

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Price, Chairman
 Mr. Polish, Vice Chairman
 Mr. DuBois
 Mr. Glover
 Mr. Mello
 Mr. Prengaman
 Mr. Schofield

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Beyer
 Mrs. Westall

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. Mr. Price was in the Chair.

AB 259 Authorizes issuance of restricted drivers' licenses to permit certain minors to drive for handicapped members of household.

Assemblyman Joseph E. Dini, District 38, testified in support of this measure. He uncovered a problem that existed in Nevada when a constituent of his became handicapped through an automobile accident and could no longer drive. She has a son who is 14½ years old and capable of driving with a learner's permit but there is no provision in the law for licensing him to drive, even to take her to the hospital for therapy.

Mr. Dini stated that he had done research on this and had found that there are 11 states (including Nevada) that have provisions for licensing individuals 14 years and over under extenuating circumstances. His research is attached as Exhibit I.

Sharon Alcamo, Drivers' License Division, Department of Motor Vehicles, testified on this measure. She submitted for the committee's review, amendments which her department felt would prevent any abuse of such a provision. Attached as Exhibit II.

Mr. Prengaman felt that (b) of item #1 tended to defeat the intent of the bill. For example, if there is a husband, wife and 14 year old child; the wife is handicapped and the husband works, the purpose of this measure would be to allow the child to drive for the mother. According to the proposed amendment, he would not be able to do so because the father, who would be at work most of the time, was a licensed driver.

Mr. Mello concurred saying that he felt this would create so much governmental red tape that it was very likely that no one would ever qualify for a special license.

Mr. Price asked how many special permits had been issued for driving to school only.

Ms. Alcamo responded that approximately 100 had been but felt that there had been a great deal of abuse in that area.

Kathy Olson, Executive Director, Governor's Committee for Employing the Handicapped, testified in support of this measure. She stated that transportation is one of the biggest problems in Nevada for the disabled, particularly in the rural areas.

Mr. Richard R. Garrod, Legislative Field Representative for Farmer's Insurance Group, stated that they would support the measure provided it was amended as proposed by Ms. Alcamo. He also had a further concern as to who would certify the disability.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Price requested that Assemblyman Dini and Ms. Alcamo draft an amendment which would prohibit abuse yet not be so restrictive as to prevent the issuance of a license.

No action was taken at this time.

AB 239 Provides money for drivers' education and makes certain other changes relating to drivers' licenses.

G. P. Etcheverry, Nevada League of Cities, wished to go on record as being opposed to this measure.

Chuck Neeley, Clark County School District, testified in opposition to this measure. He did not feel it was appropriate to ask the counties and cities for their funds to support driver's education. He informed the committee that there was a bill in the Senate (SB 315 Relaxes restrictions on school districts in financing of automobile driver education programs) which would increase the lab fee from \$35 to \$44 to cover the costs of the program.

Patrick Pine, representing Clark County, stated that they were opposed to this bill. It was their estimate that the fiscal impact of diverting 1/6 of traffic fines into driver's education would be approximately \$94,000. Since the fines and forfeitures are primary sources of revenue for the county general fund, which in turn is a source of financing for the metropolitan police department and the court system, he felt it might be logically argued that this diverts support of public safety and justice programs to a school operated program.

Mr. Pine further commented that the current discussion of the tax programs seem to have one essential common element: all the programs propose maintaining support of schools and actually relieving certain pressures imposed on schools by the spending caps.

Joe Cathcart, representing the City of North Las Vegas, concurred with Mr. Pine's comments. It was his estimate that this would cost the City of North Las Vegas approximately \$105,000.

Bryce Wilson, Nevada Association of Counties, also wished to go on record as being opposed to this measure. He was in concurrence with previous comments made.

Sharon Alcamo, Drivers' License Division, Department of Motor Vehicles, stated that this bill would increase the minimum age from 16 to 18 unless the individual passed a course in drivers' education. She called the Department of Education to find out how many people had passed driver's education last year and was told it was in excess of 5,000 students. At the present time, there are almost 21,000 licensed drivers between the ages of 16 and 18. Therefore, the courses offered and the staff necessary would have to be greatly increased if such a program were made mandatory.

Ms. Alcamo also questioned the effectiveness of driver's education courses; does it actually reduce accident and citation rates. She stated that she had called several states but found that no studies had been done in this regard.

She also expressed concern over the portion of the bill requiring placement of the fact that an individual has taken driver's education on their driver's license. She stated that the department receives requests continually for putting blood type, handicapped designation, donor programs, etc. on the license. However, they would like to have the driver's license contain only the information that identifies the driver and any restrictions for driving.

Mr. DuBois felt that prohibiting issuance of a driver's license until the age of 18 unless a course in driver's education was taken would discriminate against those who could not afford a \$35 lab fee.

Gene Durbin, Driver's Education Instructor, Reno High School and former president of the Nevada Traffic Safety Educational Association, testified in support of this measure. He agreed with the counties' and cities' concern over loss of funding and suggested a surcharge of 1/6th over and above the present fines. This would provide continuous funding so that school districts could plan continuity in their programs.

Mr. Durbin stated that the purpose of driver's education was to provide educational proficiency, knowledge and skills before permitting a person to obtain a license. It also helps to provide the proper attitude. Ninety to ninety-five percent of all moving violation convictions and accidents are attitude related; not a lack of knowledge or skill.

He also supported placing information on the driver's license which indicated that courses had been taken. He felt this would enable the Department of Motor Vehicles to evaluate the effectiveness of the programs.

In Section 4, Mr. Durbin suggested adding on lines 45 through 49 "purchase of simulators or developing multiple car driving ranges would be permitted." The purchase of a simulator would reduce the yearly cost of laboratory instruction by 1/3 and according to state law, 12 hours of simulation may be substituted for 3 hours of actual driving time.

With regard to Section 6, he would like this to become effective January 1982 as it would permit an assessment to be made of available money for driver's education programs based on 3 and 6 month intervals.

Pursuant to Section 11, Mr. Durbin suggested this become effective January 1983 in that it would give the school districts an opportunity to prepare for the large number of students that would be enrolling. Approximately 1/2 of all students take driver's education now so this measure would double the present program.

Mr. Price observed that there was a general objection by the school districts to programs mandated by the legislature. He suggested that perhaps this could be made optional.

In response to Mr. Durbin's comments regarding attitude, Mr. Polish felt that perhaps classroom instruction could be made mandatory, thus eliminating the major cost of the program.

There was a brief discussion by the committee but no action was taken at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Cheri Kinsley, Secretary
Assembly Transportation Committee

ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON.....TRANSPORTATION.....

Monday
Date March 16, 1981 Time 5:00 P.m. Room 214

Bills or Resolutions
to be considered

Subject

Counsel
requested*

AB 239

Provides money for drivers' education
and makes certain other changes relating
to drivers' licenses.

AB 259

Authorizes issuance of restricted drivers'
licenses to permit certain minors to drive
for handicapped members of household.

*Please do not ask for counsel unless necessary.



ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

GUEST LIST

Date: MARCH 16, 1981

<u>PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME</u>	<u>PLEASE PRINT WHO YOU REPRESENT</u>	<u>I WISH TO SPEAK</u>		
		<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>BILL NO</u>
John Bond	Neu. Mtr. Trans. Ass'n			
John Hawkins	Neu. School Boards Ass'n			
DOUG SEVIER	NEV DEPT OF EDUC.			
WENDELL K. NEWMAN	NEV. DEPT. OF EDUC.			
Alvaro Pleano	Driver's License Division			
Gene Durbin	Reno High School / Nevada Traffic Safety Ed Assn			
VIRGIL P. ANDERSON	NEV. DIVISION, AAA			
MIKE COOL	City of Las Vegas			
Jim Cathcart	City of North Las Vegas		✓	AB 239
CHUCK NEELY	CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DIST		✓	AB 239
Julie Olsen	Intern - Assemblyman Dini			
Joe Dini	assemblyman DIST #38	✓		AB 259
Kathleen Olson	YCEH Rehab. Division	✓		AB 259
G P Etcheverry	Neu League of Cities		✓	AB 239
PATRICK FINE	CLARK COUNTY		✓	239

ALASKA

Learner's permit issued for 2 years, minimum age of 14 years.

ARKANSAS

Restricted license issues to persons 14 to 16 with the provision that a licensed adult be present.

IDAHO

Drivers 14 to 15 have license with restriction of daylight hours only.

KANSAS

Restricted licenses are provided between the ages of 14 and 16 years.

MICHIGAN

Restricted license may be issued between the ages of 14 and 18, who have not had driver's education, when there is a special need. All requests are investigated by the Department of State.

MONTANA

License provided to 14½ years with driver's education.

NEBRASKA

Special permit for 14 years and older if living at least 1½ miles from school, with no other transportation available. Valid only during school hours.

NEVADA

Restricted licenses to 14 years and older for driving between home and school only.

OREGON

Permit for driving to school for 14 years and older. Also individuals 14 years may obtain an emergency driver's permit when the Division of Motor Vehicles is satisfied that an emergency exists. This permit is valid only for specific routes and purposes.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Restrict licenses for persons between the age of 14 and 15 for operation of a vehicle between the hours of 6 a.m. and 7 p.m.

TEXAS

Minimum of 15 years with establishment of "hardship conditions."

WYOMING

Restricted license to 14 year old with affidavit from parent or guardian attesting to situation of extreme hardship.



DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

555 WRIGHT WAY

CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89711
DRIVER'S LICENSE DIVISION

March 16, 1981

TO: ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: *Sharon P. Alcamo*
SHARON P. ALCAMO, DRIVER'S LICENSE DIVISION
SUBJECT: AB259

It is suggested the wording contained in AB259, Page 1, Lines 3-16, be amended as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 483 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section which shall read as follows:

1. The department may issue a restricted license to any person between the ages of 14 and 16 years which entitles him to drive a motor vehicle upon a highway when all the following conditions exist:
 - (a) A member of his household has a medical condition which prohibits the operation of a motor vehicle.
 - (b) There is no other licensed driver in the household.
 - (c) An extreme hardship exists.
2. An application for a restricted license under this section must:
 - (a) Be made upon a form provided by the department.
 - (b) Contain statements indicating the medically disabled person lives in the same household with the applicant and explaining the need for the applicant to drive.
 - (c) Be signed and verified as provided in NRS 483.300.
 - (d) Contain such other information as may be required by the department.
3. Any restricted license issued pursuant to this section shall:
 - (a) Be effective only for the period of time specified by the department.
 - (b) Authorize the licensee to drive a motor vehicle on a street or highway only under the terms and conditions specified by the department.
 - (c) Contain such other restrictions as the department may deem necessary and proper.
4. No license may be issued under this section until the department is satisfied fully as to the applicant's competency and fitness to drive a motor vehicle.