

MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON FINANCE

SIXTY-FIRST SESSION
NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE
May 20, 1981

The Senate Committee on Finance was called to order by Chairman Floyd R. Lamb, at 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 20, 1981, in Room 231 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. Exhibit A is the Meeting Agenda.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman
Senator James I. Gibson, Vice Chairman
Senator Eugene V. Echols
Senator Lawrence E. Jacobsen
Senator Norman D. Glaser
Senator Thomas R.C. Wilson
Senator Clifford E. McCorkle

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald W. Sparks, Chief Fiscal Analyst
Dan Miles, Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Candace Chaney, Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Howard Barrett, Budget Division

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 153 - Makes various changes in provisions regarding interim finance committee.

Mr. Sparks noted that the committee had received a notice from the Assembly Ways and Means Committee that they did not concur with the Senate Finance Committee's amendment and there was a conflict. He said he would look into the matter.

SENATE BILL NO. 525 - Requires state to continue to pay retirement contributions and group insurance premiums of certain disabled state officers and employees.
524

Mr. Bob Gagnier, Executive Director of the State of Nevada Employees' Association, testified before the committee to clarify a point brought up during previous testimony regarding this bill. (See Exhibit B.)

Mr. Sparks commented that Mr. Gagnier indicated this was already budgeted money but currently when an employee used up his sick leave he asked if that employee went off the State payroll and the payments ceased. Mr. Gagnier concurred. Mr. Sparks inquired, if at that time, the agency could refill that position and, if this bill went into effect, if the cost would be double. Mr. Gagnier said, under another provision in NRS 281, if an employee was on NIC disability and declined to use the remainder of his sick leave, they must hold the position open. If the employee ran out of sick leave entirely, then the employee may be terminated and the position refilled.

Senator Gibson requested an explanation of the fiscal note in the bill. Mr. Gagnier stated it was his group's understanding that when NIC prepared the fiscal note, because it was amended into NRS 286, they prepared it as if it applied to all public employees, not just State employees.

Senator Lamb remarked, then, the fiscal note would not be correct. Mr. Gagnier said that would be his assumption. Mr. Sparks said it would be correct if the bill were amended as SNEA was requesting.

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Mr. Gagnier commented that if there was to be a limit in the bill, it should be a limit on the length of time with regard to eligibility for insurance and retirement. Mr. Sparks remarked once an employee ran out of sick leave, he stopped receiving State benefits.

Senator Jacobsen wondered why the largest percentage of disabled employees were from the University. Mr. Gagnier did not know why.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24 - Authorizes expenditure from legislative fund to aid committees on taxation.

Senator Gibson moved to concur with the amendment to SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24.

Senator Jacobsen seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

SENATE BILL NO. 515 - Places personnel of Lost City museum into classified service of State.

Senator Jacobsen moved to concur with the amendment to SENATE BILL NO. 515.

Senator Glaser seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

BILL DRAFT REQUEST 2-2122 (S.B. 698)

Senator Jacobson moved to introduce a Bill Draft Request to increase filing fees in the courts.

Senator Glaser seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

SENATE BILL NO. 644

Senator Jacobsen moved to amend Senate Bill No. 644 to limit the allocations to the amount within the limits of legislative appropriation.

Senator Echols seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

*Senator Glaser moved to approve Senate Bill No. 644 as amended.

Senator Jacobsen seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

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The Committee reconvened at 10:05 a.m.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

After meeting with the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, Senator Gibson told the committee that he believes that there is a strong support within the Assembly Ways and Means committee in favor of concurring with the Senate Finance committee on their proposal for operational analysis under the Office of the Governor.

The committee elected not to recede from the Senate Finance committee's position on the operational analysis budget of the Office of the Governor.

COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE PLANNING

(THE COMMITTEE ELECTED TO HOLD THIS BUDGET FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.)


ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 473

SENATOR WILSON MOVED TO ELIMINATE THE SUNSET LAW PROVISION CONTAINED WITHIN THIS BILL.

SENATOR GIBSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted by:


Candace L. Chaney, Secretary


Tracy L. Dutic, Secretary

APPROVED BY:


Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman

DATED: May 2

SENATE AGENDA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee on FINANCE, Room 231.
Day (SEE BELOW), Date (SEE BELOW), Time (SEE BELOW)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1981 - 7:30 a.m.

1. Work Session.
2. 8:00 a.m. - JOINT SESSION/ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - Room 234

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1981 - 8:00 a.m.

1. JOINT SESSION/ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - Room 234

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1981

1. JOINT SESSION/ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - Room 234



Exhibit F

State of Nevada Employees Association

Post Office Box 1016 — Carson City, Nevada 89701 — (702) 882-3910

May 11, 1981

TO: Senator Wagner
FROM: Bob Gagnier
SUBJECT: SB 524

As I indicated to you in an earlier memorandum it is our belief that the bill drafters placed this measure in the wrong portion of NRS. I will propose at the hearing that Section 1 be amended into NRS 284 instead of 286.

The purpose of the bill is to continue the payment of retirement contributions and health insurance for state workers who are on "temporary total disability" under NIC. At the present time an employee who is on NIC must pay his own health insurance unless he is receiving both sick leave and NIC. The time a person is on NIC does not count towards retirement, again unless the employee is also on sick leave.

The bill contains a limitation of one year for this benefit. It is rare, however, for a state worker to be on temporary total disability that long. The following statistics may be demonstrative of this.

(Information is derived from the first nine months of this fiscal year, annualized.)

The approximate number of state employees drawing this benefit for any portion of a year is 221.

This group draws a benefit for approximately 1.41 months.

At the current rate of insurance contributions, \$67, this would amount to less than \$21,000 of which less than half is general fund.

The approximate contribution to the retirement program would be \$22,000 and again about one-half would be general fund.

BG:hc