerial and has no power. He stated that he felt it was important to put some intent into law regarding what his duties should be. He added that he does not feel that he should be removed from his Senate job without being given additional duties elsewhere. The study had talked about putting him on various boards and commissions.

Mr. Mann stated that this is a constitutional amendment and so it will come back next session and that it has been his policy that on constitutional amendments, companion bills should be placed on them the second time around. For this reason there are no companion bills on this but the committee will go on record that their intent will be that in the next session, when this bill comes back, the additional bills be drafted.

Mr. Goodman stated that he had a bill in Ways and Means at this time, which gives the Lt. Governor all these other boards and commissions.

Mr. Dini pointed out that Nevada is unique in that the Governor and Lt. Governor are not always elected from the same political party. This could pose a problem if the Governor were required to have the Lt. Governor on various boards and commissions while they represented opposite political views. He suggested that the committee might consider starting another constitutional amendment that the ticket of Governor and Lt. Governor run as a whole.

Mr. Mann stated that he felt this might be the opportune time to put this amendment on this bill. Mr. Dini agreed with Mr. Mann.

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Mr. Dini suggested that the committee might look at the interim study that was conducted just on the office of the Lt. Governor.

Mr. Kosinski stated that they might also include some whereas clauses to indicate their intent that it is expected that the Lt. Governor would pick up more administrative duties by statute. These would not be binding on the 1981 legislature.

Mr. Mann inquired if the committee was agreeable to having amendments drafted to make the Lt. Governor and Governor run as a ticket and that the duties of the Lt. Governor will be enlarged and changed. The committee was unanimously in agreement with this with Mr. Horn and Mrs. Wagner absent. Mr. Mann will have these amendments drafted before final action is taken on this bill.

SB 458, Changes terms of members of Board of Regents of University of Nevada.

Mr. Mann explained that this bill would change the terms from 6 years to 4 years. He stated that he personally would like to see the terms changed to 2 years.

Mr. Kosinski stated that he would like to look into the idea of changing the board number downward from the present 9 members. He felt that this was a rather large board to have.

Mr. Mann pointed out that this probably was due to geographic areas. He stated that he would appoint Mr. Kosinski as a subcommittee of one to investigate the possibility of cutting the size of the board and to find out the areas represented by the board. He further asked Mr. Kosinski to develop some language which would completely clarify that if a regent moved out of his district he would forfeit his office even though he would move back in.

A brief discussion was held regarding the boundary problem previously discussed with Mr. Colton. This dealt with Mr. Hickey and Mr. Chaney's districts. Mr. Mann stated that he understood that this was being handled by Mr. Chaney.

Chairman Mann adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Gagnier Assembly Attache

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE ACTION

DATE April 2	20, 1977					
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AMENDMENT						
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59TH NEVADA LEGISLATURE

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STATEMENT OF

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Wednesday, April 20, 1977 Room 214, 5:00 P.M.

S.B. 361 -- Abolishes election filing fee for member of State Board of Education.

Prior to the 1975 Legislature, candidates for the office of member of the state board of education were not required to pay the election filing fee because the holder of the office received no compensation.

The 1975 Legislature amended NRS 385.050 to provide for state board members compensation of \$40 per day for attending meetings, not to exceed eight meetings in any calendar year. The granting of compensation subsequently subjected candidates for office on the state board to the election filing fee of \$100 required of candidates for state office other than Governor or Supreme Court Justice.

The state board members feel that there is a great difference between their offices compensated on a meeting basis and other state offices which are full-time positions paying annual salaries.

Because of the small compensation involved and the possibility that the election filing fee may discourage the candidacy of otherwise qualified persons, the State Board of Education petitions the 1977 Nevada Legislature to except candidates for membership on the state board of education from the required filing fee.

The amendment to subsection 2 of NRS 293.193 as proposed by S.B. 361 will accomplish this exception. The State Board of Education urges your favorable consideration.

JPC/mb 3/22/77