

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, 55TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION, MARCH 6, 1969

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

Chairman Lingenfelter convened the meeting and stated that the first bill on the agenda was AB 261 which permits the superintendent of public instruction to make final determination of need in placing, deaf, dumb or blind students. The bill came to the committee from the State Department of Education and the chairman introduced Mr. Burnell Larson for his comments.

Mr. Larson said that first of all the bill attempts to clarify the language in reference to these handicapped children. Unless this clarification is made there are too many grey areas upon which determinations have to be made for these students eligibility. Also the bill would allow the Superintendent of Public Instruction to make a complete evaluation of each application that is made to transmit a student outside the state for training that is not available within the state. Mr. Larson said that in the past they have made these evaluations but the authority to do so is not spelled out. He said that the Department wants to see the students well placed and they have to have the authorization to assume the responsibility. Mr. Larson introduced to the committee Mr. Larry Davis who is the Director in the Department of Special Education.

Mr. Davis told the committee that the terms "deaf, dumb and blind" have unfortunate connotations to many people and that a "dumb" student is thought by some to be mentally retarded. This bill substitutes language which is accepted medically on a national level for proper terms of designation for the aurally handicapped, the mute person, and the visually handicapped person. The standards established are federally accepted. Also they are medically approved standards.

Assemblyman Prince asked why the bill provided a five year state residence requirement for eligibility. It was developed that students between the ages of 3 years and 21 years are eligible and that particular resident requirement would pertain only to an older student who became handicapped later in the school process through accidental or other means and had to commence new educational processes as a part of his rehabilitation.

Chairman Lingenfelter inquired whether the bill would lead to increased costs. Mr. Larson said that the anticipated costs had been budgeted. Assemblyman Wilson inquired whether the determination for eligibility would be mandated or left optional with the parents. It was developed that the applications originate with parents and not of this is mandated.

Chairman Lingenfelter then asked for comments on AB 365 which would increase membership of the state board of education. He again turned the comments over to Mr. Larson.

Mr. Larson said that the intent of this bill arose from the recommendations which had motivated the entire reorganization of the Department of Education. He said that this area had not



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previously been covered and would recognize additional representation for the most highly populated area in the state. It does not, he said, have its origin in the "one-man one-vote" concept. Mr. Larson said that from past experience any board larger than nine members has been found to be difficult and somewhat unmanageable. Therefore, this bill calls for a 9-man board, 7 elective and two appointive.

Mr. Dick VanderWoude introduced himself to the committee as a representative of the Nevada State Education Association from Las Vegas, Nevada. He said that he would like the committee to recognize that another bill in the Senate also covers the composition of the State Board. He suggested that that bill calls for an 11-member board that would be similar to the University Board of Regents and he further stated that he believed that the "one-man one-vote" concept had good grounds and should be given consideration.

Chairman Lingenfelter said that the committee intended to withhold action on AB 365 until the Senate Bill could be considered.

The next matter for discussion was AB 373 which enables school districts to purchase liability insurance for members of junior traffic patrols. The bill sponsored by Assemblyman Frank Young did not emanate from the Department of Education but the chairman asked for Mr. Larson's comments.

Mr. Larson said that the obvious intent seemed to be to cover the protection school children who are assigned a special duty and give a special type of liability insurance. He suggested that the bill should be clarified as to its intent and possible conflict with other insurance provisions or N.I.C. regulations. The committee was not able to get Assemblyman Young to appear.

The committee agreed that these other aspects suggested by Mr. Larson should be researched and AB 373 was deferred for further consideration.

Chairman Lingenfelter said that Assemblymen Torvinen and Lowman have suggested that the committee recall their action on SB 132. He said that another more simple bill had been suggested. The committee agreed to give SB 132 another consideration.

Assemblyman Prince outlined the provisions of a proposed bill which would compensate school boards on a permissive basis. The committee agreed following discussion of the bill to introduce it. The bill designated as BDR 34-165 will be considered further after introduction.

The meeting adjourned.