

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Senator Neal in the Chair.

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Senator Joe Neal, Chairman
Senator Norman Glaser, Vice-Chairman
Senator Wilbur Faiss
Senator Lawrence Jacobsen
Senator Floyd Lamb
Senator Mike Sloan

OTHERS

PRESENT: Mr. David Fulstone II, farmer and rancher
Mr. Tom Ballow, State Department of Agriculture
Assemblyman Sue Wagner, District #25
Mr. Fred Wright, Fish and Game Department

Senator Neal announced that the committee would hear testimony on A.B. 14, A.B. 558 and discuss amendments to A.B. 513.

A.B. 14 - Adds member to state board of agriculture who is engaged in specified agricultural activity.

Mr. David Fulstone II spoke in support of this bill. He read from a prepared statement which is attached as Exhibit A.

Senator Jacobsen asked Mr. Fulstone what other crops could be considered "row crops." Mr. Fulstone replied that cotton and corn are considered row crops. One of the newest industries in Nevada in this area is seed production.

Senator Sloan asked why this additional representation is needed. Mr. Fulstone replied that the present members do not fully understand the row crop situation and their particular problems. He cited their problem in registering pesticides for use on row crops.

Senator Neal asked Mr. Fulstone how many other growers are in the row crop industry. Mr. Fulstone answered that there are 4 other growers in Yerington, 8 or 10 in the Smith Valley area, and a new potato industry in the area of Winnemucca. He also mentioned that Del Monte Vegetable Co. has bought land in Nevada for raising vegetables. Senator Neal asked if this bill passes, would it allow Del Monte to get on the Agricultural Board. Mr. Fulstone felt it would not because the members would have to be active as growers. Del Monte only contracts with the farmers to grow their products.

Mr. Tom Ballow, Executive Director of the Department of Agriculture, stated his interest in the bill is to indicate that in his capacity as Secretary to the Board he has sent copies of the bill to the members. The members had some questions, but none were opposed to the addition of new members.

Mr. Ballow stated that one of the questions raised by the Board members was why the wording was changed in the bill which deleted the term "apiary industry" and inserted "beekeeping" in its place. He explained that the difference in the terminology is that a beekeeper is anyone who has bees, but they would not have to be honeybees. The apiary industry could refer to anyone who might manufacture hives or hive equipment.

Senator Neal asked where the change in wording originated and if it would affect the present member on the board. Mr. Ballow stated that he did not know who requested the change, but the present member would still be qualified to remain on the board. Mr. Ballow also stated that one of the toughest problems they have is that bees are very sensitive to pesticides. Growers of any agricultural crops or row crops have to apply a lot of pesticides to produce a good crop. The additional man on the board could help coordinate the balance between a minimum amount of damage to the bees and the best production for the crops.

Mr. Ballow stated that the main reason he wanted to testify on the bill is because it has a fiscal impact on the Board. If 2 more members are added to the Board, he requested that the travel and salary money be included. Otherwise the Board would be unable to meet every other month as they presently do.

Senator Jacobsen asked if all the members are active and attend the meetings. Mr. Ballow answered that they are very active and are absent very seldom.

Senator Glaser asked Mr. Ballow how much money is needed to take care of the travel and salary for the two members. Mr. Ballow stated that based on the fact that he does not know from what part of the state those persons will be from that are appointed, he estimates he would need about \$2,000.

Senator Glaser asked how many people are engaged in raising nursery stock in Nevada. Mr. Ballow said that depends on the interpretation of "raising nursery stock". There are some growers who buy stock from outside the state and hold it until it is saleable. While the stock is being held it is growing. However, there are only about 1/2 dozen who produce it from seed until the plant is ready for sale.

Senator Jacobsen moved to amend A.B. 14 to provide a \$2,000 appropriation over the biennium, and pass it out of committee with the recommendation: Amend, and do pass as amended, and re-refer to Finance.

Seconded by Senator Faiss.

Motion carried (Absent - Senator Lamb).

* * * *

A.B. 558 - Provides for free hunting and fishing licenses to elderly residents.

Assemblyman Sue Wagner, District #25, testified in favor of the bill. She explained that it would change the residency requirement to obtain a senior citizen's hunting and fishing license to 6 months. Because of the change in the residency requirement, the fee for the licenses has been increased from \$1.25 to \$2.00 to offset the fiscal impact. The effective dates of when the changes will take place is different for each type of license. The fishing licenses would be effective January 1, 1980, and the hunting license in July 1, 1979.

Senator Glaser asked what the fiscal impact would be. Ms. Wagner stated that she believed it would be \$8,000 which is the difference between the increase in the fees and the assumed number of people who would apply under the new residency requirement. The fiscal note attached to the bill which shows the fiscal impact as \$53,000 is based on the bill as originally drafted. The bill was originally drafted with about 20 errors, including a provision that the hunting and fishing licenses were free. That was not the intent of the bill.

Mr. Fred Wright, Fish and Game Department, made himself available to answer any questions.

Senator Faiss questioned the wording "for the fee of \$2.00, the department will issue without charge." He pointed out that the \$2.00 fee is a charge. Mr. Wright answered that the amendments adopted in the first reprint were very complicated and redundant. He felt the thrust of the bill could be accomplished by deleting the words "10 years" on line 6, Page 2 and inserting "6 months" and changing the figure in line 7, Page 2 from \$1.25 to \$2.00.

Senator Neal stated that he will speak to Frank Daykin about an amendment to clean up the bill.

A.B. 513 - Providing additional circumstances for extending powers and duties of Nevada Tahoe regional planning agency.

Senator Neal stated that this bill is in conflict with S.B. 323 and there is an amendment being drafted to resolve the conflict.

Senator Sloan asked if on Page 2, lines 11 and 12, when discussing persons on the board, it is specified that they may be but are not required to be a member of a board and a resident of or the owner of real property in the region. He asked whether the word "and" would require a double qualification and should be substituted with the word "or."

Senator Sloan stated that he had drafted some amendments in light of the previous discussions regarding making portions of this bill compatible with A.B. 503. He felt that the policy decisions which are reflected in S.B. 323 and A.B. 503 and relate to the Lake should be required if Nevada has to go it alone. The changes he suggests are that if a project is not approved within a certain time, it be automatically rejected rather than automatically approved. In Section 2 dealing with the composition of the board, he suggests using the language from A.B. 503 providing that 3 members be appointed from the region, three from the state, and the seventh chosen by the first six. He felt the committee should consider whether Section 14 relating to the "deemed rejected" provision should be extended longer than 60 days, perhaps 180 days. Senator Lamb felt that 180 days is too long, and suggested 90 days. Senator Sloan agreed.

Senator Jacobsen stated that for this committee to "mickey mouse" around with this bill will cause the same problems as A.B. 503 is having. The bill came to the Senate in the version the Assembly recommended and they are already having adverse reactions to the changes proposed. He felt this bill has no relationship with the bistate situation because this is Nevada's own ball game. He is opposed to the amendment and felt the bill should be left as is (first reprint).

Senator Lamb felt that Senator Jacobsen might have a point, and perhaps the amendment should not be made if the bill could be lost. Senator Neal pointed out that the bill can be negotiated in a conference committee. Senator Lamb agreed. Senator Glaser mentioned that if Nevada would have to shift from one agency (TRPA) to another (N-TRPA), the composition of the board should be the same.

Date: May 9, 1979

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Senator Sloan moved that A.B. 513 be passed out of committee with the amendments he suggested plus those amendments necessary to resolve the conflict with S.B. 323 with the recommendation: Amend, and do pass as amended.

Seconded by Senator Glaser.

Ayes - 5
Nays - Jacobsen (1)

Motion carried.

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A.B. 558 - Provides for free hunting and fishing licenses to elderly residents.

Senator Neal asked the committee if they wanted to move the bill out, and if there are any amendments needed, they could be drafted and brought back before the committee.

Senator Sloan moved that A.B. 558 be passed out of committee if no amendments are needed with the recommendation: Do pass.

Seconded by Senator Faiss.

Motion carried.


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A.B. 14 - Adds member to state board of agriculture who is engaged in specified agricultural activity.

Senator Sloan suggested that rather than putting A.B. 14 in for amendment, it be rereferred to Finance with the recommendation that they include the amendment covering the additional appropriation. The committee agreed that the motion previously passed be changed accordingly.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Eileen Wynkoop
Committee Secretary

APPROVED:



(Committee Minutes)

MY NAME IS DAVID FULSTONE, II. I LIVE IN YERINGTON, NEVADA, AND I AM ENGAGED IN FARMING AND RANCHING.

I AM HERE TO URGE THE PASSAGE OF AB 14. AB 14 INCREASES THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON THE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE BY ADDING A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ROW CROP INDUSTRY AND ONE FROM THE NURSERY STOCK INDUSTRY.

MY PRIMARY INTEREST IS IN ROW CROP REPRESENTATION.

ROW CROPS HAVE INCREASED ACREAGE-WISE OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS AND THE ONES I AM PARTICULARLY ACQUAINTED WITH ARE ONIONS AND GARLIC BECAUSE THEY ARE ROW CROPS THAT I AM PERSONALLY INVOLVED WITH. I ALSO KNOW THAT POTATOE PRODUCTION HAS INCREASED FROM NEAR NIL OR NON-EXISTANT TO AN ESTIMATED 17,000 ACRES, PRIMARILY IN THE WINNE-MUCCA AREA. FURTHER, THIS ACREAGE HAS FACILITATED THE CONSTRUCTION OF AND OPERATION OF A PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN THAT COMMUNITY WHICH, WITH THE PRODUCTION, ADDS CONSIDERABLY TO THE ECONOMY OF THAT COMMUNITY AND THE STATE.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA IS DOING RESEARCH ON OTHER ROW CROPS, INCLUDING CARROTS AND ONIONS FOR PROCESSING AND THEIR RESULTS ARE ENCOURAGING.

A DEHYDRATING FACILITY CONSTRUCTED AT BRADY HOT SPRINGS ALSO PROVIDES ANOTHER OUTLET FOR ROW CROP PRODUCTION.

IN OUR OWN COUNTY, WE HAVE INDIVIDUAL OPERATORS THAT WERE PRIMARILY HAY GRAIN AND CATTLE NOW PRODUCING ONIONS, SIMPLY BECAUSE THE ECONOMICS OF FARMING AND RANCHING IS DICTATING THAT WE INTENSIFY LAND USE TO STAY IN BUSINESS.

OUR COUNTY PRODUCES APPROXIMATELY 1,000 ACRES OF ONIONS AND GARLIC ANNUALLY. THE ONIONS HAVE BEEN MOVED THROUGH TRADE CHANNELS AS DRY ONIONS. THE GARLIC IS PRODUCED AS SEED. THIS ACREAGE MAY NOT BE

IMPRESSIVE TO YOU, BUT IT REQUIRES TOP MANAGEMENT, WILL GROW ONLY ON THE BEST LAND, REQUIRES MORE WATER THAN TRADITIONAL FIELD CROPS, AND LEAVES ITS PRODUCERS PLAGUED BY AN INADEQUATE LABOR SUPPLY.

WE NEED REPRESENTATION ON THE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE OTHER SERIOUS PROBLEMS THAT COME BEFORE IT. I SITE AS AN EXAMPLE OUR USE AND DIFFICULTY IN SECURING PESTICIDES THAT ARE CLEARED FOR USE ON THESE SO-CALLED MINOR CROPS IN NEVADA. OFTEN A PRODUCT IS CLEARED FOR USE IN OTHER AREAS BUT NOT IN OUR STATE. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN GETTING VARIANCES FOR US TO USE PRODUCTS CLEARED IN OTHER AREAS, YET DO NOT HAVE A COMPANY LABEL FOR OUR AREA.

WE NEED PROTECTION FOR OUR MARKETS AND THE DEPARTMENT HERE IS AGAIN DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH THE PRODUCE SHIPPED. WE ALSO MUST CONSTANTLY MONITOR DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS.

I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT THE ROW CROP INDUSTRY WILL GROW IN THIS STATE AND URGE YOU TO HELP US FOSTER THAT GROWTH BY ENACTING AB 14 INTO LAW AND INSURE THE ROW CROP INDUSTRY DIRECT REPRESENTATION ON THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

A. B. 14

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 14—ASSEMBLYMEN DINI AND GETTO

JANUARY 16, 1979

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Adds member to state board of agriculture who is engaged in specified agricultural activity. (BDR 50-741)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: Effect less than \$2,000.

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

AN ACT relating to the state department of agriculture; adding a member to the state board of agriculture; establishing his qualifications; 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 561.045 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 561.045 There is hereby created in the state department of agricul-
3 ture a state board of agriculture composed of ~~six~~ *seven* members
4 appointed by the governor.
5 SEC. 2. NRS 561.055 is hereby amended to read as follows:
6 561.055 1. Three members of the board shall be actively engaged
7 in range or semirange cattle production, one in dairying, one in general
8 farming, *one in growing crops which are planted in rows spaced to permit*
9 *mechanical cultivation* and one in the apiary industry.
10 2. No more than two members ~~shall~~ *may* be residents of the
11 same county, and the range or semirange cattle production members
12 shall be residents of different counties.