Mir of the Nevada State Legislature

Asse. Jly Committee on WAYS AND MEANS

Date: April 27, 1981

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bremner

Vice Chairman Hickey

Mr. Bergevin
Mr. Brady
Mr. Coulter
Mr. Glover
Mrs. Hayes
Mr. Horn
Mr. Marvel
Mr. Rhoads
Mr. Robinson
Mr. Vergiels
Mrs. Westall

ALSO PRESENT:

Bill Bible, Fiscal Analyst

Judy Matteucci, Deputy Fiscal Analyst Mike Alastuey, Deputy Budget Director

(SEE ATTACHED GUEST LIST)

Chairman Bremner called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

A.B. 64 Creates department of services to the aging.

S.B. 81 Creates department of services to the aging.

Assemblyman James Schofield appeared in support of A.B. 64 and gave the committee proposed amendments to the bill, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A. Mr. Schofield said this bill was introduced primarily to dissolve the Divison of Aging Services in the Department of Human Resources and to create a department of services to the aging which would be directly responsible to the Governor.

Mr. Schofield read a letter from the Senior Political Action Federation, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit B, which expressed the views of this organization. He said there are now 20 states that have a Department of Aging Services and that Nevada should strongly consider setting up such a department on behalf of its senior citizens.

Mr. Coulter spoke of his work with the Division of Aging Services and said they had always been very helpful to Washoe County senior citizens. While he had heard the Las Vegas group did not like the Director, Mr. Coulter said he had been unable to obtain any details on specific problems. He asked for examples of problems in the Las Vegas area.

Senator Faiss said the seniors in Clark County were upset because they had been fighting for Title XX funds for years. The seniors are supposed to receive 20 percent of such funds, according to Senator Faiss, and in Nevada they are receiving approximately 5 percent. He further stated that the majority of states are spending an increased amount of the total allotments of Title XX funds except Indiana and Nevada.

Senator Faiss responded to Mr. Coulter's questions by saying he did not know where the Title XX funds were being spent as it was difficult to obtain information from the Division. Mr. Coulter reiterated that he had no such problems and that he had worked with Mr. McSweeney on many projects. Senator Faiss said this was not a bill against Mr. McSweeney and if the bill should pass Mr. McSweeney should be given a chance to "show what he can do, and he can do a good job."

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Mr. Schofield told Mr. Rhoads that no fiscal note had been placed on the bill since he believed the cost would be minimal inasmuch as it would be a shift from one budget to another. He felt that \$2,000 would cover the cost of stationery and items such as that. Senator Faiss stated that Dr. Disibio in testimony before the Senate Finance Committee, said there would be no increase in cost.

Mr. Brady said he had received many calls from senior citizens and their complaint seemed to be lack of communication and that information was slow in reaching Clark County. Senator Faiss He further said that research indicated that California and Idaho changed from a division to a department for the following reasons: first, it increases the prestige of the aging services division by making it a department at no increase in cost; it also increases interdepartmental cooperation; senior citizens supported the creation of a department because it would be more responsive to their needs than the division; a division inside a large department is frequently used to perform other functions and loses touch with the people it is supposed to help; and, a division has much less visibility than a department. Senator Faiss continued by saying that while a Department of Aging Services may not be able to offer any more services than a Division can, it can certainly increase its ability to address the problems of its clientele; it can also increase its staff of programs to accommodate the increasing number of senior citizens without having to compromise its budget to another Department director. In short, a Department would give Aging Services a separate identity and a Department could concentrate exclusively on the problems of its senior citizens. Finally, Senator Faiss said, it would also show the committment of the state to its senior citizens.

In response to Mr. Marvel's question, Senator Faiss said the total Title XX moneys coming to Nevada increased from \$7.9 million to \$9.4 million and despite this increase in money available, seniors suffered a 17 percent loss in the funds spent on programs they can use.

Assemblyman Bob Price read into the record a statement from the Nevada Senior Political Action Federation, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit C.

Mr. Orvis E. Reil, member of the Legislative Committee of the local AARP and a member of the Nevada Retired Teachers Association, spoke in opposition to the bills. He believed the cost of operation of a Department would be higher and would not give the senior citizens any more prestige than they now have. Mr. Reil further stated that federal regulations would have to be followed under either a Department or a Division.

Mr. Gerald Prindiville, representing the American Association of Retired Persons and Nevada Retired Teachers Association, also opposed the bills. He believed that a sufficient percentage of Title XX funds was being expended for senior citizens and that the remainder should be spent on youth projects. He also felt a new Department would result in increased costs and that the present Division was very efficient. On behalf of AARP and NRTA, he urged the committee to vote against A.B. 64 and S.B. 81.

Judy Murphy, Director of the Senior Citizens Center in Washoe County, appeared in opposition to the bills. She represented that the Directors of the following programs are all against this legislation: Senior Retired Volunteer program, Care and Share

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Nutrition program, Senior Law Project, Home Care Support, Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions and the Board of Directors of the Senior Citizens Center. Ms. Murphy discussed her reasons for maintaining the Division of Aging Services in the Human Resources Department.

Catherine Loughton, Legislative Chairman of Nevada Retired Teachers Association, and Alice Smith, representing Elderport, both from Washoe County, also appeared in opposition to A.B. 64 and S.B. 81.

Mr. Ace Martelle, Director, Department of Human Resources, said he was against removing the Division of Aging Services from the Department and made the following statements: To remove the Division would dramatically fragment services to the seniors since the Department provides services to them through almost all of its divisions and it can be better addressed on a depart-mental level than being a separate department; Title XX dollars are definitely being used and are being channeled to the Division of Aging Services. Mr. Martelle has requested a study which he will evaluate to determine if there is a disportionate share to seniors. Mr. Martelle guaranteed that Aging Services would not take a back seat in any way relative to larger divisions and will receive fair and equitable treatment. Many of the dollars channeled through the Department are used for transportation, social services, nutritional feeding programs, ombudsmen and advocacy services for the seniors. All problems appear to be in the south and this may be because of communications or because there is a very fragmented situation in Clark County relative to seniors and a power play between the seniors there.

Mr. Martelle could see nothing but disadvantages in a separate department and said if this would not cost more money he would be amazed. He further guaranteed that he would do everything within his power to obtain all federal moneys and grants available for senior citizens and if it is found that more Title XX funds should go to them, he guaranteed he would make every effort to do that. Chairman Bremner said that Las Vegas is at a disadvantage because of distance from Carson City and there was a lack of communication in that area. Mr. Martelle agreed and said that he had informed the Director of the Division of Aging Services that he would meet with groups in the south and work on the communication problem.

Mr. Robinson asked if it was true that more senior citizens were moving into Nevada as stated by Mr. Schofield. Mr. Martelle said he would not want to validate statistics provided by the proponents of the legislation as that was their responsibility.

Mr. Robinson said it had not been answered to his satisfaction exactly what the problem is in the south and if there is discrimination against the group of southern seniors by the Division Director, the committee should know about it. Mr. Martelle did not believe there had been discrimination and again stated that if there was a problem, he thought it was one of lack of communication. He also told Mr. Brady that the people who want a separate department should be the ones to specifically state any problems in support of the requested legislation.

Mr. Marvel suggested that senior citizens from Clark County could appear before the committee and give their reasons for supporting a separate department. Mrs. Hayes said a delegation of seniors had planned on attending this hearing but they could not afford to pay for rooms plus air fare which would have been necessary

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since the meeting was at 8 a.m. Mr. Coulter asked if the delegation could attend a night meeting and Mrs. Hayes said she believed they could attend an afternoon meeting. Mr. Martelle said he had just been advised that there would be a White House Conference on Aging tomorrow. Chairman Bremner asked Mr. Martelle to determine if the meeting would continue until Wednesday, April 29, and if so, the committee would arrange for a half-hour meeting.

As a closing statement, Mr. Martelle said he was very concerned about all of the aging in Nevada and he would direct as much attention as necessary to assure that equitable services are provided for both north and south and that he would be available for meetings in the south for any group of senior citizens.

A.B. 397 Authorizes state public defender to collect certain amounts from counties for use of his services.

Mr. Norman Y. Herring, State Public Defender, explained that the purpose of this bill is to set the shares paid by the counties as a pro rata share for their contribution to the budget of the Public Defender.

Mr. Herring said that the figures were taken from the fiscal year 1980 case reporting statistics rendered to the Legislative Commission and the Governor by way of the Nevada State Public Defender's annual report.

The committee discussed the function of the Public Defender's agency with Mr. Herring. Mr. Marvel asked if the counties were generally supportive and Mr. Herring said "absolutely", with the exception of Elko County. He further said Elko County had asked the cost of returning to the system and he had not supplied a definite figure but had specified that a resolution of the Elko County Commissioners would be necessary. Mr. Herring said he had not heard from the Commissioners and understood they did not intend to reenter the system. Mr. Rhoads said the Commissioners had no desire to return to the program.

A.B. 360 Creates exemption for nonprofit promoters of athletic events.

Mr. Roy F. Tennison, Executive Secretary, Nevada Athletic Commission, said the commission introduced this bill to give some relief to the amateur boxing clubs throughout the state. It will cost the state approximately \$8,000 to \$9,000 per year in revenue and the clubs will use this money to enhance their equipment needs. Mr. Tennison told Mr. Rhoads that if a private individual sponsored an amateur boxing match, that individual would keep the proceeds. In the case of nonprofit organizations, the proceeds are used to train fighters, send the fighters to various events throughout the state and purchase equipment. It was Mr. Tennison's opinion that over 90% of the boxing events were for charitable purposes. He further advised the committee that the Commission would save approximately \$2,000 in administrative costs under this legislation.

Lt. Hal Miller, Metropolitan Police Department, appeared in support of A.B. 360. He said he had been involved in amateur boxing for 28 years and is president of the Golden Gloves of Nevada and president of the newly formed USA Amateur Boxing Federation of Nevada. Lt. Miller described the function of these nonprofit organizations and explained the benefits they would derive from the passage of A.B. 360.

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Mr. Lou Tabat, United States Junior Olympic Chiarman for Nevada, concurred with Lt. Miller's statements and urged the committee to pass A.B. 360.

A.B. 435 Makes appropriation for quail and quail guzzlers in Clark County.

Assemblyman Nick Horn presented a proposed amendment, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit D, and explained it to the committee. Mr. Horn said he was convinced that if water was provided for the southern part of Nevada, quail could become abundant, hunters would come from other states and the tourist industry would increase.

Mr. Joseph C. Greenley, Director, Department of Wildlife, said 192 guzzlers will be completed this summer in the southern part of the state. Mr. Greenley stated he was in favor of the proposed amendments and the funds can be used to develop water throughout the state for chukar partridge as well as quail. He also approved of deleting the pheasant stamp as it does not generate enough money at this time to do anything significant for pheasant. The cost of building a guzzler is approximately \$3,000 and they are portable.

Referring to the three to one match provided in the amendment, Mr. Robinson asked if a group of private citizens who raised funds in Clark County could be assured the funds would be used for guzzlers in Clark County. Mr. Greenley said if funds were raised locally, that is certainly where the guzzler would be installed.

Chairman Bremner asked the committee to refer to the budget for the NEVADA INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION as Mr. Joe E. Nusbaum, Director, was present to answer questions.

Chairman Bremner asked Mr. Nusbaum to explain the large number of vacant positions. Mr. Nusbaum referred to his previous testimony that the workload increased 75 percent between 1976 and 1980 and staff did not increase by that percentage. The problem of servicing claimants and policyholders came about during that period of rapid growth. Mr. Nusbaum said he had delayed hiring additional employees pending receipt of the Legislative Auditor's report and the Advisory Board report. In addition, there have been difficulties in hiring people and there are as many employees leaving as are being hired, Mr. Nusbaum said. His most recent count of vacancies is 102. Uncertainty over Nevada's economy and the anticipation of an internal reorganization in the Department has also delayed filling positions. Mr. Nusbaum told Mr. Glover he hires through State Personnel except for highly technical positions which the Department recruits.

Mr. Bergevin asked if the Department was keeping up with the workload with 102 vacancies. Mr. Nusbaum replied that in many areas service was not as good as it should be. Mr. Bergevin further asked how Mr. Nusbaum could justify requesting 16 new positions when there were 102 vacancies. Mr. Nusbaum said the budget required that the number of positions to be eliminated or added be shown and they are eliminating more positions than they are adding.

Mr. Horn asked how many of the 102 positions could be deleted. Mr. Nusbaum said he did not think any of the vacant positions should be deleted and, since it is near the first year of the biennium, he did not believe the Department was going to expend

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the amount of money which is indicated for personnel in the first year. Mr. Nusbaum said if any action was to be taken, he would hope it would be on the total dollars to be spent rather than to delete any positions since he believes that by the second year of the biennium he would need every position.

Chairman Bremner asked if the budget should reflect \$700,000 or \$800,000 in salary savings since these positions are not filled. Mr. Nusbaum said that some figure, perhaps as high as \$700,000 could be used in the first year, but he did not believe it should apply to the second year. For the second year, Mr. Nusbaum said the turnover figure of \$300,000 only should apply. He pointed out that NIC has no record of ever spending its budget and has always been cautious, but if the committee desired to show some salary savings they would try to live with the limitation.

Mr. Horn presented a comparison of payments made for prescriptions by the Welfare Department and NIC. In almost every instance, the NIC price was substantially higher than Welfare. Mr. Horn asked Mr. Nusbaum why NIC could not renegotiate with the State Board of Pharmacy to obtain the same prices as Welfare. Mr. Nusbaum said he was willing to renegotiate and explained the terms of NIC's present contract for prescription drugs as opposed to the Welfare Department's payments. The procedure followed by the two agencies for the recipients to receive drugs was also discussed by the committee.

Mr. Hickey expressed the opinion that NIC should endeavor to hold down physician costs as well as drugs since no control of such costs resulted in higher premiums to employers and policyholders.

Mr. Nusbaum assured the committee that he would renegotiate the contract covering the cost of prescription drugs.

Mr. Horn said he had questioned the cost of service contracts with IBM covering typewriters and had been advised by NIC that neither they nor IBM knew what typewriters were being serviced. He suggested that these service contracts should be reviewed and Mr. Nusbaum said this was being done.

In response to Mr. Vergiel's question, Mr. Nusbaum said there was no proposal to let private contractors in the Rehabilitation Center, but there was a proposal to accept patients who were referred by a physician or a hospital.

Chairman Bremner said the committee has been requested to introduce a*bill which would transfer the responsibility for licensing certain postsecondary educational institutions to the Board of Regents.

Mr. Hickey moved for committee introduction of the bill. Seconded by Mr. Glover and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

*AB573 as BDR 34-1525

DATE:		

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

GUEST LIST

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NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	REPRESENTING:
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Niem Hernny	State Public Defender
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Roy F. TENDISON	New Athletic Commission
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1981 REGULAR SESSION (61st) ·

ASSEMBLY ACTION	SENATE ACTION	Assembly AMENDMENT BLANK
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Amendment No

363

Resolves conflict with § 9 of A.B. 102.

Amend sec. 4, page 2, line 28, by deleting "director must" and inserting "director:".

Amend sec. 4, page 2, by deleting line 29.

Amend the bill as a whole by adding new sections designated as sections 17 and 18, following section 16, to read as follows:

"Sec. 17. Section 7 of chapter 42, Statutes of Nevada 1981, is hereby repealed.

Sec. 18. This section and section 17 of this act shall become effective upon passage and approval."

To: E & E

LCB File

Journal

Engrossment

Bill

1438

Drafted by DS: ab Date 3-29-81

SENIOR POLITICAL ACTION FEDERATION

919 W. Bonanza Rd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89106 Phone 385-5941

DEAR LEGISLATOR:

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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17 April 1981

Seniors in Nevada need a Department of Aging Services. We need your help to go ahead with this vital change.

Here are only a few reasons we feel the change is needed:

- Nevada has the fastest growing senior population in the nation, according to the latest census.
- Seniors are the fastest growing age segment in Nevada.
- With even greater numbers of people to serve, the Department of Human Resources is proposing even FEWER services for seniors than ever before. (See our letter of April 14)
- It is apparent from this trend that the present Division of Aging Services is not able to obtain a fair share of services from within the Department of Human Resources.
- The Department of Human Resources will receive an 11.85% increase in Title XX funds but proposes to SPEND LESS ON SENIOR PROGRAMS THAN EVER BEPORE!
- The Division of Aging Services did not offer any legislation for seniors to this session of the legislature. We DO NOT share the view that there is nothing left to do for our elderly Nevadans.
- Many Southern Nevada service directors have not yet been contacted to negotiate this year's services for seniors. IT IS VERY LATE IN THE YEAR TO BEGIN THIS PROCESS. Are they waiting for you lawmakers to leave before they even START this process or before they give us the bad news?

These are just a few of our concerns. There are more to be sure. From the above comments you can see why we are concerned that without the establishment of a Department, seniors will continue to be on the bottom shelf of priorities.



EXHIBIT B - Pg. 1 of 2

2000 200 Please let us clear up some misconceptions surrounding our request for this legislation. First, we are not looking to embarrass anyone or force the replacement of any member of the Division of Aging Services. This is not a dispute over personnel. We believe the system is flawed and that seniors cannot, indeed are not, being adequately served from within the giant Department of Human Resources. Welfare and other public assistance programs dominate the existing department, as they should. Seniors have different problems, different solutions. We need a department where these concerns are the top priority, not a disjointed branch of welfare. Second, we DO NOT WISH any age minimum be established in this legislation. Seniors suffer the most from age discrimination throughout the nation. We would ask that any reference to an age requirement for any member of the new Department of Aging be removed. As you know, 62% of voters in Clark County are senior citizens. This alone should indicate the impact they have on this community and this Seniors vote in larger percentage than any other group. (97% in the 1980 November election). They take their civic responsibilities seriously. And they are active in all communities throughout Nevada. We solicit your help on behalf of these older Nevadans. Support SB 81 and/or AB 64 and help give our seniors the dignity and respect they deserye. incerely GENE SIMON Vice-Chairman GS/b EXHIBIT B - Pg. 2 of 2 1440

AB 81

Doctor Price:

Please handle this operation for us. We need this bill badly and we hope you can convey our desire to the Ways and Means people.

Please relay these points to the committee from the Nevada Senior Political Action Federation.

- + We are very sorry not to have witnesses there to testify from within the Federation. We had planned to send a delegation, but because of the early morning hour and the lack of the early morning flights, we were unable to get our delegation there on time to speak.
- + We have, however, communicated with each of you during the past weeks about the need for a Department of Aging Services.

 Just last week all members of both the Assembly and Senate received two letters from the Federation that related to the need for a change upgrading senior services to department status.
- + Seniors are the largest voting group in Southern Nevada...
 last year 62% of the registered voters were seniors. Despite
 this and the fact that seniors turn out to vote more faithfully
 than other aged voters, seniors have not done well before the
 past two legislatures. We hope with this bill we can turn that
 trend around.
- + Seniors need to have a status in this state commensurate with their numbers and their contributions to this society in the last 50 or 60 years.

EXHIBIT C - Pg. 1 of 3

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** Finally, we feel that a department whose top priority is the senior citizen will be more open to the input of seniors. Just last month, for example, the Southern

Nevada Advisory Committee to the Division of Aging Services was considering an application for a local contract on Information and Referral services. That committee was NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO FINISH THE PROCESS OF CONSIDERATION when the proposal was removed from the committee and decided upon without even getting input from the local seniors board appointed for just that purpose. We feel there would be more communication, more input and more consideration of the point of view of seniors in this new department whose only concern is delivering services to seniors.

+ We know that many of you have already stated your support for establishing the Department for Aging Services. In fact, five members on this very committee indicated you would not only support our move, you offered to introduce the legislation. For that stated support we thank you. Today we need you to deliver on those promises, and together we can demonstrate to the senior citizens in Nevada that this legislature and this state have a high regard for our state's elderly. Thank you.

THE NEVADA SENIOR POLITICAL ACTION FEDERATION

EXHIBIT C - Pg. 3 of 3

1981 REGULAR SESSION (61st)

ASSEMBLY ACT	ON	SENATE ACTION	1	AMENDMENT BLANK
Adopted Lost Date: Initial: Concurred in Not concurred in Date: Initial:	00 00	Adopted Lost Date: Initial: Concurred in Not concurred in Date: Initial:	AMENDMENTS to Assemb Bill No. 435 — Joint — Resolu BDR S-1565 Proposed by Mr. Horn	tion No
Amendmen	ı N	? 570	•	

Amend the bill as a whole by deleting sections 1 through 3 and inserting new sections designated sections 1 through 8, to read as follows:

NRS 502.035 is hereby amended to read as follows: "Section 1. 502.035 Licenses, [state pheasant stamps,] state duck stamps

and permits granting the privilege to hunt, fish or trap during the open season as provided in this Title [shall] must be issued by the department, upon payment of the fees required under this

Title.

Sec. 2. NRS 502.300 is hereby amended to read as follows:

502.300

1. It is unlawful for any person, except a person under the age of

12 or a person 65 years of age or older, to hunt [:

(a) Any pheasant unless at the time he is hunting he carries on his person an unexpired state pheasant stamp validated by his signature in

ink across the face of the stamp. (b) Any any migratory game bird, except jacksnipe, coot, gallinule, western mourning dove, white-winged dove and band-tailed pigeon, unless at the time he is hunting he carries on his person an unexpired state duck stamp validated by his signature in ink across the face of the

State[pheasant stamps and state]duck stamps must be sold for a fee of \$2 each by the department and by persons authorized by the department to sell hunting licenses. The department shall determine the form of stamps.

NRS 502.310 is hereby amended to read as follows: Sec. 3.

502.310

All money from the sale of state pheasant stamps and state duck stamps must be deposited in the wildlife account in the state general fund. The department shall maintain a state spheasant stamp account and state duck stamp account to permit separate accounting records for the receipt and expenditure of money from the sale of state[pheasant and]duck stamps. An amount not to exceed 10 percent of[such] that money may be used to reimburse the department for the cost of administering the state[pheasant stamp and state] duck stamp programs. This amount is in addition to compensation allowed persons authorized to issue and sell licenses.

To: E&E LCB File Journal Engrossment Bill

4-17-81 DS:ml Drafted by.....Date..... EXHIBIT D - Pas 1 of 2

1444

Assembly

1. Before the department may undertake any project using money 502.322 from the state duck stamp for pheasant stamp accounts, account, it shall analyze the project and provide the commission with recommendations as to the need for the project and its feasibility.

Money deposited in the state duck stamp account must be used for projects approved by the commission for protection and propagation of migratory game birds, and for the development and preservation of wetlands in Nevada.

- [3. Money deposited in the state pheasant stamp account must be used for projects approved by the commission for the preservation and propagation of pheasants, and for the development and preservation of pheasant habitats in Nevada.
- NRS 502.320 is hereby amended to read as follows: Sec. 5.
- 1. There is hereby appropriated from the state general fund to the department of wildlife the sum of \$75,000 for water improvements for upland game birds.
- Money appropriated pursuant to subsection 1 may be used only if money from federal or private sources is spent for the same purposes in a ratio of \$3 for each dollar appropriated pursuant to subsection 1.
- Any remaining balance of the appropriation made pursuant to subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 1986, and reverts to the state general fund as soon as all payments of money committed have been made.
- Money which remains in the state pheasant stamp account on the effective date of this act must be spend for water improvements for upland game birds.
 - This act shall become effective upon passage and approval." Amend the title of the bill to read as follows:
- "AN ACT relating to wildlife; repealing provisions relating to state pheasant stamps; making an appropriation; and providing. other matters properly relating thereto."