

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

SIXTY-FIRST SESSION
NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE
May 22, 1981

The Senate Committee on Human Resources and Facilities was called to order by Chairman Joe Neal at 8:10 a.m., Friday, May 22, 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
Senator James H. Bilbray

GUEST LEGISLATORS:

Assemblyman Robert G. Craddock

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Connie S. Richards, Committee Secretary

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NUMBER 66 (EXHIBIT C)

Mr. Ted Sanders, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 66 which calls for a study of those conditions surrounding reading, writing, and mathematics. He said lines 18 through 20 currently read, "Studying private, fundamentalist and state schools of California, their policies concerning instruction and their responsibilities to the parents of their pupils." This particular idea was introduced by Senator Echols for the study of the practices of three fundamentalist schools currently in operation in California, which are operating under contract with the public schools for the provision of education.

The Chairman asked Mr. Sanders whether those schools are "church" schools.

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Mr. Sanders replied that they are. He said the intent of that portion of the bill, could be clarified with the following wording: "Studying private fundamentalist schools of California their policies concerning instruction and the responsibilities of parents and pupils to the schools." The second portion should refer to parents and pupils responsibilities to the schools, not schools responsibilities to the parents and students.

Senator Getto asked whether this resolution would be a burden on the state department of education.

Mr. Sanders replied that some staff efforts that are currently being directed toward basic skills instruction will be diverted to carry out the study rather than adding additional staff members or resources.

The Chairman asked where the Finance Committee (the originator of the bill) got its "significant indication".

Mr. Sanders replied that an advisory group at the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Nevada, Reno gathered the figures from assignments given to incoming freshmen students. He said additionally, the department has made a study themselves, of writing skills, the results of which should be available very soon.

The Chairman asked how Mr. Sanders would proprot to carry the demands of this resolution.

Mr. Sanders replied that they would meet with his evaluation staff to create a plan to carry out the directives of the study as well as to determine what might be studied additionally at the same time. Some sort of a "steering" group would then be set up so as to benefit from the insight of various members of both the lay and the educational community of a group of five to seven members. Finally, data would be filtered into that group for translation into some recommendations that might be accomplished with the resources that are now available to the schools and those that may be long-term goals requiring additional resources for which additional legislation would be required. The final result would be a substantial report to be given to the legislature next session, 1983.

The Chairman asked how this study fits with competency tests that are currently being given.

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Mr. Sanders replied that the competency testing has a direct tie to such a study, as that data will be essential as a foundation for much of the study.

Senator Kosinski asked Mr. Sanders how Number 4 of the resolution can be accomplished.

Mr. Sanders said staff members may be sent to the schools that have been identified by Senator Echols to review what is being done both policy-wise and practice-wise and see if there is some way to get results of students' performance at those schools.

ASSEMBLY BILL NUMBER 628

Mr. Bjorn Selinder, County Manager, Churchill County spoke in support of Assembly Bill No. 628. He told the committee Churchill County has been subsidizing its hospital for the last five years. At this time, Churchill County is experiencing a \$361,000 shortfall in revenues for the general operation of the county. Investigation was begun for the possibility of transferring or conveying in some manner, the county hospital operations, either to a private non-profit corporation, or to a proprietary operator for profit. It was discovered that the proprietary operators could not be considered under the law as it currently is written, hence the creation of Assembly Bill No. 628.

Mr. Selinder told the committee Churchill County is worried about providing adequate health service and afraid of the hospital turning into an emergency room operation (the minimum requirement of the state) as many people lose confidence in the hospital and begin traveling to Reno or other areas for their regular medical care.

Senator Kosinski pointed out that Nye County entered a contract for the management of that hospital. He asked why that type of arrangement would not satisfy the needs of Churchill County.

Mr. Selinder said he wasn't saying that it would not serve the county's needs, necessarily, however, a contractual obligation still requires that the county pay for improvements and for other necessary capital expenditures. The county is looking to divest itself of the responsibility of running the hospital; it simply does not have those kinds of revenues. The hospital is currently operating on waivers.

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Senator Kosinski asked Mr. Selinder whether he would have any objection to the addition of a provision in the bill to limit the term of the lease to something less than 50 years.

Mr. Selinder replied that he doesn't feel such a provision would hurt the county.

Senator Blakemore replied that such a provision would not be good for the county because a period of time as short as 30 years, is not long enough to amortize a loan, especially when working with a public entity.

Mr. Lee Smith, Member, Churchill County Hospital Board of Trustees spoke in support of Assembly Bill No. 628. He told the committee the hospital had approximately 8,000 patient days in 1972; currently the hospital is running less than 5,000 patient days. Utilization cannot be increased without increasing the number of physicians on the staff. The number of physicians on the staff cannot be increased without having an adequate facility. The lack of utilization causes the hospital to operate at a considerable loss; until the hospital is able to update and add facilities, it will be unable to attract additional physicians and thus the utilization will continue to be minimal.

The Chairman asked Mr. Smith in what year the hospital was built.

Mr. Smith replied that the hospital was built in the 1930's and an addition was built in the 1960's. He noted that the hospital is currently operating under waivers.

The Chairman commented that the bill would also affect Clark County though that county does not have problems with its hospitals.

Senator Blakemore pointed out that all the small counties are currently faced with this problem.

The Chairman pointed out that a bill was just passed that provides for the use of bonds for the building of hospitals.

Mr. Fred Hillerby said that bill is Assembly Bill No. 201 and may be utilized by any county but that county must be able to show to the bonding company an ability to repay the debt.

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The Chairman asked whether a provision might be placed in the bill in case of sale of the hospital, the issue must be voted upon by the people.

Mr. Selinder replied that immediate action is needed in the small counties due to the shortfall currently being experienced.

Mr. Smith added that the hospital will not be sold without concurrence of the board of trustees who are elected. The county commissioners, who are also elected, have the final authority in such a case. He said placing such an issue on the ballot would require massive public education and he feels that is specifically the reason trustees are elected to act on behalf of the people.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NUMBER 66 (EXHIBIT C)

Senator Getto moved to "Amend and Do Pass" Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 66.

Senator Bilbray seconded the motion.

The motion carried. (Senator Neal voted "No".)

SENATE BILL NUMBER 313 (EXHIBIT D)

Assemblyman Robert D. Craddock spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 313. He told the committee he has been working on a solution to the problem with the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association. He briefly explained the suggested amendment to the bill for the committee. He said the amendment would allow for the creation of two separate boards. The first board would be made up of superintendents from each of the 17 school districts, giving the greatest representation to the smaller counties. The second board would be based on population of the districts, giving the larger counties the greatest representation. Either board may make proposals for programs, but the programs must be concurred upon by both boards with the final authority resting on an executive director to be appointed by the boards, or if they cannot agree, by the governor.

Senator Kosinski asked who the executive director is responsible to.

Assemblyman Craddock replied that the executive director

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is responsible to those who hire him.

Senator Kosinski replied that the bill does not specify that to be the case. He asked how the executive director might be dismissed.

Assemblyman Craddock said he may be dismissed through the same process he was hired.

Senator Kosinski said he does not see how such a structure can function. He said the person in the executive director position is not responsible to anyone, only the legislature can impact him. The legislature meets biennially.

Assemblyman Craddock said such terms and conditions may be set in the bill.

Mr. John Hawkins, Nevada State School Boards Association said the association had met the previous Wednesday and the superintendents voted to stay with the original recommendation they received in March. They did not feel that two weeks is enough time to process the bill with the changes. He suggested a study be made during the interim between the end of this legislative session and the 1983 session.

Senator Kosinski said though he supports the board's position, he doesn't believe that because there are only two weeks left in the session, this justifies dropping the issue.

Assemblyman Craddock remarked that two weeks is a short time. He noted that the bill has been "in the works" for a period of eight years and considerable study has gone into it. He urged the committee's passage of the bill as amended.

Senator Bilbray moved to "Amend and Do Pass" Senate Bill No. 313 making the boards advisory to an executive director who is appointed by the governor and responsible to the governor.

Senator Kosinski seconded the motion.

The motion carried. (Senators Blakemore and Getto voted "No".)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at

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9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Connie S. Richards, Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:


Senator Joe Neal, Chairman

DATE: May 30, 1981

SENATE AGENDA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

EXHIBIT A

Committee on Human Resources and Facilities, Room 323 :.

Day Friday, Date May 22, Time 8:00 a.m.

S. C. R. No. 66--Directs department of education to study ways of improving basic and primary instruction.

A. B. No. 628--Allows sale or lease of county hospital to corporation for profit.

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DATE: May 22, 1981

EXHIBIT B

PLEASE PRINT PLEASE PRINT PLEASE PRINT PLEASE PRINT

NAME ORGANIZATION & ADDRESS TELEPHONE

B. SELINDER Churchhill County - FALLON 423-5136

K. Lee Smith churchhill Public Hospital - FALLON 425-2255

John Hankin - New State School Board, Jessie. 522-2779

TED SANDERS DEPT OF EDUC 885-5700

Bob Craddock Assemblyman Dist 20

S. C. R. 66

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 66—
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MAY 18, 1981

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Facilities

SUMMARY—Directs department of education to study ways of improving
basic and primary instruction. (BDR 2028)



EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [] is material to be omitted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—*Directing the department of education to study ways of improving basic and primary instruction.*

- 1 WHEREAS, There are significant indications that substantial numbers
2 of elementary school pupils, high school graduates and students entering
3 the University of Nevada are deficient in the skills of reading, writing
4 and mathematics; now, therefore, be it
5 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of Nevada, the Assembly concur-*
6 *ring,* That the Nevada legislature hereby directs the department of educa-
7 tion to study and put into effect ways to improve instruction in these and
8 other areas related to basic educational skills with special emphasis in
9 the following:
10 1. Training sessions for teachers to improve instructional techniques
11 in the skills of reading, writing and mathematics.
12 2. Reducing the size of classes in the earlier grades and making the
13 size increasingly larger in the higher grade levels.
14 3. Studying the relationships between instructional techniques and
15 attitudes about learning and of respect for others, personal discipline and
16 health habits, and putting this information to use in improving the
17 quality of instruction.
18 4. Studying private, fundamentalist and state schools of California,
19 their policies concerning instruction and their responsibilities to the
20 parents of their pupils.

S. C. R. 66

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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14 3. Studying the relationships between instructional techniques and
15 attitudes about learning and of respect for others, personal discipline and
16 health habits, and putting this information to use in improving the
17 quality of instruction.
18 4. Studying private, fundamentalist and state schools of California,
19 their policies concerning instruction and their responsibilities to the
20 parents of their pupils.

S. B. 313

SENATE BILL NO. 313—SENATOR BILBRAY

FEBRUARY 26, 1981

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Facilities

SUMMARY—Requires that representation on board of association for interscholastic activities be in proportion to pupil enrollments. (BDR 34-1028)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to interscholastic activities; revising provisions for the formation of an association for interscholastic activities; requiring that representation on the governing body of the association be in proportion to pupil enrollments; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. NRS 386.420 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 386.420 1. The county school district trustees may form a nonprofit
3 association composed of all of the school districts of the state for the
4 purposes of controlling, supervising, and regulating all interscholastic
5 athletic events and other interscholastic events in the public schools.
6 2. *The county school district trustees, in designating the size and*
7 *composition of the governing body of the association, shall provide*
8 *representation for school districts, and for private or parochial schools*
9 *which elect to become members, in proportion to their respective pupil*
10 *enrollments.*