

55TH NEVADA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
WELFARE - Chairman Woodrow Wilson March 11, 1969

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

Absent: Foote and Frazzini.

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 2:30 P.M. and introduced Mr. Thomas Ault, Public Health Advisor, V.D. Control, Reno, Nevada, and Mr. Orville Wahrenbrock from the Department of Health, Welfare and Rehabilitation.

A.B. 321 - Changes designation of Mental Hygiene Division and Mental Advisory Board.

Hafen moved DO PASS. May seconded. Unanimously carried.

Dr. Homer was designated by Chairman Wilson to handle A.B. 321 on the floor of the Assembly.

A.B. 442 - Permits employment of wife of Superintendent at Nevada Girls Training Center.

Mr. Wahrenbrock said there was an identical bill, S.B. 247 which has been introduced by Senator Herr.

Dr. Homer asked if anyone had raised the question that we might be setting a precedent?

Mr. Hafen said there was already a precedent set by the Warden in the State Prison.

May moved DO PASS A.B. 442. Hafen Seconded. Unanimously carried.

A.B. 479 - Amends various provisions relating to blind persons.

Mr. Wilson said this bill was discussed at our previous meeting last Friday, March 7th by Mr. Villa.

He said another group has recommended a maximum of \$135 in opposition to the \$175 asked for in this bill.

Espinoza: "Who asked for the \$135?"

Brookman: "The Association for Aid to the Blind. I don't feel that \$135 is adequate for a blind person, especially when they have to keep their dog. This dog isn't just a dog. The grooming, upkeep and welfare of a dog is a tremendous expense. There is more spent for dogs and dog food than all of the Health and Welfare bills in the whole State. I do feel that \$175 would give them adequate monthly amount to live in a dependent way. I believe they need this. These people have to pay for food and drugs and tax on all that. They can't get around like you and I. They need extra services for people to drive them. If we put in \$175, I think Ways and Means would so

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consider this."

Hafen: "What would the cost be on a year's basis?"

Wahrenbrock: "We have 165 on the rolls in the State now."

Homer: "Didn't we hear something somewhere concerning this other Section on Page 3. As Mr. Villa pointed out, he would prefer to have a Board hearing."

Wahrenbrock: "We have no quarrel from a Department point of view in raising to \$175; however, I think it would be almost impossible to get the Welfare Board to appear in person before the Board. I think perhaps there might be some administrative procedures we might institute, rather than making the Welfare Board, in essence, a hearing board."

Mr. Wilson made reference to Sec. 3, Par. 2, "Upon receipt of notice of the individual's appeal the state welfare board shall, within 20 days of such notice, conduct a hearing to determine the facts and the validity of his claim. Within 30 days after the hearing, the board shall issue its decision on the appeal". He asked Mr. Wahrenbrock if the Welfare Department completely went along with this.

Mr. Wahrenbrock said that they were bitterly against it, but "we are having trouble trying to find 5 people who would be available for these hearings".

Wilson: "It would be an expensive thing, and a cumbersome thing administratively."

Wahrenbrock: "When a person is not happy with the decision of a case worker, the head case worker is dispatched for the purposes of a fair hearing, and the hearing is held in front of the person involved. A court reporter is there and a complete transcript is made and is sent to the Welfare Board. The next meeting they review the transcript and make their decision."

Wilson: "How often do they meet?"

Wahrenbrock: "Eight times a year, and the budget includes transportation and per diem for members of the Welfare Board."

Brookman: "As I think I said at the last meeting, in my opinion, we could alleviate this in our area, when the people have objections they want to be heard. In my opinion, they could be heard at the same time".

Wahrenbrock: "Administratively, there are 2 board members who live in Las Vegas. Perhaps they could be present at the hearings. When held in Reno, they could be invited to attend."

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Brookman: "I think required, not invited, would be better wording."

Wilson: "One of the things that we noticed in the particular hearing that we attended is this. They set up a hearing, and they held a hearing. It was probably a month or 6 weeks before the hearing. After compiling material for the hearing, before the Welfare Board had an opportunity to get together, it was another month or so. I don't think they have a meeting 8 times a year. It is 3, 4, or even 6 months before a decision can be rendered. If we could come up with some form of language whereby Board Members in the particular locality, where the hearings are being held could attend the hearing then if the meeting is say, 2 weeks off, this might help. This could be brought before the Welfare Board at that time. This would expedite the decisions being made tremendously."

Hafen: "What we are saying, then, is that this bill needs a lot of amending, or do we need to draft a new bill?"

Brookman: "We left it up to the Welfare Board to clean up their own Board."

Dr. Homer said it would appear that what we are concerned with is a raise from \$100 to \$175 per month.

Mr. Wilson intervened and said that Sec. 1, Line 2, "except a blind person as defined in NRS 426.060" we will delete that. He said that even Mr. Villa told me this morning that he would go along with this, as it was not intended."

Hafen: Suggested drawing up some guidelines where a decision could be rendered more expeditiously (with reference to hearings).

Wilson said yes, Par. 3, Sec. 3, Page 3, Line 7, the brackets that are inserted would all have to be removed. We would remove all of the new language. "In order to expedite this thing and probably come up with something that the Welfare Division could live with, and give us a look at it, I would recommend that the Welfare Division come up with a proposed plan, in regard to administrative handling of this thing."

Wahrenbrock: "You would like to have them come in with an administrative change to expedite the hearing procedure?"

Mr. Hafen said the proposed raise from \$100 to \$175 would have to go to Ways and Means. "170 cases X 175 per month would amount roughly, to a raise of \$153,000. Since this is going to Ways and Means anyway, there is a bill to raise it to \$135 on the Senate side. How do we handle this?"

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Mr. Swallow said he thought Mr. Hafen was right. "If we feel that it complies with the \$135, that would be just a little less than half of that."

Mr. Wilson suggested the committee be thinking about a figure that they could go along with.

Mr. Swallow asked how the other group derived their figures - the \$135. Mrs. Brookman replied that it came from the Association for Aid to the Blind, but she did not know how they had arrived at the \$135 figure.

Mr. Espinoza moved that the Division of Health & Welfare be requested to make a recommendation of how the appeals may be handled more expeditiously. Seconded by Hafen. Unanimously carried.

A.B. 483 Mr. Wahrenbrock: "We recommend that this bill be left on the table of the Committee".

Mr. Hafen asked him from where this bill had originated?

He replied that they were waiting for additional information. "There is a feeling that we are in conflict with the Federal regulations as to services to the blind.

May moved to indefinitely postpone. Hafen seconded. Unanimously carried.

A.B. 478 - May asked if someone hadn't suggested a change, "within budgetary appropriation and legislative limitations"? Line 28 following the word, "need"?

Mr. Hafen asked Mr. Wahrenbrock what his personal feeling was regarding this language.

Mr. Wahrenbrock said it concerned the explanation of a needy essential person in the home. He said there was need for this.

Hafen: "They do have a fund already in existence?"

Wahrenbrock: "Yes, that is correct."

Hafen moved AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED. May seconded. Unanimously carried.

A.B. 470 - Mr. Wahrenbrock said Dr. McAllister would be down for the next meeting, Wednesday, March 12th, and would "get all of them in the whole package".

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Chairman Wilson introduced five Cosmetology bills that were handed to him by Assemblyman Mary Frazzini. It was the consensus of opinion of the majority of those committee members present that the bills should be held until Mrs. Frazzini was present before voting on them. They were: BDR 54-1067; BDR 54-1064; BDR 54-1063 and BDR 54-1068.

Chairman Wilson then introduced BDR 38-1747^{*}, which would raise the minimum amount to dependent children from \$30 to \$45 per month.

Assemblyman Swallow said that he would go along with that, providing some method is found to get the "bugs" out of the program, in other words, a way of determining that people who are on this program should be on it. He said he would like to get the "unwed Mamma's out of the bars" that continue to bring illegitimate children into the world to put on A.D.C."

Homer moved to introduce as a committee introduction. Seconded by Brookman. The vote was 4 to 3 in favor.

Assemblyman Swallow introduced BDR 54-1756^{**}, which he said was a purely selfish bill regarding pharmacists borrowing non-narcotic type drugs from one another.

Espinoza moved for committee introduction. Brookman seconded. Unanimously carried.

The Chairman announced that all cosmetology bills be moved up on the agenda to Wednesday, March 19th, to give Mrs. Frazzini's bills an opportunity to be heard. He said he would notify all the barbers and cosmetologists concerned.

Mr. Thomas Ault, Public Health Advisor, V.D. Control, Reno, introduced BDR 14-6069, a bill giving children from 12 years up access to a Medical Doctor without responsibility of payment from the parents, if he should contract a venereal disease.

Mr. Ault proposed to do this through the public health clinics, of which both Clark and Washoe Counties have excellent facilities.

Mr. Swallow said he felt the parents had a right to know if their children contracted a disease of this nature. He said, "how is a parent going to correct and train this child in the way he wants him to go? On something this important, the parent has the right to know."

Mrs. Brookman suggested that maybe this should be under the new Court structure. She said anything pertaining to a juvenile will come under the new court structure. She said the people they are really trying to get at fall in the category

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where parent or parents' counseling is lacking.

Dr. Homer said he would oppose it. He said it is getting so that the minute the child is born, he no longer belongs to you. This is destruction of society as we know it."

May said he would like to go on it as a committee introduction, "but I think we should take additional testimony".

Mr. Hafen said he thought it was an area definitely worth looking into.

Chairman Wilson instructed Mrs. Brookman to get some suggested amendments to the bill and bring it back for committee introduction.

The meeting was adjourned.

NOTE: For the information of
the Chairman and the
Committee, Mr. Thomas
Ault can be reached at
Tel. No. 784-6382
784-6383 Reno.

Health & Welfare Committee
Record of Bill Handling

through March 11, 1969

<u>Bill No.</u>	<u>Summary</u>	<u>Date and Committee Action</u>
A.B. 321	Changes designation of Mental Hygiene Division and Mental Advisory Board	3/11/69 DO PASS
A.B. 442	Permits employment of wife of Superintendent at Nevada Girls Training Center.	3/11/69 DO PASS
A.B. 479	Amends various provisions relating to blind persons.	3/11/69 HOLD FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION (from Division of HE&W)
A.B. 483	Removes prohibition against denying services to the blind.	3/11/69 Indefinitely Postpone.
A.B. 478	Authorizes inclusion in payments in Aid to the Blind of money for 'needy essential persons' etc.	3/11/69 AMEND and DO PASS AS AMENDED
A.B. 470	Improves Mental Health Services Program	3/11/69 HOLD FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION