

NEVADA LEGISLATURE - 54TH SESSION
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Minutes of Meeting Held
February 2, 1967

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The third meeting of the Senate Committee on Federal, State, and Local Governments was called to order at 11:00 a.m., February 2, 1967, in Committee Room 50, State Capitol, by Committee Chairman Senator James I. Gibson.

The following committee members were present:

Senator Gibson, Chairman
Senator Monroe, Vice Chairman
Senator Bunker
Senator Farr
Senator Hecht
Senator Young

Absent: Senator Alleman.

Also present were Senator Archie Pozzi, Jr., and Legislative Counsel Russ McDonald.

Senator Gibson called on Senator Pozzi to explain the background of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3. Senator Pozzi said that Mr. Frank List, Mr. and Mrs. Heidenreich, and Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead, who own land on the northeast, south, and southeast sides of Washoe Lake in Washoe Valley, had approached him last summer with respect to the possibility of the state's purchasing certain of these lands for development as a park and recreation area. These people said they were under heavy pressure from real estate salesmen to sell these lands for subdivision purposes, but would prefer to have the area maintained in a natural state as a park. The owners mentioned that a holding company was involved, and if there is a possibility of state purchase they could advance money to hold the property until the state purchase could be made. Senator Pozzi said he then called a meeting (about six months ago) of the land owners, representatives from Washoe, Storey, Ormsby, and Douglas Counties and from the Washoe County Park and Recreation Department, the State Department of Conservation, and the State Highway Department, together with Legislative Counsel Russ McDonald. The meeting was held at the University of Nevada and was well attended. At that meeting, Senator Pozzi said he would introduce a concurrent resolution in the Senate requesting owners of land surrounding Washoe Valley to defer selling until the current session of the Legislature either provides funds to purchase the lands, or fails to take action on the matter.

Senator Pozzi informed this committee that the Fish and Game Commission, which also owns land in the area, has some funds available from a federal grant and also that, once the proposed rerouting of Highway 395 from the north end of Washoe Lake into Reno has been completed, the Highway Department will have federal funds available for purchase of land from landlocked owners and will also have highway beautification funds which might be used toward the purchase of park lands. Senator Pozzi said that there is a water right owned by Frank List on the south end of Washoe Lake but that this should present no problem, as the Fish and Game Commission at one time tried to buy this water right and had reached agreement with Mr. List as to terms, but could not come up with the necessary money at that time.

Senator Farr asked if Senator Pozzi had talked to the Washoe County Park and Recreation Department about its participation in the purchase, and Senator Pozzi said that he had, but that that Department had invested heavily in the Bowers Mansion Project and couldn't spend any more money in that area just now, preferring to invest at present in development of the Pyramid Lake area.

Senator Pozzi stated that Eric Cronkhite in the office of Elmo DeRicco, Director of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, is working up prices, knows the acreage involved, who the land owners are, etc., and can give the committee whatever additional information may be needed. Mr. DeRicco has told Senator Pozzi that, outside of Lake Tahoe, this Washoe Valley area is the Number One project in their master plan for Nevada recreational areas. Senator Pozzi pointed out to the committee that the Washoe Park and Recreation Department already has a boat landing on Washoe Lake and operates Bowers Mansion as a recreation area, and hence that the acquisition of lands bordering Washoe Lake, by the state, would make all of Washoe Valley a nice park complex.

Senator Gibson asked if this resolution would be of some help. Senator Pozzi replied that it would be; that if we can hold out some hope of the state's acquiring the land, the people will hold on to it.

Senator Gibson next called on Legislative Counsel Russ McDonald for information about the following assembly bills which had been prepared in the Counsel's office:

- A.B. 44: Corrects reference to debt service fund of cities to conform to provisions of Local Government Budget Act.

Mr. McDonald said this was a corrective measure to change the phrase "sinking fund", in NRS 266.600, to "debt service fund" to bring this section into conformity with the provisions of the Local Government Budget Act. Mr. McDonald explained that whenever a massive new measure, such as the Local Government Budget Act, is enacted, there are usually a few loose ends that need to be tied in, that are discovered when operations begin under the new act.

A.B. 46: Eliminates conflict between separate provisions for vacations of elected county officials.

Mr. McDonald said this will cure a conflict between two existing statutes with respect to vacations of elected county officials.

A.B. 51: Requires that annual report of county auditor be submitted to Nevada Tax Commission.

A.B. 53: Deletes references to superintendent of banks in laws relating to county records and reports to conform to Local Government Budget Act.

Mr. McDonald stated that, like A.B. 44, A.B. 51 and A.B. 53 are corrective measures to tie in loose ends in the Local Government Budget Act. He said these two bills could have been combined into one bill had they been presented to the bill drafter at the same time.

With respect to A.B. 53, this was amended to resolve a conflict between it and a previously passed bill that had been signed by the Governor.

A.B. 55: Approves outstanding public securities of the state and all corporate subdivisions and agencies thereof.

Mr. McDonald explained that this measure is presented at each session of the Legislature as a form of insurance to cure situations where proper procedure has not been followed in some minor respect regarding a bond issue, but where there has been substantial compliance with all requirements. This measure affects only bond issues floated to the date of the measure; hence the need to pass a similar "insurance" measure at each session.

A.B. 57: Corrects error designating trustee of general improvement district as "director".

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Mr. McDonald explained this bill simply corrects an error in one word in one section of Chapter 318, the law governing improvement districts.

Senator Gibson then asked Mr. McDonald to go over certain bills which the Legislative Counsel is asking this committee to introduce.

Mr. McDonald stated that the bills, five in number, are the result of audits made in various state offices by the fiscal auditors.

The first bill^{*} would change the requirement that the state printer must print all materials used by state officers and would allow state agencies to mimeograph reports and materials used entirely within the agency.

Chairman Gibson asked if there were any objections to introduction as a committee bill. There were none.

The second bill^{**} fixes a maximum balance of \$100,000 in the state printing fund and lists the number of state reports that must be printed. Mr. McDonald said that the state printing office is set up to operate at a profit, to permit needed major outlays for plant changes or for outside work which the printing plant cannot handle.

Senator Gibson asked Mr. McDonald whether there would be any objection to this committee's introducing the bill, then referring it to the Finance Committee. Mr. McDonald said he had none.

The third bill^o would permit the fiscal analysts of the Legislative Counsel Bureau to examine accident reports made to the Public Service Commission. At present the PSC is prohibited by law from permitting such an examination. Mr. McDonald explained that the bill would correct a conflict in the law.

Senator Gibson asked if there were any objections to introduction as a committee bill. There were none.

The fourth bill^{oo} would empower the PSC to require public utilities to carry on their operations in such a manner as to insure the safety of employees, passengers, customers, and the general public.

Senator Gibson asked if there were any objections to introduction as a committee bill. There were none.

* S.B. 89 (BDR 29-83)

** S.B. 88 (BDR 29-80)

o S.B. 87 (BDR 58-91)

oo S.B. 86 (BDR 58-255)

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The fifth bill^{*} would give the Legislative Counsel Bureau, rather than the Buildings and Grounds Department, control of the use of the rooms on the second floor of the Capitol and the first and second floors of the octagon annex, between legislative sessions.

Senator Gibson asked if there were any objections to introduction as a committee bill. There were none.

Senator Gibson then called for committee action on S.C.B. 3, A.B. 44, A.B. 46, A.B. 51, A.B. 55, and A.B. 57, previously discussed. Senator Monroe moved that the committee report these bills out with a do-pass recommendation. Senator Young seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Glover - Secretary

I certify that the foregoing minutes are correct.

Senator James I. Gibson - Chairman

*S.B. 90 (BDR 27-268)