

The joint hearing of the Senate and Assembly Legislative Functions Committees was called to order on Thursday, March 1, 1979, in Room 131 at 5:10 p.m. Senator Gene Echols in the Chair.

SENATE PRESENT: Chairman Echols
Vice-Chairman Close
Senator Ford
Senator Gibson
Senator Young

SENATE ABSENT: Senator Wilson

ASSEMBLY PRESENT: Assemblyman Westall
Assemblyman Barengo
Assemblyman Glover
Assemblyman Harmon
Assemblyman Rusk
Assemblyman Tanner
Assemblyman Weise

ASSEMBLY ABSENT: Assemblyman Mello
Assemblyman Vergiels

GUESTS: Arthur Palmer
Andrew Grose

Chairman Echols said the purpose of this meeting was to review the Study Mr. Palmer did in 1969 and to see what's been done since then to improve legislative procedures.

Arthur Palmer, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that in 1967 the Nevada Legislature recognized the desirability of taking a look at modernizing its operation. Mr. Palmer said he was assigned the task of reviewing other state operations and putting together the 1969 Study. He said there was a different idea behind the Study in 1969 and the ones that followed. The 1969 Study cataloged all the ideas that could be gathered throughout the United States but wasn't really recommending anything.

Andrew Grose, Research Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau, said that in his presentation there are four (4) different studies covered. The first is the study Mr. Palmer did in 1969 and the following three (3) are more recent studies (See Exhibit "A").

Mr. Grose added to his presentation (See Bulletin No. 75, Page 2, Number 11, Exhibit "A"). He stated there is a joint rule that will be proposed shortly to handle what should be done with the tapes; how long they will be kept and how they should be handled after a session is over.

Assemblyman Westall asked Mr. Grose, "Before that, how many years had it been since there was a raise?" (See Bulletin No. 75, Page 4, Number 1, Exhibit "A"). Mr. Grose said he didn't know but he would check.

Mr. Grose added to his presentation (See Bulletin No. 75, Page 4, Number 4, Exhibit "A"). He stated there have been proposals about secretarial help or an allowance for typing, etc., but nothing has been done in that regard.

Assemblyman Tanner asked if it was mandatory that a legislator be a member of the legislative retirement system (See Bulletin No. 75, Page 4, Number 5, Exhibit "A"). Senator Gibson said, "yes it is." "You're contributing 15 percent." Assemblyman Weise asked what would be the employers portion of the health insurance. Mr. Grose said right now it's somewhere around \$40 a month and will be increased but he didn't know how much. Assemblyman Weise asked if it could be expanded to where the legislator would be allowed to pay that portion, should they choose to have that insurance. Mr. Grose said that would be up to the Group Health Insurance Committee.

Mr. Grose added to his presentation (See Bulletin No. 75, Page 6, Number 5, Exhibit "A"). He said this is going to be a national push for common cause in the next couple of years.

Mr. Grose added to his presentation (See Bulletin No. 75, Page 10, Number 2, Exhibit "A"). He stated that contrary to a lot of reports, the people have talked about this for many years. The 1974 Legislative Counsel Bureau reported just on that subject, surveyed the nation and talked about the trends across the country in taking the Lt. Governor's out of legislatures.

Mr. Grose added to his presentation (See Bulletin No. 75, Page 10, Number 3, Exhibit "A"). He said North Carolina is the only State in the Union where the Governor has no veto power. Chairman Echols stated that SB-73 (if it passes) would take away the Governor's veto power on joint resolutions.

Mr. Grose added to his presentation (See Bulletin No. 75, Page 14, Number 5, Exhibit "A"). He said the building was designed with booths for television but they're not used for that purpose. They are used for other things though so they're not wasted.

Mr. Grose added to his presentation (See Bulletin No. 75, Page 15, Number 6, Exhibit "A"). Mr. Grose said during sessions (generally speaking) the leaders of the two houses function as spokesmen and in the interim, the chairman of the legislative commission functions as the spokesman.

Mr. Grose added to his presentation (See Bulletin No. 75, Page 15, Number 10, Exhibit "A"). He said this means getting the Attorney General out of the business. Nothing has been done in that regard. The Attorney General still fulfills that function often.

Senator Ford asked if this is common other places (See Bulletin No. 75, Page 15, Number 11, Exhibit "A"). Mr. Grose said no it is not common.

Mr. Grose added to his presentation (See Bulletin No. 75, Page 16, Number 3, Exhibit "A"). He said this is something the "Dean Committee" came up with and Senator Ford was interested in this. Senator Ford stated that there were some alternative ways provided for still recognizing people. It wasn't just to do away with the end result. She stated that what was provided didn't "fly".

Mr. Grose added to his presentation (See Bulletin No. 75, Page 16, Number 4, Exhibit "A"). He stated the skeleton bills appear in here two ways. In some states, the skeleton bill is used to avoid a bill introduction deadline. In Nevada we've never had a bill introduction deadline. We've had a bill request deadline so the purpose of this is to use skeleton bills more for voluminous and extensive legislation to determine if there is any interest or support and then have it sketched out. There's not very much experience with doing this but there is a lot of potential and it could probably be done more often.

Mr. Grose added to his presentation (See Bulletin No. 75, Page 16, Number 5, Exhibit "A"). He said this means where local governments can do something without the benefit of state legislation, let them do it.

Mr. Grose added to his presentation (See Bulletin No. 75, Page 19, Number 2, Exhibit "A"). He said several states do this but there has been no change in Nevada. He said it would take a constitutional amendment.

Mr. Grose added to his presentation (See Bulletin No. 75, Page 19, Number 4, Exhibit "A"). He said you wouldn't have to change the constitution for this. You could adjourn for 5 or 6 days (however long the Governor is allowed) and come back to see if the Governor's vetoed anything and then return at sine die. If the houses wanted to do this, there's nothing that would prevent it.

Mr. Grose added to his presentation (See Bulletin No. 75, Page 19, Number 6, Exhibit "A"). One example of this is the veto session. The other example would be to come to the legislative building for a week or two to submit all of your bill draft requests and then go home for thirty days. There's no reason you couldn't do this except the interpretation of your pay is that you would be paid during the thirty days and pay would stop at the end of 60 calendar days.


Mr. Grose added to his presentation (See Prospect for Greatness, Page 2, Number 8, Exhibit "A"). He said there is nothing preventing this but audits are reviewed by the Legislative Commission and are increasingly used by the money committees with the assistance of the fiscal staff.

Senator Ford said she thought it should be announced to both houses the availability of Mr. Grose's presentation to any member of the legislature who would like it.

Chairman Echols asked Assemblyman Westall if she received a copy of the Recommendations for Accreditation of Press which Leola Armstrong had submitted (See meeting of March 1, Exhibit "A"). Chairman Echols said it should be processed by either a joint or concurrent resolution and asked if the Assembly Legislative Functions Committee would like to draft it. Assemblyman Westall said she wanted to bring it before the full Assembly Legislative Functions Committee first.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Conni J. Horning, Secretary


Approved By:
Senator Gene Echols
Chairman

LEGISLATIVE REFORM
NEVADA LEGISLATURE
1967 - 1979

Introduction

The Nevada legislature over the past decade or more has had a strong and continuing interest in the revision and modernization of its procedures. From 1967-1975, three major studies on legislative techniques, procedures and reforms were undertaken with each making numerous recommendations.

The listing which follows is a status report on the disposition of all the recommendations made over the years. There were 147 separate suggestions in the three legislative counsel bureau studies as well as the separate study done by the Citizens' Conference on State Legislatures. The latter was done under contract in conjunction with the 1973-75 study chaired by Joe Dini. The same ideas often appear in more than one study. The figure of 147 is without duplication.

For what it is worth, 40.4 percent have been implemented in full or virtually in full. Another 21.9 percent have been partially implemented and 37.7 percent have received no favorable action. This "box score" is qualified because a number of the recommendations made over the years are mutually exclusive. Also, this approach equates every recommendation whereas some are small in impact and others quite significant. By any measure, however, the Nevada legislature has done a great deal of work toward modernizing and streamlining the legislative process and increasing the capabilities of the legislative branch to perform its constitutional function.

This report is organized into four sections, one for each of the LCB studies as well as the Citizens' Conference Study. The report further divides the 1969 LCB study into 14 categories. These are outlined in the Table of Contents.

Research Division
2-22-79

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1967-69 STUDY
BULLETIN NO. 75

I. Committees.

1. Reduce number of standing committees.

Result: In 1967 there were 20 assembly and 12 senate committees. There are now 13 assembly committees (with two not scheduled) and nine senate committees. Total down from 32 to 22.

2. Establish parallel committees in each house.

Result: While no conscious attempt has been made to make committees parallel, in fact quite a bit of parallelism has been achieved. Every senate committee has a clear assembly counterpart. The four "leftover" assembly committees have clear counterpart committees in the senate also.

3. Regular use of subcommittees.

Result: Very little. Beyond Assembly Ways and Means, no committee uses regular subcommittees.

4. Committee selection made by party committee in each house.

Result: No change has occurred in selection of leadership or committee seats.

5. Rule to establish minority party ratio on standing committees.

Result: Up to the 1975 session, the rules required minority seats one less than majority. From 1975, seats have been on a rough proportion basis.

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6. Reduction of committee burdens on individuals.

Result: The reduction in number of committees accomplished this. In 1967 most senators had four committee assignments and assemblymen five. Almost everyone now has three.

7. No legislator chairman of more than once committee.

Result: None is. In 1967, Gibson and Herr both chaired two committees.

8. Committee meetings in permanently assigned rooms.

Result: With the new building in 1971 this became a reality.

9. Advance agenda for committee meetings.

Result: In 1975, the assembly adopted rule 92. The senate adopted a similar but less restrictive rule 92 in 1977.

10. Standard procedural rules for committees.

Result: Senate Rule 53 provides standard rules for all committees. In the Assembly Rules 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, and 49 provide common basic committee rules.

11. Recording of committee proceedings.

Result: High quality equipment is available to record every committee meeting. No rule or guidance currently exists in either house on the use or disposition of recordings. In fact, no rule requires the recording of meetings.

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12. Professional staff and clerical assistance for committees.

Result: Adequate clerical staff is now provided to all committees. Professional staff was assigned full-time to the money committees in 1975 and to the taxation committees in 1979. The rest of the committees rely on the four research professionals who are assigned to specific committees. Only the money and taxation committees have staff sitting with them on a regular basis.

13. Assign committee lawyers who would both draft bills and assist committees with legal questions.

Result: None. Only the legislative counsel normally assists committees with legal advice.

14. Regulation of the time a chairman can hold a bill after favorable action.

Result: No formal rule has been adopted in either house. It is not apparent that this is a problem at this time.

15. Report on all bills referred to committee.

Result: Assembly Rule 45 requires that all bills referred to committee be reported back. Senate Rule 43 is similar. In fact, these rules are ignored in the sense that indefinite postponements are not reported to the houses.

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II. Compensation.

1. Adequate salaries so that legislative service is not a financial hardship.

Result: Legislative salary in 1967 was \$40 per day. It is now \$80 which just about reflects CPI changes in the 12 years.

2. Legislator salaries on an annual basis.

Result: No constitutional amendment to allow this has been put before the people. Since the 1977 session, all legislators engaged in official business out of session get \$40 per day salary.

3. Salaries of presiding officers.

Result: No change from the constitutional extra \$2 per day has ever been proposed.

4. Expense reimbursements when the legislature is out of session.

Result: None.

5. Legislators' fringe benefits.

Result: None. Retirement is considered very attractive but there is no opportunity for either health or life insurance. Legislators could choose state employees' health coverage if the legislature paid the employer costs for them year-round.

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III. Conflict of interest.

1. Adoption of a Code of Ethics.

Result: A Code of Ethics was passed in 1977. There is a statewide legislative ethics commission. In addition, the assembly by rule has an ethics committee.

2. Disclosure provisions.

Result: All elected public officials including legislators are included under the disclosure law passed in 1977.

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IV. Constitution, Legislative Aspects

1. Internal operation of the legislature should not be in the constitution.

Result: None. This is aimed in particular at the requirement in article 4 for complete reading of bills by sections. The people in 1976 approved an amendment allowing consent calendars.

2. Elimination of earmarking of revenue.

Result: None, but Nevada does not have nearly the extent of earmarked funds as do many states.

3. Elimination of limits on the taxing power.

Result: None. The estate pickup tax was passed in 1975 but failed in 1977 so was not voted on by the people.

4. More flexibility in the method of amending the constitution.

Result: None.

5. Automatic reapportionment provision in the constitution.

Result: None.

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V. Facilities and Equipment.

1. Adequate chambers, rooms, offices and equipment for legislature and staff.
Result: The new building solved these problems.
2. Private offices for legislators.
Result: Every legislator who wants an office has one.
3. Proper recording equipment for legislative chambers.
Result: This exists for both chambers and was enhanced prior to the 1979 session.
4. Electronic vote tabulation.
Result: Installed prior to 1975 session.
5. Radio contact system for legislators.
Result: None.
6. Recording equipment for committee rooms.
Result: Quality recording equipment is available to every committee.
7. Facilities for press and the public.
Result: The new building provided both.

VI. Fiscal Policymaking and Review

1. More detailed budget control through the appropriations process and prior legislative approval for receipt of federal funds.

Result: The fiscal staff has made progress possible on the former but little progress has been made on the latter although the attention level on federal funds has increased.

2. Quality of fiscal information needs improvement.

Result: The state has gone from cash accounting which can be very misleading to a modified accrual basis in the past 10 years.

3. Review of the executive budget by the legislative staff.

Result: This is now done with our staff having the statutory authority to attend all budget hearings held by the budget office.

4. Budgeting by program.

Result: Program statements in the executive budget have improved but we do not have anything like program budgeting in Nevada.

5. Identification of items in the budget proposal previously denied by the legislature.

Result: The fiscal staff has made this possible.

6. Appropriation bills cross-indexed to other bills appropriating funds to the same budget.

Result: The fiscal staff has made this possible.

7. Fiscal note requirement.

Result: In 1967 the fiscal note requirement was limited to bills requested by the executive branch. It now extends to all bills affecting state or local governments.

8. Legislative summary showing the final legislative action on the fiscal condition of the state.

Result: The fiscal division has published such a report since 1975.

9. Greater legislative involvement in the post-audit program.

Result: In 1967 audits were on a 5-year cycle. They are now down to 3 years. Audits devote a great deal of time to setting up proper accounting practices in agencies. Also, audit findings are being used in the budget review process.

10. Quarterly or semi-annual summary of the fiscal condition of the state and selected agencies.

Result: The controller's accounting system now allows such a summary and the fiscal division makes regular reports to the legislature.

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VII. Gubernatorial-Legislative Relations.

1. Legislative pre-session preparation of a legislative program.
Result: While there is no formal preparation of a legislative program, the several interim studies with proposed bills constitute a legislative program.
2. Removal of lieutenant governor from the legislative branch.
Result: If approved by this session, a constitutional amendment will go to the people in 1980 to remove the lieutenant governor from the legislature.
3. Elimination of governor's veto power.
Result: None
4. Review of executive branch rules and regulations.
Result: The 1977 session enacted such a review plus the duty of the legislative counsel to codify all rules.

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VIII. Lobbying.

1. Registration of lobbyists.

Result: The 1975 session enacted lobbyist registration and the 1977 session extended this to include photo ID badges.

2. Financial reports by lobbyists.

Result: The 1975 legislature enacted this requirement.

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IX. Organization.

1. After 1970 Census, continue small size of legislature.

Result: This was done in 1971.

2. Unicameralism.

Result: None

3. Single-member legislative districts.

Result: The 1971 session provided for all single member assembly districts. Before 1971 there were two nine-member assembly districts, one in the north and one in Clark County. Now, the major remaining exceptions are Clark Senate No. 3 and Washoe Senate No. 1.

4. Lower house terms, increased to 4 years.

Result: None

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X. Orientation.

1. Pre-session orientation.

Result: The legislative commission sponsored and directed such an orientation in 1976 and 1978. Response in both cases was almost universally positive.

2. Pre-session orientation to include major executive proposals and results of interim studies.

Result: None. The 1976 pre-session included agency presentations. Responses indicated that legislators thought that was too much and that an orientation should concentrate on the "nuts and bolts."

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XI. Public Relations and Information.

1. Legislature to obtain better news coverage.

Result: Because the Nevada legislature has become increasingly open and accessible, news coverage has improved. Also, far more members of the press now cover the legislature.

2. Public notice of committee hearings and meetings.

Result: The open meeting law passed in 1977 covers all interim activities of the legislature. Rule 92 in each house provides for notice.

3. Permanent public record of committee proceedings.

Results: Rules in both houses require minutes and direct their availability to the public. Older records are maintained by the legislative counsel bureau.

4. A program to interpret the functions of the legislature to the electorate.

Result: Improved press coverage including public TV has contributed to this goal. In addition, a film on the Nevada legislature and a film produced by NCSL provide public information tools. So, too, do the color brochures, charts of the government and of the legislative process.

5. Radio and TV facilities for the chambers.

Result: The new chambers allow easy radio and TV coverage. The broadcast booths designed do not serve their intended purpose.

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6. Public relations operation for the legislature.
Result: In terms of a spokesman function, none.
7. Public relations publication for the legislature.
Result: Color brochure first authorized in 1976 and reauthorized in 1978. There are 40,000 brochures produced for a biennium. No regular news-type publication has been produced although there is precedent for this.
8. Codification of special and local acts.
Result: None, although the basic work is accomplished in the legal division but the results of the work have never been compiled and made available. All city charters are maintained in current form after each session.
9. Publicizing of statutes passed to local governments by a digest of laws.
Result: Since 1975, the research division has issued a publication called "Selected Significant Legislation" which is a description of major bills written in laymen's language. It does not cover all bills passed.
10. Legislative counsel opinions to be exclusive in terms of interpreting statutory construction and legislative intent.
Result: None.
11. Provision in the constitution for the legislative counsel to seek advisory opinions from the supreme court.
Result: None.

XII. Rules, Procedure and Bills

1. Houses to convene at the same time each legislative day.

Result: The rules of each house provide for convening at close to the same time. Both houses have major committee meetings in the morning.

2. Prohibition from the floor of people other than legislators, staff and press.

Result: Assembly Rule 94 and Senate Rule 94 passed in 1973 accomplish this.

3. Discontinuance of introduction and welcoming of visitors and guests.

Result: None.

4. Skeleton bills.

Result: These are used with some regularity if not great frequency. No attempt has been made to use skeletons as a matter of course as is done in Connecticut for example.

5. Elimination of some special bills.

Result: None.

6. Wider use of preamble in bills.

Result: Generally the legislative counsel considers preambles to be inadvisable and thus discourages them on the basis that the intent of a well drafted bill will be clear without a preamble. The same is true of legislative declarations.

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7. Limitation on bill introduction.
Result: Assembly and Senate Rule 104 limit introduction of bills not requested by the 30th day.
8. Provision for a second reading file to insure that bills reported from committee can be looked at by members before voting on second reading.
Result: Assembly and Senate Rule 110 provide for this.
9. Consent calendar.
Result: Constitutional amendment passed in 1976 and rules of both houses in 1977.
10. Return of bills to desk when there is no committee action.
Result: None. There is a rule in each house that requires all bills be reported back. These rules are not followed.
11. Revise senate rules.
Result: This was done in 1973.
12. Revision of joint rules.
Result: This has not been done.
13. Parallel rules for both houses.
Result: Parallel numbering was done in 1973.
14. Joint hearings of substantive committees.
Result: In practice, this has become increasingly common.

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15. Presiding officers and committees continuous until the next session.

Result: Neither has been done formally although, as a practical matter, the speaker and the senate majority leader are recognized as the leaders of their houses through the interim. Also, the two money committees continue in the interim as the interim finance committee.

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Page 19

XIII. Sessions.

1. Length of session as related to legislator pay.
Result: None. The 1976 election included a rejection of 100 days for pay.
2. Greater length of time between installation of a new governor and meeting of the legislature.
Results: None.
3. Budget session in even-numbered years.
Result: None.
4. Veto session to consider vetoed bills.
Result: None.
5. Special sessions called by governor to be expanded by the legislature.
Result: None, but then there has not been a special session since the 1969 study.
6. Adjournment to a time certain instead of adjourning sine die.
Result: None.
7. Legislature to call itself into session.
Result: None.
8. Annual or continuing sessions with no time limit or subject limit.
Result: None.

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Page 20

XIV. Staff and Services.

1. Informational service for legislators.

Result: The general research capability of the staff has improved considerably although not at the same rate as legal, audit and fiscal capabilities.

2. Bill analyses.

Result: None, although the analysis of fiscal impact has improved considerably. No formal bill analysis is done.

3. Published calendar available and uniform for both houses.

Result: Calendars are published in the daily histories for second reading, general file and consent calendars.

4. Trained and skilled indexing staff.

Result: Such a staff is provided by the legislative counsel bureau and since 1975 a consolidated bill index has been used.

5. Establishment of professional legislative staff for the houses.

Result: None.

6. Centralized stenographic and bill book staffs.

Result: Both houses still have their own steno pools and bill book operations. The legislative counsel bureau receives requests for bill book service and apportions those requests to the houses.

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7. Physical protection of legislators while in session.

Result: A 1973 law outlining crimes against the legislative power was passed. In addition, considerable investment has been made in staff, training and equipment for security purposes.

8. Legislative reference library.

Result: This exists within the research division.

9. Data and retrieval systems.

Result: The entire NRS is now in a data base and this allows for computer searches for words, terms, etc., thereby decreasing man-hours required for bill drafting. In addition, the histories are being produced by inputting information through computer terminals which directly drive the photo composer in the printing office. By next session, bills will also be input directly from computer terminal in the legislative building to the photo composer.

There is no advantage in Nevada to having computer bill status capability. The information from a computer could not be any more current than it is which is daily. Many states that have computer bill status only print histories each week so the daily update from the computer is valuable.

10. Establishment of a branch service agency in Clark County.

Results: None.

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Page 22

11. Secretarial and administrative assistance staff on a year-round basis.

Result: By expansion in the full-time LCB staff, it has been possible to provide assistance for all the official responsibilities of legislative leaders and interim subcommittee chairmen.

12. Use of citizen organizations, foundations, university personnel.

Result: No real change has occurred. Outside resources continue to be utilized in session and in studies on an irregular basis. The State Science, Engineering and Technology study has resulted for the first time in a data file of people in the state with science and engineering training.

13. Legislative internship program.

Result: This was established in 1973. In addition, there was a graduate intern program in research in 1977 with two UNR graduate students. No one was interested in 1979.

1971-73 STUDY
BULLETIN NO. 112

LEGISLATIVE RULES

(The only recommendations listed are those not already covered in the report of the 1969 study--Bulletin No. 75)

1. The statutory limitation on total number of senate employees be amended to allow flexibility.

Result: The provision for not more than 22 in NRS 218.130 was amended in 1973 to make it discretionary.

2. No material should be placed on a legislator's desk without the signature of a legislator.

Result: Assembly and Senate Rule 95 passed in 1973.

3. Amend senate rule on payment of witnesses to conform to assembly rule and courts.

Results: Done in 1973.

4. Amend assembly rule to allow the use of skeleton bills for any subject, not just redistricting.

Result: Done in 1973.

5. Amend assembly rule on concurrent referrals to parallel the senate rule.

Result: Done in 1973 but the senate rule was repealed in 1973.

6. Amend senate rules to provide for a bill request cutoff the same as the assembly.

Result: Done in 1973.

Bulletin No. 112
Page 2

7. Amend senate rules to eliminate the requirement for a bill analysis with every bill introduced.

Result: Done in 1973 with rule 107 in each house allowing an introducer to provide a bill analysis if desired.
8. Amend NRS 218.220 to make it clear that only 1 day's pay is allowed for travel to and from a session.

Result: Done in 1973.
9. Give legislative functions committees of each house power to hear alleged breaches of ethics.

Result: No results in the senate. The assembly established an ethics committee by rule. The 1975 session set up an ethics commission statewide. The 1977 session set up an ethics commission for the legislative branch at state and local levels.
10. Establish parallel rules.

Result: Done in 1973. This does not mean they are identical but rather that the same numbering system is used.
11. Joint leadership meetings weekly during session.

Result: More or less adhered to since 1975.
12. Committee meetings should not be scheduled when either house is in session.

Result: Generally, this is not done.

Bulletin No. 112
Page 3

13. Copying machines should be provided for each house and a pay machine for the public.

Result: Machines are provided to each house but no pay machine has ever been provided.

14. Bill mail-out to be done by the legislative counsel bureau instead of the printing office.

Result: Done since 1973.

15. Time limit for bill processing by committees.

Result: None.

1973-75 STUDY
BULLETIN NO. 114

COUNSEL BUREAU ORGANIZATION AND
LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES

(The only recommendations listed are those not already covered in the report of the 1969 study--Bulletin No. 75, or the 1973 study--Bulletin 112.)

1. Pre-session 2-day organizational session.
Result: None.
2. Travel and per diem for a pre-session orientation conference.
Result: Passed in 1977.
3. For salary purposes, change from calendar days to legislative days.
Result: None
4. Joint interim standing committees in lieu of interim subcommittees.
Result: None.
5. Joint legislative functions committee to replace the legislative commission.
Result: None
6. Add Assembly Rule 1 to provide for duties of the speaker.
Result: Done in 1975.
7. Establish nine parallel standing committees in each house.
Result: None.

Bulletin No. 114
Page 2

8. Establish uniform procedural rules for committees in each house.

Result: Senate adopted in 1977. Assembly rules contain many of the elements of the suggested rule.

9. Amend Joint Rule 1 to limit number of conference committees and the latitude of a conference.

Result: Done in 1977.

10. Charge executive agencies for bill drafting.

Result: Done in 1975.

11. Joint rule to provide for various session deadlines.

Result: None.

12. Eliminate the reading of the history of a bill.

Result: None.

13. Amend assembly rules to treat resolutions of commendation, congratulations and memorials as motions.

Result: None.

14. Rules of each house to require the submission of the budget to the house in segments.

Result: None.

15. Joint hearings of fiscal and policy committees.

Result: None.

Bulletin No. 114
Page 3

16. Concurrent referral of any bill with impact of \$10,000 or more to money committee and substantive committee.

Result: None.

17. Local government fiscal notes.

Result: Done in 1975.

18. Establish an administrative division in the legislative counsel bureau.

Result: None, but a bill is in this session (A.B. 165) to do this.

19. Creation of a citizens' state government compensation commission.

Result: None.

20. Authorizes travel and per diem for meetings held outside Carson City during session.

Result: Done in 1977.

21. Creation of a citizens' advisory commission on the legislature.

Result: None.

1974 STUDY
BY CITIZENS' CONFERENCE ON STATE LEGISLATURES

"PROSPECT FOR GREATNESS"

(The only recommendations listed are those not already covered in the report of the 1969 study--Bulletin No. 75, the 1973 study--Bulletin 112, or the 1975 study--Bulletin 114.)

1. The position of coordinator of the legislative counsel bureau should be created.

Result: This recommendation was in conjunction with the idea of a joint legislative functions committee to replace the legislative commission. The "coordinator" title was to reflect decreased line authority over the operating divisions and an increased responsibility for providing the support for the division. A.B. 165 of this session which would create a services division run by the director LCB embodies some of the intent of this recommendation.

2. A staff classification plan should be developed and implemented.

Result: This was done in 1976 at the direction of the commission.

3. The jurisdictions of the standing committees be explicitly set out in the rules.

Result: In 1977, the senate did this. The assembly is considering this now.

4. Members be restricted to serving on two standing committees.

Result: None, but most members serve on only three. This proposal would not work mathematically in either house.

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5. Requirement of open committee meetings.

Result: The assembly adopted rule 11 in 1975 which has no exceptions. The senate adopted committee rules in 1977 providing for open meetings unless a two-thirds vote closes a meeting.

6. Skeleton bills should be prohibited.

Result: There are two types of skeleton bills in the states. The type we use is to avoid a heavy bill drafting commitment until it appears probable that a bill has a chance of passage. The concept is fully contained in a skeleton but extensive statutory revision is omitted. The type skeleton recommended against is that used to beat bill introduction deadlines. A skeleton is introduced under the deadline and finished later. Since our deadline is for requests, this recommendation is not particularly relevant.

7. Fiscal and substantive committees jointly consider agency budgets.

Result: None.

8. Audits to be reviewed by substantive committees.

Result: Nothing prevents this now and is done in some cases.