

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING
Friday, April 15, 1977

The twentieth meeting of the Natural Resources Committee was called to order on the above date at 1:30 p.m.

Senator Gary Sheerin was in the Chair.

PRESENT: Chairman Sheerin
Senator Echols
Senator Lamb
Senator Dodge
Senator Neal
Senator Glaser

Bills before the Committee included SJR23 and AB185.

SJR 23 Urges United States Bureau of Land Management and Department of the Interior to take prompt action to reduce number of wild horses and burros on public lands.

Senator Neal moved "DO PASS".
Senator Lamb seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

AB 185 Provides for expiration of fishing licenses one year after the date of issuance.

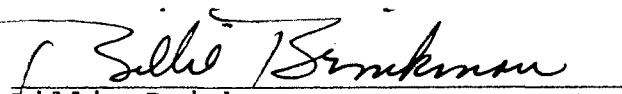
FRED E. WRIGHT of the Nevada Department of Fish and Game provided testimony in favor of this bill at the Committee meeting held April 13, 1977.

Senator Neal moved "DO PASS" and re-refer to Finance Committee.
Senator Lamb seconded the bill.
The motion carried unanimously.

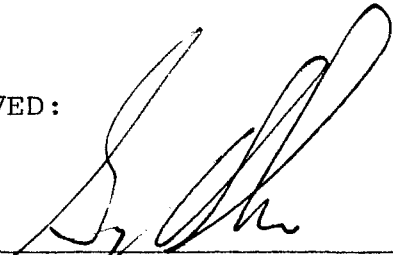
Chairman Sheerin handed out a copy of a report from Thomas Ballow, Executive Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture, concerning the Legislative Audit Report which was discussed at Committee meetings of March 21 and March 28, 1977. He asked the members to study the report and it would be discussed at a future meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Billie Brinkman

APPROVED:


Gary A. Sheerin, Chairman

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23—SENATORS
BLAKEMORE, RAGGIO, YOUNG, DODGE, LAMB, GIBSON
AND CLOSE

MARCH 16, 1977

Read and adopted

SUMMARY—Memorializes former State Senator Charles D. Gallagher.
(BDR 1789)

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Memorializing the former
state senator, Charles D. Gallagher.

- 1 WHEREAS, The legislature notes with profound sorrow the recent death
2 of former State Senator Charles D. Gallagher; and
3 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada, in the death of Senator Gallagher, has
4 lost a respected and admired former state legislator; and
5 WHEREAS, Senator Gallagher was born May 22, 1887, on the Duck
6 Creek Ranch where Kennecott Copper's McGill smelter is now located
7 and he had the distinction of living in White Pine County longer than
8 any other native; and
9 WHEREAS, Senator Gallagher's colorful life included driving a stage-
10 coach from the Kent Post Office to Ely and, at 17, teaching in Ely's one-
11 room school; and
12 WHEREAS, Senator Gallagher was a professional photographer and
13 opened Ely's first photo shop in 1907 which he continued to operate
14 periodically until his retirement in 1947; and
15 WHEREAS, In 1917, this distinguished Nevadan joined the United
16 States Army's photographic air service, later part of the United States
17 Army Signal Corps, and was placed in charge of all photographic instruc-
18 tion at the Cornell University training center until World War I ended;
19 and
20 WHEREAS, Senator Gallagher's life-long dedication to public service
21 began when he was elected to the Nevada Assembly, serving from 1915
22 to 1919; and
23 WHEREAS, Senator Gallagher reentered politics in 1953 and repre-
24 sented White Pine County in the Senate for the next 12 years, serving
25 as president pro tempore of that body during the 1959, 1960 and 1961
26 sessions; and
27 WHEREAS, Charles D. Gallagher's devotion to community service is
28 illustrated by his membership in the White Pine County Chamber of

Original bill is 2 pages long.
Contact the Research Library for
a copy of the complete bill.

(REPRINTED WITH ADOPTED AMENDMENTS)

FIRST REPRINT

A. B. 185

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

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 the expiration of fishing licenses
on December 31 of each year; changing license and permit fees; 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 502.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 502.090 1. All licenses issued as provided in this chapter [shall be]
3 are valid, and [shall] authorize the person to whom issued to hunt, to
4 fish or to trap during open seasons only on and from the date of issuance
5 of the license until the date of expiration printed thereon.

6 2. *Each fishing license is valid until December 31 of the year of*
7 *issuance.*

8 SEC. 2. NRS 502.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:
9 502.110 [Not] 1. *Except as provided in subsection 2, not more*
10 *than one license of each class shall be issued to any one person during*
11 *each license period. [, except upon an affidavit by the applicant that the*
12 *license issued has been lost or destroyed and upon payment of a fee of*
13 *\$4 or a fee equal to the original license fee, whichever is less. The per-*
14 *son issuing the license pursuant to this section may delay issuance for a*
15 *period not to exceed 48 hours to confirm that a valid license has been*
16 *previously issued during the current license period.]*

17 2. *If an unexpired license is lost or stolen, the person to whom the*
18 *license was issued may receive another license of the same class by mak-*
19 *ing application and certifying under oath that the license was lost or*
20 *stolen and by paying:*

21 (a) *If the application is made to an authorized agent, the annual license*
22 *fee; or*

Original bill is 3 pages long.
Contact the Research Library for
a copy of the complete bill.

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STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

350 CAPITOL HILL AVENUE - P.O. BOX 11100
RENO, NEVADA 89510
TELEPHONE (702) 784-6401

April 6, 1977

Senator Gary A. Sheerin, Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
Nevada State Legislature
Carson City, Nevada

Subject: Audit Report

I have reviewed the actions taken by the Department to determine the compliance with each of the 19 recommendations in the Legislative audit.

GENERAL. As you know, we have requested an accountant and this new position has been approved in the Executive Budget. As soon as possible after final approval of the budget, I will advertise the position and select an employee. Hopefully, we will be able to bring him on board on July 1. Having a full-time qualified accountant is the key to assuring that we have a continually acceptable accounting program.

The status of actions to comply with each of the recommendations in the audit is as follows:

1. Recommendation: "Obtain approval of Executive Director on all bad debt write-offs and adjustments in writing." PAGE 30.12

Status: This recommendation has been complied with. The debts written off in the past by persons other than the Executive Director were reviewed by me. I concurred in the determination that they were uncollectable and have approved the write-offs in writing. I have advised the Division Directors that in the future all write-offs must be approved in writing by the Executive Director.

2. Recommendation: "Develop procedures to assure all accounts receivable are credited to the appropriate accounts." PAGE 30.12

Status: The receiving clerk has been instructed to review receipts with the Division Director or myself when there are funds received that are not properly identified. We do still receive checks in the mail that are not accompanied by any other letter or documents and which have no "purpose" listed on the check. The federal government checks are almost always received in this manner. The full time accountant will be able to provide day-to-day supervision of receipts.

3. Recommendation: "Develop and maintain accounting procedures manual." PAGE 30.12

Status: We have obtained copies of the accounting procedures manual from other state agencies in an effort to obtain information about what a good accounting procedures manual shall contain. The account clerks and program specialist have written down the accounting procedures that we are presently following. A tentative draft of the format and index to the accounting manual has been prepared. We are continuing to prepare the manual and expect completion of the manual in about August of 1977. This will allow the new accountant to complete the manual as one of the first jobs after he is appointed. By having him finish it, we can be assured that it will meet professional accounting standards.

4. Recommendation: "Account for all four copies of voided brand inspection certificates." PAGE 30.15

Status: The Division of Brand Inspection requires all books and individual certificates to be accounted for, including all copies of voided brand inspection certificates. The brand clerk reviews and audits every book of certificates to make sure that all certificates are accounted for. This is a continuous job. I have double checked and it is being completed on a regular basis.

5. Recommendation: "Remit fees for deposit on a timely basis." PAGE 30.16

Status: The brand inspectors have been required to remit fees as recommended in the audit and they are complying with the requirement. Brand inspectors are required to submit all certificates, monies, travel claims, and time reports at the end of the second bi-weekly pay period of the month. The monies are being deposited promptly.

6. Recommendation: "Collect fees at time of inspection and maintain accounts receivable ledger for uncollected fees." PAGE 30.16

Status: All brand inspectors are being required to collect fees at the time of inspection and transmit them to the Department along with the accounting copies of the certificates. This requires close supervision and control by the Director of the Division and the District Brand Inspectors, which is being done.

7. Recommendation: "Show individuals to whom brand books are issued and dates they are returned." PAGE 30.17

Status: The Division of Brand Inspection has established a ledger whereby distribution of all brand inspection certificates are recorded. The recording shows which inspector they are issued to, including date, number, date completed book is returned and also provides a record of partially completed books that are re-issued and a record in cases where a District Brand Inspector re-issues a certificate book to a deputy. The completed books are audited to make sure they are completed in a reasonable time and to make sure that all certificates are accounted for.

8. Recommendation: "Develop and maintain procedures for slaughterhouse billings and utilize pre-numbered invoices." PAGE 30.18

Status: The written procedure has been issued. I personally checked to make sure that slaughterhouse billings were current on April 1 and they were. Pre-numbered invoices are being used.

9. Recommendation: "Comply with NRS 569.080 (1) prepare notice of seizure and appointment of keeper documents and prepare written estray notices for all estrays." PAGE 30.18

Status: I have reviewed the status of compliance and find that there is partial compliance with this recommendation. All estray files did contain an estray notice, however, a keeper and seizure notice was not always present. I have requested the brand office to write to the District Brand Inspector and obtain an appointment of keeper document and seizure notice on each estray. No estrays have been sold prior to the lapse of the ten day period from advertising.

10. Recommendation: "Fix and record as receivable the amount of special tax on livestock due from each county." PAGE 30.19

Status: A ledger has been set up for each county showing the special tax on livestock receivable from each county. As payments are received by the State Controller, they are deducted from the total amount receivable. At the end of each tax year, a reconciliation will be made and uncollected amounts reviewed with the county tax collector.

11. Recommendation: "Require Deputy Brand Inspectors to return their identification cards upon termination." PAGE 30.19

Status: All identification cards issued to Deputy Brand Inspectors at the time they are hired are being collected from them at the time of termination by the District Brand Inspectors and sent in to the Reno office, voided and placed in the file of the terminated inspector.

12. Recommendation: "Issue pre-numbered receipts for all fees collected." PAGE 30.20

Status: Pre-numbered brand inspection certificates serve as the receipt for all brand inspection fees. Pre-numbered receipt books have been obtained for all employees and are used for all monies received except brand inspection fees.

13. Recommendation: "Develop and maintain written procedures manual for Brand Division." PAGE 30.20

Status: The Director of the Brand Division was requested to develop this manual. He was unable to complete the manual because of illness and subsequent death. A new director will be selected on April 22, 1977. This will be a top priority job for him and I estimate that with some help from myself, it should be completed by the end of August, 1977.

14. Recommendation: "Fix and record as receivable the amount of special tax on bees due from each county." PAGE 30.21

Status: This has been done. A separate ledger has been set up for each county showing the total amount receivable from each county. As payments are made to the State Treasurer, the amounts received are deducted from the amount receivable for each county.

15. Recommendation: "Record invoice number on all weights and measures inspection certificates." PAGE 30.21

Status: This has been complied with and is set up as a standard procedure.

16. Recommendation: "Develop a standardized method of time reporting." PAGE 30.22

Status: Considerable time was spent in developing a standardized system for all employees. A new system went into effect on the first pay period of the current calendar year. The system was patterned after the one used by the Legislative Counsel Bureau, but does not currently include cost accounting. We hope to improve on the system in the next year.

17. Recommendation: "Issue the biennial report required by NRS 561.145 (3) on a timely basis." PAGE 30.22

Status: The report referred to in the audit was prepared and was issued on November 9, 1976. The report for the biennium ending June 30, 1976 is about 90% complete and should be printed by the end of June, 1977.

18. Recommendation: "Draft legislation to repeal NRS 573.125 (2)." PAGE 30.23

Status: This legislation was drafted and passed in the current session of the Legislature. S.B. 36, which provides this, was approved by the Governor and becomes effective on July 1, 1977.

19. Recommendation: "Request legislation to amend NRS 569.090." PAGE 30.23

Status: The legislation was requested and is contained in A.B. 57. The bill has passed as of April 1 and was pending transmittal to the Governor.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Ballou
Executive Director
NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TWB:sm