

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Seventy-third Session
April 18, 2005**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources was called to order by Chair Dean A. Rhoads at 2:07 p.m. on Monday, April 18, 2005, in Room 2144 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file at the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike McGinness, Vice Chair
Senator Mark E. Amodei
Senator Bob Beers
Senator Bob Coffin
Senator Maggie Carlton

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Michael A. Schneider (Excused)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Linda Eissmann, Committee Policy Analyst
Patricia Vardakis, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dee Dee Petrilena
Robert Buonamici, Chief Game Warden, Department of Wildlife
Kaitlin Backlund, Nevada Conservation League
Dan Musgrove, Clark County

Chair Rhoads opened the hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 112.

[ASSEMBLY BILL 112 \(1st Reprint\)](#): Requires certain vessels to carry on board certain safety devices. (BDR 43-770)

Senator Amodei said the bill would require vessels over 26 feet in length to have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life preserver with at least 30 feet of throwing line attached for use in emergencies. He said the requirements of the bill would be easy to comply with and many people operating on Lake Mead are already in compliance.

Dee Dee Petrilena spoke from a prepared statement ([Exhibit C](#)) in support of A.B. 112.

Robert Buonamici, Chief Game Warden, Department of Wildlife, spoke in support of A.B. 112. He said the bill was being used as model legislation across the United States. He said if a rope were attached to the throwing ring, it would allow multiple chances to save someone's life instead of a single chance if no rope were required. He said the bill was easy to understand for the public and a great preventative tool. Chair Rhoads asked if the requirement for a flotation device was already in existing law. Mr. Buonamici said the one flotation device is required, but the bill addresses the Type IV throwable device that is specific to man-overboard situations. He said if a life jacket was thrown overboard and caught by the wind, it would just float away.

Chair Rhoads asked for a definition of a vessel versus a boat. Mr. Buonamici said a vessel was any mode of transportation across the water, including jet skis or similar devices. He said a boat is a vessel designed to carry multiple people and has a certain configuration. He said vessels would include boats as well. Chair Rhoads asked what the amendment from the Assembly would do to the bill. Senator Amodei said the amendment would ensure that the larger vessels such as houseboats would have adequate safety measures available. He said if there were better language, in the context of houseboats, regarding the issue of where the safety devices would be located, he was open to hearing them.

Chair Rhoads asked if houseboats needed to be inspected once per year for safety. Mr. Buonamici said the larger boats such as the M.S. Dixie required U.S. Coast Guard licensing and inspection. He said the houseboats are typically operated by renters and U.S. Coast Guard licensing was not required of the operator. Senator Coffin said people who rent the houseboats should perhaps be required to have a safety course before being able to rent one. Senator Amodei said some language could be added to require the renter to know the location and purpose of the safety devices. Senator Coffin agreed with the proposed

language and said the renter needed to know what to do in an emergency. Chair Rhoads said safety training made sense and asked if Senator Amodei was going to add new language to the bill. Senator Amodei said he would work to add more specific language regarding the location of the required devices and safety courses. Senator Beers proposed new language to clarify the locations of the throwing rings as houseboats tended to maximize floor space and access to the port or starboard sides was not often available. Senator Amodei agreed that language clarification would be needed. Senator Coffin asked if warnings were provided for people not to dive or swim from an unanchored vessel. Mr. Buonamici said his organization did not provide such warnings. Senator Amodei said he would try to clarify the language and bring the bill back to the Committee.

Kaitlin Backlund, Nevada Conservation League, spoke in support of A.B. 112.

Chair Rhoads closed the hearing on A.B. 112 and opened the hearing on A.B. 159.

ASSEMBLY BILL 159 (1st Reprint): Revises number of members who may be appointed to county advisory board to manage wildlife in larger counties. (BDR 45-333)

Dan Musgrove, Clark County, spoke in support of A.B. 159 and said it addresses local advisory boards to manage wildlife. He said because the wildlife advisory board is very popular in Clark County and because the county is so populous, he would like the number of members increased from five to seven. Senator Beers asked if the members of the advisory board were paid. Mr. Musgrove said he did not believe the members were paid and there was no fiscal note to the bill.

Chair Rhoads closed the hearing on A.B. 159.

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Chair Rhoads adjourned the meeting of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources at 2:35 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Jonathan Sherwood,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Chair

DATE: _____