

MINUTES

JOINT LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE
APRIL 28, 1977

SENATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Echols, Chairman
Mrs. Gojack
Mr. Gibson
Mr. Schofield
Mr. Raggio
Mr. Wilson

SENATE MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Close

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Glover, Chairman
Mr. Bennett
Mr. Coulter
Mr. Murphy
Mrs. Wagner

Mr. Glover deferred the chair to Mr. Echols who called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m. He stated that they would first review the studies in the Senate Legislative Functions Committee (Exhibit A).

ACR 1: Study of the conditions at the state prison.

Mr. Glover stated that his committee felt this study should encompass work programs and racial problems and should be restricted to legislators with outside participation at hearings only. He added that the prison was in favor of this study but that the Governor opposed it. He also stated that he felt that any study taken on should be productive and not used for publicity.

Mr. Schofield stated that he felt that after study by the legislative committee, there would be a need for someone with knowledge of psychiatry and asked if it would be possible to include such persons. Mr. Palmer answered that this study had been identified as one that would need contract services in that area or possibly in penology.

Mrs. Wagner asked how many studies were going to be recommended. Mr. Glover said he felt the number would probably be between ten or twelve. Mr. Palmer said that out of the twenty-two studies, sixteen would generate subcommittees. Mr. Gibson stated that there must be enough work to keep the staff busy during the interim and he did not feel that the committees should start with the assumption of only ten or twelve studies but should sift them down and then figure priorities.

ACR 4: Study of early childhood development.

Mrs. Wagner stated that she felt this study was very important in order to determine what services were available, what were duplications and what was needed. She added that she had done a great deal

of research which pointed out that many states that had done similar studies found them very valuable. Mrs. Gojack said she supported this resolution, that it was a minor staff study and she felt a compilation such as this was needed.

ACR 5: Study of feasibility of establishing a state geriatric center.

Mr. Glover stated that this resolution was the result of a sub-committee on aging and was designed to study the need as well as area of placement, whether near a hospital or university. Mrs. Wagner stated that there was a similar study, SCR 38, on a state home for veterans and suggested the two might be done together.

ACR 6: Study of provisions relating to obscenity.

Mrs. Wagner said that when she testified before the Senate Legislative Functions Committee concerning this bill, they had suggested that the groups referred to in lines 14 through 17 serve in an advisory capacity and she had no objections to this. Mr. Gibson stated that he felt this was a matter of great concern to many people and this study could pinpoint just what the state might be able to do.

ACR 8: Study of taxation and assessment of geothermal resources.

Mr. Glover stated that his committee felt this was an important study of a growing industry. Mr. Schofield asked if the committee had discussed the possibility of solar energy research and tax reduction. Mr. Glover answered no.

ACR 9: Urges local governments to review existing liability insurance.

Mr. Murphy stated that this bill did not come from Legislative Functions but from Government Affairs and was not a study. He added that it would require only minor staff assistance.

ACR 25: Study of feasibility of creating new county for north shore of Lake Tahoe.

Mr. Echols stated that this resolution was a duplicate of SCR 25. Mr. Murphy said that he and Mr. Weise had long been involved with the issue and felt there was a need for review to ascertain the interest in a separate county. Mrs. Gojack asked Mr. Murphy to review SCR 25 to make sure the language was incorporated in ACR 25.

ACR 34: Study of unclaimed property in Nevada.

Mr. Echols stated that testimony showed there was a strong need for this study and it would entail mainly staff.

ACR 35: Study and develop rate structures for use by public utilities.

In discussion there was great concern as to whether this should be a legislative study or whether it might be better done by the Public Service Commission. Mr. Glover suggested it be moved to a minor study with the Public Service Commission supplying the information needed.

Mr. Echols asked what the Assembly Committee's feeling was concerning this study. Mr. Glover asked how many were in favor of a full-blown study and the vote was four to one in favor with Mr. Glover voting no.

ACR 38: Study of crimes and punishments.

Mr. Glover stated that the Assembly Judiciary Committee felt strongly that this study should be done, that penalties were not uniform and many bills had been introduced to change penalties. Mr. Raggio stated that a similar study had been done about eight or ten years ago and Mr. Glover questioned whether this study would still be valid. Mrs. Wagner suggested that Mr. Barengo be consulted.

Mr. Echols then adjourned the meeting at 1:30 until after the adjournment of the Senate session.

Mr. Echols called the meeting back to order at 4:35 p.m. with Assemblymen Glover, Bennett and Murphy and Senators Echols, Gibson, Close and Raggio present.

Mr. Echols stated that they would discuss SCR 39 and ACR 52 at the same time as they were similar in content.

Mr. Glover stated that he felt ACR 52 was very important and was a little more comprehensive than SCR 39. In answer to Mr. Murphy's question as to the difference in the two resolutions, Mr. Close stated that the Senate version included the triple tier method of NIC which is all private NIC, private and state NIC, and all state NIC and it was felt this should be included in the study. In answer to Mr. Bennett's questions as to whether the Senate version was more comprehensive than the Assembly version, Mr. Close stated that the Assembly version was more comprehensive but did not include the above. Mr. Murphy explained that this triple tier was included in ACR 52 on lines 19 and 20.

Wallie Warren of the Labor and Management Committee of the NIC stated that they were interested in this study and hoped to combine the language of ACR 52 with SCR 39 by dropping the language on lines 26 and 27 from SCR 39 and picking up from ACR 52 beginning on Page 2, line 9 and running through the last four items.

Mr. Echols asked what would be accomplished by this and Mr. Warren answered that in talking with Senator Dodge he pointed out that ACR 52 covered much of the ground covered before in a similar study done in 1971 and that SCR 39 would explore new fields.

When asked what the fiscal impact of this study would be, Mr. Palmer stated he did not know the exact cost but it would be covered by the budget of the Legislative Commission.

Mr. Close made the motion to amend as stated above by Mr. Warren and DO PASS SCR 39, seconded by Mr. Raggio and unanimously carried by the members of the Senate Legislative Functions Committee present.

When asked by a guest if SCR 19 was to be heard by the Assembly Legislative Functions Committee, Mr. Glover stated that this resolution would be heard on Saturday morning.

ACR 40: Study of feasibility of creating commission to regulate transportation.

Mr. Glover stated that this resolution came about because of testimony in the Assembly Transportation Committee concerning motor carriers and aircraft and it was felt a study was needed concerning the possibility of having a department of transportation and separating some of the powers.

Mr. Murphy stated that there had been a bill in the Government Affairs Committee to create a commission on transportation and that after testimony, the committee did not feel there was an overwhelming need for this commission.

Mr. Close stated that Noel Coward in testimony supported embodying transportation into the Public Service Commission.

ACR 42: Study of automobile insurance.

Mr. Glover said there was great public concern of this matter and he felt it was an important area.

ACR 44: Study of community college division of University of Nevada System.

Mr. Glover stated that the committee felt this was one of the more important studies. He added that the money committees had decided against community colleges in Fallon, Henderson and North Las Vegas and that this study would direct these committees in the next session.

ACR 47: Study of juvenile court facilities in Clark County.

Mr. Bennett stated that this study was most important to Clark County and the second reprint included emotional and mental problems. He added that there were no facilities in which to place children with emotional and mental problems and many of them ended up in mental hospitals or jail. He explained that this study would point out what road the state should take.

ACR 51: Provides for tour of rural areas of Nevada by legislators.

Mr. Glover stated that the Assembly Agriculture Committee had toured the rural areas and felt they had gained a great deal of appreciation of problems there. He added that they felt this was important enough to be more often.

ACR 54: Study of structures and functions of the State Board of Education and State Department of Education.

Mr. Glover stated that this also came about because of the money committee's cuts in these budgets, that there was some concern that

it might prove to be a witch hunt, but that it was important to determine if these cuts should have been made or if possibly more should be made.

ACR 55: Study of administration of mental hygiene and mental retardation programs in Nevada.

Mr. Glover stated that this was prompted by Mr. Kosinski's subcommittee report and the action of the money committees. Mr. Raggio stated that he felt this was an area that deserved high priority.

SCR 41: Study of building codes and safety standards.

Mr. Close stated that building codes are different all over the state and should be studied with unification in mind. Mr. Raggio stated that he felt these codes would be difficult to enforce in rural areas. Mr. Close explained that codes would be set on a regional basis. Mr. Echols stated this resolution would have to be amended to cover local government as it only covers state agencies now where there is no great problem.

SCR 42: Study of feasibility of requiring health insurance to cover treatment for alcoholism and drug abuse.

Mr. Echols stated that this had been included in an amendment to SCR 34 which was now in the Assembly Legislative Functions Committee and that his committee felt strongly that it should pass.

Mr. Echols turned the meeting over to Mr. Glover to discuss the Senate Resolution in the Assembly Committee (Exhibit B).

SCR 12: Study of medical liability and ongoing problems of medical malpractice insurance.

In answer to Mr. Murphy's question as to whether there was anything new to be studied in medical malpractice, Mr. Close answered that they had extended this study to include all malpractice. When Mr. Glover questioned that this was a minor staff study, Mr. Palmer explained that the resolution reads "may" and it was intended to be a monitoring project which would give authority to study any problem which might surface in the future.

SCR 14: Study of pupil achievement.

There were no strong feelings concerning this resolution on either side but Mr. Close explained that students were graduating in Clark County and were unable to cope, were way below the level of proficiency that they should have reached. He added that the superintendent of schools felt this problem should be studied to ascertain if these children could be expected to reach higher proficiency and, if so, how.

SCR 36: Study to recodify Nevada's education laws.

In answer to Mr. Glover's question of how long a study such as this would take, Mr. Palmer answered that it was strictly a legal study which would involve study of several chapters of NRS. He added that it could be quite extensive, that there are eight studies that will involve the legal division and it would depend on how much was assigned to them.

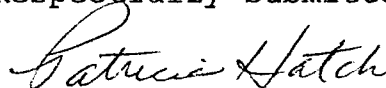
SCR 37: Study of liability insurance and employee group insurance available to local governments.

Mr. Echols stated that there was a certain amount of enthusiasm in his committee for this study and he felt it was an area that could use study.

The committees then discussed the resolutions still in the Assembly Legislative Functions Committee (Exhibit C), but no strong feelings surfaced. The Assembly Committee will discuss these at a future date.

Mr. Echols then adjourned the joint meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Hatch, Assembly Attache

STUDIES IN SENATE LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS
APRIL 26, 1977

- ACR 1 Mann, Schofield, Kosinski and five others.
Orders study of conditions at state prison by Legislative Commission.
(Major; Subcommittee; Contract Study and Research.)
- ACR 4 Wagner, Hayes, Murphy and six others.
Directs the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study of the subject of early childhood development.
(Minor; Subcommittee; Research.)
- ACR 5 Dreyer.
Directs Legislative Commission to study feasibility of establishing state geriatric center.
(Minor; Staff Study; Research; Fiscal.)
- ACR 6 Wagner, Murphy, Jeffrey, Hayes, Weise and Coulter.
Directs the Legislative Commission to study provisions relating to obscenity.
(Minor; Subcommittee; Legal; Research.)
- ACR 8 May, Craddock, Serpa and Horn.
Directs the Legislative Commission to study assessment and taxation of geothermal resources.
(Minor; Staff Study (possibly subcommittee); Fiscal.)
- ACR 9 Committee on Government Affairs.
Urges local governments to review their existing liability insurance.
- ACR 25 Weise and Murphy.
Directs Legislative Commission to study feasibility of creating new county for north shore area of Lake Tahoe.
(Minor; Subcommittee; Legal; Research; Fiscal.)
- ACR 34 Robinson and Murphy.
Directs Legislative Commission to study extent of unclaimed property in Nevada.
(Minor; Staff Study; Legal.)
- ACR 35 Gomes, Schofield, Wagner and 26 others.
Directs Legislative Commission to study and develop rate structures for use by certain public utilities.
(Major; Subcommittee; Contract Study; Fiscal.)
- ACR 38 Committee on Judiciary.
Directs the Legislative Commission to study crimes and punishments.
(Major; Subcommittee; Legal.)

PAGE TWO
STUDIES IN SENATE LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS
APRIL 26, 1977

ACR 40 Hayes.

Directs Legislative Commission to study feasibility of creating commission to regulate transportation.
(Minor; Subcommittee; Research.)

ACR 42 Kissam.

Directs Legislative Commission to study "no-fault" automobile insurance.
(Minor; Subcommittee; Legal.)

ACR 44 Hickey, Howard, Chaney and seven others.

Directs Legislative Commission to study community college division of University of Nevada System.
(Minor; Subcommittee; Fiscal.)

ACR 51 Committee on Agriculture.

Directs Legislative Commission to provide for tour of rural areas of Nevada by legislators.
(Minor; Staff Study; Research.)

ACR 52 Committee on Legislative Functions.

Directs Legislative Commission to conduct a study of administrative practices of Nevada Industrial Commission and alternative methods of providing workmen's compensation coverage.
(Major; Subcommittee; Contract Study; Fiscal.)

ACR 54 Committee on Education.

Directs Legislative Commission to study structures and functions of the State Board of Education and State Department of Education.

(Major; Subcommittee; Legal; Research.)

ACR 55 Committee on Ways and Means.

Directs Legislative Commission to study administration of mental hygiene and mental retardation programs in Nevada.
(Major; Subcommittee; Contract Study; Fiscal.)

SCR 25 Gojack, Foote, Raggio, Young and Wilson.

Directs Legislative Commission to study feasibility of creating separate local government body for north shore area of Lake Tahoe.

(Minor; Subcommittee; Research; Legal; Fiscal.)

SCR 39 Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Directs Legislative Commission to study procedures followed by Nevada Industrial Commission and alternative methods of coverage.

(Major; Subcommittee; Contract Study; Fiscal.)

PAGE THREE
STUDIES IN SENATE LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS
APRIL 26, 1977

SCR 41 Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Directs Legislative Commission to study building codes and safety standards.

(Minor; Subcommittee; Legal.)

SCR 42 Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Directs Legislative Commission to study feasibility of requiring health insurance to cover treatment for alcoholism and drug abuse.

(Minor; Subcommittee; Research; Fiscal.)

SENATE RESOLUTIONS IN ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE

- SCR 12: Directs appointment of legislative committee to study present medical liability insurance problem and submit recommendations to the 59th legislative session and study by Legislative Commission of ongoing problems of medical malpractice insurance.
- Minor--staff study (possibly subcommittee)--Research
- SCR 14: Directs Legislative Commission to study and make recommendations on subject of pupil achievement.
- Major--subcommittee--Research
- SCR 19: Requests study of labor-management relations in private enterprise.
- SCR 34: Directing Legislative Commission to study problems and treatment of alcoholism in Nevada.
- Minor--subcommittee--Research
- SCR 36: Directs Legislative Commission to conduct study to recodify Nevada's education laws.
- Major--staff study--Legal
- SCR 37: Directs Legislative Commission to study liability insurance and employee group insurance available to local governments.
- Minor-subcommittee--Legal, Fiscal
- SCR 38: Directs Legislative Commission to study feasibility of establishing state home for veterans in Nevada.
- Minor--subcommittee--Fiscal

STUDIES IN ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE

ACR 14: Directs Legislative Commission to study feasibility of conducting legislative review of existing and future regulations of agencies of executive branch of state government.

MINOR - subcommittee - legal

ACR 23: Directs Legislative Commission to review Nevada Revised Statutes and ferret out obsolete or superseded provisions.

MINOR - staff study - legal

ACR 50: Directs Legislative Commission to study feasibility of automatic periodic termination and evaluation of certain boards.

MAJOR - subcommittee - legal, research, fiscal

ACR 53: Directs Legislative Commission to study Nevada Equal Rights Commission.

MINOR - subcommittee - legal

ACR 56: Directs Legislative Commission to study Nevada water pollution laws and regulations.

MAJOR - subcommittee - legal