

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
MARCH 19, 1975

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The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m.

Senator Floyd R. Lamb was in the Chair.

PRESENT: Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman  
Senator James I. Gibson, Vice-Chairman  
Senator B. Mahlon Brown  
Senator Warren L. Monroe  
Senator William J. Raggio  
Senator Lee E. Walker  
Senator Clifton Young

OTHERS: Glen Griffith, Department of Fish and Game  
Bob McDonald, Commission of Fish and Game  
Mike Lemich, Commission of Fish and Game  
Bruno Guisti, Commission of Fish and Game  
Bill Emery, Commission of Fish and Game  
Barney Fritz, Commission of Fish and Game  
Jake Longero, Commission of Fish and Game  
Jack Taylor, Commission of Fish and Game  
John Mackenzie, Commission of Fish and Game  
Fred Wright, Department of Fish and Game  
Robert Weise, Assemblyman  
Ernie Newton, Taxpayer's Association  
Al Wittenberg, Assemblyman  
Jim Wittenberg, State Personnel  
Tom Ballow, Department of Agriculture  
J. Elrod Starley, Nevada State Cattlemen's Assn.  
Harry Galloway, Department of Agriculture  
Howard Barrett, Budget Division  
Cy Ryan, UPI  
Ron Sparks, Fiscal Analyst

FISH AND GAME

Mr. Glen Griffith said that there were several Commission members present to state their opinions on the possibility of putting the Department under the Budget Act.

Senator Young suggested that the deer herd is being commercialized, and that this is a matter of great public concern. Mr. Griffith said that he has never been approached on a liberal season due to its economic aspects. Senator Lamb said that he knows that this has been exploited, and the clubs which promote drawings, etc., during the season, would be extremely upset if the program was cut back. Mr. Griffith reaffirmed that he had never been approached. Senator Monroe said that they do not approach the Department, they go to the Commission with their complaints.

Mr. Bob McDonald said that at this time, he could say that in his opinion, all the commissioners are in favor of a quota system.

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FISH AND GAME (Cont.)

Senator Raggio said that he feels that this is a crucial year in which to make a decision about game management. Senator Raggio felt that there should be a bucks-only season which will provide hunting only in the area where it is justified, and have one deer/person/season.

Senator Lamb felt that the problem lies in the hunting pressure, the predator problem, and the range competition with the wild horses.

Mr. Wayne Kershaw (as represented by Mr. McDonald) is in favor of the Deer Management program.

Senator Raggio asked where the management program will begin. Mr. Griffith said that the crucial area is in the northeastern part of the State.

Senator Lamb asked about the number of out-of-state drawings. Mr. Griffith said that they have 4,000 for this and last year. Mr. McDonald said that there is a problem involving limiting out-of-state hunting on federal land. Senator Lamb felt that this 4,000 should be cut back. Senator Monroe said that this Department is in charge of wildlife, and they have the authority to set a quota based on a determined reduction. Senator Young said that he shares Mr. McDonald's apprehension. Senator Lamb asked if it would be easier to implement authority with only five members on the Commission. Mr. Griffith said that it is not a matter of quantity, but quality.

Mr. Mike Lemich said that he voted against the quota system that was proposed last year, but he would vote for a statewide system of bucks-only. Mr. Lemich said that he is also in favor of predator control programs, and that he supports the proposed game management program.

Mr. Bruno Guisti said that he also supports the proposed program.

Mr. Bill Emery said that he is against killing any antlerless deer.

Senator Raggio asked if there was a recap of tag sales for 1974. Mr. Griffith said that it appears the sales will be down approximately 19%, but the herd count will be about stable. Senators Lamb, Raggio and Monroe questioned the stability of the herd when there have been such heavy lamb losses reported.

Mr. Barney Fritz said that he is in favor of the proposal.

Mr. Jake Longero said that he backed the Department's proposal last year, and he will this year.

Mr. Jack Taylor said that he also supports the proposal.

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FISH AND GAME (Cont.)

Senator Raggio asked if the 4,000 non-resident tags will mainly be for Elko County. Mr. Griffith said that the allocation is made on the units, with each one having a portion of the non-resident tags.

Senators Young and Lamb said that habitat preservation is the key to the restoration of herds. Mr. Griffith said that range deterioration is the Department's concern too, but to restore a range is very difficult. Senator Lamb said that an example of such restoration is the land under the Atomic Energy Commission in southern Nevada that is prohibited to hunters, and looks like a hunter's paradise.

Mr. John Mackenzie said that if there is a season of eight weeks of either sex hunting, then you experience a herd loss as serious as the loss that Lincoln County has undergone.

Senator Young said that he can foresee a financial disaster, if the Department does not go under the General Fund. Mr. Fred Wright said that the Department projected a 7% increase in license sales and they are now not realizing that, so it is possible that the Department will experience a reduction in capital improvements, and the surplus monies will be eliminated. Senator Raggio said that it is unrealistic for the Department to expect an increase in fees with the herds diminishing. Mr. Wright said that perhaps such a program will bring out the serious hunter, and there won't be a severe drop in sales. Mr. Lemich said that the Commission is not opposed to being under the General Fund, but they don't want their federal funding affected.

SB 82

Mr. Griffith said that giving early retirement to fish and game wardens would affect the amount of federal funding for the Department. Senator Gibson did not understand how retirement could be connected to the federal government's allocation considerations.

Senator Gibson asked if the wardens actually underwent hazardous duty. Mr. Griffith said that he felt that the position was comparable to a deputy sheriff.

SB 113

Mr. Griffith said this is requesting a General Fund loan with which the Department could pay their bills in the last quarter, and then reimburse the General Fund with Federal Aid monies.

Senator Gibson asked why didn't the Department use their own excess funds. Mr. Griffith said that it is illegal to use funds

SB 113 (Cont.)

from one fiscal year , for another fiscal year.

Senator Monroe said that he thought that careful consideration should be given to the ideas of putting the Department under the General Fund. Senator Monroe said that doing so will place the responsibility on the Legislature, and not on the Commissioners. Senator Lamb said that he concurs with this statement.

SB 154

Assemblyman Robert Weise stated that the cost-of-living increase should be distributed more equitably if that is what is really needed. If the raise is not a cost-of-living increase, and it is a matter of bringing State executives up to the level of comparable positions in the public and private scale, then this isn't the year to economically attempt such a thing. Assemblyman Weise said this will cause tremendous problems with the counties and teachers if this goes through.

Mr. Ernie Newton said that most people don't understand the difference between the Consumer Price Index and the Cost-of-Living Index. Mr. Newton said that comparing government schedules between areas of government is not productive, however, a comparison with private companies would show that the State has a great deal to compare. Mr. Newton said that private scales pay less for entry positions, and more for top grade positions. Mr. Newton said to Senator Lamb that the State shouldn't want to compare to local government scales, as they have such poor fiscal posture.

Senator Raggio asked if the State employees are receiving unemployment compensation. Mr. Howard Barrett said yes, as this act was preempted by the federal government.

Mr. Newton said that if this passed, it would be better to make the increase an across the board amount, rather than a percentage raise.

Assemblyman Wittenberg spoke in favor of the pay raise proposal.

Mr. Jim Wittenberg said that there are many negative affects to having an across the board increase for a certain dollar amount. Mr. Wittenberg said that in comparison with Western State governments, Nevada is an average of 30% behind in comparable scale. Senator Gibson felt that Nevada should not be compared to the State of California, but perhaps, Idaho or Wyoming. Senator Gibson felt that Mr. Wittenberg should stay with discussing the cost-of-living, instead of government comparisons. Mr. Wittenberg said that the Division used the cost-of-living as a major justification for the lower level classifications. Senator Gibson noted that in 1970, Mr. Wittenberg presented an across the board increase to the Interim Finance Committee. Mr. Barrett said that the

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SB 154 (Cont.)

presentation was made under the direction of Governor Laxalt, and the Advisory Commission, but was privately opposed by himself, and Mr. Wittenberg.

Senator Raggio discussed the mechanics of the raise, using a present salary of \$750.00 per month. Senator Raggio noted that with the proposed increases for the Biennium, plus the five per cent merit increases, this could increase to \$1,292 by the second year of the Biennium. Mr. Wittenberg said that 55% of the employees are no longer eligible for merit increases.

Senator Young asked what the effect would be on retirement. Mr. Barrett said that 1% is included, but he will check on this.

SB 111 (See attached bill)

Mr. Ron Sparks read the figures of this proposal for the total fiscal impact to the General Fund, as follows:

- a) \$51,389 -- 1st Year
- b) \$51,433 -- 2nd Year

Mr. J. Elrod Starley said that a concurrent resolution on this subject was passed at the Nevada Cattlemen's Convention, 1974. Mr. Starley said that the Brand Inspection fees were raised to .30¢, but that is the absolute limit. Senator Lamb asked Mr. Ballow and Mr. Starley if they are paying for something that they aren't getting. Both gentlemen answered, yes. Mr. Galloway said that the staff inequity and the incurred expense has existed prior to 1961.

Senator Gibson -- Amend and Do Pass  
Senator Walker -- 2nd  
Motion carried.

SB 82 (See attached bill)

Senator Gibson -- Kill  
Senator Monroe -- 2nd  
Senators Raggio and Young -- "NO"  
Motion carried.

SB 113 (See attached bill)

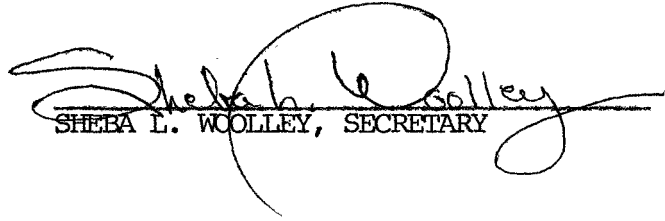
Senator Gibson -- Amend to pay out of their own fund, and Do Pass  
Senator Brown -- 2nd  
Senator Monroe -- "NO"  
Motion carried.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

  
SHEBA L. WOLLEY, SECRETARY

APPROVED:

  
FLOYD R. LAMB, CHAIRMAN

S. B. 82

## SENATE BILL NO. 82—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

JANUARY 29, 1975

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Provides for early retirement of fish and game wardens.  
Fiscal Note: No. (BDR 23-253)EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [ ] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to public employees' retirement; providing for early retirement of fish and game wardens.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. NRS 286.510 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
 2 286.510 1. After July 1, 1949, a police officer or a fireman who is a  
 3 member of the system, who has attained the age of 55 years, and who has  
 4 completed a minimum of 10 years of credited service, may be retired  
 5 from service; and thereafter, except as otherwise provided in this chapter,  
 6 the date of his retirement shall be the 1st day of the calendar month in  
 7 which application for retirement shall be filed with the board or the last  
 8 day of compensation, whichever is later.  
 9 2. After July 1, 1949, any other employee who is a member of the  
 10 system, who has attained the age of 60 years, and who has completed a  
 11 minimum of 10 years of credited service, may be retired from service;  
 12 and thereafter, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the date of  
 13 his retirement shall be the 1st day of the calendar month in which appli-  
 14 cation for retirement shall be filed with the board or the last day of com-  
 15 pensation, whichever is later.  
 16 3. After July 1, 1971, a police officer or a fireman who is a member  
 17 of the system and who has completed 20 years of continuous service and  
 18 has attained the age of 50 years, or any other employee who is a member  
 19 of the system, who has completed 30 years of continuous service, and  
 20 who has attained the age of 55 years, shall be retired upon acceptance  
 21 by the board of his written application to retire.  
 22 4. *After July 1, 1975, any person designated by the director of the*  
 23 *Nevada department of fish and game as a fish and game warden, who is*  
 24 *a member of the system and:*  
 25 *(a) Who has completed 20 years of continuous service and has attained*  
 26 *the age of 50 years, shall be retired upon acceptance by the board of his*  
 27 *written application to retire; or*

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S. B. 113

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 SENATE BILL NO. 113—COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT  
AND PUBLIC RESOURCES
 

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JANUARY 30, 1975

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Permits temporary transfer of moneys from general fund to fish and game fund in certain circumstances. Fiscal Note: No. (BDR 45-255)

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

AN ACT relating to fish and game administration; permitting the temporary transfer of moneys to the fish and game fund in certain circumstances; 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. Chapter 501 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto a new section which shall read as follows:  
3 1. *The department shall periodically file with the budget division of*  
4 *the department of administration a certificate showing the number and*  
5 *amount of all vouchers submitted by the department to the Federal Bureau*  
6 *of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife for reimbursement of expenditures incurred*  
7 *in the administration of wildlife restoration or fish restoration and man-*  
8 *agement projects pursuant to the federal acts enumerated in NRS 501.-*  
9 *115 and 501.117.*  
10 2. *Whenever claims payable from the fish and game fund and prop-*  
11 *erly approved by the state board of examiners exceed the amount of*  
12 *money presently available in such fund, the department may, with the*  
13 *approval of the chief of the budget division or his designee, transfer tem-*  
14 *porarily from revenues received prior to June 30 of the year earned and*  
15 *deposited pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 501.356, to the fish and game*  
16 *fund an amount sufficient to pay existing claims, but not to exceed the*  
17 *amount due from the Federal Government as shown by the vouchers*  
18 *declared to be in transit.*



**S. B. 154**

**SENATE BILL NO. 154—SENATORS SHEERIN, BRYAN,  
GOJACK, NEAL AND BLAKEMORE**

**FEBRUARY 5, 1975**

Referred to Committee on Finance

**SUMMARY—Provides increases in salaries for state classified personnel effective January 1, 1975; makes appropriations for such increases and for certain salary adjustments in classified service. Fiscal Note: No. (BDR S-830)**

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

AN ACT increasing salaries of employees of the State of Nevada in the classified service; providing for salary adjustments in the classified service; making appropriations for such salary increases and adjustments from the general fund and the state highway fund in the state treasury; 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. 1. Except as otherwise provided in this act, to effect an  
2 approximate 15-percent salary increase effective January 1, 1975, there is  
3 hereby appropriated from the general fund in the state treasury, for the  
4 fiscal period January 1, 1975, to June 30, 1975, the sum of \$2,050,088  
5 and for the fiscal periods July 1, 1975, to June 30, 1976, and from July  
6 1, 1976, to June 30, 1977, the sums of \$4,395,035 and \$4,548,576,  
7 respectively, to the state board of examiners for the purpose of meeting  
8 any deficiencies which may be created between appropriated funds of the  
9 respective departments, commissions and agencies of the State of Nevada  
10 as fixed by the 57th session of the legislature and the salary requirements  
11 of classified personnel of such departments, commissions and agencies  
12 necessary under an adjusted pay plan, except those employees whose sal-  
13 aries have been retained, to become effective on January 1, 1975.

14 2. The state board of examiners, upon the recommendation of the  
15 chief of the personnel division of the department of administration, is  
16 authorized to allocate and disburse the moneys herein appropriated to the  
17 various departments, commissions and agencies under such adjusted pay  
18 plan.

19 SEC. 2. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the general fund in the  
20 state treasury for the fiscal period from January 1, 1976, to June 30,  
21 1976, the sum of \$1,120,670 and for the fiscal period from July 1, 1976,