

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Westall
Mr. Harmon
Mr. Vergiels
Mr. Barento
Mr. Rusk
Mr. Tanner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Mello
Mr. Glover
Mr. Weise

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Westall at 4:00 p.m. She called for testimony on behalf of S.B. 527.

SENATE BILL 527

Mr. Barenco explained that this bill arose because of a cemetery by the university on which a dispute has arisen. The city tried to get it and clean it up and ran into problems with disinterring bodies. The absent owner then showed up and found they could not do anything with it due to the cost of disinterment. They then gave it to the University of Nevada, which now would have the problems of how to use the land. This bill would try to set forth guidelines for situations of this type.

Mrs. Westall explained that there is a possible agreement between the two sides whereby the University has agreed to move the graves and headstones, put up a fence, give permanent care and put two members of families having relatives buried there on the committee that would be moving the graves.

Prudence Gould Moran testified that there are ten members of her family buried in the cemetery referred to above. She agrees that there is a problem and something should be done, but it should be done properly. There are 1443 graves, many without mortuary records. It would be quite difficult to move this many graves. The descendents of those buried there deserve the consideration and assurance that the move will be done carefully and well if it must be done. There are 191 registered burials in a list done by the City of Reno, although the exact location of some gravesites is unknown. She mentioned the removal of the catholic cemetery near the university and of the many problems that arose with that move. She has received much support on the fact that if it must be moved it has to be done correctly and kindly. She feels that it could be made into a park. She questioned the ownership of the land. This bill would apply to any city of 50,000 or more and would be quite far reaching.

Alfred Westall testified that he has relatives burried in the Hillside Cemetery, including a grandfather and great grandfather. The broadness of the bill and the effect upon about any cemetery around an incorporated city bothered him. There are three other cemeteries at the site of Hillside Cemetery, including the Grand Armies, the Jewish Cemetery and the Pythian Cemetery. This could also affect them. The legislature should take some means to control the moving of the bodies and their preservation and care after moving. This should be included in the statutes. There should also be included the prevention of moving a body more than once; retain the size of the grave plots; retain and repair monuments, vaults or any other thing there and move them accordingly; mark all unknown graves with a bronze plaque; provide for perpetual care for the graves. This would provide a protection for those buried and their descendents, whether they are known or not.

Mr. Rusk questioned the perpetual care of a cemetery and its difficulty.

Mr. Westall felt that this could come under federal protection. He feels that those having a monetary gain from the removal of a cemetery should have some responsibility for future care. Most other states and countries take more responsibility in the care of graveyards than Nevada.

Testimony was concluded on S.B. 527.

COMMITTEE ACTION

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 14

It was moved by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Vergiels, that S.C.R. 14 be recommended Do Pass. The motion carried unanimously.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 17 and ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 34

It was moved by Mr. Vergiels, seconded by Mr. Harmon, that S.C.R. 17 and A.C.R. 34 be recommended Do Pass. The motion carried unanimously.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 19

It was moved by Mr. Barengo, seconded by Mr. Vergiels, that S.C.R. 19 be recommended Do Pass. The motion carried unanimously.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 23

It was moved by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Vergiels, that S.C.R. 23 be recommended Do Pass. The motion did not carry.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 26

It was moved by Mr. Rusk, seconded by Mr. Harmon, that S.C.R. 26 be recommended Do Pass. The motion carried unanimously.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30

It was moved by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Barengo, that S.C.R. 30 be Indefinitely Postponed. The motion carried unanimously.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 31

It was moved by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Barengo, that S.C.R. 31 be Indefinitely Postponed. The motion carried unanimously.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 39

It was moved by Mr. Vergiels, seconded by Mr. Harmon, that S.C.R. 39 be recommended Do Pass. The Motion carried unanimously.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 42

It was moved by Mr. Tanner, seconded by Mr. Vergiels, that S.C.R. 42 be recommended Do Pass. The motion carried unanimously.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 46

It was moved by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Vergiels, that S.C.R. 46 be recommended Do Pass. The motion carried with Mrs. Westall voting No.

It was moved by Mr. Barengo, seconded by Mr. Vergiels, that the Do Pass recommendation be rescinded. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Barengo that S.C.R. 46 be amended, seconded by Mr. Vergiels. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Vergiels, seconded by Mr. Barengo that S.C.R. 46 be recommended Do Pass as Amended. The motion carried unanimously.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 49

It was moved by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Tanner, that S.C.R. 49 be recommended Do Pass. The motion carried unanimously.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 50

Following recommendations of Ned Soloman and Andy Grose, it was moved by Mr. Tanner, seconded by Mr. Rusk, that S.C.R. 50 be recommended Do Pass and be married to S.C.R. 19. The motion carried unanimously.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 51

Andy Grose explained that this resolution would help bring laws into compliance with federal minimum standards. It was decided by the committee to act on this resolution at a later time.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 53

It was moved by Mr. Tanner, seconded by Mr. Rusk, that S.C.R. 53 be recommended Do Pass. The motion was defeated.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 54

It was moved by Mr. Rusk, seconded by Mr. Harmon, that S.C.R. 54 be recommended Do Pass. The motion carried unanimously.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 55

Following an explanation by Andy Grose that this applies to Joint Ruly 7, and was drafted at the request of the Senate Legislative Functions Committee to put the rule in order, and that it does not change anything, it was decided to move on this resolution at a later time.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 40

It was moved by Mr. Tanner, seconded by Mr. Rusk, that S.C.R. 40 be recommended Do Pass. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Westall at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruth Olguin
Committee Secretary