

MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON HUMAN RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

SIXTY-FIRST SESSION  
NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE  
February 9, 1981

The Senate Committee on Human Resources and Facilities was called to order by Vice Chairman James N. Kosinski at 9:10 a.m., Monday, February 9, 1981, in Room 323 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. Exhibit A is the Meeting Agenda. Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Joe Neal, Chairman  
Senator James N. Kosinski, Vice Chairman  
Senator Richard E. Blakemore  
Senator Wilbur Faiss  
Senator Virgil M. Getto

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

Senator James H. Bilbray (Excused)

GUEST LEGISLATOR PRESENT:

Senator Lawrence Jacobsen

STAFF MEMBER PRESENT:

Sheba L. Frost, Secretary

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13 -- "Recommends that board of regents improve classes in fire science at community colleges."

Senator Lawrence Jacobsen, sponsor of S.C.R. No. 13, said that this resolution came from the Interim Subcommittee on Fire Protection and Control in the State of Nevada (S.C.R. 23). The senator introduced Mr. Fred Welden, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, to the committee and said that Mr. Welden would explain the resolution.

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Mr. Welden said that the community colleges throughout the state have programs on fire science training. However, the curriculum in these classes differs at each college. This makes it difficult to transfer credits to the universities. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13 recommends to the Board of Regents that a uniform curriculum be developed for fire science classes as well as a uniform method for determining the qualifications of instructors. Specifically, the resolution recommends that the board of regents: (1) Develop a schedule for classes in the fire sciences which accommodates firemen who work alternating shifts; (2) Solve the problem of classes which are needed by firemen being cancelled because they do not meet a prescribed level of enrollment; (3) Establish a procedure for community colleges to grant credit for training obtained at regional fire schools; (4) Permit community colleges to offer shorter courses and seminars at fire departments; and (5) Examine whether programs made for educational television can be used to supplement training in existing classes in the fire sciences.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14 -- "Directs civil defense and disaster agency to study search and rescue operations in this state."

Mr. Welden said that the interim subcommittee received a great deal of testimony regarding search and rescue. It is apparent that statewide, the fire departments respond to more search and rescue calls than they do fire calls in any given year. Traditionally, the local sheriffs of each county has the general authority over search and rescue operations, and testimony received by the subcommittee indicated that this authority should remain with sheriffs. However, it was felt that a study conducted by the state civil defense and disaster agency would assist in coordinating information regarding the resources and manpower available for search and rescue operations.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15 -- "Recommends that public schools offer courses in fire prevention and control."

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Mr. Welden said that this resolution recommends that public schools offer courses in fire prevention and control as well as suggesting a curriculum prepared by the National Fire Protection Association entitled "Learn Not to Burn." Mr. Welden said that the subcommittee did not receive any testimony on this from the school districts. However, this is only a 'recommendation' and not a requirement.

Chairman Neal asked if S.C.R. No. 14 would conflict with other proposed legislation which allows members of the National Guard to respond to emergency rescue conditions. Senator Kosinski said that S.C.R. No. 14 deals with all search and rescue operations, and the other legislation being referenced would require that the National Guard be utilized in restricted situations.

Mr. Tom Huddleston, State Fire Marshal, discussed S.C.R. No. 15. Mr. Huddleston said that in the past, fire departments have attempted to educate the public about fire prevention and control through the school districts, however, these programs have become "add-on" subjects to the existing curriculum. This results in the fire science courses having to compete with all the other curriculum subjects for academic time. The "Learn Not to Burn" program is not an "add-on" course, it is absorbed into the required curriculum. Mr. Huddleston said that the State Board of Education has, for approximately 1 1/2 years, been attempting to incorporate this program into the school districts' programs. There is no attempt being made to require this course, but only to notify the school districts that it is available for their use.

Mr. John Hawkins of the Nevada School Boards Association, said that the association he represents has some reservations about this resolution (S.C.R. No. 15) because teachers are already "pleading" to have more time to teach the basic subjects. Mr. Hawkins said that in his opinion additional training and re-training would be required of teachers in order to instruct the "Learn Not to Burn" program. He said that the main burden of developing this program would fall to the school districts.

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Senator Getto suggested that this program of S.C.R. No. 15 might be more acceptable to the school districts if line 8 would be rewritten to say: "...recommends that the public schools of the State of Nevada (offer) incorporate courses....". Mr. Hawkins concurred that this would be more acceptable because the resolution would no longer dictate that the courses be given, and would allow for more flexibility within the school districts.

Mr. Ron Johnson, City of Sparks Fire Department and member of the S.C.R. No. 23 subcommittee, spoke to both S.C.R. No. 15 and S.C.R. No. 13. He supported S.C.R. No. 15 and encouraged the committee to accept this resolution. Mr. Johnson said that adoption of this program by the school districts would allow for continuity and consistency in the education of the public within the school systems.

Speaking on S.C.R. No. 13, Mr. Johnson said that this resolution recognizes the complexity of training firemen who work on 24-hour shifts. Mr. Johnson pointed out that a fireman may miss up to 50 percent of the classes on a specific course because the class is only held one night per week rather than on a variable schedule. Mr. Johnson commented that cooperation by the community colleges to respond to this situation in instructing firemen would illustrate the purpose of the college which is to serve the needs of its community. He suggested that the community college may be able to recognize a weekend seminar as one unit of credit or 15 hours of class time. This would allow firemen to attend courses compatible with their work schedules and still receive college credit for their efforts.

Mr. Dick Wright, Washoe County School District, suggested for S.C.R. No. 15 the following amendment to lines 7-11: "...the Nevada legislature recommends that the public schools of the State of Nevada provide information to students which concern practices of fire prevention and control and that the curriculum be decided by each local district in cooperation with local fire officials." (The new proposed language is underscored.) He said that

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this would give the local school districts the option of choosing the course curriculum. Senator Kosinski stated that the present language of the resolution does not preclude each school district from making their own decision on curriculum, it only "recommends." Chairman Neal concurred that the resolution with its present language still allows the school districts to have an option of whether or not to offer the courses on fire prevention and control.

Mr. Stephen Chapman of the City of Sparks Fire Department, said as fire marshal for the city he is charged with providing fire protection for the community. He felt that the "Learn Not to Burn" program of S.C.R. No. 15 would greatly assist him in educating the public about fire prevention. He said that currently, the City of Sparks only provides a program of fire prevention for the third grade level.

Senator Getto asked his guest, Mr. William DeSelms who was attending the legislature for Boy Scouts of America Day, to comment about his exposure to fire prevention education in the public schools system. Mr. DeSelms said that his father is in the military and he has attended schools in other states which offered instruction on fire prevention. However, in Churchill County where he presently resides and attends school, he has never received a course on fire prevention. The only formal instruction he has received has been through the Boy Scouts.

Mr. Wendell Newman of the State Department of Education, said that he agrees that something does need to be done regarding the education of the public on fire prevention. However, the correct and acceptable method needs to be determined. Mr. Newman said that he would provide for the members of the committee, the materials that are currently being utilized by the school districts on this subject. He said that the department would probably recommend to the State Board of Education that the Board take the position that the actual curriculum be left to the local school districts. Mr. Newman said that the department has an individual involved with the

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elementary and secondary courses on fire prevention on a part-time basis.

Mr. Richard Brown representing the Nevada Association of School Administrators, said that he supports the language amendment proposed by Mr. Dick Wright of Washoe County School District for S.C.R. No. 15.


Mr. Tom Huddleston, State Fire Marshal, commented again that his office has provided the "Learn Not to Burn" program to the state department of education as well as a list of each of the fire departments statewide. Therefore, the department is aware of this specific program.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Sheba L. Frost, Secretary

APPROVED BY:

  
Senator Joe Neal, Chairman

DATE: February 16, 1981

SENATE AGENDA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS EXHIBIT A

Committee on Human Resources and Facilities, Room 323.

Day Monday, Date February 9, Time 9:00 a.m.

S. C. R. No. 13--Recommends that board of regents improve classes in fire science at community colleges.

S. C. R. No. 14--Directs civil defense and disaster agency to study search and rescue operations in this state.

S. C. R. No. 15--Recommends that public schools offer courses in fire prevention and control.

