

55th NEVADA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE,
CHAIRMAN WOODROW WILSON PRESIDING February 25, 1969

Members Present: Wilson, Frazzini, Espinoza, May, Foote, Hafen, Brookman, Homer and Swallow.

Absent : None.

Chairman Wilson convened the meeting at 2:30 P.M. and introduced Mr. Max Faylor, Nevada Nursing Home Association, Carson City, Nevada who wished to be heard regarding A.B. 91.

Mrs. Frazzini then intervened to request that the Minutes of the Meeting taken Feb. 19th could be corrected as follows: Par. 3, Page 2, 1st sentence - "worthless" should be deleted, and the sentence changed to read as follows: "We felt that some of the studies were excellent and others did not really meet the need of the Legislature."

Miss Foote suggested hearing the proposed amendments to A.B. 91 first.

Chairman Wilson read a letter from Mr. Karl Harris, Director, Department of Health and Welfare, State of Nevada, in which several proposed amendments to A.B. 91 are set out. Copy of letter is attached as Exhibit A.

He also stated that there was an additional amendment from Assemblyman Prince to be introduced at the next meeting.

Mr. Faylor said that the Nursing Home Association will accept Mr. Harris' amendments, which would include 2 more members from the Department of Health & Welfare, one of which would be the Director. "I will say that the barbers, chiropractors, cosmetologists, etc., all have their own members on their boards. Now they are asking for their people on our Board. Who would be better qualified than our own administrators on the Board. However, we do accept it the way they have written it. We would still like to have 4 members from the Nursing Home field."

Homer: "It would seem, as suggested by Mr. Harris, the Nursing Home Administrators would be in the minority on their own Board."

Espinoza: "What special qualifications do the people who are now serving as Administrators have, or how do they get into it in the first place?"

Faylor: "By being in the field for a number of years. Like the Doctors, nurses, etc."

Espinoza: Those people had special training. I think that is the reason for having two from related fields, they would have been licensed in their own fields, such as Doctors and nurses."

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Faylor: "We will have work shops and other forms of training as the years go by. I feel that to be qualified, it must be the people who are in the field to know that."

Espinoza: "Did you say a Doctor would know the business?"

Faylor: "No, not especially. He would know medicine, but certainly not the business of operating a nursing home. Karl Harris has admitted no one in his Health Department would qualify as an Administrator. We are trying to set up an examination, and we have until 1970 to get the information we need to pass it. We have lots of help from advisory committees in Washington, D.C. and an Advisory Commission from the American Nursing Homes Association."

Wilson: "The Health and Welfare Division must be thinking along the same lines. If the National Nursing Homes Association is helping to set up the criteria for the standards of your group, then it must be the feeling of the Department of Health and Welfare that you should have some of this type of expertise on your Board. I see your point very well, but at this stage of the game not having anyone to set up this type of criteria, it is going to be pretty rough!"

Homer: "I still say you should have a minimum of three who are trained, and who have an investment in this".

If you put in nurses or anybody else, this is not pertaining to the administration of a nursing home. It is a requirement of the Federal Government. Two years ago, I introduced a bill to license medical laboratories. Because of all this Medicare and Medicaid, they said the labs would have to be licensed. However, I found out when Dr. Crippen was in here the other day, all they want, the Health & Welfare Department, is to have control of these outfits. The 'intent' of the law was scrapped. All that was taken care of was to set up a Board so they could control this Federal money. So, I say a minimum of three of their own people should be on their Board. All that is being done is to make them entitled to participate in the Federal programs."

Miss Foote said she runs a children's clothing shop. She said if some State agency should decide that she should be licensed, she would expect store owners whose interests were similar to hers to be on the Board.

Mrs. Frazzini: "I really agree with this. I feel that Nursing Home Administrators must have a majority on this Board. We can always change it later on if it doesn't work".

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Mr. Faylor said he would like to know the crux of the amendments Mr. Prince had suggested.

Chairman Wilson said it governs the small operators from the area from which he comes.

Mr. Swallow said it concerns two small nursing homes in White Pine County. "If I were you, I would check with the two nursing homes in White Pine County and see what their problems are".

Mr. Faylor said he hopes the bill passes this year, because they only have this year to become licensed.

Chairman Wilson then excused Mr. Faylor and invited him to return at a later date if he so desired.

He then introduced a number of bills which he said had come from the administration of the Health and Welfare Department.

Mr. Espinoza moved that the aforementioned bills be requested out as committee recommendations. Seconded by Frazzini. Unanimously carried.

They are: BDR 39-1628; BDR 38-237; BDR 39-517; BDR 53-1298; BDR 11-299; BDR 53-1415; BDR 39-519; BDR 38-296; BDR 38-294; BDR 38-292; BDR 38-796 (Mrs. Brookman asked that this bill be 'by request') (Mrs. Frazzini said she thought BDR 38-796 could be handed directly to Ways and Means because it mentioned \$175 per month) - The chairman asked the opinion of the committee. The decision was unanimous to introduce BDR 38-796 'by request').

BDR 40-1335; BDR 38-765; BDR 40-1335; BDR 38-774;

Chairman Wilson asked that, upon recommendation of the Committee, the following bills be held out for further consideration. They are:

BDR 38-1515; BDR 38-297; BDR 54-1334; BDR 53-1074 and BDR 54-247.

He announced that all pending abortion bills would be on the agenda for discussion at the meetings of the Committee next Thursday and Friday, February 27 and 28, 1969, so that they could all be heard by the Committee before the Joint Hearing scheduled with the Committee on Judiciary March 5, 1969.

Espinoza moved for adjournment. Seconded by Frazzini. Unanimously carried.



PAUL LAXALT
GOVERNOR

KARL R. HARRIS
DIRECTOR

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February 25, 1969

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WELFARE

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Assemblyman Woodrow Wilson
Assembly Chambers
State Capitol
Carson City, Nevada

Dear Assemblyman Wilson:

AB-91 - Licensure of Nursing Home Administrators

There does not seem to be an easy way to provide for a Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators using present established boards.

1. The Board of Health does not include any Nursing Home Administrators.
2. The Health Facilities Advisory Council has 23 members, plus the State Health Officer as Chairman.

This would be an unwieldy group for an examining board. Presently there are no representatives from private nursing homes.

I therefore recommend that a separate board of five members be created.

1. The Director of the Department of Health, Welfare and Rehabilitation, or his designee;
2. Four members appointed by the Governor.
 - a. The first two members so appointed shall be appointed from a list of four Nursing Home Administrators who are qualified for licensure under this chapter, submitted by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Nursing Home Association.
 - b. Two members shall be selected from other professions and institutions concerned with the care of the chronically ill and the infirm aged patients.

No more than two members of the Board shall be officials or full time employees of State Government.

Assemblyman Woodrow Wilson


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Re: AB-91

I would further suggest that during the next biennium there be a study of State Commissions and Boards for better coordination and effectiveness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karl R. Harris".

Karl R. Harris
Director

KRH:jhc