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SB 485 (BDR 51-565) NRS 581-582

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for this opportunity to present SB485.

SB485 is the Weights and Measures bill that modernizes the language to meet current national standards and other states law. The bill will allow the state sealer to stay current with test methods and procedures through NAC 581 and 582. The language allows interstate commerce to be uniform among the states and allows manufactures to manufacture and package products in a single method. Currently Milk and bread are 2 examples where we have differences from California and other western states.

A significant change in the method of collecting fees is in the bill. Currently there is a test fee for each commercial device; it is proposed to change the test fee to a license fee. The fees will remain the same until the board of agriculture deems an increase is needed. As a test fee cash flow problems occur at the end of each fiscal year. Late payers and time has caused the collection of the fees to arrive after the fiscal year causing the division to pay bills late and reimburse employees late. The license fee will allow us to collect the fee at the beginning of the year and establish our operating dollars for the year. Based on the executive audit 02-06 it has been recommended that the division test commercial devices on a statistical basis. This method will keep consumer confidence high and it will also allow the division to hire people at a slower rate compared to the demands based on growth.

Authorization for increased consumer protection is in this bill in the form of shelf pricing, dates coding, and other label requirements. Typically these requirements are already an industry practice and these requirements put all businesses on an even playing field.

We would like to present 2 amendments one for clarification and the other a correction.

Mr. Chairman, I'm prepared to any questions you have.

Changes to NRS 581

1. Modernizes the language and standards to meet the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) model law and other state's law
2. Primarily is an enabling law to allow the state sealer to stay current with test methods and procedures through the NAC.
3. Expands activity to items like shelf pricing, date coding, and other labeling requirements. These are common industry practices that we need to watch to assure an equitable market and for consumers to make value comparisons.
4. Creates a uniform law for interstate commerce so manufacturers and packagers have the same rule in every state and do not have to have a different product for each state to meet their laws.
5. It removes 581.104: this section gave a LPG company the ability to hire their own repair people to seal their own equipment without weights and measures intervention.
6. Changes how the division will collect fees, it changes from a test fee to a license fee.

Change fee collection method

1. This will allow collection of 100% of fees because devices will be licensed