

MINUTES COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION - 55TH ASSEMBLY SESSION, FEBRUARY 18, 1969.

Present: Lingenfelter, Tyson, Prince, Wilson, Webb, and Foote.
Absent: Swallow.

Chairman Lingenfelter convened the meeting in Room 43 at 10:00 a.m. He acknowledged the presence of Dr. William G. Van Patten, Nevada State Board of Optometry member and Mr. Bill Crowell, the board's legal counsel. Also present was Assemblyman Keith Ashworth.

Chairman Lingenfelter stated that the main subject for the committee's consideration at this meeting was SB 94 which would increase academic requirements for the practice of optometry in the State. He asked Dr. Van Patten for his remarks.

Dr. Van Patten told the committee that the Board had requested this bill to upgrade the optometry profession requirements as a natural corollary to academic changes throughout the country made necessary by the vast changes in techniques within the profession arising from modern improvement and development. A further incentive for the bill is the increasing federal participation in some areas of optometric treatment as the result of Medicare, Title XIX, the Bureau of Indian Affairs contracts, etc. The requirements of these federal programs call for the qualifications sought in the bill. Specifically the bill would require an additional year of professional academic study.

It was developed that Nevadans presently licensed in the State would not be affected by the new qualifications but that the Board would at the present time content itself with encouraging individual practitioners to upgrade themselves voluntarily. The effect upon those coming into the State on reciprocity terms would be to require two semester hours now being offered for this upgrading by professional schools on the Pacific Coast.

Assemblyman Keith Ashworth told the committee that he had been approached by some optometrists who felt that the bill was not objectional on the upgrading requirements but that it was felt that the effective date of the bill should be amended so as not to affect this year's June applicants. Dr. Van Patten said his research did not substantiate that any June applicants would be affected but after some discussion he said that he would not oppose an amendment.

Assemblyman Ashworth then submitted an amendment he had prepared that would change the act's effective date to September 1, 1969.

Chairman Lingenfelter then thanked the visitors and excused them from the meeting.

Prince moved Do Pass SB 94 with the amendment.
Tyson seconded.
Motion unanimously passed.

Chairman Lingenfelter then presented SB 117 to the committee. The

sole purpose of this bill would be to correct references to Hawaii in the Western Regional Higher Education Compact. Hawaii now being a State would not be referred to as a Territory.

Tyson moved Do Pass SB 117.

Prince seconded.

Motion unanimously passed.

Chairman Lingenfelter then presented three proposed bills to the committee which the Department of Education had requested the committee to introduce.

BDR 34-1296* requires teachers to be employed for 2 years before coming within purview of Professional Practices Act.

BDR 34-1297** increases membership of the state board of education.

BDR 34-807° enacts Interstate Agreement on Qualification of Educational Personnel.

The committee agreed that by the department's request the bills would be introduced for further consideration.

Wilson moved BDR 34-1296, BDR 34-1297 and BDR 34-807 be introduced by the request of the Department of Education.

Tyson seconded.

Motion unanimously passed.

Meeting was adjourned after announcement by Assemblyman Wilson that some Clark County educators would like to visit the next meeting on Thursday. Chairman Lingenfelter stated that the committee would meet henceforth and until further notice at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday of each week.

*A.B. 364

**A.B. 365

° A.B. 366