

ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, March 12, 1975

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bremner, Messrs. Coulter, Chaney, Jacobsen, Banner, Heaney, Weise, Price and Jeffrey;

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

GUESTS: Bob Long, Nevada Division of Forestry; Dale Saunders, " " " " D. J. Demers, Assemblyman George Zappettini, State Forester; Dr. Elwood Miller, Renewable Natural Resources, U of N; Nate Leopold, Vice-President, State Young Republicans; Glen Griffith, Fish and Game; W. G. Parsons, " " " Fred Wright; " " "

Chairman Bremner called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He called for testimony on AB 220, an act relating to reforestation of Nevada lands. Assemblyman Demers, chief sponsor of the bill, stated that this bill is the result of an interim sub-committee which studied the feasibility of a tree nursery in Southern Nevada. They attempted in their studies to recognize desert plants and trees as a resource. There is no nursery in Southern Nevada where trees can be germinated from seed. The study determined that from 45% to 50% loss is sustained in stock coming from outside the State and costs 60% more than if the trees were grown in Southern Nevada. He stated that the Governor had included the cost of this bill in his budget; that there are three potential sites for a plant nursery in Southern Nevada; that they will try to germinate indigenous plants requiring little water; that the Soil Conservation Service fully supports the bill; that FHA, HUD and the VA no longer require lawns to be planted on homes financed by these agencies since they are impossible to maintain in Southern Nevada.

Mr. Price asked Mr. Demers about the amendment to the bill. (Ex. A) Mr. Demers explained that the amendment authorizes the Division of Forestry to make contracts and agreements with established research agencies to gather information which will be disseminated to the public and others by the University of Nevada and Division of Forestry cooperatively.

Mr. Demers continued that other desert plants would also be imported into Southern Nevada and he mentioned a plant in Africa whose roots break up "calichi", a clay-like material impervious to the growth of plants. The State would receive royalties over

ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

MARCH 12, 1975 - Wednesday

Page 2

a two year period for any major plant developments sold commercially.

Mr. Zappettini, State Forester, stated that Nevada could become a leader in desert forestry. He explained exhibits from the Nevada Division of Forestry which demonstrated by-products from pinyon trees such as resin production, Christmas trees, logs, posts, charcoal, railroad ties and pine nuts and two particle boards made from pinyon pines. He also stated that in a good year 300 pounds of pine nuts can be harvested from one tree and that sagebrush can be converted into a hybrid poplar.

Mr. Zappettini continued that the amendment had been worked out with the cooperation of the University who are better equipped for research, etc., but that he wants the opportunity to be consulted and enter into contracts with other organizations to gain information.

Mr. Jacobsen asked Mr. Zappettini about the cost of production as mentioned in the bill. Mr. Zappettini stated that they charge 30¢ for a tree if it costs 30¢ to raise, but that they don't recover their entire costs on such things as tractors or buildings; that they are not competing with private enterprise.

Mr. Demers continued by saying that local nurseries are anxious for the State to undertake this program and if the Forestry Division propagates valuable trees, the State will receive a royalty on them; that no one in Southern Nevada is germinating native plants.

Mr. Weise stated that though he had hoped the nursery would be located in Northern Nevada as it was originally set up, he was glad to see that it would be established in Southern Nevada. Mr. Zappattini stated that the University would give them more land in the near future to enlarge the farm in Reno within the next two years.

Dr. Miller stated that he, too, was in favor of the bill for the same reasons as stated by Mr. Demers and was particularly pleased that the bill authorized the propagation of plants besides trees.

Regarding AB 335, Mr. Zappettini stated that this bill will provide for an inventory and report by the state forester of forest and range renewable natural resources. There are presently 5-1/2 million acres in watersheds which are privately owned and which there has never been an inventory. The Federal Government will pay for this inventory and AB 335 will allow the State Forester to cooperate with this inventory. If Federal funding is not available, Mr. Zappettini stated that they will be back in two years asking for the funds for this inventory in Nevada.

ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

MARCH 12, 1975

Page 3

Dr. Miller stated that one of the areas where we are in critical need of information is in the area of renewable resources on private land. Inventories on Federal lands have been completed but private lands have not. Both are necessary. He continued stating that 50% of the land in this country can produce forests on private lands and that this kind of legislation will be approved everywhere in the country.

Mr. Heaney asked Dr. Miller about the problem of obtaining permission to inventory private lands. Dr. Miller stated that this bill will require this permission by the owner before their land can be inventoried.

Regarding SB 131, Mr. Glen Griffith of Fish and Game explained that this bill will allow funds from the Fish and Game reserve fund to be withdrawn and used for contingencies under the Nevada Boat Act. These funds which can amount to a total of \$150,000 can presently be used only for contingencies under the Fish and Game Act. The amendment to this bill will allow use of the interest from boat licenses, renewals, etc., to a total of \$10,000.00. Of a total yearly budget of \$240,000, \$89,000 is received from the boat fuel fund last year and \$86,000 from registration and title fees, and \$35,000 from the Coast Guard. Interest from this income cannot exceed \$150,000; if it does the balance is transferred to the Fish and Game fund.

Mr. Fred Wright stated that all income from the Boat Act and Fish and Game Act has been combined in bank accounts. This bill will allow the funds to be used separately.

There was discussion between Mr. Jacobsen and Mr. Wright regarding objections by counties to no personal property taxes being paid on boats and thereby counties not receiving more funds. Mr. Wright stated that some counties want proof of taxes having been paid before boats can be licensed. He stated that since December they have renewed 16,000 boat licenses.

Mr. Heaney asked if \$240,000 was spent yearly to enforce the boating program. Mr. Zappettini stated that this amount carries out the entire boating act plus the \$35,000 received from the Coast Guard and \$8,000 to \$10,000 in interest if this bill passes. He stated that there is also a carry-over from past years. Mr. Griffith further explained that the amount of money involved will be the same but that this bill will allow them to use the interest derived from the Boat Act.

Chairman Bremner announced to the committee that they would meet Friday upon adjournment to act on ABs 141, 142, 143, 220, 335 and SB 131. Mr. Jacobsen moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:15; Mr. Jeffrey seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis Berkson, Secretary

ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC RESOURCES

247

Date Wed. March 12 Time 3:00 p.m. Room 214

1-

Bills or Resolutions to be considered	Subject	Counsel requested*
AB 220	Expands reforestation to involve desert, urban forestry and redefines nursery stock to include other conservation plant materials;	
AB 335	Provides for inventory and report by state forester firewarden of forest and range renewable natural resources;	
SB 131	Allows use of certain moneys for administration and enforcement of Nevada Boat Act.	

add for pg 4 AB 210

*Please do not ask for counsel unless necessary.

1-

EXECUTIVE AGENCY BILL DRAFT REQUEST

REQUEST LIMITED TO

FOR LCB USE ONLY

ONE SUBJECT ONLY

BDR # _____

Department of Cons. & Nat. Resources
FROM: DIVISION OF FORESTRY

VIA: Department of
Administration

TO: Legislative Counsel

I. Intent of Proposed Bill: (Brief summary of intended effect)

Amend Introduction to and Section 8 of A.B. 220

II. Justification or Purpose: (Brief narrative of requirement.
Use continuation sheets if necessary)

The University of Nevada has pointed out that Section 8 needs to be amended so that it doesn't conflict with the scope and authorization of their related programs.

III. NRS Title, Chapter and Section affected: (If applicable)

Introduction to and Section 8 of A.B. 220

VI. Fiscal Note:

Is Fiscal Note Required? Yes _____ No X

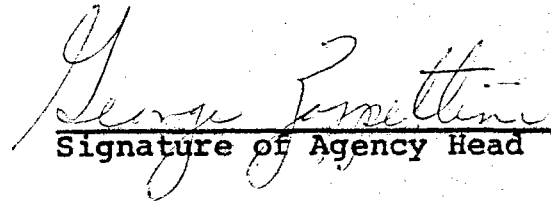
If YES, is it attached? Yes _____ No X

VII. Preprinting of Bill: (Subsection 6 of NRS 218.240)

May bill be preprinted? Yes X No _____

VIII. Name of individual to be contacted if more information needed:

Name: George Zappettini or Bob Long Telephone # 885-4350



Signature of Agency Head

Date: 3/12/75

From: Department of Administration

To: Legislative Counsel

Approved for preparation of bill draft. Comments on fiscal note entered on Form FN-3, attached, if fiscal note required.

Signature
Department of Administration

IV. Amendment or Repeal of Existing Law: (If amending, quote applicable NRS section using brackets to enclose words proposed to be deleted and underscoring proposed new language. If Repealer, merely state "Repeal NRS _____". Use continuation sheets if necessary)

OPTIONAL

AN ACT relating to the reforestation of Nevada lands; providing that deserts and urban settings as well as mountainous terrain may be reforested with adapted and indigenous conservation plant materials; expanding the purposes for reforestation; redefining general nursery stock categories to include additional conservation plant materials; authorizing division of forestry to establish nursery facilities which provide arboretum production and [research operations] cooperative research facilities; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

DELETE ALL OF SECTION 8, REPLACE WITH:

Section 8:

1. Cooperative Research Facilities means that the Division of Forestry facilities may be cooperatively used by a research organization for the development of needed information in propagation, establishment, protection, maintenance and use of conservation plant materials, and

Rev. 5/24/74

a.

that the Division of Forestry is authorized to make contracts and agreements with established research agencies and organizations to gain such information.

2. Information gained from such research will be disseminated to the public and others by the University of Nevada and Division of Forestry cooperatively.

V. New Legislation: (Suggested wording to accomplish intent. Use continuation sheets if necessary)

OPTIONAL