

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, February 16, 1977

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Chaney; Mr. Kissam;
Mrs. Gomes; Mr. Schofield;
Mr. Robinson; Mr. Dreyer;
Mr. Bennett;

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Ross;
Mr. Weise

GUESTS: Bill Smith, Nursing Home ombudsman
Al Edmundson, Health Department
Carl Soderblom, Southern Pacific
Dave Minedew, Washoe County Health Dept.
Doc Mastrionni
Lew Dodgion, State Health Dept.
Dr. William Edwards, State Health Officer
Carol Alldredge, Developmental Disabilities
Tom Rice, Las Vegas Valley Water District
Bob Warren, Nevada League of Cities
Steven Stucker, City of North Las Vegas
Ann Hibbs, Nevada Nurses Assn.
Tom Young, Sierra Pacific Power
Vicky Kane, Inter Tribal Council
Ruth Mullen, " " " , In-Home Health
Arlene Grimes
Debra Sheltra, Virginia Foothills
Barbara Guzman, Developmental Disabilities
Bill Labadie, Social Services

Chairman Chaney called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. He called for testimony on AB 147. Mr. L. H. Dodgion reported that as directed by the Committee, a meeting was held with the Health Division, Tom Rice, Mike Sullivan, Sierra Pacific Power, and Mrs. Debbie Sheltra to discuss amendments to AB 147. The amendments which were agreed to between the parties are attached as Exhibit "A".

Mr. Carl Soderblom of Southern Pacific asked that his request for an exemption to AB 147 be withdrawn since, if they are exempted by the State, they will be under the control of the Federal government and they prefer to work with the State.

Mr. Tom Rice stated his concurrence with the amendments as presented by Mr. Dodgion. He asked for the Committee's approval of the amendments. He also requested the Committee to provide for the enforcement of the bill.

Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Rice about the penalties outlined in Section 20. Mr. Rice stated that the same penalties are required under Federal authority. Mr. Bob Warren also endorsed the amendments. Mr. Steven Stucker of North Las Vegas stated that he did not know if his objections to Section 14 were corrected by the amendments since he had just received them, but he approved of the changes in notices of hearings.

Mrs. Sheltra expressed her thanks to Mr. Dodgion and stated that she supports the amendments but wants to see the words "and non-toxic to plants" added to Section 11, subsection 2. Mr. Chaney asked if this addition had been brought up at the amendment meeting. Mr. Dodgion stated that he hadn't worked in this area in the past and that the Health Department doesn't have authority to deal with toxic water and plants.

Mr. Dave Minedew of Washoe County stated his endorsement of the amendments.

Mrs. Arlene Grimes, a resident of the Geiger Grade area, told the Committee of the problems they have been encountering with their drinking water. She told of many hearings she attended of different agencies where many residents testified to no avail. She asked if enforcement of the bill was going to be left solely to the State. Mr. Dodgion answered Mrs. Grimes by stating that if there is any variation of standards by any water company, it is subject to a \$5,000 fine per day and that any variances would be heard in public hearings. Mr. Robinson asked whether bad water is better than no water at all. Mr. Dodgion said that this would have to be taken into consideration at variance hearings; that it may be necessary to look at alternatives such as treated water.

Mr. Kissam asked Mrs. Grimes if she had tried using water softeners. She said that water softeners merely reduce the hard salts but don't solve the real problem in the water which is with the borates.

Mrs. Sheltra asked for proof of the "economic realities" before variances are granted to water companies. Mr. Dodgion stated that this could be worked out by regulation. He also pointed out again that the Health Department has very little expertise in the matter of water for plants. Mr. Rice told the Committee that the EPA is now conducting studies regarding secondary standards and asked the Committee to wait for the results of this study before amending the bill in regard to non-toxic water for plants since it could be in conflict with the Federal standards.

Mr. Schofield asked Mr. Rice his opinion if the words "non-toxic to plants" were included in the bill. Mr. Rice felt that this could have a serious economic impact on drinking water as it could create costs which would make drinking water prohibitive. He again suggested leaving the present wording to wait for the EPA study on secondary standards.

Chairman Chaney called for testimony on AB 153. No witnesses were present to testify on the bill.

Chairman Chaney asked Mr. Dreyer to speak on AB 6. Mr. Dreyer stated that this bill would allow for a mobile health van for pre-

ventive medical treatment strictly for the elderly. In reply to arguments favoring the satellite program as used in Wells instead of the van, Mr. Dreyer stated that the Department of Human Resources should request that program. He said that AB 6 is a pilot program and that the cost of the satellite program is much greater than the program proposed in AB 6. He also felt amending AB 6 to cover more people would defeat the idea of the bill. He said he did want to include the word "handicapped" as previously suggested in amending the bill. Mr. Kissam asked if the words "emergency cases" shouldn't also be added to the bill. Mr. Dreyer felt that if an emergency exists, the van would take care of it.

Mr. Robinson pointed out that several rural county legislators had testified to the fact that they are not interested in having the van in their areas. Mr. Chaney pointed out that the bill was the result of an interim study and must have had some basis. Mr. Bennett said that the rural counties really want the satellite program and feel that AB 6 will compete with that program. Mr. Robinson said that for \$175,000 we could get seven nurse practitioners and that he would rather take the advice of the small county legislators to answer the problems.

Mrs. Gomes felt that only one van would be very unrealistic in terms of covering the entire State.

After a brief recess, the Committee took action on the following matters:

AB 88: Mrs. Gomes objected to the word "may" as this would allow the State to place a burden on county budgets which are limited by law. She also feels it creates a limbo for children already in dire need.

Mr. Robinson moved that on line 3, page 1, the word "may" be changed to "shall". Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. Mr. Schofield moved to pass AB 88 as amended; Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Mr. Robinson would obtain the amendment.)

AB 141: Mr. Bennett said that this would shift the financial responsibility back to the counties. Mr. Bennett moved to indefinitely postpone the bill; Mr. Schofield seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

AB 142: Mr. Dreyer asked that the bill be held for amendments deleting everything having to do with "marriage" and also amending page 3. Both Mr. Dreyer and Mr. Robinson would obtain the amendments.

AB 143: Mr. Schofield moved to pass the bill as amended; Mr. Dreyer seconded the motion. The amendment would delete the words "from contagious disease". The motion was unanimously passed. Mr. Schofield will obtain the amendment.

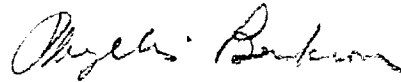
AB 145: Mr. Robinson moved "Do Pass"; Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. This bill provides for the transfer of certain inmates from the Nevada youth training center to the Southern Nevada Correctional Center.

AB 147: Mr. Dreyer moved to pass the bill as amended by the "amendment committee"; Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. This bill provides for drinking water control. The motion was unanimously passed. Mr. Dreyer will obtain the amendments.

AB 6: Mr. Dreyer moved to pass the bill; Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the following votes: "aye": Mr. Chaney, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Kissam, Mr. Schofield, and Mr. Dreyer; "nay": Mrs. Gomes and Mr. Robinson. The bill will be sent to the Ways and Means Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



PHYLLIS BERKSON, Secretary



Ex. A

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
DIVISION OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF CONSUMER HEALTH PROTECTION SERVICES
CAPITOL COMPLEX
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710

TELEPHONE
(702) 885-4750

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 14, 1977
TO: Assembly Committee on Health and Welfare
FROM: L. H. Dodgion, Consumer Health Protection Services
State Health Division *L.H. Dodgion*
SUBJECT: A. B. 147

As directed by the Committee, a meeting was held with the Health Division, Tom Rice, LVVWD; Mike Sullivan, Sierra Pacific Power; and Mrs. Debbie Sheltra, Transsierra Homeowners Association. The following amendments were agreed upon and are offered for your consideration:

Section 14.1. Change to:

"Any plans and specifications for substantial additions to or alterations of a public water system subject to regulation of the State Board of Health shall be submitted to the Health Authority for review and approval, excepting therefrom such additions and alterations which are in conformance with standards and specifications on file with and approved by the Health Authority."

Section 15.2. Add:

"Such inspections shall be coordinated with and in company of a representative of the public water system being inspected whenever possible or practical. This requirement shall not be construed to limit the authority of the Health Authority to act in emergency situations."

Section 16.1. Change to:

"An imminent hazard exists when, in the judgment of the State Health Officer or his designated representative and after appropriate consultation with local health authorities and representatives of the public water supply, a contaminant is present in or is likely to enter a public water system which may present a substantial endangerment to the public health."

Section 16.2. Change to:

"To eliminate an imminent hazard, the State Health Officer or his designated representative may"

Section 17. Add 17.2 and 17.3:

"17.2. In addition to any provisions of NRS 233B and the Federal Act no such variance or exemption shall be granted without a public hearing. Notice of such hearing shall be published in the newspaper of greatest circulation in the affected area. Hearings shall, when practical, be held convenient to the affected area."

"17.3. Schedules for compliance shall be coordinated, when applicable, with the Public Service Commission."

LHD:hpc

CC: Tom Rice
Mike Sullivan
Debbie Sheltra
John Wise