Minutes of the Nevada State Legislature

Assembly Committee on JUDICIARY

Date: May 25, 1981

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Stewart

Vice Chairman Sader

Mr. Banner Mr. Beyer

Mrs. Cafferata
Mr. Chaney
Miss Foley
Mrs. Ham
Mr. Malone

Mr. Price Mr. Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS PRESENT: See attached guest list.

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and informed the committee that the first item of business would be <u>SB 149</u>.

SB 149: Revises provisions relating to abuse and neglect of children.

Mr. William LaBadie, State Welfare Department, said that they supported <u>SB</u> 149.

Ms. Gloria Handley, State Welfare Division, said that they requested this bill for several reasons. She indicated that there are some federal moneys that Nevada has not been able to qualify for because state law did not have a provision for the appointment of representation in cases relating to neglect and abuse; that section 1 of <u>SB 149</u> provides for this representation. She added that the original bill had a fiscal note because attorneys were included, but this was deleted from the present version and there will be no fiscal impact.

Ms. Handley continued by noting that the bill also includes the definition of child abuse and neglect as contained in NRS 200 adding this definition to the juvenile court statute. She added that a definition of "sexual exploitation" has been included in order to qualify for federal funds earmarked for sexual abuse programs. Under the section which denotes who must report child abuse, she indicated that they have added a new category that includes volunteers who handle hot lines or crisis calls.

A further change in the law as pointed out by Ms. Handley pertains to the central registry for child abuse and neglect. She noted that current law is restrictive as to who may have access to information in this registry; that even though they maintain the registry they may not use it to check on an

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applicant for foster home licensing or child adoption application. The change in the law would allow them to use the registry for these purposes.

Ms. Handley said that Mr. Ned Solomon had a recommendation for a change in one definition and indicated her support for this change.

Mr. Ned Solomon, Clark County Juvenile Court, said that the wording on page 3 did not come out of the bill drafter's office smoothly and suggested the following amendment: On page 3, beginning on line 26, "physical injury includes but is not limited to disfigurement (and) or impairment of any bodily function or organ of the body and includes (such an injury) other types of injuries resulting from excessive corporal punishment (.) or from any other method by which bodily harm is inflicted.

Mr. Sader pointed out that elsewhere in the statutes reference is made to permanent disfigurement and asked if the intent of the use of disfigurement was temporary or permanent. Mr. Solomon indicated that the intent was for temporary disfigurement so that scalding and beating without permanent disfigurement would be included. Mr. Sader suggested that the word temporary be included for more clarification, and Mr. Solomon agreed to this suggestion.

Mr. Stewart indicated concern that physical injury was inadequately defined, and Ms. Handley referred to the definition of child abuse and neglect, section 3, page 3, lines 6-11, adding that there are other qualifiers within the bill. Mr. Stewart then question page 3, line 36, and Ms. Handley indicated that is being deleted because "infamous crime against nature" as defined in NRS 201.190 is only between consenting adults and not applicable to child abuse statutes.

When Mr. Sader asked why the hot line and crisis people did not want to report child abuse, Ms. Handley commented that she thought that these people feel they can provide better service to individuals if they know they are not being reported, but Ms. Handley felt there were real dangers in this.

Mr. Sader questioned the use of the wording on page 2, lines 1 through 6, "subjected to physical and mental injury of a non-accidental nature" because of the problem of negligent treatment; negligence can and often does result in an accident. He was concerned that conduct which is negligent resulting in an accident might be excluded by this wording. He asked if it would satisfy intent if language such as "has been subjected to physical or mental injury...or negligent treatment." Ms. Handley was not sure of this language because she felt negligent treatment was not related to non-accidental.

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In further discussion, Mr. Solomon described the full range of their services including education on organization in the home, community resources available and neighborhood cooperation.

Since there was no further testimony on <u>SB 149</u>, Chairman Stewart directed attention to <u>SB 436</u>.

SB 436: Provides variable rate of interest for judgments.

Mr. John Madole, representing the Associated General Contractors, supported <u>SB 436</u> primarily section 4 which affects the lien law; that the statutory rate of interest has been 8 percent and the lien law has been 7 percent. He indicated that SB 436 will correct this and allow people collecting under the lien law a more reasonable rate of interest.

Mr. George Vargas, Counsel for the American Insurance Association, testified that SB 436 will practically double the interest rates in this area. He referred to a newspaper article on short-term treasury notes which is attached as EXHIBIT A. He noted that AB 68 which provided for a raise in the interest rate from 8 to 12 percent per annum; that the Senate is not going to accept this but will amend it to read like SB 436. He questioned lines 7 and 8 on page 1 "when no rate of interest is provided by contract or otherwise by law or specified in the judgment, the judgment draws interest each day." He noted that "each day" put him in a quandry; that the way that this statute is written, 8 percent per annum, the obligation draws daily interest but is figured at 8 percent per annum on the number of days that the obligation is subject to a charge of interest; that if this is the intent of this bill, "each day" is not needed. He indicated that if it is the intent to compound interest each day, that is different and a serious situation. He added that this bill will also increase insurance rates to individuals and urged defeat of this measure.

Mr. Virgil Anderson, representing the American Automobile Association, said they have the same concerns expressed by Mr. Vargas. He agreed that the doubling of the interest rates would be reflected in premiums for automobile insurance. He distributed to members of the committee a memorandum concerning the number of cases appealed to the Supreme Court in which money judgments were involved which is attached as EXHIBIT B.

Mr. Richard Garrod, representing the Farmer's Insurance Group, pointed out to the committee that the day before they had adopted AB 189, which establishes in this state a bond bank for the purchase of the bonds of school districts, hospitals and other local agencies because they are not marketable at present.

Chairman Stewart moved to the next item of business, SB 451.

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SB 451: Amends provisions relating to county and city jails.

Mr. Larry Ketzenberger, representing the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, said that the police department requested SB 451 and enumerated some of the provisions of this bill. He noted that on page 1, line 2, it intends to allow the contracting for federal prisoners in county jails to be permissive as opposed to mandatory and requires that a contract be concluded before such federal prisoners can be put into county jails. He commented that the purpose of this is to inform local sheriffs of the requirements of the federal contracts which generally cannot be met by local jails; therefore, a contract is signed which, in effect, they are in violation of immediately. He indicated that, because of the overcrowding in county jails throughout the state, they wanted them to be aware of the problems that could arise as a result of taking on federal prisoners.

Mr. Ketzenberger pointed out that the next change was in subsection 2, section 2, line 23, page 1, which allows a sheriff or other police official to establish a work-release program for misdemeaner prisoners at his facility. He added that the requirements for doing this are: Provide thorough screening; limit to prisoners who have been sentenced; prisoners who participate must pay back the county part of his room and board as ability will allow.

Mr. Thompson asked what it costs to house a prisoner, and Mr. Ketzenberger replied that they estimate that it costs \$56 to \$60 per day per prisoner, but some of these costs are incurred no matter how many prisoners are there so that payback costs would have to be modified.

The next change as indicated by Mr. Ketzenberger was to limit the amount of work to a reasonable amount of time and to limit where this work can be performed. He added that the next change would make the prisoner or his insurance company responsible for injuries incurred during arrest for commission of a public offense. He noted that other changes were to bring the law in line with present day standards dealing with punishment and reporting of such punishment.

Mr. Ketzenberger submitted a proposed amendment to <u>SB 451</u> which is attached as EXHIBIT C.

When Mr. Thompson questioned what punishment might be inflicted, Mr. Ketzenberger responded that punishment might include the taking away of TV privileges, commissary privileges, good time or placement in a single cell.

In response to Mr. Sader's question, Mr. Ketzenberger indicated that his proposed amendment is an attempt to cut costs by not using highly paid guards for those prisoners who do not need them.

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Mr. Ketzenberger continued by saying that section 6 allows for giving more time for those people who work than is presently the case, the reasons being to provide incentive for prisoners and to allow for more space in the jails.

Mr. Sader questioned if the words "if convicted" should be included because he felt that a prisoner should not be responsible for paying room and board unless convicted. Mr. Ketzenberger indicated that this was the intent but did not feel that it was necessary to include this wording.

After a short break, Chairman Stewart directed attention to SB 436.

SB 436: Provides variable rate of interest for judgments.

Mr. Bob Shriver, representing Nevada Trial Lawyers, said that SB 436 is the Senate version of AB 68 and that SB 436 provides for a variable rate rather than a fixed rate of interest. He noted that there was an important amendment to section 7 which would change the wording on line 34 to "all events occuring on or after July 1" because litigation could take place after even though the event took place before. He indicated that there might be a section that was included in AB 68 that should be included in SB 436 and said that he would check the minutes from the Senate committee meeting and report back to Chairman Stewart.

After discussion the committee decided to hold <u>SB 436</u> for the suggested amendments and for Mr. Shriver's report.

Chairman Stewart moved on to the next item on the agenda, <u>SB</u> 600.

SB 600: Revises provisions for incorporating Protestant Episcopal churches.

Senator Sue Wagner, Senate District 1, said that this bill was orginally introduced in 1977 as a result of an interim study of sex discrimination. She indicated that the thrust of this bill is two-fold: 1) On page 2, lines 27 through 30, which deals with sex discrimination allowing any number of women to serve on the vestry. 2) In addition to this the bill drafter removed language which would separate the operation and the jurisdiction of the church from NRS basically dealing with elections, who can vote, when meetings will take place, etc., which are not appropriate for state law and should be under the rules of the church. Mrs. Wagner gave the history of Chapter 82 which was part of the law before Nevada became a state and enumerated the groups covered under this Chapter. She said that the Senate had considered deleting the whole chapter but the bill drafter and the chancellor of the church felt there could be problems because three people could go to the Secretary of State and incorporate themselves which

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might cause splinter groups within the church who could claim property. She noted that her main purpose for introducing this bill was to eliminate discrimination against women.

When Mr. Malone questioned why this bill was killed last session, Mrs. Wagner indicated that the reason was because of a pending lawsuit at that time.

Since there was no one present to testify on <u>SB 604</u>, Chairman Stewart opened the hearing on SB 605.

SB 605: Transfers duty of recording certain certificates of incorporation from county recorder to county clerk.

Bill McDonald, District Attorney for Humboldt County, pointed out for future consideration why are some things recorded in the county recorder's office and other things in the county clerk's office. He noted that if might be helpful for all concerned if everything were recorded in one place, the county recorder's office.

Chairman Stewart commented that this bill makes non-profit corporations consistent with the way that regular corporations are recorded.

Since there was no further testimony on the previous bill, Mr. Stewart directed attention to SB 612.

SB 612: Requires that court order for involuntary admission to mental health facility be based on clear and convincing evidence.

Mr. Ken Sharigian, Mental Health, Mental Retardation, said that <u>SB 612</u> was requested by the Developmental Disabilities Advocate Office and merely amends the civil commitment proceedings to state specifically that when considering whether someone is dangerous to self or others or gravely disabled that it be clear and convincing standards used by the court. He noted that this will make the law consistent with the Supreme Court ruling.

Mr. Sader moved DO PASS on \underline{SB} 612, seconded by Mrs. Ham, and carried unanimously by members present with Miss Foley absent at the time of the vote.

Chairman Stewart asked Mr. Chaney to speak on <u>SB 612</u> on the floor of the Assembly.

Mrs. Ham moved DO PASS on $\underline{SB~600}$, seconded by Mrs. Cafferata, and carried unanimously by the members present with Miss Foley absent at the time of the vote.

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In discussion the committee felt that the bill drafter should be consulted on <u>SB 149</u> with regard to the non-accidental question and on the definition of physical injury. Chairman Stewart asked Mr. Sader to see about these amendments and said that he would hold the bill for future action.

Mr. Stewart indicated that there were two proposed amendments to SB 451: One, EXHIBIT C as proposed by Mr. Ketzenberger, and two on line 43, "it is a public offense of which he has been convicted."

Mrs. Cafferata moved DO PASS AS AMENDED with the above amendments, seconded by Mrs. Ham, and carried unanimously by members present.

Mr. Thompson moved to INDEFINITELY POSTPONE <u>SB 67</u>, seconded by Banner. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 5 with Mr. Banner, Mr. Chaney, Miss Foley, Mr. Malone, Mr. Price and Mr. Thompson voting yes, and with Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Cafferata, Mrs. Ham, Mr. Sader and Mr. Stewart voting no.

Mrs. Cafferata moved to INDEFINITELY POSTPONE SB 354, seconded by Mr. Price and carried by a vote of 10 to 1 with Mr. Stewart voting no.

Mr. Beyer moved AMEND <u>SJR 32</u> by providing for staggered terms for judges and DO PASS AS AMENDED on <u>SJR 32</u>, seconded by Mr. Price. The motion carried by a vote of 8 to 2 with Mrs. Cafferata and Mrs. Ham voting no and with Mr. Banner absent at the time of the vote.

SB 604: Removes requirement of marginal notation by county recorder when real property is sold on execution.

Senator Close explained that this bill deleted the requirement of a marginal notation by the county recorder because microfilm is now used and making a notation is impossible.

In response to Mrs. Ham's question, Senator Close indicated that there is another document which covers this notation.

Mr. Malone moved DO PASS on <u>SB 604</u>, seconded by Miss Foley and unanimously carried by the members present with Mr. Banner absent at the time of the vote.

SB 659: Allows creation of estate in community property with right of survivorship.

Senator Close said that <u>SB 659</u> provides for the right of survivorship without the necessity of probate in regard to community property.

Mr. Sader asked why this is being done by a community property deed rather than a joint tenancy deed. Senator Don Ashworth said that under the federal estate tax law on a true joint tenancy situation if half of the property is owned by one spouse and the other half owned by the other spouse, one dies

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and there is no probate, then there is a step up in basis on only half of the property. He added that under community property the step up basis is on both halves at the death of the first to die so for income tax purposes there would be no gain. He indicated that this bill will not change any law in force at present as to joint tenancy, but will allow community property to pass from one spouse to another without probate. He added that according to IRS property can only be joint tenancy or community, never both.

Mr. Malone moved DO PASS on <u>SB 659</u>, seconded by Mrs. Cafferata and carried unanimously by members present with Mr. Price absent at the time of the vote.

Mrs. Cafferata moved DO PASS on <u>SB 605</u>, seconded by Mr. Banner and carried unanimously by the members present with Mr. Price absent at the time of the vote.

Since there was no further business, Chairman Stewart adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patricia Hatch Secretary

DATE: May 25, 1981

SUBJECT: SB 612: Requires that court order for involuntary admission to mental health facility be based on clear and convincing evidence. MOTION: DO PASS XX AMEND ___ INDEFINITELY POSTPONE RECONSIDER MOVED BY: Mr. Sader SECONDED BY: Mrs. Ham AMENDMENT: MOVED BY: _____ SECONDED BY: ____ AMENDMENT: MOVED BY: SECONDED BY: MOTION AMEND AMEND YES VOTE: NO YES NO YES NO X Thompson Foley absent Beyer Price Sader Stewart Chaney Malone Cafferata Ham X Banner TALLY: 10 0 ORIGINAL MOTION: Passed XX Defeated Withdrawn AMENDED & DEFEATED AMENDED & PASSED AMENDED & DEFEATED AMENDED & PASSED

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ASSEMBLY JUDICI COMMITTEE

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5/24

Short-term 77 Treasury note: yields soar

WASHINGTON (AP)

Yields on short-term
soared higher Friday,
with rates for threemonth bills hitting their
highest average ever and
rates for six-month bills
climbing to a shade
below their record level,
the government report-

about \$4 billion in three month T-bills at an average yield of 16.75 percent, up from the 16.034

About \$4 billion in sixmonth T-bills were sold at an an average discount rate of 15.675 percent, up sharply from the
15.025 percent of Monday's auction, Treasury
officials reported.

The rates had been rising rapidly for about a month — along with short-term interest rates in private credit markets — before declining slightly last Monday. Rates on other Treasury securities also have recently been at or near record levels.

osers

The new weekly auction was conducted three days early on Friday because Monday is a federal holiday in observance of Memorial Day.

Beginning next Tuesday, banks and thrift institutions may pay as much as 15.925 percent interest on six-month money market certificates; which have rate ceilings one-quarter percentage point above the six-month T-bill rate. The current ceiling on the \$10,000-minimum certificates is 15.275 percent.

The new 26-week T-bill rate was the highest since the 15.7 percent of March 24, 1980, while the 13-week rate surpassed the old record of 16.667 set on Dec. 15 of last year.

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April 3, 1981

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Senator William H. Hernstadt

FROM:

Donald A. Rhodes, Chief Deputy Research Director

SUBJECT:

Number of Cases Appealed to the Supreme Court in

Which Money Judgments are Involved

According to Jane Nelson, supervising staff attorney for the Nevada supreme court, (phone 885-5189) the supreme court had 726 appeals before it during 1980. Ms. Nelson says that 273 of those cases were civil matters. One of her attorneys reviewed about 50 of the civil cases for us and determined that about 10 percent of those cases related to matters in which money judgments were involved. Using this figure, it could be estimated that approximately 25 to 30 cases before the Nevada supreme court last year concerned money judgment matters.

DAR/11p3.2.SC

MEMORANDUM

May 22, 1981

TO:

Chairman, Assembly Committee on Judiciary

FROM:

Larry Ketzenberger, L.V. Metropolitan Police

SUBJECT:

Proposed Amendment to Senate Bill No. 451

Amend NRS 211.160, subsection 2, page 3, line 29-30:

"...supervision is required of a prisoner (participating in a program of release for work is required when the prisoner is outside the perimeter of the secured area.) assigned to work under the provisions of NRS 211.140, ss. 2."

LK/slf