

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Horn
Vice Chairman Bedrosian
Mr. Barengo
Mrs. Cavnar
Mr. Harmon
Mr. Hickey
Mr. Malone

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS PRESENT: William Swackhamer, Secretary of State
Assemblyman Hayes
Assemblyman Chaney
Esther Nicholson, League of Women Voters
Joyce Nightengale
Patsy Becker

Chairman Horn turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Bedrosian who called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Mr. Bedrosian said that the committee would consider AB 467 and asked Assemblyman Hayes to explain her bill.

AB 467: Removes distinctions based on sex from residency requirements for elections.

Assemblyman Karen Hayes explained that AB 467 was simply a gender bill and changed the word he to person in stating residency requirements.

Esther Nicholson, representing the League of Women Voters, stated that her organization was in favor of AB 467 and advocated equality of the sexes in all law. She questioned line 5 of the bill which says "permanently located" and wondered if this wording would allow a person to vote in two states. She added that in an area like Carson City and Reno quite often a person is permanently employed in Nevada but his family resides in California.

Mr. Barengo explained that a person could live in forty seven different states but be domiciled in one and suggested that possibly the term domiciled should be used. He added that domiciled basically means where you intend to make your permanent home. He pointed out that a member of the armed forces who was a resident of the State of Nevada when he joined could be absent from the state for thirty years but would not lose his residency.

Mrs. Nicholson suggested that since this bill was before the committee that it could be amended to read domiciled or resident for clarity.

Mr. Barengo suggested contacting Mr. Daykin concerning the wording of AB 467 and Mr. Bedrosian appointed Mr. Barengo a committee of one to do this.

Since there was no further testimony on AB 467, Mr. Bedrosian asked the committee to consider AB 608, Mr. Chaney's bill.

AB 608: Increases distance from polling places at which electioneering is permitted.

Assemblyman Lonie Chaney related the circumstances of this bill's defeat last session and explained the problems in his area of groups passing out ballots and pressuring voters as they entered the polls. He added that his area was very young politically and many persons were voting for the first time. He felt that if the distance from the polls was increased to 500 feet this electioneering would not be as effective. He pointed out that this bill should be amended to exempt private property because of the homes located closer than 500 feet from schools.

When Mr. Hickey questioned trucks with political signs that might be parked on the right of way, Mr. Chaney said that they really did not want to get into signs.

Mr. Malone stated that he felt AB 608 should be repealed for three reasons: 1) because it states that you cannot speak to a voter concerning a ballot and husbands and wives could not discuss their vote without being in violation, 2) because a gross misdemeanor was too severe, and 3) because he would have to park his vehicle with political advertising on it 500 feet from the polls which would be too far for his wife who has a heart condition.

When Mr. Chaney referred to police officers having to stop fights at the polls, Mr. Malone stated that there are law enforcement officers stationed at every polling place and it is their responsibility to break up fights. He added that he did not feel this problem should be addressed by state statute.

William Swackhamer, Secretary of State, said that he had no objections to AB 608 but offered the suggestion that since this was more a local problem it might be better handled by a change in city ordinances.

Mr. Bedrosian asked Mr. Swackhamer if there would have to be language in the state law allowing local entities to extend the distance from polling places for electioneering if they so desired.

Mr. Swackhamer presumed that with the present law they could not change to less than 100 feet but could change to more than 100 feet.

Mr. Malone moved to INDEFINITELY POSTPONE AB 608. As there was no second to this motion, it died for lack of a second.

Mr. Hickey commented that he was not sure that 500 feet was a fair figure but did feel that there was a problem that should be addressed.

Mr. Barengo said he felt that possibly the only solution would be to prohibit electioneering on election day. He added that in Reno radio stations will not accept political advertisements for election day.

Mr. Hickey commented that some of the tactics used on election day were deplorable and reiterated that these problems should be addressed.

Mr. Malone indicated that a further problem with this legislation was the lack of a time limit.

Mr. Bedrosian asked Mr. Hickey to work with Mr. Chaney in drafting some amendments that would address the concerns of the committee.

Mrs. Cavnar asked that the committee consider AB 271.

AB 271: Provides for election of commissioners of public service commission of Nevada.

Mrs. Cavnar moved DO PASS on AB 271, seconded by Mr. Barengo.

Mr. Barengo explained that he and Mrs. Cavnar felt that government should be brought closer to the people and AB 271 does this. He reminded the committee that this legislation has a concurrent referral to Government Affairs. He suggested that with the high cost of bill drafting amendments that perhaps a letter of intent should be given to this other committee.

Mrs. Cavnar commented that she felt if the Public Service Commission were elected it would represent enough consumers that a consumer affairs division or consumer advocacy would not be necessary.

Mr. Hickey stated that whether this commission is elected or selected he felt there should be qualifications established in order to ensure that this board is knowledgeable.

Mr. Hickey moved to amend AB 271 to create qualification slots for electing members to the PSC. There was no second to this motion.

After further discussion, the committee agreed that the qualifications for these five members of the PSC should be an engineer, a CPA, an attorney, a member at large and an appointment by the governor.

Mr. Barengo stated that this amendment would change the whole philosophy of the bill. Mr. Bedrosian said he would take the responsibility of getting this amendment drafted.

Mr. Bedrosian gave each of the members a copy of the amendments to SB 37 which is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A. He commented that this bill had already received a do pass as amended from the committee but he wanted the members to have the opportunity of checking them before presentation on the floor.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Bedrosian adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

According to parliamentary procedure, the motion on the floor died with the adjournment of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Hatch

Patricia Hatch
Assembly Attache

1979 REGULAR SESSION (60TH)

ASSEMBLY ACTION		SENATE ACTION		Assembly	AMENDMENT BLANK
Adopted	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted	<input type="checkbox"/>	AMENDMENTS to	Senate
Lost	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lost	<input type="checkbox"/>		Joint
Date:		Date:		Bill No.	37 Resolution No.
Initial:		Initial:		BDR	24-121
Concurred in	<input type="checkbox"/>	Concurred in	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed by	Committee on Elections
Not concurred in	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not concurred in	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Date:		Date:			
Initial:		Initial:			

Amendment N^o 411



Amend section 1, page 1, line 4, by deleting "before 12 m. of the day", and inserting "within 5 working days".

Amend section 18, page 7, line 42, by deleting the brackets around "4", and deleting "2".

Amend section 20, page 8, line 25, by deleting "20", and inserting "[20] no more than 25".

No: E & E
LCB File
Journal
Engrossment
Bill

Date 3-27-79 Drafted by JSP:sl 56