Minutes of the Nevada State Legislature
Assembly Committee on ELECTIONS

Date: February 23, 1981

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Glover

Vice Chairman Chaney

Mr. Beyer
Mrs. Ham
Mrs. Hayes
Mr. Malone
Mr. Nicholas
Mr. Prengaman
Mr. Robinson
Mr. Sader

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Hickey

GUESTS PRESENT: William Swackhamer, Secretary of State

Frank Daykin, Legislative Counsel

Assemblyman Robert Rusk

Chairman Glover called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in room 200. He asked Assemblyman Rusk to speak on his bill, AB 164.

AB 164: Specifies time for commencing reports of campaign contributions.

Assemblyman Robert Rusk, Assembly District 28, indicated that AB 164 relates to the disclosure law and closes a loophole in existing law. He noted that in many other western states the language in AB 164 has been included in their laws. He explained that the existing law requires that contribution and expense disclosures be made from the day of filing through the general election. He said that more and more candidates are receiving contributions before the day of filing and after the general election and are, therefore, not included in disclosure. indicated that the new language in AB 164 changes the period of reporting to include the day of the last preceding general election to the primary election, of if the candidate holds any office for which reporting of contributions is required, from the day of his election to that office to the primary election. He explained that this language closes the loophole so that any money collected during the entire year must be reported.

When Mr. Malone questioned if this bill would present a clearer picture if expenditures were included in this time frame also, Mr. Rusk agreed that this bill should be amended to include campaign expenditures also.

Dr. Robinson wondered whether citizens were more interested in how much a candidate received or how much he spent or were they really mostly interested in where the money came from. Mr. Russ stated that in his opinion they were interested first in contributions received and secondly in who from. Dr. Robinson

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commented that he felt the only person who would be interested in how much he spent and how he spent it would be his opponent. Dr. Robinson suggested that possibly the amount that must be reported with the name and address of the contributor should be lowered from \$500 to \$100 because very few legislators receive a contribution of over \$500. Mr. Rusk commented that the threshold in Illinois is \$1,000.

When Mr. Glover asked if there had been any legislation drafted to deal with the threshold in Nevada, Mr. Swackhamer said that there was legislation that would make the reporting cumulative instead of \$500 in each reporting period. Mr. Glover indicated that he felt the issues should be kept separate.

Mr. Daykin stated that Mr. Swackhamer was correct that a bill to make the \$500 cumulative has been requested and drafted. He added that there is a senate bill which deals with both contributions and expenses. He noted that AB 164 creates a system whereby a person remaining in public office would have to present a continuous history of contributions.

Mr. Nicholas commented that if there are other bills pending dealing with this subject, he would rather wait and compare this bill with the others.

When Mrs. Hayes said that she felt expenditures should be included in the same time frame of reporting, Mr. Daykin commented that there was nothing in the law which prohibited a candidate from reporting expenditures over the whole period as long as the inclusive dates were noted.

When Mrs. Ham asked when this law would become effective, Mr. Daykin replied July 1, 1981 which would require an incumbent candidate running in 1982 to report contributions from the day of the general election in 1980 on.

Mr. Rusk commented that most legislators report contributions and expenditures throughout the whole period, but AB 164 would require all legislators to operate under the same law.

Chairman Glover directed the committee's attention to SB 94.

SB 94: Removes statutory provisions which conflict with or duplicate constitutional provision relating to recall of public officers.

William Swackhamer, Secretary of State, stated that <u>SB 94</u> is a companion bill to <u>AJR 13</u> which was discussed on February 10th. He commented that if the committee were not going to deal with <u>AJR 13</u>, <u>SB 94</u> would not be necessary, but even though <u>SB 94</u> removes the 25 percent figure, it is stated elsewhere in the constitution. He noted that all the material that is being deleted and all the additional language is because of Mr. Daykin's desire to not have the statutes repeating constitutional provisions.

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When Mrs. Hayes asked where the 25 percent was stated in the Constitution, Mr. Daykin responded that it appeared in Section 9, Article 2 and quoted "the number of registered voters not less than 25 percent." He added that AJR 13 changed the 25 percent to a sliding scale.

Mr. Glover noted that basically <u>SB 94</u> did not change anything as the material was stated in the constitution.

Mr. Chaney moved DO PASS on  $\underline{SB}$  94, seconded by Mr. Nicholas and unanimously carried by the members present with Mr. Hickey absent.

Mr. Glover asked Mr. Chaney to speak for  $\underline{SB}$  94 on the floor of the Assembly.

After discussion, the committee decided to hold AB 164 until they learned if there was other similar legislation.

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Hatch

Secretary

## 61st SESSION NEVADA LEGISLATURE

## ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

## LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE	FEB	RUARY	23, 19	81		•						
SUBJECT	SB	94: R	emoves	sta	— tutory p	rovis	ions v	which	con	flict with	or	
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BEYER CHANEY		X		<del></del>	20		<del></del>		<u>-</u>			_
HAM HAYES		X					<del>_</del>		_			_
HICKEY MALONE		abs	ent						<u>-</u>			_
NICHOLA		X							_			<b>–</b>
PRENGAM ROBINSO		X				_			<del>-</del>			<u>_</u>
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Attached to Minutes February 23, 1981												

## ASSEMBLY

AGE	NDA FOR	COMMI	TTEE	ON	ELECI	LIONS	***********	
Date	MONDAY.	FEB.	23	Time	3.00	Doom	200	

	Bills or Resolutions to be considered	Subject	Counsel requested*	
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¥	AB 164	Specifies time for commencing reports of campaign contributions.	٠	
	SB 94	Removes statutory provisions which conflict with or duplicate constitutional provision relating to recall of public officers.	t .	