

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
April 14, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m.

Senator Floyd R. Lamb was in the chair.

PRESENT: Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman  
Senator James I. Gibson  
Senator Eugene V. Echols  
Senator Norman D. Glaser  
Senator Norman Ty Hilbrecht  
Senator Thomas R. C. Wilson  
Senator C. Clifton Young

Others : Ronald W. Sparks, Chief Deputy, Fiscal Analyst  
Howard Barrett, Budget Director

Mr. Sparks, reported that the Public Works Board could do a feasibility study on the Community College without any additional money. However, they did request the Committee to consider restoring the clerical position they had requested, which had not been recommended by the Governor. The Committee decided not to reopen the budget.

The Committee approved a \$6,000 appropriation to the Public Employees Retirement Board for administering the legislative retirement system.

S.B. 153: Reorganizes functions of energy and natural resources conservation.

Mr. Sparks said that he took the fiscal note that Mr. Hall provided and went through each of the budgets affected and the first one is the Director's office in the Department. Mr. Hall wants to delete the public information officer and add an unclassified Assistant Director. He said he had put the Assistant Director in the unclassified pay bill.

The next is the Environmental Commission division and in this one he wants to delete the Research Analyst.

The next budget is the Division of Water Resources and it calls for the deletion of a Hydraulic Engineer III.

The next is in the Division of State Lands and in this one the note calls for adding a Program Specialist, a Right-of-Way Agent, actually a Land Specialist of some sort, travel, operating and equipment.

In the Division of Forestry they would delete the Deputy position, and in Environmental Protection the classified Chief would become an unclassified Chief and this has been inserted in the unclassified pay bill.

Mr. Sparks reminded the Committee that the salaries on the workings are shown with payroll costs. The Environmental Protection Chief is currently receiving \$26,347 and the one inserted in the pay bill has the five and one-half percent increase on top of this current salary.

Division of Water Planning is where all of the money that is saved in the other divisions goes. It calls for a Senior Planner, a Hydraulic Engineer III, and a Senior Clerk-steno, plus the associated travel, operating, equipment, etc.

Then, in the Department of Energy it calls for two engineering specialists; one a grade 38, the second one is a grade 35, plus a Senior Clerk-steno in the second year, and the travel, operating, and the Deputy Attorney General in the second year.

In summary, on the second page, the net budget increases for the first year.....Senator Gibson interrupted him to say that they needed to separate that because the Department of Energy is a completely new department. He said he was interested in the budget increase just for the first columns which would be \$40,568.

Mr. Sparks, said the total increase of \$112,290 is funded by the \$15,144 in federal funds that Mr. Hall mentioned the other day, and the additional general funds of \$97,146 the first year and \$157,807 the second year.

Senator Gibson asked if he had brought over the funds from the Energy Advisory Committee. Mr. Sparks said he thought that was the next thing the Committee would want to do. The money that is in that budget (page 609) is a little over \$25,000 a year. Senator Gibson said they had intended to delete the committee and bring the money over. Senator Hilbrecht said it was written right on the budget for "S. B. 153."

Senator Gibson asked about the Director of the Department of Energy. Mr. Sparks said he had talked with Don Paff and Mr. Hall. This position was never included in the fiscal note that he submitted. According to Mr. Paff there are two alternatives, he thinks. One is that Mr. Paff wear two hats for the next two years and manage the whole department, including the Division of Colorado River Resources. He said he could do that, it would stretch him pretty thin for the next two years, but he would be happy to do it with a little higher pay, about a ten percent increase above what is recommended.

Mr. Sparks said he had inserted in the unclassified pay bill, just to get it in there, a salary for the Director of the Department of Energy and it is set at five percent greater than Mr. Paff's recommended salary.

Senator Gibson asked how that lined up with other departments. Mr. Sparks said it would put that Director at \$28,500; Norm Hall is a little over \$30,000. Mr. Paff would be interested in there being a ten percent differential between the division head of the Colorado River and the Director of the Department. When you do that, that does approach Mr. Hall's salary.

The second alternative is to fund a Director of the Department, separately, which was not included in the figures he had given the Committee.

The Committee discussed the advisability of a division head serving as Director for the two year period. Senator Hilbrecht said he would not object, with the understanding that they will go on contract services with respect to whatever project is done. He said he would not object to Don Paff's suggestion. Senator Gibson asked Mr. Barrett what the feeling of the Governor would be. Mr. Barrett said he wouldn't know; he had never discussed it with him at all. Mr. Sparks said that according to Don and the way he has built the budget on the Department of Energy, it would not require additional money to be added if he were to wear both hats at an increased salary, because he has put in a sum of \$20,000 for estimated operating, clerical and the miscellaneous costs. He can't specifically identify them, but he feels there is enough within that figure and within perhaps some salary savings to fund the increased salaries for the dual position.

Senator Hilbrecht said he wanted to see the Department of Energy doing something; he didn't want to see them sitting around for two years getting organized, which was why he felt that utilizing Don would not be a bad idea.

Senator Gibson reminded them that the Governor was the one who would determine this, not the Committee. Senator Hilbrecht said he did not think this was a money saving thing as he felt they were going to wind up putting \$50,000 to \$100,000 in it, if they want any kind of a project of undertaking in the next two years.

Senator Gibson suggested putting in \$25,000 a year for contract services. He felt that there were federal funds that can be picked up with this. Mr. Sparks said they could add that to the Department of Energy under contract services as a special category.

Mr. Sparks, asked if the Committee wanted anything in there for a Director. Senator Gibson said he thought they should have the Director in the unclassified; he said all this would be up to the Governor as he might not want Mr. Paff to wear two hats.

Mr. Sparks said he was relaying a message from Mr. Paff, and he wanted them to be sure they all understood. He didn't feel that \$28,500 was enough for him to wear two hats.

Senator Gibson moved the Committee amend the budget to make the salary \$30,000 for the Director of the Energy Division to include the responsibilities as Director of the Colorado River Resources. Senator Echols seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

S.B. 14: Increases maximum allowance for subsistence expenses of State officers and employees. Senator Lamb said that Mr. Glaser needed some direction as Conference Chairman on this bill. Senator Glaser said that page 1, line 11, they had amended the \$30 to read \$32. The Committee discussed the expense figures listed in the bill and instructed Senator Glaser to go to \$17 on line 13, and eliminate lines 15, 16, 17 on page one. On page one, line 11, hold to the \$30, effective through the biennium. Senator Young so moved and Senator Gibson seconded and the motion carried.

The Committee discussed S. B. 232, discussing comparative salaries in other states.

Mr. Sparks reported changes made by the Assembly Committee. One was for the Director for the Fish and Game Division, they gave him a 5.5 percent increase. The other was for the Deputy State Treasurer, they would not go along with the \$21,000 that was requested, and the Senate Finance Committee approved. They gave a 10.5 percent raise.

Senator Gibson said he felt the Committee should hold the bill until they had all the package together. The Committee agreed.

Senator Lamb asked their opinion on the Judicial Selection and Discipline Commissions. Senator Gibson recommended the Committee appropriate the stipend and the travel for the two years for each Committee and provide that when they have to meet they come to the Interim Finance Committee. Senator Young moved the Committee adopt Senator Gibson's recommendation and Senator Hilbrecht seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Sparks referred to the letter from Mr. Humphrey on the HUD loans that were available.. Mr. Barrett said he had talked with Mr. Humphrey and he reported that they had nothing in writing on it. They would possibly use it to convert White Pine Hall into married housing, but they do not have a definite plan to do that as yet. They just wanted the authority in case they wanted to do it. It would really cost the state nothing and there may be some advantages to the state because they do have some problems in keeping their dormitories full and if White Pine were converted to married housing then they would remove that number of unused rooms.

Senator Lamb explained that this would need a new bill. Senator Hilbrecht moved that the Committee not order a new bill; Senator Young seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sparks said before they could write the appropriation act, and the authorization act, they needed two bills, the unclassified pay bill and the doctor bill. He reminded them that they would need about three days for a turn around.

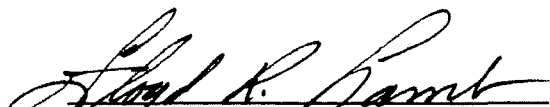
The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



MURIEL P. MOONEY, SECRETARY

APPROVED:



FLOYD R. LAMB, CHAIRMAN

(REPRINTED WITH ADOPTED AMENDMENTS)

SECOND REPRINT

S. B. 153

SENATE BILL NO. 153—COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

JANUARY 27, 1977

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Reorganizes functions of energy and natural resource  
conservation. (BDR 18-22)

FISCAL NOTE: Local Government Impact: No.  
State or Industrial Insurance Impact: Yes.

EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [ ] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to governmental agencies; reorganizing certain of those which deal with energy and the use and conservation of natural resources; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

*The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly,  
do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 232 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 4.5, inclusive, of this act.  
3 SEC. 2. 1. *The division of environmental protection consists of the*  
4 *administrator and any other necessary personnel.*  
5 2. *The administrator is appointed by the director and is in the unclas-*  
6 *sified service of the state.*  
7 SEC. 3. 1. *The division of water planning consists of the administra-*  
8 *tor and any other necessary personnel.*  
9 2. *The administrator is appointed by the director and is in the unclas-*  
10 *sified service of the state.*  
11 SEC. 3.5. 1. *The division of mineral resources consists of the admin-*  
12 *istrator and any other necessary personnel.*  
13 2. *The administrator is appointed by the director and is in the*  
14 *unclassified service of the state.*  
15 SEC. 4. 1. *The director shall appoint two assistant directors of the*  
16 *department and shall assign their duties.*  
17 2. *Each assistant director is in the unclassified service of the state and*  
18 *is entitled to receive:*  
19 (a) *An annual salary in the amount determined pursuant to the provi-*  
20 *sions of NRS 284.182.*  
21 (b) *Travel expenses and subsistence allowances as provided by law.*  
22 3. *Each assistant director shall devote his entire time and attention to*

62 97