



Legislative

INFORMATION NEWSBULLETIN

Issue No. 2 March 10, 1967

GENERAL COMMENTS -- With only 72 days remaining of the 1967 State Legislature, things are speeding up considerably. We have made additional presentations to legislative committees and sub-committees about the program for the retarded and are continuing to sit in on presentations made by the Department of Public Welfare and institutions for the retarded.

As before, the success of our program depends on the effectiveness of our local chapters and their contacts with their legislators. This becomes increasingly important as the legislators have many additional measures to consider.

REIMBURSEMENT BILL — The bill to reimburse counties for community residential care of the retarded has had one hearing before the Senate Welfare Committee; this was very well received. The second hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15. Several amendments will probably be proposed at that time. These would be as follows:

1. Limit the amount of state participation to \$200 per person per month in a community residential care facility.
2. Provide that rent, capitalization, mortgage and interest payments could not be used in calculating the state share.
3. Provide that the county should pay 10%, instead of \$10, per month if the patients and parents are unable to pay.

As yet, the bill has not been scheduled for a hearing in the House.

DAY ACTIVITY CENTER BILL — This bill is still in the Senate Finance Committee and has not been heard in the House. Indications are that there is considerable interest in this measure and the amendments as proposed will likely be adopted. The Governor is recommending \$1, 063,000 as was reported in the February 10 legislative bulletin. The special report on the Minnesota ARC survey of day activity centers has now been completed and will be in the hands of legislators within several days. We will indicate to each legislator how the district he serves will be affected by legislation and appropriations for day activity centers.

FEBRUARY 16 "DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE" — 112 Association members and 99 Legislators participated in a very successful second "Day at the Legislature" on February 16. A snow storm in a portion of the state did cut attendance but, nevertheless, the event was highly successful.

(over)



Minnesota Association for Retarded Children, Inc.

6315 PENN AVENUE SOUTH • MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55423 • 866-4937

NAME CHANGE OF INSTITUTIONS FOR THE RETARDED — A bill has been passed and signed into law by Governor LeVander which changes the names of our state institutions for the retarded at Cambridge, Brainerd, and Faribault, to "State Hospitals" (eliminating the word "School"). We have been informed that this will have nothing to do with the function of the institutions and that the change in name is meant as a measure to aid in the improvement of these facilities.

BILLS INTRODUCED — H.F. 796 is the companion bill for S.F. 314, dealing with reimbursement to counties for community residential care of the retarded. House authors are: Representatives Dirlam, Hanson, Scherer, Barrette, and Larson.

H.F. 347 is the companion bill to S.F. 174, modifying the purpose of the Owatonna State School. The institution would be authorized to serve the retarded who have additional problems and are not eligible for community special classes.

H.F. 961 is the companion bill to S.F. 472 which removes the ceiling on personnel aids for handicapped and provides that the state pay two-thirds of the transportation costs exceeding the \$225 per year allowed by the law presently.

OTHER BILLS — H.F. 501 has been passed by the House Education Committee and will be re-referred to the House Appropriations Committee. This bill makes it possible for school districts to give special education services to handicapped retarded children below the age of five years. However, the Committee amended the bill to exclude the trainable retarded from this measure and we urge that members contact their legislators urging that the trainable be retained in this bill.

H.F. 424, which increases the ceiling on state aids to personnel in special education at the school district level from \$4, 000 to \$6, 000, was passed on March 7 by the House Education Committee and will be re-referred to a second committee to consider the financial aspects of this measure.

MULTIPLE USE OF INSTITUTIONS FOR THE MENTALLY ILL — There has been a great deal printed in the newspapers regarding placing some adult mentally retarded persons in space at state institutions for the mentally ill. To a certain degree, the Minnesota ARC feels this could be helpful, especially for those adult retarded who have some behavior difficulties. We are, however, looking at this matter very carefully, since the retarded do need a special type of facility and cannot best be served in facilities, which have been constructed to serve some other group. Hopefully, the committee being appointed by Governor LeVander will have some good recommendations and will recognize the need to develop the special type of facilities needed for the mentally retarded.

ACTION NOW— We have recently sent a "Call to Action" to Governmental Affairs Chairmen of all chapters, urging them to contact legislators regarding the reimbursement bill. Additional "Calls to Action" will be sent in the future. The degree of our success will depend on the chapter response to these appeals.

Minnesota Association for Retarded Children, Inc.
6315 Penn Avenue South Minneapolis, Minnesota
55423

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MR. MELVIN HECKT _ B-
ROOM 1430
RAND TOWER
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55402