

MEMBERS PRESENT

- Chairman Dini
- Mr. Marvel
- Mr. Fitzpatrick
- Mr. Harmon
- Dr. Robinson
- Mr. Craddock
- Mr. Jeffrey
- Mr. Getto
- Mr. Bedrosian
- Mr. Bergevin

GUESTS PRESENT

See Guest List attached

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Chairman Dini called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. He requested the record reflect the absence of Mrs. Westall due to illness.

SB 235 - REMOVES LIMITATION ON ASSESSMENTS FOR CERTAIN EXPENSES OF WATER DISTRIBUTION

SB 248 - CLARIFIES AND AMENDS PROCEDURE FOR DISPOSING OF CAREY ACT LANDS

ROLAND WESTERGARD, Director, Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources

Mr. Westergard advised the Committee the Bill would essentially provide for a change in the allowable assessment on a stream system that irrigates more than 200,000 acres, and it would raise the potential assessment from 8¢ to 16¢ per acre foot.

SENATOR CARL DODGE

Senator Dodge advised the Committee that the Bill would increase the assessment for the supervision of water distribution on the Humboldt River, and was supported by the Pershing County Water Conservation District on the basis of need. He stated they realized the present revenues are not sufficient to administer the system.

Chairman Dini inquired how many distribution systems

come under the 200,000 acre limitation, and Mr. Westergard responded just one. He advised in 1971 it was raised to 8¢ but with the spiralling costs of salaries and operating expenses, the 8¢ is not adequate to meet it anymore.

Dr. Robinson inquired as to the expenses involved in the administration, and Mr. Westergard responded the funds would pay the salaries of three full time people, and during the irrigation season, depending on the water supply, they hire seasonal people who actually go out physically to divert and control the water on the Humboldt stream system and its tributaries.

Chairman Dini stated the testimony was concluded on SB 235, and go on to SB 248.

Senator Dodge advised the Committee he had introduced the amendatory Bill in order to get it before the Legislature, but could not give the Committee any technical information and deferred the testimony to Mr. Jack Shaw, Administrator of the Division of State Lands.

JACK SHAW, Administrator, Division of State Lands

He advised the Committee that SB 248 was basically housecleaning with one exception on page 3, lines 44 and 45. He stated they added, "any land which is listed by the Division as being available for reclamation through the Division. . . ."

A discussion ensued between Committee members and Mr. Shaw concerning Federal lands and private ownership.

Mr. Getto asked Mr. Shaw if he felt the Carey Act was going to be effective, and he responded he did.

AJR 23 - PROPOSES TO AMEND NEVADA CONSTITUTION TO REQUIRE THAT STATUTES WHICH MAKE CERTAIN INCREASES IN EXPENDITURES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CONTAIN LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION FOR AMOUNT OF INCREASE

No one appeared either for or in opposition to the Bill.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

AJR 23 - Mr. Bergevin moved INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT; seconded by Mr. Harmon, and unanimously carried.

SB 235 - Mr. Bergevin moved DO PASS; seconded by Mr. Getto, and unanimously carried.

SB 248 - Mr. Getto moved DO PASS; seconded by Mr. Marvel, and unanimously carried.

The next order of business is AB 588.

AB 588 - PERMITS COUNTY HOSPITALS TO EMPLOY CERTAIN
MEDICAL PERSONNEL AS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS
AND PURCHASE CERTAIN ITEMS WITHOUT RECEIVING
BIDS

SAM MAMET, representing Clark County

GEORGE RIESE, Admin., So. Nevada Memorial Hospital

Mr. Mamet advised the Committee the Bill was proposed by Southern Nevada, and they are asking that doctors employed by county hospitals be exempt from the 95% limit in the State statutes on salaries generally. He stated the percentage has caused serious problems in the recruitment of doctors. He also advised the Bill sets forth that county hospitals do have the authority to contract with individual doctors who are private medical associations for clinical services to the hospital, and legal counsel for Southern Nevada feels some clarification to the statute is necessary. Mr. Mamet advised the Committee that in 1975 the Legislature allowed county hospitals be managed by private hospital management companies, and Southern Nevada is the only county hospital in the state which is managed by private medical corporation. He further advised the Committee that the problem with the statute is that it simply says that the agreement the county may enter into with a private hospital management company can provide for the utilization of the purchasing facilities of that hospital management company, and the problem has always arisen as to the relationship between that section and the Local Government Purchasing Act, N.R.S. 332, and never been quite clear what provisions are to be followed. He stated legal counsel felt it needed to be specified more clearly and that is

being attempted in section 3 of the Bill.

Mr. Riese advised the Committee that essentially the hospital had two problems: they have to buy services of doctors and, according to their attorney, it was not clear in previous legislation that they could contract for, or buy services, services on a fee for services basis which restricted them theoretically to salaries. He stated their attorney proposed adding a phrase to allow them to make contractual arrangements with doctors. Mr. Riese stated he worked for Hyatt Medical Management who own and/or operate 29 or 30 hospitals across the nation, and they can get bids in using their clout and get much better bargains. He advised their purchasing power results in much better prices than local bidding; they have arrangements with furniture manufacturers who absolutely refuse to enter into formal bidding and will sell to the hospital, if they do not have to go through the bidding, at a much higher discount.

Dr. Robinson stated he was skeptical as it did not look right to him that there would be a hospital management association running the hospital and have the administrator of the hospital, who is an employee of the hospital management group, have the right to go back to his own company and buy the material without going to bid. He stated he thought the public would look at it as a dangerous matter.

Mr. Bergevin stated he just couldn't buy the open end situation.

Chairman Dini advised the Committee and the witnesses that the Bill would be carried over to the next day to allow Mr. Mamet to work on amendments to section three of the Bill.

The testimony was then concluded on AB 588.

Mr. Getto asked to introduce a resolution for an interim study on rural medical problems and a discussion ensued between Committee members. Chairman Dini then stated he would entertain such a motion, and Mr. Getto moved that the Government Affairs Committee introduce a resolution for an interim study on emergency medical care in rural counties; seconded by Mr. Marvel, and unanimously carried.

Chairman Dini asked for a report from the subcommittee on AB 343 and Mr. Craddock reported on the amendment. Mr. Craddock advised the Committee the amendment provides for a blanket bond for all positions except the County Treasurer.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

AB 343 - Mr. Craddock moved AMEND and DO PASS; seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick, and unanimously carried.

AB 583 - Mr. Getto moved INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT; seconded by Mr. Marvel, and unanimously carried.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Shatzman
Assembly Attache