

Committee in session at 7:30 a.m. Senator Floyd R. Lamb was in the Chair.

PRESENT: Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman
Senator James I. Gibson, Vice Chairman
~~Senator Eugene V. Echols~~
Senator Norman D. Glaser
Senator Thomas R.C. Wilson (absent for part of voting)
Senator Lawrence E. Jacobsen
Senator Clifford E. McCorkle

ABSENT: Senator Eugene V. Echols

OTHERS Ronald W. Sparks, Chief Fiscal Analyst
Eugene Pieretti, Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Howard Barrett, Budget Director
Senator Carl Dodge
Senator James Kosinski
Jim Wittenberg, State Personnel Director
Roger Laird, State Personnel Division
Bob Gagnier, SNEA
Ralph DiSibio, Director, Dept. of Human Resources
Tom Stutchman, Vice President, Fallon Nursing Home Assoc.
Charles Springer, Juvenile Court Master, Washoe County
Stan Peck, Assistant Chief Deputy, Washoe County
District Attorney's Office
Cy Ryan, United Press
John Rice, Associated Press.

AB 24 Creates risk management division in department of administration.

Senator Carl Dodge testified on behalf of the bill, stating the budget director, as a result of an interim study, is requesting to create this position in the Insurance Premium Revolving Fund Budget (Page 54). Senator Dodge explained that a risk manager is an insurance man. He said that the interim study (which Mr. Pieretti assisted) reviewed liability coverage by local governments; recommending the creation of a risk manager in State government.

Mr. Barrett has normally had the responsibility for some phases of this type of work; but he doesn't have the expertise within his department to handle this job correctly. The qualifications listed in the study would be used for the job qualifications; the person would be a service employee.

AB 417 Increases salaries of employees of State of Nevada in classified service.

Jim Wittenberg, Director of State Personnel, Bob Gagnier, SNEA, and Roger Laird, State Personnel Division, represented the State employees.

Mr. Wittenberg said the recommendations for this bill are based on three basic factors; 1) a salary survey conducted within the State of Nevada, and the western states, with the average salaries from that study; 2) the consumer price index; 3) the presidential guidelines. The recommendations were made, based on those three variables. Overall, the presidential guidelines allow an average of 7 percent per year over a two-year contract.

Mr. Wittenberg said the recommendations came out of negotiations with the State Employees' Association, who reached agreement on the recommendations contained in this bill, as well as a number of other fringe benefits. Mr. Wittenberg stated this is the first time in Nevada that they reduced some existing fringe benefits; his justification being that this was the prevailing practice in the areas of sick leave usage and holidays, which were reduced. Annual leave accumulation was reduced from 15 days to 12 days, for new employees, for the first three years of their employment. It

was reduced based on prevailing practice. There are very few jurisdictions in the State which provide 15 days annual leave for the first-year worker. This is true in the private sector also. This will allow for providing more salary increases, because of the escalation in the cost of living. They negotiated the holidays, leaving ten holidays, which is the average for public jurisdictions in the State of Nevada.

The reduction increased man hours by 135,000 and \$1.3 million for the cost of the two holidays previously authorized by the Governor. Reducing sick leave usage the first six months amounted to \$383,000 for the biennium. The annual leave reduction (from 15 to 12 days) is a three day gain, and for the first three years totals \$957,000. The total savings is \$2,000,269; which amounts to about 6.4 percent of the overall salary and fringe benefit increase proposed.

Senator Gibson asked what the average salary would be if the bill is passed. Mr. Wittenberg said \$17,100, with fringe benefits and merit increases for this year. There are 8,500 State employees.

AB 445 Expands number of years for which increases in payments for length of service may be made to state employees.

Jim Wittenberg said this bill is to increase the number of years that a person can accumulate towards their longevity. Mr. Wittenberg said the change in the second line of the bill is because Mr. Daykin didn't care for the language in the bill.

AB 197 Changes allowances for subsistence and travel expenses of state officers and employees.

Jim Wittenberg said this bill is not part of the joint agreement. The bill provides two things: one is to increase per diem from the present \$30 to \$40; the other is to increase the mileage rate allowance from 17 cents per mile to 19 cents. In the \$40 per diem, establishment of exact meal allowance will still be up to the Board of Examiners. They can set it at a lesser amount if they wish.

SB 325 Creates office of advocate for residents of facilities for long-term care.

Dr. Ralph DiSibio, Director of the Department of Human Resources, stated this bill provides for an ombudsman who will be housed in the department's office to care for, or see to it that senior citizens are cared for in long-term facilities. The ombudsman exists now and is required by federal law. He is paid for by federal dollars and the federal law requires that a minimum of \$20,000 of the Aging Services monies that come from the federal government, be used to establish this office of ombudsman.

Senator Jim Kosinski, as a member of the Human Resources Committee, stated the committee decided the position should be placed in the director's office. The reason it is in the unclassified service is that the person filling the position is a retired government employee and could not take a classified position because of the retirement status. Senator Kosinski stated the total cost for the ombudsman and his office would be \$20,000.

Tom Stutchman, vice president of the Fallon Nursing Home Association, and operator of a long-term care facility in Fallon, spoke on behalf of the Nevada Association of Health Facilities. He stated they don't need the bill; they were in favor of the advocates of the State handling this. They currently have one, and he is doing an effective job in helping solve the problems.

SB 541 Provides for determination of mental competency of juvenile offenders.

Charles Springer, Juvenile Court Master for Washoe County, and Stan Peck, Assistant Chief Deputy, District Attorney's office, for

(SB 541 - testimony continued)

bill. Mr. Springer said there is no State facility to handle these children; they have to be transferred out-of-state for treatment. This bill provides that the Mental Health Agency will voluntarily accept custody of these children and accept the responsibility. Mr. Springer said the issue is whether this is to be charged to the county or the State. He said if the Mental Health Division has the responsibility for treating these children; at least empower them to transport a child to a facility and make a contract so that child can be taken care of.

Senator McCorkle asked the interpretation of emotionally disturbed. He asked if it would be fair to say that any child committing a crime of any nature could be determined emotionally disturbed. Mr. Springer said no.

Senator Lamb asked what the cost of the bill would be. Dr. DiSibio answered about \$2 million over the biennium.

Stan Peck, stated this bill does address the cost; but cost is not the only item it addresses. There was some question in the State of Nevada as to whether or not juveniles charged with a delinquent act were entitled to the same due process consideration that an adult is. The Supreme Court established that, in fact, juveniles are entitled to those same considerations. This means a juvenile charged with a delinquent act, cannot be adjudged delinquent (meaning he can't go to trial until such time as it is determined that he has the mental competency to assist in his defense and understand the nature of the crime with which he has been charged.)

SB 51 State to purchase punchcard voting devices.

Senator Glaser moved to concur with Assembly.

Seconded by Senator Gibson.

Motion carried. (Senators Echols and Wilson absent)

AB 328 Appropriation to department of prisons for purchase of equipment for certain correctional centers.

Senator Gibson moved not to concur.

Seconded by Senator Jacobsen.

Motion carried. (Senators Echols and Wilson absent)

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Floyd R. Lamb

APPROVED:

Floyd R. Lamb
Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman

A G E N D A

Senate Committee on Finance

Date Wednesday, May 9, 1979

Time 7:30 a.m. Room 231

<u>Bills or Resolutions to be considered</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Counsel Requested*</u>
A.B. 417	Increases salaries of employees of State of Nevada in classified service.	
A.B. 445	Expands number of years for which increases in payments for length of service may be made to state employees.	
A.B. 197	Changes allowances for subsistence and travel expenses of state officers and employees.	
S.B. 325	Creates office of advocate for residents of facilities for long-term care.	
S.B. 541	Provides for determination of mental competency of juvenile offenders	

*Please do not ask for Counsel unless necessary.