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WORK SESSION
SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

April 11, 2003

PREPARED BY
RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU
Nonpartisan Staff of the Nevada State Legislature

The following measure will be considered for action by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources during the work session:

SENATE BILL 486 (STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE)

Makes various changes concerning livestock and other animals.

The bill abolishes the State Board of Sheep Commissioners, transfers its powers to the State Board of Agriculture, and establishes a minimum for the special tax on sheep, as well as abolishing the Nevada Beef Council and the tax to promote beef. It broadens the term "livestock" to "animal" in the animal disease provisions and, in order to allow receipt of reimbursement from Federal agencies, eliminates the indemnity clause when the Department must dispose of an animal. The measure also authorizes a fee for brand inspections and makes various changes relating to quarantines of livestock.

Proposed Amendments

Three amendments were proposed during testimony on Senate Bill 486 as follows:

1. The State Department of Agriculture submitted the first attached amendment designed to retain the current procedure through which the Department is not required to advertise gathers. The rationale for the proposed amendment is explained at the bottom of the proposal.
2. Sherry O'Mahony, representing The Virginia Range Wildlife Protection Association and the Least Resistance Training Concepts, submitted the second set of proposed amendments.
3. The third proposed amendment was submitted by Doug Busselman, Executive Vice President of the Nevada Farm Bureau.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SB 486

12-23 **Sec. 36.** NRS 569.045 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12-24 569.045 1. Before ~~the Director or any other~~ person gathers
12-25 any ~~{stray horses, he shall}~~ *estrays or feral livestock*, he must
12-26 cause notice of the gathering to be published in a newspaper of
12-27 general circulation within the county in which the gathering is
12-28 to

12-29 take place.

12-30 2. The notice must:

12-31 (a) Be published at least once a week for the 4 weeks
12-32 preceding

12-33 the gathering;

12-34 (b) Clearly identify the area in which the gathering is to take
12-35 place and the date and time of the gathering;

12-36 (c) *If feral livestock are to be gathered, include a full
12-37 description of the species of feral livestock to be gathered;*

12-38 (d) Indicate a location where owners or possible owners of the
12-39 ~~{stray horses}~~ *estrays or feral livestock* may go to claim an
12-40 estray

12-41 ~~{horse}~~ *or feral livestock* that was gathered; and

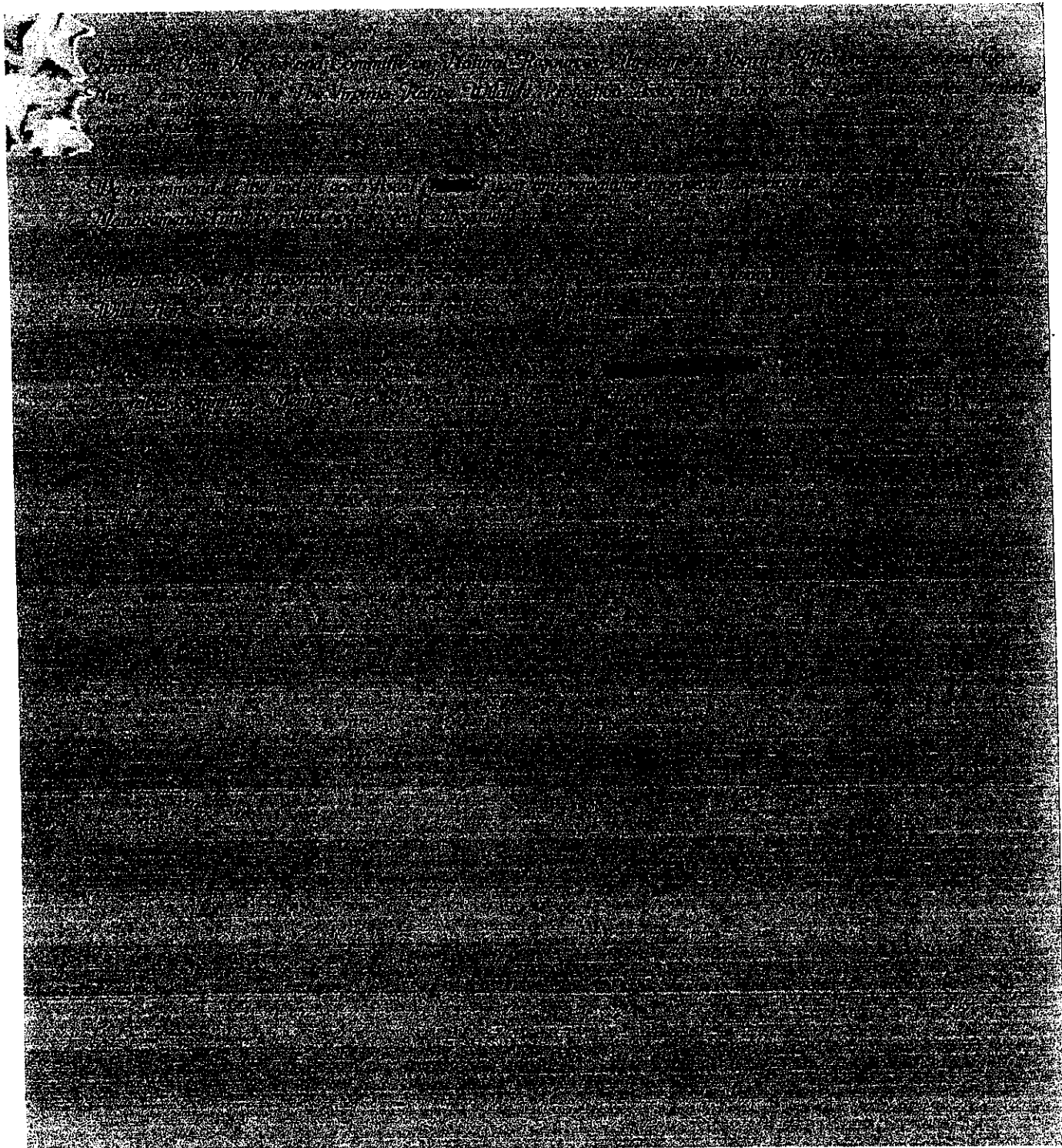
12-42 ~~{(d)}~~ (e) List the name and telephone number of a person who
12-43 may be contacted if an owner or possible owner is interested in
12-44 viewing the ~~{stray horses}~~ *estrays or feral livestock* gathered.

Changes made in GREEN

Rationale: In the past the agency has not been required to advertise any gathers. Typically the agency responds to stray horse problems relating to public safety and emergency health issues in the Virginia Range area within hours. An advertising requirement would require a minimum of 4 weeks to address these issues. At the same time the Division of Wildlife with the approval of the Department of Agriculture has responded to possible disease threats to Bighorn sheep by stray domestic sheep.

Shirley Allen

From: "Shirley Allen" <sallen5954@earthlink.net>
To: "Sherry O'Mahony" <sherryomahony@cs.com>
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2003 1:08 PM
Subject: Testimony



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Nevada Farm Bureau Proposed Amendment To S.B. 486

Rewrite of Section 30.1 – Page 10, lines 9-12

Section 30.1. The Department shall gather all feral livestock when requested by a private land owner or lessee impacted by feral livestock running at large on their property or property under control of a lease. If available funding is not sufficient to meet the Department's management obligations, including gathering of feral livestock when requested, the Department shall sell the feral livestock in a timely manner to meet the obligation costs associated with the gather process.

Delete the proposed Subsection 2 Page 10, lines 13-22

Renumber Subsection 3 to Subsection 2

M R Busselman