

Committee in Session at 8:35 am on Thursday, March 1, 1979.

Senator Keith Ashworth in the Chair.

PRESENT: Chairman Keith Ashworth  
Vice-Chairman Joe Neal  
Senator Clifton Young  
Senator Rick Blakemore  
Senator Wilbur Faiss  
Senator Jim Kosinski

GUESTS: Senator Norman Glaser, Northern Nevada Senatorial District  
Mr. Russel McDonald, Nevada Association of Counties  
Mr. William Macdonald, District Attorney, Humboldt County  
Ms. Kazuko Nojima, Churchill County Welfare Department  
Mr. Robert Sullivan, Douglas, Carson, Storey, Lyon and Churchill Counties  
Ms. Phyllis Matheus, Lyon County Welfare  
Mr. Ed Maloney, Lyon County Commissioner  
Mr. Pete L. Bengochea, Humboldt County Commissioner

Chairman Ashworth opened the hearing on S.B. 164.

Mr. Russel McDonald, Nevada Association of Counties, spoke in support of S.B. 164. He stated that the problem of the itinerant indigent injured in motor vehicle accidents always placed the small counties in financial difficulty. He stated that the county in which the accident occurs has the financial responsibility for costs incurred. The costs are greater to the smaller counties as they do not have the facilities available for care and must send the injured to the closest urban medical facility, either Las Vegas or Reno. Mr. McDonald stated his belief that financially it should be a state welfare problem and not a local problem. Mr. McDonald presented Exhibit "A" to the committee in which the counties attempted to gather background information. He stated that the bill legally gives the Welfare Division the right to an assessment of services.

Senator Blakemore addressed the problem and stated that it was possible to have one single accident that could conceivably bankrupt a small county.

Senator Norman Glaser, Northern Nevada Senatorial District, prime introducer of the bill, stated that the four counties he represents are impacted due to increased usage of Interstate 80. He stated that the time of the bill had arrived due to the increase in state surplus; in the past, there had not been sufficient money to fund the state's proposed portion.

Senator Young questioned if the bill would include any motor vehicular accident. Senator Glaser responded that he believed it would include any legitimate means of transportation.

Mr. Russel McDonald stated that without any fiscal history, there is some disagreement as to estimates of the financial impact of this legislation. It was his belief that the bill would have to go before the Senate Finance Committee. He stated that if language should be changed within the bill, it should be in the clarification of "motor vehicle."

Senator Young asked if there was any standard by which to judge a person "indigent." Mr. McDonald stated that he believed it would be a local standard as to qualification for public assistance. He stated that under the bill, the district attorney would make the determination.

Chairman Ashworth questioned if the requirements for eligibility should be left to the county as the state will be paying for the bills.

Mr. McDonald stated that on Page 2, Section 8, subsection 2, there is a definition of indigent as pertains to the bill. Senator Young stated that the definition is open-ended. Senator Blakemore stated that the Welfare Division has the ability, under the law, to make the determination as to if an individual is an indigent. Mr. McDonald suggested the placement of a limit as to the dollar amount the state could incur.

Senator Kosinski noted some confusion as to the determination between the non-resident indigent and the Nevada indigent from a county without a medical facility injured while traveling in a county with a medical facility. He questioned why the state should be liable for payment instead of the Nevada indigent's county of origin. Senator Young concurred. Chairman Ashworth stated that he understood the bill to address the non-resident indigent. Mr. McDonald felt the bill could be interpreted on a broader level.

Senator Young also expressed concern as to residency requirements and the effect upon the bill.

Mr. McDonald stated he believed the thrust of the bill was to apply to the indigent traveling throughout the state.

Senator Kosinski requested that the counties produce a more complete fiscal note to submit to the committee.

Mr. William Macdonald, District Attorney, Humboldt County, speaking on behalf of the Rural Counties District Attorney's Association, spoke in behalf of S.B. 164. He stated that there should be a better system other than one county suing another county for payment of bills. He said that presently the county in which the accident occurs is an insurer for hospital bills but does not include doctor bills. The proposed legislation would provide for payment to physicians. He stated that if the counties would be liable for payment to physicians, they would not be able to afford it.

Mr. Macdonald stated it was impossible for the counties to budget for possible costs of this nature. He stated he could see no reason why Washoe County and Clark County should be excluded from this legislation. He expressed concern as to the language on Page 2, Section 7, Line 7 and 8 that stated, "or is a resident of a county other than the one in which the hospital is located." Mr. Macdonald stated that should the committee decide to exclude Nevada residents, he expressed concern as to the definition of resident which could be usable by the courts. Senator Kosinski stated that the residency requirement would not be necessary as the bill does not deny benefits to the indigent but rather addresses the benefit to the county.

Ms. Kazuko Nojima, Director, Churchill County Welfare Department, spoke in support of S.B. 164 and submitted Exhibit "B" to the committee.

Mr. Robert Sullivan, representing Douglas, Carson, Storey, Lyon and Churchill Counties, concurred with the testimony of Ms. Nojima and spoke in support of S.B. 164.

Senator Neal asked if most of the indigent problems in terms of non-payment are the result of motor vehicular accidents. Mr. Sullivan responded that they are.

Mr. Ed Maloney, Lyon County Commissioner, spoke in support of S.B. 164 and reiterated the necessity of state assistance to the counties in this matter.

Mr. Pete Bengochea, Humboldt County Commissioner, spoke in support of S.B. 164 due to the increased travel on highways necessitating assistance to the small counties.

Ms. Phyllis Matheus, Lyon County Welfare, spoke in support of S.B. 164 and stated that White Pine County Welfare was also in support.

Chairman Ashworth recessed the hearing on S.B. 164 until a future date when Mr. George Miller, Administrator, Welfare Division and Mr. Frank Daykin, Legal Counsel, Legislative Counsel Bureau, could be present.

Senator Young requested that Mr. Miller establish criteria pertaining to the matter of indigents. Chairman Ashworth also requested further information from the counties as to financial impact.

Chairman Ashworth presented BDR 40-1185\* for committee introduction pertaining to the disposition of dead bodies.

Senator Blakemore moved to introduce  
BDR 40-1185 as a committee introduction.

Seconded by Senator Faiss.

Motion carried.

Yeas -- 5

Nays -- Senator Neal

S.B. 142 (Exhibit "C")

Chairman Ashworth stated the amendments had been returned from the bill drafter's office on S.B. 142.

Senator Neal moved to "Amend" and "Do Pass" S.B. 142.

Seconded by Senator Faiss.

Discussion: Senator Kosinski questioned if a blind operator leaves the vending operation permanently, could the Bureau of Services to the Blind continue to operate the facility under the provision. Senator Blakemore stated they could only operate until the Bureau of Services to the Blind can find another blind operator. Senator Kosinski expressed concern as to allowing the Bureau of Services to the Blind to go into business in the community.

Motion carried.

Yeas -- 6

Nays -- None

There was a brief discussion as to S.B. 227 and Chairman Ashworth requested that Mr. Wendell McCurry, Division of Environmental Protection, submit information as to why the bill is restricted to "industrial user."

Senator Kosinski addressed the letter from Dr. Don Molde (see Minutes of February 26, 1979 Exhibit "E"). Chairman Ashworth asked if the committee was satisfied with S.B. 24. The committee concurred.

Chairman Ashworth stated that the amendments to S.B. 69 have been returned from the bill drafter's office. Senator Kosinski stated that the amendments accomplished the intent of the committee; the public will have the opportunity for notice, the opportunity for public testimony as to the proposed regulations, and a public filing with the county clerks.

S.B. 117 (Exhibit "D")

Chairman Ashworth stated the Immunization Program Director of the Health Division had submitted amendments to S.B. 117.

Senator Young moved to "Amend" and "Rerefer to the Committee on Human Resources and Facilities."

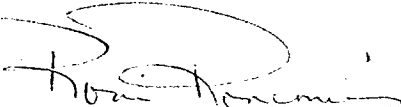
Seconded by Senator Blakemore.

Motion carried.

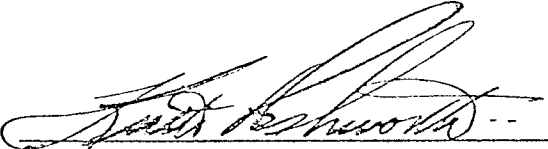
Yeas -- 5  
Nays -- 0  
Absent -- Senator Neal

There being no further business, Chairman Ashworth adjourned the meeting at 10:42 am.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roni Ronemus  
Committee Secretary

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman  
Senator Keith Ashworth

# MEMORANDUM

~~RICHARD W. BUNKER~~  
County Manager

BRUCE W. SPAULDING  
~~Assistant~~ County Manager

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

TO: SENATE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

FROM: SAMUEL D. MAMET, MANAGEMENT ANALYST

SUBJECT: S.B. 164

DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 1979

EXHIBIT "A"

Lander County reported the following cost figures for hospital care of indigents injured in motor vehicle accidents:

Fiscal year ending June 30, 1979	\$14,211.90
" " " " 1978	\$ 8,005.96
" " " " 1977	\$ 6,842.65
" " " " 1976	\$12,212.84

Elko County reported the following cost figures for injured indigents:

Car & motorcycle accidents	\$33,451.54
Train accidents (people falling off trains)	<u>16,999.08</u>
	\$50,450.62

Elko County reported that this above figure included the period from July, 1976 to February, 1979.

Mineral County reported that they paid out during fiscal year 1977-78 \$3,250.15 for injured indigents in highway accidents.

*Churchill County Welfare Department*



869 So. Maine  
Fallon, Nevada 89406

(702) 423-4433  
March 1, 1979

BILL LEE  
Commissioner

MANUEL BARRENCHEA  
County Clerk

KAZUKO NOJIMA  
Welfare Director

Committee on Human Resources and Facilities  
Senator Keith Ashworth, Chairman

Gentlemen:

As Welfare Director of Churchill County I wish to speak in support of S.B. 164, (cost of hospital care for individuals in automobile accidents).

Churchill County has had many experiences with this problem. The "year to date" figure for Fiscal Year 1978-79, shows we have paid our local hospital \$883.01 and have pending claims against the county from Washoe Medical Center for \$4,529.08. There have been other auto accidents this year, but they involved individuals who were residents of other Nevada counties and those bills have been referred to the county of origin and have not crossed my desk. The hospital's success rate in getting payment from other counties has been extremely poor. The hospital has several bills of non-residents involved in automobile accidents which are awaiting replies to determine the status of any insurance or the patients intent to pay. In due time these too will probably have to be paid by our office. Frankly, direct contact with patients has been very unsuccessful and most inquiries have been returned by the post office as "No such address" or "Addressee unknown".

Churchill County probably has less miles of Interstate 80 than many of the other counties. However, we have had numerous accidents on Highway 50 east of Fallon and some very bad ones south on 95. Sometimes we are lucky. The individuals involved have insurance, but when the injuries are severe, the patients only come to Churchill Public Hospital to become stabilized and are whisked off to Washoe Medical Center or St. Mary's. With these patients there is no time to get assignments or signatures on an insurance form, or in some cases even their addresses. Some insurance companies will not accept a billing on anything but their own form.

We have one claim right now from Washoe Medical Center for \$3,533.98. Charges totaled \$15,516.12. Washoe Medical Center got their insurance form signed and the insurance company paid \$11,982.14 on the bill but this young man failed to give us a signed insurance claim form and has ignored every request for cooperation to cover a small bill at Churchill Public Hospital. From all indications, the insurance company would have paid at least part of this bill. Now we are being asked to pay the balance of Washoe Medical Center's bill, plus the existing bill at our hospital.

I am sure that S.B. 164 will need clarification in agreeing to a standard determination of a "Medically Indigent". Some provision should be made for the rural hospital who provides emergency care and does not have access to the patient for any length of time. Some provision should be made for the patient who lies about his insurance or gives a false address or is no longer residing at the place he uses as his address at the time of the accident. Many rural hospitals do not have personnel to check this information before the patient leaves the facility. Out-patient care is especially difficult to monitor.

The amount of money that Churchill County has expended may seem very small. However, one never can tell the extent of any injury and a serious accident can prove to be a real financial burden to any county. I feel the non-resident is the responsibility of the State and not that of the county in which the injury occurred.

*Thankyou for the opportunity to present this material.*

*Kazuko Nagima*



## S. B. 142

SENATE BILL NO. 142—COMMITTEE ON HUMAN  
RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

JANUARY 29, 1979

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Facilities

SUMMARY—Revises provisions concerning vending stands operated  
by blind persons. (BDR 38-155)FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [ ] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to blind persons; providing for the operation of vending stands when blind operators are unavailable; 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 426 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto a new section which shall read as follows:  
3 *The bureau may, in interim periods when no blind licensee is available*  
4 *to operate a vending stand and its continuous operation is required,*  
5 *establish a checking account in a depository bank qualified to receive*  
6 *deposits of public money pursuant to chapter 356 of NRS. All revenues*  
7 *received from the vending stand during the interim period must be*  
8 *deposited to the account and all expenses necessary to maintain the*  
9 *interim operation of the stand must be paid from the account. When*  
10 *a blind licensee is assigned to the stand, a financial report must be pre-*  
11 *pared and the checking account closed by making a check in the amount*  
12 *of any balance remaining in the account payable to the business enter-*  
13 *prise contingent fund for the blind.*

**S. B. 117****SENATE BILL NO. 117—COMMITTEE ON HUMAN  
RESOURCES AND FACILITIES**

JANUARY 25, 1979

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Facilities

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to immunization  
of children. (BDR 34-227).FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [ ] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to immunization of children; providing for the exclusion from public and private schools of children who have not met statutory requirements for immunization; extending immunization requirements to children in child care facilities; increasing powers of health division to enforce requirements relating to immunization of children; providing penalties; 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 392 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.

3 SEC. 2. *Upon the appearance of any dangerous contagious disease*  
4 *in a public school attended by a child for whom exemption from immuni-*  
5 *zation is claimed pursuant to the provisions of NRS 392.437 or 392.439,*  
6 *the board of trustees of the school district shall require either that the*  
7 *child be immunized or that he be quarantined outside the school environ-*  
8 *ment under the supervision of the local health officer.*

9 SEC. 3. 1. *Any official of a public school district who neglects or*  
10 *fails to enforce the provisions of NRS 392.435, 392.443 or section 2*  
11 *of this act shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100.*

12 2. *Any parent or guardian who enrolls his child in a public school*  
13 *or refuses to remove the child from school when such enrollment or*  
14 *retention in school is prohibited under the provisions of NRS 392.435,*  
15 *392.443 or section 2 of this act is guilty of a misdemeanor.*

16 SEC. 4. NRS 392.435 is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 392.435 1. **[Within 3 months after any child is]** *Unless excused*  
18 *because of religious belief or medical condition, a child may not be*  
19 *enrolled in a public school within this state [.] unless his parents or*  
20 *guardian [shall] submit to the board of trustees of the school district*  
21 *in which the child resides a certificate or certificates stating that the child*