

SENATE BILL NO. 537—COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

MARCH 26, 2001

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing personnel of state department of agriculture.  
(BDR 50-1472)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to the state department of agriculture; requiring the director of the department to appoint a person to manage certain activities relating to the department; providing that the person appointed is in the unclassified service of the state and has the powers of a peace officer; prescribing his duties; making an appropriation; 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.** Chapter 561 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a  
2     new section to read as follows:  
3     1. *The director shall appoint a person to manage the activities of the*  
4     *department relating to interagency relations, coordination of law*  
5     *enforcement activities and public relations. The person appointed is in*  
6     *the unclassified service of the state and must be appointed on the basis of*  
7     *merit. To be eligible for appointment to this position, a person must be*  
8     *certified by the peace officers' standards and training commission as a*  
9     *category I peace officer.*  
10    2. *The director may remove the appointed person from office with*  
11    *the approval of the board.*  
12    3. *The person appointed shall:*  
13    (a) *Establish and carry out a program to develop working*  
14    *relationships with and facilitate communication between the department*  
15    *and federal, state and local governmental agencies and entities that are*  
16    *involved with the department or use the services provided by the*  
17    *department.*  
18    (b) *Establish and carry out a program to improve public relations for*  
19    *the department, including, without limitation:*  
20    (1) *Serving as a public relations liaison for the department;*



1       (2) *Providing the members of the general public with information*  
2 *relating to the activities and services of the department; and*

3       (3) *Identifying issues of concern to the general public regarding the*  
4 *provision of services by the department and taking such action as is*  
5 *necessary to mitigate any adverse public perceptions of those services.*

6       (c) *Coordinate all law enforcement activity within the jurisdiction of*  
7 *the department, including, without limitation, criminal investigations and*  
8 *the establishment of related training programs.*

9       (d) *Establish and carry out programs of education and training*  
10 *relating to the identification and inspection of brands.*

11       (e) *Present testimony, conduct research and prepare reports for use by*  
12 *the governor, the legislature, the director, the department and any other*  
13 *person or governmental entity as required by the director, including,*  
14 *without limitation, reports on issues pertaining to the rural areas of*  
15 *Nevada.*

16       (f) *Develop and carry out an emergency management policy for the*  
17 *department.*

18       (g) *Perform such other duties as are required by the director.*

19       **Sec. 2.** NRS 289.290 is hereby amended to read as follows:

20       289.290 1. A person designated by the director of the state  
21 department of agriculture as a field agent or an inspector pursuant to  
22 subsection 2 of NRS 561.225 has the powers of a peace officer to make  
23 investigations and arrests and to execute warrants of search and seizure,  
24 and may temporarily stop the movement of livestock and carcasses for the  
25 purpose of inspection.

26       2. An inspector of the state board of sheep commissioners and his  
27 deputies have the powers of a peace officer.

28       3. An officer appointed by the Nevada junior livestock show board  
29 pursuant to NRS 563.120 has the powers of a peace officer for the  
30 preservation of order and peace on the grounds and in the buildings and the  
31 approaches thereto of the livestock shows and exhibitions that the board  
32 conducts.

33       4. In carrying out the provisions of chapter 565 of NRS, an inspector  
34 of the state department of agriculture has the powers of a peace officer to  
35 make investigations and arrests and to execute warrants of search and  
36 seizure. The provisions of this subsection do not authorize any inspector to  
37 retire under the public employees' retirement system before having  
38 attained the minimum service age of 60 years.

39       **5. *In carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this act, the person***  
40 ***appointed pursuant to that section has the powers of a peace officer.***

41       **Sec. 3.** The person appointed pursuant to section 1 of this act is  
42 entitled to receive a salary of not more than \$65,000 per fiscal year for the  
43 fiscal years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003.

44       **Sec. 4.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the state general fund  
45 to the state department of agriculture for the costs to carry out the  
46 provisions of this act:

47       For the fiscal year 2001-2002..... \$98,000

48       For the fiscal year 2002-2003..... \$86,000



\* S B 5 3 7 \*

- 1     2. Any balance of the sums appropriated by subsection 1 remaining at  
2 the end of the respective fiscal years must not be committed for  
3 expenditure after June 30 of the respective fiscal years and reverts to the  
4 state general fund as soon as all payments of money committed have been  
5 made.  
6     **Sec. 5.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2001.

