

ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

DATE: Monday, April 7, 1975

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Mr. Banner

GUESTS: None

Chairman Bremner called the meeting to order at 3:50 p.m. He stated that the committee would meet Wednesday, April 9 to discuss any bills any committee member desires to have introduced by the committee, regardless of the subject matter.

Regarding AB 142, - Chairman Bremner stated that the committee's former action combining fishing and hunting licenses into a combination license would have to be amended because of the Hunter's Safety Program; that licensees must have the option of purchasing one or the other or a combination license. This applies to 12 to 16 years only.

Mr. Jeffrey moved to amend the amendment to AB 142 by suggesting that licenses for hunting and fishing should cost \$1.50 each and a combination license should be \$2.50. Mr. Chaney seconded the motion.

Mr. Heaney felt that hunting and fishing licenses were a "good buy" and that most youngsters could earn \$2.50 for each and \$4.00 for a combination and that there should be a distinction between license fees for youngsters and senior citizens. Mr. Jacobsen felt that youngsters could earn the \$2.50 also. Mr. Bremner agreed with Mr. Jacobsen. Mr. Jeffrey stated that he felt the higher fees could work a hardship on lower income families of four, making a difference of from \$17.00 to \$26.00 for the entire family. Mr. Weise moved to amend the amendment to AB 142 by raising the fishing and hunting license fees to \$2.50 each and \$4.00 for a combination license. Mr. Heaney seconded the motion. Members voting in the affirmative were: Messrs Bremner, Coulter, Jacobsen, Heaney, and Weise. Members voting "no" were: Messrs Jeffrey, Chaney and Price. The motion passed. Chairman Bremner asked for the adoption of the amendment to the amendment. The amendment was adopted with Mr. Chaney voting "no".

Mr. Weise stated that he has proposed a constitutional amendment exempting fish and game fines from the school distributive fund putting them back into the general fund as is done with highway department fines. He stated this would amount to about \$60,000 per year.

Chairman Bremner read the proposed amendments to AB 143 as proposed by the Department of Fish and Game (Exhibit "A"). Their proposed amendments related to adding service fees of 25¢ and 10¢

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added to hunting and fishing licenses sold by licensed agents. In the past these service fees were hidden in the license fees and then remitted to the Fish and Game Department. Their proposed amendments would raise the fees i.e., from \$10.00 to \$10.25 and the service fee would then be remitted to Fish and Game. This would also require that the service fee be made mandatory. Mr. Jacobsen pointed out that this makes the agent the "bad guy" and he is very necessary to small rural areas. Mr. Bremner agreed with Mr. Jacobsen and felt that the service fees should be deducted from the fees. Mr. Weise moved to amend AB 143 to allow the 25¢ and 10¢ fees to be deducted from the cost of the license and then remitted to Fish and Game. Mr. Coulter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The committee agreed to "Do Pass" the bill.

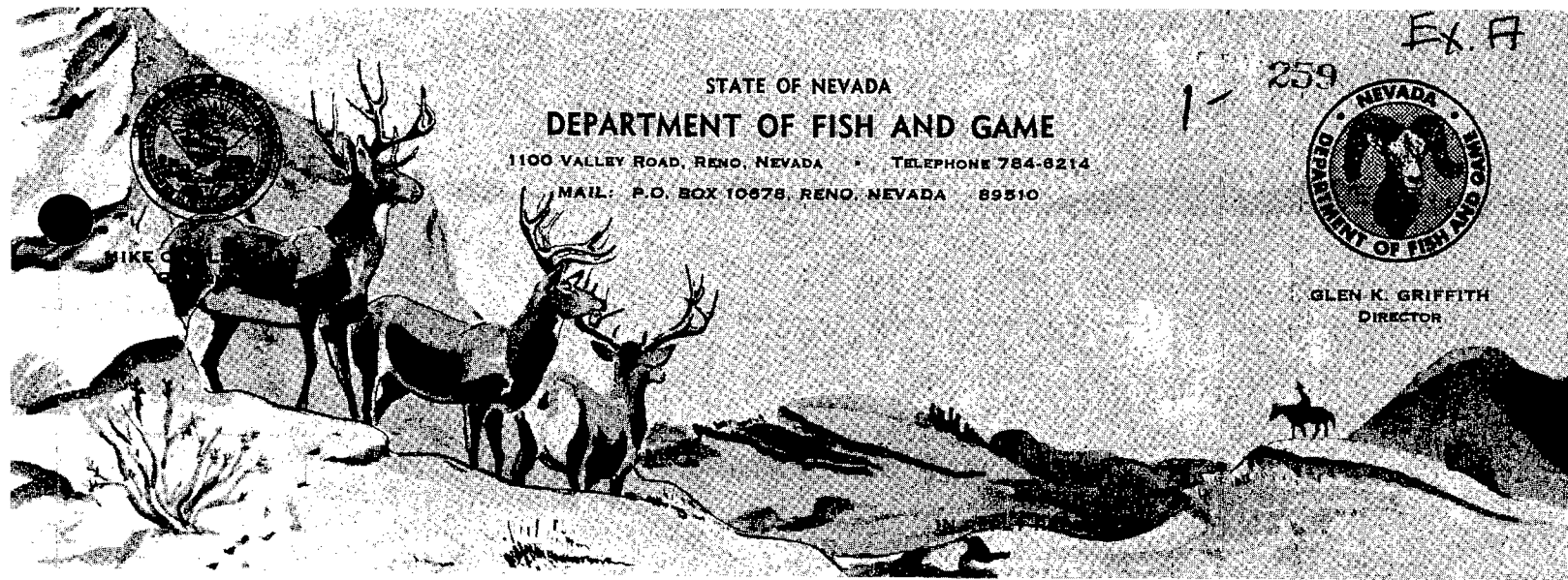
As to the amendments proposed by Fish and Game changing some language from "pheasant stamps" to "tags, stamps and permits", Mr. Weise moved to adopt these suggested changes. Mr. Jacobsen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion was held on the aerosol can bill proposed in the Assembly this morning. Mr. Bremner stated that it had been jointly referred to both Commerce and Environment and Public Resources and would first be heard by Commerce.

Chairman Bremner adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

PHYLLIS BERKSON, Secretary



February 24, 1975

The Honorable D. Roger Bremner
Assemblyman, State of Nevada
821 Fairway Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89107

Dear Roger:

As a result of the hearing before your committee on AB 143 and testimony rendered and the input of several license agents since that time, we wish to offer the attached suggested amendments.

The new wording proposed for lines 12-15, page 1, and lines 31-34, page 2 will still accomplish what fish and game desires, namely, adding a service fee to the value of the established fee and this approach will cause the service fee to be reflected in the value of the document being sold, which is what the agents desire.

This approach would cause an item such as a \$10.00 license under the fee structure to become \$10.25 on the printed license form. If the item is a \$2.00 stamp, the fee value would be \$2.10. This relieves the license agent of the burden of asking for a service fee in addition to the printed value of the item being sold.

You will note that we have added at the end of line 41, page 2 a proviso that the commission may request the agent to set up a separate bank account. This would only be used by the commission in those instances whereby an agent has problems in accounting for the state's money collected and otherwise the license agent is performing a public service and it is desirable to keep the agent on board. We have experienced problems on a number of occasions in this regard and have needed a basis upon which to suggest that the agent set up a separate account.

Mr. Roger Bremner
February 24, 1975
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The other changes are to clean up present language plus the removal of the term "pheasant stamp" from the statute which is a commission recommendation.

We feel the approach in regard to license agents is to our mutual benefit.

Sincerely,



Glen K. Griffith
Director

FEW:dr

A. B. 143

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 143—COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC RESOURCES

JANUARY 30, 1975

Referred to Committee on Environment and Public Resources

SUMMARY—Changes manner of compensating fish and game license agents and provides for revoking license agent's authority for breach of regulations. Fiscal Note: No. (BDR 45-248)

EXPLANATION—Matter in italics is new; matter in brackets [] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to fish and game administration; changing the manner of compensating fish and game license agents; providing for the revoking of a license agent's authority for any breach of regulations; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. NRS 488.115 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 488.115 1. The department may award any certificate of number
3 directly or may authorize any person to act as agent for the awarding
4 thereof. If a person accepts such authorization, he may be assigned a block
5 of numbers and certificates therefor which upon award, in conformity with
6 the provisions of this chapter and with any rules and regulations of the
7 [department,] *commission*, shall be valid as if awarded directly by the
8 department. [At the time that an agent forwards moneys collected to
9 the department he may retain the amount set by the department for award-
10 ing certificates of number, which amount shall not exceed 5 percent of the
11 funds collected nor more than 25 cents per certificate of number in any
12 instance.] ~~In addition to the required fee the agent shall collect 25 cents~~
13 ~~for each certificate of number awarded and 10 cents for each decal or~~
14 ~~similar document issued not requiring completion by the agent. The addi-~~
15 ~~tional amount shall be retained by the agent for his services.~~
16 2. All records of the department made or kept pursuant to this section
17 are public records.
18 SEC. 2. NRS 502.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:
19 502.040 1. The commission shall provide rules and regulations
20 regarding the number of license agents to be designated in any locality,
21 the standards to be met by license agents, the manner of remitting funds to
22 the department, and the manner of accounting for licenses [and state]

In addition a service fee shall be added to the established fee of each certificate of ownership and certificate of number and shall become a part of the total fee. The service fee shall be 25 cents for each application for certificate of ownership and/or number and shall be 10 cents for the issuance of decals for the purpose of certificate of number renewal. The service fee shall be credited to the license agent for his services.

1 pheasant stamps received, issued, sold or returned. A license agent's
2 authority may be revoked or suspended by the department for his failure
3 to abide by the rules and regulations of the commission. The agent may
4 appeal to the commission for reinstatement.

tags, stamps and permits.

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5 2. A license agent designated by the department shall be responsible
6 for the correct issuance of all licenses and state pheasant stamps entrusted
7 to him, and, so far as he is able to determine, that no licenses shall be
8 issued upon the false statement of an applicant. Prior to issuing any license
9 the license agent shall satisfy himself of the identity of the applicant and
10 the place of his residence, and shall require of all applicants exhibition to
11 him of proof of their identity and residence.

tags, stamps and permits.

12 3. License agents shall be required to furnish bond to the department
13 for the proper performance of their duties in such amounts as may be
14 determined by the commission. Premiums for such bonds shall be paid by
15 the license agent, except in remote areas where the agency is established
16 for the convenience of the commission, in which case the premium shall be
17 paid from the fish and game fund.

18 4. [At the time that license agents forward moneys collected to the
19 department they may retain the amount set by the commission for the sale
20 of such licenses and state pheasant stamps, which amount shall not exceed
21 5 percent of the funds collected nor more than 25 cents per license in any
22 instance.

23 [5.] A license agent is responsible to the department for the collection
24 of the correct and required fee, for the safeguarding of the moneys col-
25 lected by him, and for the prompt remission to the department for deposit
26 in [the state treasury] accordance with NRS 501.356 of all moneys col-
27 lected. The department shall furnish to the license agent receipts for
28 licenses, state pheasant stamps or moneys returned to the department, and
29 shall require of the license agent that he deliver the department's receipt
30 for any license or state pheasant stamp received.

due or

tag, stamp or permit

31 5. ~~In addition to collecting the required fee, the license agent shall~~
32 ~~collect 25 cents for each license or tag issued and 10 cents for each stamp~~
33 ~~or similar document issued not requiring completion by the agent. The~~
34 ~~additional amount shall be retained by the license agent for his services.~~

35 6. All moneys collected by a license agent [shall be deemed to be],
36 except moneys collected by him for services, are public moneys of the
37 State of Nevada and the state shall have a prior claim for the amount of
38 license and state pheasant stamp money due it upon all assets of the
39 agent over all creditors, assignees or other claimants. The use of these
40 moneys for private or business transactions shall be deemed to be a misuse
41 of public funds and punishable under the laws provided.

5. In addition a service fee shall be added to the established fee of each license, tag, stamp or permit issued by a license agent, and shall become a part of the total fee.

The service fee as set by the commission shall not exceed 25 cents for each license, tag or permit issued and 10 cents for each stamp or similar document issued not requiring completion by the agent. The service fee shall be credited to the license agent for his services.

The commission may request the establishment by a license agent of a separate bank account to facilitate his safeguarding of public moneys collected by him.

58th NEVADA ASSEMBLY SESSION
SUMMARY OF BILLS REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE

BILL NO. /	DATE FIRST HEARD /	ACTION TAKEN	FOLLOW UP
AB 34	2-21-75 - Joint Hearing	In Committee	
AB 98	2-24-75	Indefinitely postponed	
AB 141	2-19-75	Amend and Do Pass	
AB 142	2-19-75	Amend and Do Pass	
AB 143	2-19-75	In Committee	
AB 210	3-10-75	Referred from Committee Do Pass - To Ways and Means	
AB 220	3-12-75	Referred from Committee - Do Pass	
AB 335	3-12-75	Referred from Committee - Do Pass	
AB 352)		(Not to be heard)	
AB 396)			
AB 480)			
SB 16			
SB 119			
SB 131	3-12-75	Referred from Committee - Do Pass	
AJR 15	3-7-75	Referred from Committee - Do Pass	Passed in Assembly
AJR 17			
SCR 8			

Told by Mrs B to insert in book

SENATE BILL NO. 117—COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC RESOURCES

Referred to Committee on Environment and Public Resources

JANUARY 30, 1975

SUMMARY—Reduces residence requirement for persons over 65 years of age to qualify for reduced hunting and fishing license fee. Fiscal Note: Yes. (BDR 45-136)

EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT to amend NRS 502.240, relating to the issuance of hunting and fishing licenses, by reducing the residence requirement for persons over 65 years of age to qualify for the reduced hunting and fishing license fee.

The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. NRS 502.240 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 502.240 Annual licenses for the term of 1 year ~~from July 1 to June~~
3 ~~30~~ and limited permits shall be issued at the following prices:
4 1. To any citizen of the United States who has attained his 12th birth-
5 day but who has not attained his 16th birthday and who has been a bona
6 fide resident of the State of Nevada for 6 months, upon the payment of
7 \$1 for an annual fishing or hunting license.
8 2. ~~To~~ To any citizen of the United States who has attained his 65th
9 birthday and who has been a bona fide resident of the State of Nevada for
10 [20] 5 years, upon the payment of \$1 for an annual hunting or fishing
11 license. Any such person shall be exempt from the payment of the fee
12 for a resident deer tag for a regular season as required by the provisions
13 of NRS 502.250.
14 3. Except as provided in subsection 2, to any citizen of the United
15 States who has attained his 16th birthday and who has been a resident of
16 the State of Nevada for 6 months, upon the payment of:

17	For a fishing license.....	\$7.50
18	For a 5-day permit to fish.....	5.00
19	For a 2-day permit to fish.....	3.00
20	For a hunting license.....	7.50
21	For a combination hunting and fishing license.....	14.00
22	For a trapping license.....	5.00
23	For a fur dealer's license.....	1.00
24	For an annual master guide's license.....	50.00
25	For an annual subguide's license.....	10.00

(Section 502.030 requires that the license document have an expiration date. By deleting reference to fiscal year, it would then be possible to make some licenses valid on a calendar year basis, if desirable. Boats are now registered on a calendar year.)

Amend Chapter 502 by adding new section:

The legislature finds that senior citizens of this state live as a rule on limited retirement incomes which remain fixed while other costs constantly rise, and that many senior citizens have through the years contributed to the sport of hunting and fishing.

It is the policy of this State that any citizen of the United States, who has attained his 65th birthday and who has been a bonafide resident of the State of Nevada for 10 years, shall upon payment of \$2.00 be issued a Senior Citizen Hunting and Fishing license.

(Note: An advantage to making the license \$2.00 to hunt and fish will be to reduce the number of classes of licenses by two. There are now 21 different classes on the license document. One license to do either will simplify the system. The trend toward more regulated use of the deer tag dictates that the exempt tag should be eliminated. It is automatically eliminated in any management area wherein a quota is established.)

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

MEMORANDUM

February 20, 1975

TO: Director

FROM: Chief of Administrative Services

For a number of years Nevada Statutes have recognized senior citizens by offering them free licenses to hunt and fish or a license at a minimal cost.

The philosophy of senior licenses was first established in 1935 when Senate Bill 163 was introduced to permit residents 65 years of age and upward to obtain a hunting and fishing license and deer tag free of charge. After amending to age 60, this bill was adopted. The time requirement was six (6) months residency.

This status existed until 1949 when the free (exempt) deer tag was dropped.

In 1951 the statute was amended to age 65 or upward but restored the exempt deer tag.

The 1955 Session amended this section to 60 years of age and 10 years residency to be eligible for a free license and deer tag.

In 1967 a \$1 fee was accessed to obtain an annual hunting and fishing license, the the other conditions remaining the same.

Several changes resulted in 1969. To be eligible for a \$2 hunting and fishing license, a resident had to be 65 years of age and a resident for 20 years. They were still entitled to an exempt deer tag.

A simple change in 1971 split the \$2 license into a \$1 hunting and \$1 fishing license.

During the 1973 session SB 398 was introduced that would have changed eligibility to residents of this State (6 months) keeping the other conditions the same. This bill did not pass. Unfortunately, a search of history has not revealed the legislative intent of the 1935 session in establishing a senior license (60 years of age and six (6) months residency.)

We assume it was in consideration of the economic status of this segment of the population as other legislation considered during that 37th session of Nevada Legislature dealt with the affects of the "Great Depression."

In considering the history of changes inflicted upon this group of the hunting and fishing population it would be desirable to tie the purpose of this license to some basic philosophy rather than be subject to random requested change from whatever source or interest. For example, S.B. 117 proposed by another state agency this session without consultation with Fish and Game proposes to reduce the residency requirement to five (5) years.

The residency requirement may also be under a cloud. Two recent Supreme Court cases, Shapiro v. Thompson (1969) and Dunn V. Blumstein (1972) have struck down certain residency requirements. The summation of these cases is that a state may not continue to make an unreasonable classification of their citizens according to longer and shorter residency backgrounds. It appears that any waiting period imposed upon newer citizens is constitutionally allowable only if justified by an administrative necessity. Otherwise, newcomers are entitled to share fully in any benefits furnished to the other citizens of a state. The right to travel is a constitutionally protected right and any classification which serves to penalize the exercise of that right, unless shown to be necessary to promote compelling state interest, is unconstitutional.

It may be possible to establish that there is a compelling state interest or administrative necessity in requiring a resident of 65 years or older to wait twenty (20) years to be eligible for a \$1 license. And, since hunting and fishing is a privilege rather than a right; the matter of constitutionality may not be a factor.

In the Legislative Commission Bulletin No. 110 entitled, "Senior Citizen Tax Relief Study," it states that the senior citizen situation in Nevada is just now beginning to be noticed as people move in from California. Mobile home park developments for retired people continue to expand. The 1970 census showed Nevada to have the third largest rate of increase in the +65 bracket in the United States as a whole, during the 1960-70 decade. It would seem that these senior citizens who are in a position to move to Nevada primarily to retire are in a financial status above the lower income brackets.

With Nevada's rate of growth in this sector of the population it would appear that caution should prevail in adjusting the eligibility for a senior license as the demand for uptake of the \$1 licenses and the resulting pressures upon the fish and game programs, particularly put and take fisheries, must be offset by shifting the cost of support to other license buyers, or alternative funding should be considered.

The 1973 legislature adopted and the Governor signed into law the Senior Citizen Property Tax Assistance Act. The intent displayed here is a logical basis for a Senior Citizens Hunting and Fishing License.

In the above cited act, the legislature found that "Senior Citizens of this state live, as a rule, on limited retirement incomes which remain fixed while property taxes and other costs constantly rise." Further, the legislature declared that, "It is the public policy of this state to provide assistance to its senior citizens who are carrying an excessive residential property tax burden in relation to income."

In keeping with this philosophy the legislature could consider several courses, such as long-term residency and their contribution to the state's resources or an annual income threshold, or a life-time fishing license at a fee.

For example in concert with the findings of the legislature, it could be the declared policy that those senior citizens who have resided in the State of Nevada for twenty (20) years have contributed to the management of the wildlife resources of the state through their pursuit of hunting and fishing over the years which is recognized by offering them the opportunity to purchase a hunting or fishing license for \$1. Other than declaring the policy of intent, there would be no other change in the statute under this approach.

Another approach would be to follow the Senior Citizen Tax Assistance Act; the basis of eligibility could be an annual income threshold. Under this act eligibility for a cash refund requires that the claimant be on the property tax roll during the preceding tax year, be 65 years of age and not have a household income of more than \$5,000 during the immediately preceding calendar year. Claimants are by household, and there is a limit to the assessed value of the property involved. Therefore, not every senior citizen was eligible based solely upon age. The criteria of age and income are subject to amendment in this session.

Title 45, Chapter 502 could be amended as per attachment with the following intent:

- 1. The economic status of senior citizens would be recognized by offering them a hunting and fishing license at no cost, if they meet the criteria of:
 - a. A resident of Nevada six (6) months or longer at the time of applying;
 - b. Are 65 years of age or older.
 - c. Had an individual income not exceeding \$4,000 or \$7,000 per household during the immediately preceding calendar year.
- 2. The department would issue a Senior Citizens Hunting and Fishing License at no charge upon receipt of an acceptable application.
- 3. The license would be for a calendar year to better fit the time of fishing which is what 66 percent of the senior licenses are issued for.
- 4. The Fish and Game Department and the Nevada Tax Commission be able to exchange certain data without breaking the rule of confidentiality and assist each other in their respective administration of the statutes for which they are responsible.

Another approach would be to eliminate the present proviso for those 65 years and older and adopt the following which should also include the stated philosophy of recognizing senior citizens.

"To any citizen of the United States who has attained his 65th birthday and is a bona fide resident of the State of Nevada upon purchasing a resident fishing license in 1974-75 or any year thereafter may use that license plus the fee for a subsequent year's license, or upon the payment of a fee equal to two years resident fishing licenses may receive a lifetime fishing license."

This would permit those who are 65 years of age and residents (6 months) who had a fishing license in 1974-75 (including combination) or any subsequent year to be eligible by displaying that previous year's license to a license agent. The senior license to hunt and the exempt deer tag would be eliminated. It is recommended that the exempt deer tag be discontinued under any circumstance due to the need to obtain more controlled deer hunter pressure.

Whatever approach, whether one of these or some other, it is not possible to construct the conditions to include all individuals within an age group. And that should not necessarily be the goal. For example, as proposed herein eligibility should be based upon something other than just an age level alone. As in the Tax Assistance Act several criteria of eligibility are used. Also, the cost of a license is the smallest expense associated with a hunting and fishing expense, when considering the cost of equipment and getting into the field. The days of recreation afforded by a license compared to other types of recreational costs make a hunting and fishing license a bargain. This fact tends to weight the decision toward establishing an economic threshold of eligibility.

Another possibility would be an interim legislative study of the ramifications of senior citizen license structure.

FEW:dr

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO NRS 502 TO PROVIDE FOR
A SENIOR HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FREE OF CHARGE

502.240 Annual licenses for the term of 1 year [from July 1 to June 30] and limited permits shall be issued at the following prices:

1. To any citizen of the United States who has attained his 12th birthday but who has not attained his 16th birthday and who has been a bona fide resident of the State of Nevada for 6 months, upon the payment of \$1 for an annual fishing or hunting license.

[2. To any citizen of the United States who has attained his 65th birthday and who has been a bona fide resident of the State of Nevada for 20 years, upon the payment of \$1 for an annual hunting or fishing license. Any such person shall be exempt from the payment of the fee for a resident deer tag for a regular season as required by the provisions of NRS 502.250.

3. Except as provided in subsection 2,]

2. To any citizen of the United States who has attained his 16th birthday and who has been a resident of the State of Nevada for 6 months, upon the payment of: (See AB 142 for wording of rest of 502.240 and 502.250.)

Amend Chapter 502 by adding new section.

The legislature finds that senior citizens of this state live as a rule on limited retirement incomes which remain fixed while other costs constantly rise.

It is the policy of this state to recognize its senior citizens by affording them the privilege of hunting and fishing by obtaining a license free of charge, to be known as a Senior Citizen Hunting and Fishing License.

1. *Those senior citizens who have resided in this state 6 months or longer, at the time of applying and had an individual income of \$4,000 or less or a household income of \$7,000 or less during the immediately preceding calendar year and are 65 years of age or more may apply to the department for a Senior Citizen Hunting and Fishing License.*

2. *The applicant shall provide the department with information as specified in NRS 502.020 and such other information as the commission deems necessary; and the applicant shall report his/her income as received through the immediately preceding calendar year.*

3. *Any person who makes any false statement or furnishes false information to obtain a Senior Citizen Hunting and Fishing License is guilty of a misdemeanor.*

4. *For the purposes of this section income shall be as defined under NRS 361.823, and household shall be defined under NRS 361.817.*

5. The Commission may cooperate with the Nevada Tax Commission in exchanging names and addresses and such other information as necessary, and the commission and department shall maintain the confidentiality of the records so obtained under this section and in accordance with NRS 361.877 except that the exchange of information shall not be deemed a break in confidentiality.

Amendment to NRS 361.873

2 (i) Adopt and promulgate regulations to safeguard the confidentiality of information supplied by claimants and may cooperate with the state board of fish and game commissioners by providing the department of fish and game with the names and addresses of claimants and other information as determined by the commission as being necessary, of those claimants, who meet the requirements of NRS 502 and for the sole purpose of enforcing eligibility for Senior Citizen Hunting and Fishing License.

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Economic Affects of a Change in Eligibility for
A Senior Class of Hunting and Fishing License

Based upon 1974 fiscal year sales there were 109,215 hunting, fishing or combination licenses purchased and in addition, 4,479 senior hunting, fishing or combination licenses recorded. The 4,479 licenses were issued to those 65 years of age or older and a resident of Nevada twenty (20) years or longer at a fee of \$1.00 each or \$2.00 for a combination license. Any liberalization in the eligibility requirements will reduce income to the fish and game program by permitting more residents to obtain a license of a lower fee.

Conversely, the liberalization could attract additional seniors and increase license sales and increase income thereby reducing the estimates herein. The potential increase has not been included as it is unknown. There is an estimated 36,809 seniors 65 and over in the state and 22% purchased a license in 1974 compared to 19% of the state's population who obtained regular licenses. Apparently, seniors are more attracted to hunting and fishing than is the public in general.

The following projections of change in income are based upon possible statute changes of 65 years of age and a residency of five (5) years, (SB 117) one (1) year, six (6) months and an income threshold and a possible lifetime fishing license. A ten (10) year residency is also considered.

- (1) Eligibility from 65 years of age and twenty (20) years down to five (5) years residency.

Based upon a computer listing of the general license file including length of residency for 1974, a total of 8,247 persons 65 and older bought a hunting, fishing or combination license. However, 4,479 of those were of the senior license class. Therefore, based upon 1974 conditions, had the eligibility been 65 and five (5) years of residency instead of 65 and twenty (20) years, then all but 20% of the 8,247 would have been eligible for a senior license or a shift of 2,118 from a regular license to a senior license. Based upon a ratio of 10% hunting, 42% fishing and 48% combination, the reduction of income would have been \$19,360 plus \$3,995 due to a shift over to an exempt deer tag or a total of \$23,355 during that year. (See attached computations.)

- (2) Eligibility from 65 and twenty (20) years down to 65 and one (1) year.

Based upon the 1974 file and the computer listing, there were 8,247 persons 65 years of age and older who bought hunting, fishing and combinations licenses. With one (1) year residency all but 5% of those would have been eligible for a senior license. This would have caused a shift to senior licenses with a

(2) Continued

\$30,652 decrease in income in 1974 plus a \$6,324 loss by increased up take in exempt deer tags or a total reduction of \$36,967. (See attached computations.)

(3) Eligibility based upon 65 years of age and six (6) months residency.

In reference to the 1974 file all of the 8,247 persons 65 years of age and older would have been eligible for a senior license; the shift would have reduced income that year by \$46,687. (See computations attached.)

(4) Eligibility based upon 65 years of age, six (6) months residency and an individual income of \$4,000 or \$7,000 for the household.

Due to the lack of stratified income data for residents of the state based upon age, it is difficult to estimate the affect of an eligibility that considers an income threshold, particularly since most income data is based upon households, rather than individual incomes. Licensing for hunting and fishing is an individual situation and not a household one. The number of individuals who would apply for the free license privilege under these constraints may be in the vicinity of 5,000 to 7,000. Also, the free license would not be counted in the Federal aid apportionment. The primary guide should be - at what income level does an individual or a household need consideration for a free license and is the value of the license, if not free, the limiting factor to one's ability to hunt and fish.

(5) A lifetime fishing license upon payment of a fee equal to two-years fishing license.

It is estimated that this approach would not cause a reduction in overall income for a period of several years, except for the loss of Federal aid apportionment as the fishing license could only be counted at the time of issuance. As proposed the total value of the license would depend upon what license the purchaser held during a two-year period. For example, pending the passage by the Legislature of a \$10 fishing license, if the purchaser had,

- (a) A \$1 fishing license in 1974-75 plus \$10 = \$11 lifetime fishing license;
- (b) A \$2 combination license plus \$10 = \$12 lifetime license;
- (c) A \$7.50 fishing license in 1974-75 plus \$10 = \$17.50 lifetime license;
- (d) A \$14.00 combination license plus \$10 = \$24.00 lifetime license;

(5) Continued

- (e) In 1975-76 a \$10 fishing license and in 1976-77 the equivalent of a \$10 fishing license = \$20 lifetime license;
- (f) In 1975-76 a \$17 combination license and in 1976-77 the equivalent of a \$10 fishing license = \$27.00 lifetime fishing license.

- (6) A possible alternative would be a reduction of residency down to ten (10) years. Based upon the same formula of calculations this would have reduced income in 1974 by some \$8,800.

This would consider the philosophy that those 65 years and older had contributed to the program through their past purchases of licenses, that they live on a fixed income and in recognition therein, are being afforded a license at a token fee.

Further it is recommended that the senior fee structure be changed to cause a charge of \$2.00 for a license to hunt and fish. This would eliminate two classes of licenses from the already crowded license document. Also, it is recommended that an effort be made to eliminate the exempt deer tag this session.

The package could then be a reduction in age residency to ten (10) years, a \$2.00 license and no exempt deer tag, which would come close to balancing out any increase in eligible seniors.

One other change in the license structure could be to make the serviceman license a \$4.00 fee to hunt & fish again reducing the number of classes by one in this case.

- (1) Computations re: reduction of eligibility from twenty (20) years down to five (5) years.

Of the 1974 license file on computer tape with a valid age; 6,494 purchased a hunting, fishing or combination license and were 65 years of age or older. Of these, 3,276 bought senior license compared to 4,479 actual sales. The difference is due to incomplete individual license data such as birthdate, date of residency or date of issuance of the license.

The estimated number of license buyers in the file 65 years and over is, therefore, 8,247. (3,276 is 73% of 4,479, therefore, $1.27 \times 6,494 = 8,247$)

Based upon a sample of sales, 24% have resided in the state five (5) years or less (use 20%) and not eligible.
 $20\% \times 8,247 = 1,650$ and $8,247 - 1,650 = 6,597$
 $6,597 - 4,479$ (known buyers) = 2,118 who would have been eligible to buy a senior license instead of the regular license they bought. Based upon the ratio of types of purchases, times the regular license fee, less the senior license fee:

Hunting	10%	=	212	x	\$ 7.50	=	\$1,590	-	\$ 212
Fishing	42%	=	889	x	\$ 7.50	=	\$6,667	-	\$ 889
Combination	48%	=	$\frac{1,017}{2,118}$	x	\$14.00	=	$\frac{14,238}{\$22,495}$	-	$\frac{2,034}{\$3,135}$
									= \$19,360

Further 65% of those who obtained hunting or combination licenses would obtain an exempt deer tag or $799 \times \$5.00 = \$3,995$, if all had bought a deer tag as a regular license buyer.

- (2) Computation re: reduction of eligibility from twenty (20) years of age down to one (1) year.

5% of 8,247 = 412 and $8,247 - 412 = 7,835$

$7,835 - 4,479 = 3,356$ additional who would have been eligible to buy a senior license instead of the regular license. These 3,356 projected as to class of license are:

10%	=	335	x	\$ 7.50	=	\$ 2,512	-	\$ 355
42%	=	1,410	x	7.50	=	10,575	-	1,410
48%	=	$\frac{1,611}{3,356}$	x	14.00	=	$\frac{22,552}{\$35,639}$	-	$\frac{3,222}{\$4,987}$
								= \$30,652

65% of 1,946 = 1,264 @ \$5.00 = \$6,324 + \$30,652 = \$36,967

- (3) Computations re: reduction of eligibility from twenty (20) years down to six (6) months.

All of the 8,247 are eligible and 4,479 already had a license leaving 3,768 more that could have obtained a senior license.

Hunting	10%	377	x	\$ 7.50	=	\$ 2,827	-	\$ 377
Fishing	42%	1,582	x	7.50	=	11,865	-	1,532
Combination	48%	<u>1,809</u>	x	14.00	=	<u>25,326</u>	-	<u>3,618</u>
		3,768				\$40,018	-	\$5,577
							=	\$34,441

Deer tag 65% of 3,768 = 2,449 @ 5.00 = \$12,246 + \$34,441 = \$46,687

- (6) Computations re: reduction of eligibility from twenty (20) years down to ten (10) years.

36% of the 8,247 = 2,969 and 8,247 - 2,969 = 5,278

5,278 - 4,479 = 799 additonals who would have been eligible to buy a senior license instead of the regular license. These 799 projected as to class of license are:

10%	=	80	x	\$ 7.50	=	\$ 600	-	\$ 80
42%	=	335	x	7.50	=	2,512	-	335
48%	=	<u>384</u>	x	14.00	=	<u>5,376</u>	-	<u>763</u>
		799				8,488	-	\$1183
							=	\$8,813

Deer tag 65% of 464 = 301 x \$5.00 = \$1,508 + \$7,305 = \$8,813