

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE
ON ASSEMBLY BILLS 185 and 477
March 24, 1977

Mr. Polish and Mr. Rhoads, members of the Subcommittee of the Environment and Public Resources Committee appointed to study Assembly Bills 185 and 477, met with Assemblyman Sena, Assemblyman Bremner, and Mr. Griffith and Mr. Wright of the Nevada Fish and Game Department to discuss these bills regarding expiration dates of hunting and fishing licenses.

Mr. Polish called the meeting to order. Mr. Bremner appeared briefly and said that he did not care what they did to the bills. Mr. Griffith of the Fish and Game Department passed out a marked copy of Assembly Bill 185, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit A. He stated that A.B. 185, as originally written, would not be consistent in trying to establish anything new unless they could go to a calendar year basis so there would be an expiration date for the license. He said Texas, the only other state that they know of that has the other system, has had nothing but problems and they are also losing revenue. The numbers of citations to people who forget to buy licenses increased significantly. They are in the process of trying to get it changed back to where there is an expiration date. They also have had many more enforcement problems. A copy of a memo from the Director of the Department of Fish and Game to the Subcommittee explaining the position of the department was passed out, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit B.

Mr. Polish asked how much of a problem it would be to change to a calendar year basis. Mr. Griffith feels that they could do it, but there should be some other things included, as shown in the marked up bill. They would like to amend A.B. 185 to include the provisions of A.B. 477, which would be expiration on December 31, but to keep it only for fishing. Hunting would not be compatible at all because of the applications for big game licenses and tags. People have to establish that they have a valid license before they can put in for a tag. Also there are seasons on ducks, geese, chukar, rabbits, etc., that extend through the calendar year, some into January, and also there would be the duck stamp problem.

Mr. Sena asked about changing to a calendar year and how it would conflict with the Arizona stamp. Mr. Griffith said there would be a conflict. It would have to be acceptable to both states so we would have to get their approval to change.

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Mr. Rhoads asked if he bought a hunting license in October, would it expire on December 31. Mr. Griffith said no, that this would only affect fishing.

Mr. Sena said that he felt that you would get more people to buy a license in May or June under this new provision. Mr. Griffith did not think it would change the numbers of licenses sold too much. Mr. Wright said they would have to issue a six month license to start with at half price if they went to December 31 expiration dates. Arizona is already on a calendar year basis so it would not be too difficult to get together with them. In fact, this should make them real happy.

Mr. Sena asked if this would help the department. Mr. Griffith said that, essentially, in the long run it would probably help.

Mr. Rhoads asked about the duplication license, whether the \$1.00 would be paid at any place that sells a license. Mr. Wright said that would have to be done through the department office. If you were in a hurry, you would have to buy a duplicate license through an agent and pay the original fee. The affidavits would be available at the agents offices to send to the department. In the past a duplicate was issued for \$4.00. The system of issuance of duplicates would have to apply to both residents and non-residents. By requiring a notarized statement to issue a duplicate, the department would have something to follow up on if they felt that the application was invalid, where they don't have that now. Now they have another book of licenses that is an affidavit duplicate. The new approach would eliminate this book and the cost of the agent's handling it and would save money. There would be more administrative ease and it would help the license agents.

Mr. Polish asked Mr. Sena if he would have any objections to these changes, and running through A.B. 185 instead of A.B. 477. He said he had no objections. He said that Mr. Bremner had no objections either.

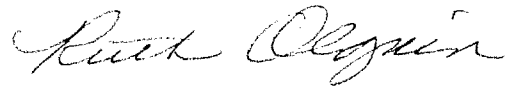
Mr. Wright said that this will eliminate all combination licenses, which also cleans up the system, and they could have everything down to just two documents, hunting, resident and non-resident, and fishing, resident and non-resident. Now they have three books.

Regarding the fees for seniors, now there is one license to hunt and fish for \$2.50. Under the new bill it would be \$1.00 to hunt and \$1.00 to fish, so there would be a reduction for seniors there.

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Mr. Wright said this would all be a help in cleaning up a complicated system. They would be making some progress and would, in effect, fit the fishing cycle to the fishermen. It would be a big improvement.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruth Olguin
Assembly Attache

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 185—ASSEMBLYMEN SENA, JEFFREY,
HORN, MANN, DREYER, BANNER, ROBINSON, PRICE,
MAY, HAYES, CRADDOCK, DEMERS AND SCHOFIELD

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JANUARY 28, 1977

Referred to Committee on Environment and Public Resources

SUMMARY—Provides for expiration of fishing licenses 1 year after the date of issuance. (BDR 45-547)

FISCAL NOTE: Local Government Impact: No.
State or Industrial Insurance Impact: No.EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to fish and game; providing for expiration of fishing licenses 1 year after the date of issuance; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

SECTION 1. NRS 502.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:

502.090 1. All licenses issued as provided in this chapter [shall be] *are* valid, and [shall] authorize the person to whom issued to hunt, to fish or to trap during open seasons only on and from the date of issuance of the license until the date of expiration printed thereon.

2. *Each fishing license is valid only from the date of issuance of the license until December 31 of the year of issuance.*

Sec. 2. NRS 502.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:

502.110 Not more than one license of each class shall be issued to any one person during each license period, except upon an affidavit by the applicant that the license issued has been lost or destroyed and upon payment of a fee of \$4 or a fee equal to the original license fee, whichever is less. The person issuing the license pursuant to this section may delay issuance for a period not to exceed 48 hours to confirm that a valid license has been previously issued during the current license period.

1. *The filing of an affidavit with any authorized license agent showing the loss or destruction of an unexpired license previously issued and payment of the full fee, or*

2. *The filing of a notarized affidavit with a Nevada Department of Fish and Game office, showing the loss or destruction of an unexpired license previously issued and payment of a fee of \$1 for the duplicate license.*

SEC. 3. NRS 502.240 is hereby amended to read as follows:

502.240 Annual licenses for the term of 1 year 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

1 a bona fide resident of the State of Nevada for 6 months [.] immediately
2 preceding his application for a license, upon the payment of \$2[50] for
3 an annual fishing or hunting license, or upon the payment of \$4 for
4 an annual combination hunting and fishing license.

5 2. To any citizen of the United States who has attained his 65th
6 birthday and who has been a bona fide resident of the State of Nevada
7 for 10 years [.] immediately preceding his application for a license,
8 upon the payment of \$2.50 for an annual [combination] hunting [and] fish-
9 ing license. or

10 3. Except as provided in subsection 2, to any citizen of the United
11 States who has attained his 16th birthday and who has been a resident
12 of the State of Nevada for 6 months [.] immediately preceding his appli-
13 cation for a license, upon the payment of:

14	For a fishing license.....	\$10.00
15	For a 10-day permit to fish.....	7.50
16	For a 2-day permit to fish.....	5.00
17	For a hunting license.....	10.00
18	For a combination hunting and fishing license.....	17.00
19	For a trapping license.....	7.50
20	For a fur dealer's license.....	5.00
21	For an annual master guide's license.....	100.00
22	For an annual subguide's license.....	50.00

4. To any alien or to any citizen of the United States who has attained his 12th birthday but who has not attained his 16th birthday, not a bona fide resident of the State of Nevada, upon the payment of \$5 for an annual fishing license (except for a fishing license to fish in the reciprocal waters of the Colorado River and Lake Mead, which annual license shall cost a sum agreed upon by the commission and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, but not to exceed \$10).

5. Except as provided in subsection 4, to any alien or to any citizen of the United States, not a bona fide resident of the State of Nevada, upon the payment of:

	For a fishing license (except for a fishing license to fish in the reciprocal waters of the Colorado River and Lake Mead, which license shall cost a sum agreed upon by the commission and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, but not to exceed \$10).....	\$20.00
	For a 10-day permit to fish.....	7.50
	For a 2-day permit to fish.....	5.00
	For a hunting license.....	40.00
	For an annual trapper's license.....	35.00
	For a fur dealer's license.....	35.00
	For an annual master guide's license.....	200.00
	For an annual subguide's license.....	100.00

6. To any person, without regard to residence, upon the payment of:

	For a noncommercial breeding ground.....	\$5.00
	For a commercial or private shooting preserve.....	35.00
	For a commercial breeding ground.....	35.00
	For a commercial fish hatchery.....	35.00
	For a private noncommercial fish hatchery.....	5.00
	For a trained animal act license.....	10.00
	For a live bait dealer's permit.....	50.00
	For a competitive field trials permit.....	5.00
	For a falconry license.....	15.00
	For an importation permit.....	2.00
	For an import eligibility permit.....	25.00
	For a tropical fish dealer's permit.....	25.00
	For a live bait seining and transporting permit.....	2.00

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

March 22, 1977

TO: Assembly Sub-committee of the Environment
and Public Resources Committee

RE: Hunting and Fishing License Changes

FROM: Director, Department of Fish and Game

Two Assembly bills have been introduced to change the expiration date of licenses.

1. AB 185 provides that the fishing license expires one year from the date of issuance,
2. AB 477 changes all licenses to expire on December 31 of each year.

The Department recommends that AB 185 be amended to read "Each fishing license is valid from the date of issue until December 31 of each year." The bases for this recommendation are:

1. A calendar year license for hunting does not fit hunting activities. A fiscal year license for hunting is necessary as:
 - A. Some seasons extend beyond December 31, such as ducks, geese, chukar, quail, cottontail, rabbits, bighorn sheep and mountain lion,
 - B. The big game application hunt system operates during July-October and involves either having a hunting license or purchasing a license by application.
2. A calendar year license for fishing better fits the fishing cycle instead of a fiscal year license.

The proviso that fishing licenses expire one year from the date of issue presents many problems. To the best of our knowledge Texas is the only state that currently has that type of fishing license and at this moment they are attempting to have it changed through their legislature back to a specified period.

Communication with Texas personnel in licensing, law enforcement and fisheries all registered their concerns over their present fishing license. Fishing license sales have decreased since its implementation in 1974-75, yet fishing pressure has not decreased. They have recognized a 5 to 10 percent decrease in revenue each year -- as apparently the uptake in licenses

is on a 13 to 14 month cycle rather than within 12 months.

Their enforcement problems, as we would have anticipated, with this type of license have greatly increased requiring officers to actually handle all licenses in the field to verify expiration date. Citations for fishing without a valid license have also increased.

In short, Texas says it has been a disaster.

To implement AB 185, to change fishing licenses to a calendar year, a compromise with AB 477, it would be necessary to eliminate combination licenses, which would be an advantage. This would reduce the number of license classes issued, simplify license agent handling and would not add printing or distribution cost as no increase in the types of license books would be needed. One book would contain hunting licenses, resident and nonresident, and the other would contain fishing licenses, resident and nonresident.

1. Amendments to AB 185 necessary to eliminate combination licenses and suggested fee structure are shown on the attached copy and are all on Page 2.
 - A. Line 2, change \$2.50 to read \$2.00,
 - B. Lines 3 and 4 delete all after "hunting licenses,"
 - C. Line 8 change \$2.50 to read \$1.00 and delete the word "combination" and replace "and" with "or,"
 - D. Line 18, delete.
2. In regard to senior eligibility the committee should consider whether it wishes to change the 10-year residency requirement and whether the fee should be more than \$1.00.

We also recommend a change in the structure covering duplicate licenses to simplify the system and improve integrity in providing duplicates.

We would propose two methods for the public to obtain a duplicate license to replace one lost or destroyed.

1. If there is an immediate need to obtain a duplicate license the licensee could obtain one at any license agent by signing an affidavit and paying the original fee, or
2. Present a notarized affidavit to a department office and obtain a duplicate for \$1.00.

This system is used by California where in 1974, for example, they sold 2,977,000 hunting and fishing licenses and 1,750 duplicates for \$1.00. (They have no record of duplicates issued at the original fee.) By comparison Nevada, in 1976, sold 111,800 hunting and fishing licenses and issued 1,406 duplicates at \$4.00 or less. We feel the duplicate license process is presently abused and would recommend the amended language as shown in AB 185.

This change would eliminate the printing and handling cost of the Affidavit/Duplicate license book. One affidavit form would take care of the duplicate license process and at less printing cost.

In regard to the Arizona/Colorado River Special Use Stamps, we would negotiate with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to convert to a calendar year as soon as possible. Due to the lead time required (fiscal year 1978 stamps have already been printed by Arizona) probably a six-month stamp could be produced for July-December, 1978 and a calendar year stamp from January, 1979 on.