

The Senate Committee on Legislative Functions was called to order on Tuesday, March 27, 1979, in Room 243 at 2:01 p.m. Senator Gene Echols in the Chair.

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

ABSENT: Senator Wilson

GUESTS: John Crossley, Legislative Auditor
Leola Armstrong, Senate Secretary

AB-387

Mr. Crossley, Legislative Auditor of the Legislative Counsel Bureau testified on behalf of AB-387 (See Exhibit "A").

Chairman Echols asked Mr. Crossley if lines 36 and 37 (Page 2 of AB-387) should be retained in the language.

Mr. Crossley said he wouldn't be opposed to that but as long as it is required that the legislative auditor be a certified public accountant, there shouldn't be any problem with his awareness for maintaining work papers.

Senator Ford asked what the difference is between work papers and an examination.

Mr. Crossley stated that work papers are copies of all audit report examinations; they are a final report.

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Leola Armstrong, Senate Secretary, brought to the attention of the Committee the fact that when the consent calendar provision was put in the Senate Rules, no provision was made for a bill to be engrossed. Mrs. Armstrong suggested to the Committee that the Senate Standing Rules be amended to read that, "All Senate Bills shall be sent through engrossment upon receipt of the Committee's recommendation."

Senator Gibson asked, "What Rule number is it?"

Mrs. Armstrong stated that it's Rule 110.

Senator Gibson asked Mrs. Armstrong if she had prepared the language for Rule 110.

Mrs. Armstrong said she would prepare the language for the Committee right now.

Senator Gibson moved that a bill be drafted to amend Rule 110 of the Senate Standing Rules.

Senator Young seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Senators Close and Wilson absent.

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Mrs. Armstrong asked the Committee for their permission to seek more help as she had to terminate a secretary because she had too many personal problems and one of the bill clerks left last week. Mrs. Armstrong said she lost her Minute Clerk but that position was being filled by Cheri Kinsley, Judiciary Secretary. She said Cheri Kinsley is doing two jobs so if Judiciary gets too heavy, she will have to be replaced. Mrs. Armstrong stated that she's not over her limit. "These are just replacements."

Senator Young moved that the Committee permit the Senate Secretary to submit more help.

Senator Ford seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Senators Close and Wilson absent.

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Mrs. Armstrong asked for Committee permission to start compiling requests for salary increases. She said one of the reasons she's losing people is because the salaries aren't comparable to that of other state employees.

Senator Gibson asked when the salaries were last raised.

Mrs. Armstrong said they were raised last session but they weren't raised a great deal.

Senator Gibson suggested that Mrs. Armstrong bring the Committee a suggestion.

Chairman Echols said the suggestion should be parallel in both Houses.

Mrs. Armstrong stated that she and the Assembly Chief Clerk get together and come up with what seems to be a reasonable salary.

Chairman Echols asked Mrs. Armstrong to do that for the Committee.

Senator Ford reported to the Committee the results of SR-7 and SB-263 which were assigned subcommittees at the last meeting.

SR-7

Senator Ford stated that the new language for SR-7 would be substitute language for the entire resolution (See Exhibit "B"). She said the subcommittee felt this language was better because it recognizes the priority of the regular official committees actions and is not mandatory.

Senator Ford said Senator Wilson agreed that this new language better says what he had intended.

Senator Young stated that he still has reservations about SR-7.

Chairman Echols said SR-7 would be held for a later date since the whole Committee wasn't present.

SB-263

Senator Ford stated that the new language proposed for SB-263 would address the question of lodging (See bottom half of Exhibit "B"). Senator Ford said the new language would be a new subsection after line 33 on Page 2 of the bill. Senator Ford suggested that the new language should be changed from "lodging allowance equal to that portion of the subsistence allowance for state officers and employees which is allocated for lodging expenses by regulation of the state board of examiners pursuant to NRS 281.160," to "lodging allowance established by rule of the Legislative Commission,".

Senator Young moved that SB-263 be amended and passed out of Committee with a "Do Pass".

Senator Ford seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Senators Close and Wilson absent.

Discussion on SB-263

Senator Gibson said the new language should be changed from "lodging allowance equal to that portion of the subsistence allowance for state officers and employees which is allocated for lodging expenses by regulation of the state board of examiners pursuant to NRS 281.160," to "lodging allowance equal to that portion of the subsistence allowance allocated for lodging expenses by rule of the Legislative Commission,".

The Committee decided to hold their previous motion and concur with Senator Gibson.

Senator Ford said she would have the amendment for SB-263 drawn up.

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AB-387

Senator Young moved that AB-387 be passed out of Committee with a "Do Pass" (See Exhibit "C").

Senator Gibson seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Senators Close and Wilson absent.

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Senator Gibson informed the Committee that he was asked by Speaker May to find out the Committee's sentiment on AB-161. Senator Gibson said AB-161 would increase the travel allowance from \$1,750 to \$2,250, the telephone allowance from \$500 to \$1,000 and the Chairman's allowance from \$100 to \$300.

Senator Gibson said he thought the increases were fair because most legislators have expenses between sessions that they're not reimbursed for.

Senators Close, Ford and Young said they thought the extra expenses should be addressed "head on", i.e. each Chairman of an interim committee will receive "X" amount of money, etc. Senator Ford said you wouldn't be able to completely categorize everything but it should be broken down a little more then it is now so the public will know where and what the money is going for.

Senator Gibson said the telephone allowance could be labeled as a two year allowance.

Senator Close suggested that it could be labeled as \$500 flat and another \$500 if you could substantiate additional claims.

Senator Gibson said he would inform Speaker May of the Committee's feelings.

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Chairman Echols informed the Committee that the Assembly Legislative Functions Committee will be having a hearing today (March 27, 1979) at 5:00 o'clock to discuss and process all of their studies. Chairman Echols said that Assemblyman Westall invited the Senate Legislative Functions Committee to join them. Chairman Echols

asked the Committee what their feeling was on this.

Following discussion, the Committee decided they would schedule a meeting to discuss all of their studies and decide which ones have merit and then have a joint hearing with the Assembly.

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Chairman Echols asked the Committee for their permission to have a resolution drafted that would study what has been done on taxes. He said the interim study committee would be used as a vehicle to educate the public during the interim. Chairman Echols stated that doing this might preclude Proposition 6 from becoming law.

Senator Young moved that the Committee give Chairman Echols permission to draft a resolution to study the tax situation.

Senator Gibson seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Senator Wilson absent.

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Chairman Echols said he had a request from a constituent in Las Vegas who requested that a resolution be drafted to study the possibility of putting an off road park in the Jean area.

Senator Gibson said the Parks Department should handle that since it's going to be a park.

Senator Ford stated that if a study was done, it would have to be a study of all state off road vehicle areas; not just in Clark County.

Chairman Echols said he would bring this before the Senate Finance Committee.

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Chairman Echols informed the Committee that he had a request from the Las Vegas Family Abuse Center to look into the program that the Florida Abuse Center has in that they have generated the funds for their abuse center by increasing the fee for a marriage license. Chairman Echols stated this could be researched for possible inclusion in the next biennium budget.

Senator Close said, "That might destroy our marriage industry."


Chairman Echols said the only way to know is to get some input.

Senator Ford suggested that the Committee have Mr. Grose furnish it with a background paper on the Florida situation.

Chairman Echols said he would check with Mr. Grose.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Conni Horning, Secretary


Approved By:
Senator Gene Echols
Chairman

AB 387

AB 387 addresses the accounting of the Legislative Branch of government. The two main objectives of the bill are in Sections 2 and 3.

Page OneSection 2

Creates authority for petty cash account for use by the Counsel Bureau. We do have written procedures as to what it may be used for.

Section 3

In 1977 the Legislative Auditor was made the ex-officio Legislative Fiscal Officer (NRS 218.755). In order to carry out this function a bank account was established. This section establishes the authority for that bank account in law. This is in accordance with SB 43, now Chapter 8.

Page Two

Between sessions we find that it is necessary to make minor improvements in the buildings, especially since we assumed complete responsibility for the building and grounds in 1977. These changes are in anticipation of session. Lines ⁸~~8~~ and ⁹~~9~~ on page 2 allow for that. ₉ ₁₀

During the 1977 session the Research and Fiscal Analysis Divisions were separated. Lines ¹³~~13~~ and ¹⁴~~14~~ on page 2 take care of that. ₁₄ ₁₅

Lines ³⁶~~35~~ and ³⁷~~36~~ on page 2 eliminate the requirement that all workpapers are to be retained by the Legislative Auditor. Only certain workpapers are of value, and of course, those would be retained.

Proposed amendment to SR 7:

Review of state agency programs.

Substitute!

In addition to or concurrent with committee action taken on specific bills or resolutions during a regular session, each standing committee of the Senate is encouraged to plan and conduct a general review of selected programs or areas of public interest within the committee's jurisdiction.

Proposed amendment to S. B. 263:

Page, ² new subsection to follow (4) --

Each senator or assemblyman who, during the legislative session, maintains in Carson City temporary quarters for which he has entered into a lease or other contractual arrangement for continuous occupancy throughout the session is entitled to receive a lodging allowance equal to that portion of the subsistence allowance for state officers and employees which is allocated for lodging expenses by regulation of the state board of examiners pursuant to NRS 281.160, for each day when the legislature has adjourned for more than 3 days, except that he is not entitled to a lodging allowance for any day for which he receives a per diem expense allowance as provided in subsection 4.

EXHIBIT "C"

(REPRINTED WITH ADOPTED AMENDMENTS)

FIRST REPRINT

A.B. 387

ASSEMBLY BILL, NO. 387—ASSEMBLYMEN DINI AND MELLO

FEBRUARY 13, 1979

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Makes various changes in law relating to legislative counsel bureau. (BDR 17-1087)

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 the state legislature; creating a petty cash account for the legislative counsel bureau; authorizing a checking account and expenditures from the legislative fund to pay for certain improvements; changing certain duties of the legislative auditor; 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 218 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.
3 SEC. 2. A petty cash account of the legislative counsel bureau is
4 hereby created in the sum of \$500 for the minor expenses of the legis-
5 lative counsel bureau. The account must be kept in the custody of an
6 employee designated by the director of the legislative counsel bureau and
7 must be replenished periodically from the legislative fund upon approval
8 of expenditures and submission of vouchers or other documents to indi-
9 cate payment.
10 SEC. 3. The legislative counsel bureau may maintain a checking
11 account in any qualified bank for the purpose of paying the salaries of
12 persons on the payroll of the legislative branch of government, related
13 payroll costs and any other expenses directed by the legislative commis-
14 sion. The account must be secured by a depository bond to the extent the
15 account is not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. All
16 checks written on this account must be signed by the chairman of the leg-
17 islative commission and the director of the legislative counsel bureau or
18 his designee, except that during a regular or special session of the legisla-
19 ture, the majority leader of the senate and the speaker of the assembly
20 shall sign the checks.
21 SEC. 4. NRS 218.085 is hereby amended to read as follows:
22 218.085 1. The legislative fund is hereby created as a [continuing]