

**MINUTES OF THE
JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY/NATURAL
RESOURCES/TRANSPORTATION
OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
AND THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**Seventy-fourth Session
May 3, 2007**

The Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety/Natural Resources/Transportation of the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means was called to order at 8:13 a.m. on Thursday, May 3, 2007. Chair David R. Parks presided in Room 2134 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 in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Chair
Senator Bob Beers
Senator Dina Titus

ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman David R. Parks, Chair
Assemblyman Tom Grady
Assemblyman Joseph Hogan
Assemblywoman Ellen Koivisto
Assemblywoman Kathy McClain
Assemblywoman Valerie E. Weber

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steven J. Abba, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Jeffrey A. Ferguson, Program Analyst
Robin Hager, Program Analyst
Mark Krmpotic, Senior Program Analyst
Larry L. Peri, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Sandra K. Small, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

P. K. O'Neill, Chief, Records and Technology Division, Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History, Department of Public Safety
Colonel Chris Perry, Chief, Nevada Highway Patrol, Department of Public Safety

CHAIR PARKS:

The Subcommittee has a preliminary matter to hear.

SENATOR RHOADS MOVED TO OPEN FOR RECONSIDERATION THE CLOSING RECOMMENDATION OF TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2007, FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE'S BUDGET ACCOUNT 101-4452, DECISION UNIT E-350.

SENATOR BEERS SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

INFRASTRUCTURE

WILDLIFE

Wildlife - Administration – Budget Page WILDLIFE-1 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4452

E-350 Environmental Policies and Programs – Page WILDLIFE-6

CHAIR PARKS:

This budget account was closed by both Houses; the Assembly does not wish to reconsider its action. This motion applies to the Senate only.

CHAIR RHOADS:

The Governor's reduction to decision unit E-350 delayed the hiring of a new wildlife biologist IV recommended for fiscal year (FY) 2007-2008 until FY 2008-2009 and reduced the Department's Base Budget General Funds and federal funds. General Funds were reduced \$180,624, and federal funds were reduced \$428,512, for a total reduction of \$609,136.

SENATOR RHOADS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE TO RESTORE TO THE BASE BUDGET \$123,944 OF GENERAL FUNDS AND \$371,832 OF FEDERAL FUNDS; TO RESTORE DECISION UNIT E-350 TO THE ORIGINAL GOVERNOR RECOMMENDATION OF \$56,680 IN GENERAL FUNDS AND \$56,680 IN FEDERAL FUNDS, THEREBY RESTORING THE WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATION BUDGET ACCOUNT 101-4452 TO THE ORIGINAL GOVERNOR-RECOMMENDED AMOUNTS FOR THE 2007-2009 BIENNIUM.

SENATOR BEERS SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

CHAIR PARKS:

The Subcommittee has received a copy of Closing List #7 ([Exhibit C](#)). Budget Account (B/A) 101-4690, Salvage Wreckers/Body Shops, was scheduled for today's meeting. There are several issues to be resolved; the budget will be held for hearing at a later date. The hearing will begin with B/A 101-4722.

PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTOR VEHICLES

DMV - Motor Vehicle Pollution Control – Budget Page DMV-61 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4722

ROBIN HAGER (Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau):

The closing items for B/A 101-4722, Motor Vehicle Pollution Control, are on pages 5 through 7 of [Exhibit C](#). There are two major issues in this account. The Governor has recommended the transfer of four emission staff from the Research and Development account. These positions were previously funded by a cost allocation from Pollution Control. The Department states the staff would be better if supported from within its primary budget account. During the closing of the Director's Office budget, one training officer position was transferred to the Pollution Control account. Staff has made technical adjustments to decision unit E-903 to reduce replacement computer hardware and software costs in FY 2007-2008. A technical adjustment was also made in decision unit E-501 to adjust the funding from Highway Funds to the reserve.

E-903 Transfer Replacement Equipment from B/A 4742 – Page DMV-70
E-501 Adjustments-Transfers In – Page DMV-67

SENATOR RHOADS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF THE POSITION TRANSFERS AND TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN WEBER SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

MS. HAGER:

The second major issue is offsite locations for staff. The Governor has recommended the addition of 17 new positions in the Compliance Enforcement Division and an additional 4 positions in the Real ID budget. If the additional positions are approved, two offsite locations will be needed to house staff for the Compliance Enforcement Division and Pollution Control. Twelve positions would be relocated to the offsite location in Las Vegas; eight positions would be relocated in Reno. If the recommended positions in the Compliance Enforcement Division are reduced, a reduction to this decision unit would occur. Staff requests approval to make adjustments based upon the closing of the Compliance Enforcement Division and the Real ID budgets. Does the Subcommittee want to recommend the use of reserve funds for offsite locations for Pollution Control staff?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN:

When will the decision be made on these positions?

Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety/Natural Resources/Transportation
Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
May 3, 2007
Page 4

Ms. HAGER:
That meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2007.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN:
Could the Subcommittee hold this budget until May 11?

Ms. HAGER:
The Subcommittee could wait; if this budget is closed now, staff will make any necessary adjustments to this budget after the May 11 meeting.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN:
If none of the positions are approved, no adjustments will be necessary.

Ms. HAGER:
That is correct.

CHAIR PARKS:
Is space being relinquished?

Ms. HAGER:
There is not enough space in the Reno or Las Vegas facilities to handle additional staff.

CHAIR PARKS:
Is the current space being retained?

Ms. HAGER:
Yes, it is. The Department is not giving up any space.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF THE OFFSITE LOCATIONS REQUESTED IN B/A 101-4722 AND TO GIVE STAFF AUTHORITY TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS BASED UPON THE CLOSING OF THE COMPLIANCE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION AND REAL ID BUDGETS.

SENATOR RHOADS SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

Ms. HAGER:
In decision unit M-800, the *Executive Budget* recommends \$59,255 in FY 2007-2008 and \$68,700 in FY 2008-2009 from the reserves to cover costs associated with the in-house Emissions Vehicle Information Database program. The initial deployment of this program is scheduled for May 2007. It will take three months to move all 400 stations onto the new system. Staff recommends approval.

Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety/Natural Resources/Transportation
Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
May 3, 2007
Page 5

M-800 Cost Allocation – Page DMV-63

The Governor recommends reserve funds over the 2007-2009 biennium in decision unit E-350 to fund equipment for the State Department of Agriculture's Gas Pollution Standards. Staff requests authority to make adjustments based on the approval of the Department of Agriculture's Gas Pollution Standards account.

E-350 Environmental Policies and Programs – Page DMV-66

The Executive Budget recommends funds over the 2007-2009 biennium to replace computer hardware and software. Staff requests approval to make adjustments to eliminate the funding of duplicate monitors and computer software and reduce the funding for new.

Staff requests approval to make technical adjustments for the revised computer hardware and software pricing from the Purchasing Division. Staff requests authority to make adjustments to this budget based on the budget closings of the Compliance Enforcement, Agriculture, Weights and Measures, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Environmental Commission, Management Services and Highway Patrol accounts. Additionally, staff seeks approval to make necessary adjustments from the Pollution Control account if the Subcommittee determines to earmark funding for budgets other than the ones noted here.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN:

Is this a new computer program for emissions?

Ms. HAGER:

Funding was received from the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) in June 2006 to start this emissions program.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF THE REMAINING ITEMS IN B/A 101-4722 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND DISCUSSED BY STAFF; TO GIVE STAFF AUTHORITY TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS BASED UPON THE CLOSINGS OF OTHER BUDGETS AFFECTING B/A 101-4722; AND TO GIVE STAFF AUTHORITY TO MAKE THE RECOMMENDED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN KOIVISTO SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

CHAIR PARKS:

That action closes B/A 101-4722. The Subcommittee will hear B/A 201-4707.

PUBLIC SAFETY

DPS - Office of Prof Responsibility – Budget Page PUBLIC SAFETY-16
(Volume III)
Budget Account 201-4707

Ms. HAGER:

The closing items for B/A 201-4707 are on pages 8 through 10 of [Exhibit C](#). There is one major closing issue. The Governor recommends \$129,978 in FY 2007-2008 and \$129,732 in FY 2008-2009 for the addition of one Department of Public Safety (DPS) sergeant to assist with the increasing internal investigation workload in the southern part of the State. The position would be located in Las Vegas. The Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) is currently based in Carson City. Fewer interviews are held in Las Vegas than in northern Nevada because there is no efficient way to conduct interviews in Las Vegas and no personnel located in the area. The *Executive Budget* recommends overtime and in-state travel expenses in this budget. Based upon the information provided by the Department, it appears the new position would be able to relieve the investigators in Carson City and reduce the travel necessary to address some of the issues in southern Nevada. If the Subcommittee wishes to approve this position, it may also wish to consider eliminating overtime costs of \$2,757 in each year of the biennium and reducing the in-state travel by \$1,720.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF THE NEW DPS SERGEANT POSITION REQUESTED IN B/A 201-4707 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND TO REDUCE OVERTIME AND IN-STATE TRAVEL AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN KOIVISTO SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

* * * * *

Ms. HAGER:

There are two other items staff would like to discuss. Additional funding of \$3,610 in each year of the biennium is requested for training the OPR officers. This recommendation appears reasonable. In decision unit E-714, the *Executive Budget* recommends funding to replace computer hardware and software. Staff has made a technical adjustment and requests authority to make further adjustments for revised computer hardware and software pricing from State Purchasing.

E-714 Replacement Equipment– Page PUBLIC SAFETY-20

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF B/A 201-4707 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE

GOVERNOR; AND TO GIVE STAFF AUTHORITY TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS FOR COMPUTER AND SOFTWARE PURCHASES.

ASSEMBLYMAN GRADY SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

CHAIR PARKS:

We have closed B/A 201-4707 and will now hear B/A 101-4703.

DPS - Forfeitures - Law Enforcement – Budget Page PUBLIC SAFETY-93
(Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4703

MS. HAGER:

The closing items for B/A 101-4703, Forfeitures-Law Enforcement, are on page 11 of [Exhibit C](#). There are no major closing issues in this account. Staff recommends this account be closed as recommended by the Governor with technical adjustments. Technical adjustments for the Statewide Cost Allocation Plan have been made based upon recommendations by the Budget Division.

ASSEMBLYMAN HOGAN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF B/A 101-4703 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR; WITH TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS BY STAFF.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

CHAIR PARKS:

The Subcommittee will hear B/A 101-4710.

DPS - Child Volunteer Background Checks Trust Acct – Budget Page PUBLIC SAFETY-67 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4710

MARK KRMPOTIC (Senior Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau):

The closing items for B/A 101-4710 are on page 12 of [Exhibit C](#). This account provides background checks on volunteers who work with children under the age of 16 years. The Governor recommends the continuation of General Fund appropriations of \$25,000 in each year of the biennium. The Department reports background checks qualifying for reimbursement from this account total approximately \$27,000 through March of FY 2006-2007. There is not enough

history in this account to support a change in the \$25,000 appropriation. Staff recommends approval of this budget and continuing the language included in the Appropriations Act to allow the Department the ability to transfer the appropriation between fiscal years.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN WEBER:

Senate Bill (S.B.) 389 refers to the issue of organizations that work with children and would be given refunds for background checks.

[SENATE BILL 389 \(1st Reprint\)](#): Makes various changes to provisions relating to public safety. (BDR 14-1348)

MR. KRMPOTIC:

I have not looked at S.B. 389 in reference to this budget account. The bill limits the individuals who would be eligible for a free background check from the Criminal History Repository.

P. K. O'NEILL (Chief, Records and Technology Division, Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History, Department of Public Safety):

Senate Bill 389 addresses the confusion regarding nonprofit organizations receiving a free background check. This budget only deals with those agencies dealing with children under the age of sixteen. The nonprofit impact is costing the Division about \$170,000 for FY 2006-2007. The intent is to deal with volunteer agencies.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN WEBER:

What is the difference between the two accounts?

MR. KRMPOTIC:

Budget account 101-4710 provides background checks only for volunteers working with children under the age of sixteen. The Criminal History Repository provides background checks on all individuals, such as requests for occupational licenses. This account reimburses the Criminal History Repository for background checks of individuals working with children under the age of sixteen.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF B/A 101-4710 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

ASSEMBLYMAN GRADY SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

CHAIR PARKS:

The Subcommittee will hear B/A 101-4738.

Budget Account 101-4738

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The closing items for B/A 101-4738 are on pages 13 through 15 of [Exhibit C](#). This account provides staff for direct protection of the Governor and First Lady. The account also provides a transfer to the Capitol Police account to pay the salary expenses for security at the Governor's Mansion. The *Executive Budget* has been amended to increase General Funds by \$79,219 in FY 2007-2008 and \$7,547 in FY 2008-2009 for training expenses, replacement equipment and new equipment. Staff does not have issues with the Executive Protection Course provided to new officers assigned to this detail. Staff recommends a reduction for the replacement of a Yukon XL from \$51,500 to \$39,818 in FY 2007-2008. Other replacement equipment includes computers, printers, a mobile radio and miscellaneous equipment for the new vehicle. Staff recommends the use of personal printers at a reduced cost rather than the network printers included in the budget. New equipment includes tasers, ballistic blankets, lightweight body armor, satellite phones and one chair. Staff does not have issues with this proposal.

SENATOR RHOADS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF THE ADDITIONAL TRAINING EXPENSE; TO REPLACE EQUIPMENT WITH ADJUSTMENTS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF, AND TO PURCHASE NEW EQUIPMENT IN B/A 101-4738 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

ASSEMBLYMAN GRADY SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN:

Why are ballistic blankets, tasers and body armor needed? Why is the executive training needed?

COLONEL CHRIS PERRY (Chief, Nevada Highway Patrol, Department of Public Safety):

The ballistic blankets are utilized for a protectee; specifically in vehicles the blanket is thrown over the protectee if there is external aggression. The blankets are designed to block bullets and also knock down projectiles. This is something we have not had in the past.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN:

I understand what they are. I do not think they are necessary.

COLONEL PERRY:

It is our responsibility to make sure the person is safe. It is another safety tool.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN:

How were former Governors protected?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN KOIVISTO:

Is there any indication this Governor is a target of some group?

Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety/Natural Resources/Transportation
Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
May 3, 2007
Page 10

COLONEL PERRY:

At this time, there is no credible information the Governor is a target. However, that can change at any time. We get updates on threat assessments weekly. We had one report last week regarding an individual who made a direct threat to the Governor.

CHAIR PARKS:

Would you provide more information on the Yukon XL? Will the old vehicle be traded in?

COLONEL PERRY:

This is a replacement vehicle request. The actual cost is less than what was originally requested. The replaced vehicle will go to the Purchasing Division for disposal.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN KOIVISTO:

Is this an armored vehicle?

COLONEL PERRY:

The vehicle is not armored; it is the typical vehicle one purchases off the lot.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN:

When the Governor requested budget reductions, was there a reduction in this budget?

MR. KRMPOTIC:

There were no recommendations for reductions in this budget. There was no replacement equipment recommended in the original budget.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION FAILED. (ASSEMBLYMEN HOGAN, McCLAIN AND KOIVISTO VOTED NO. ASSEMBLYWOMAN WEBER WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR TITUS VOTED NO.)

* * * * *

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE NOT TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL TRAINING EXPENSE, REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT, AND NEW EQUIPMENT IN B/A 101-4738 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN KOIVISTO SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYMAN GRADY VOTED NO.)

* * * * *

SENATOR TITUS:

The Governor and First Lady need to be protected. Many budgets have been reduced, yet this budget has an addition for a car and new items. I do not

believe the extra things are needed. At a time when we are looking for ways to save money, this request seems excessive.

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The Legislature approved two sworn DPS officer positions during the 2005 Session with the intention of decreasing overtime. During FY 2005-2006, overtime increased over the budgeted level by approximately \$20,000. Overtime is anticipated to increase during the upcoming biennium. All positions were not filled during FY 2005-2006 which generated overtime. Currently all five positions are filled and overtime continues to increase due to the activity levels of the Governor and First Lady. Staff is not recommending a decrease in overtime.

CHAIR PARKS:

We are headed into a Presidential election and will see many Presidential candidates in Nevada. How will that activity impact this budget?

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The staff in this budget provides security for the Governor and First Lady. The Highway Patrol officers protect visiting dignitaries.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF OVERTIME IN B/A 101-4738 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

SENATOR RHOADS SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The *Executive Budget* proposes a transfer of General Funds from the Highway Patrol account to the Dignitary Protection account to consolidate dignitary protection in one account. The Highway Patrol account continues to provide visiting dignitary protection coverage. Staff does not recommend approval of this transfer.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE TO NOT APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF GENERAL FUNDS FROM THE HIGHWAY PATROL TO THE DIGNITARY PROTECTION ACCOUNT, B/A 101-4738, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN KOIVISTO SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

MR. KRMPOTIC:

Staff requests approval to adjust the Base Budget related to onetime expenses incurred in FY 2005-2006 and to correctly reflect the transfer from the Capitol Police budget necessary to fund the cost of security for the Governor's Mansion. Staff seeks authority to make changes to the Department's indirect and technology cost allocations based on final approval of those budgets.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE TO ALLOW FISCAL STAFF TO ADJUST B/A 101-4738 IN THE BASE BUDGET FOR ONETIME EXPENSES; TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE TRANSFER FROM THE CAPITOL POLICE BUDGET FOR THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION SECURITY; AND TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE DEPARTMENT'S INDIRECT AND TECHNOLOGY COST ALLOCATIONS BASED ON FINAL APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT'S BUDGETS.

SENATOR RHOADS SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

CHAIR PARKS:

The Subcommittee will close the hearing on B/A 101-4738 and open the hearing on B/A 201-4721.

DPS - Highway Safety Grants Account – Budget Page PUBLIC SAFETY-86
(Volume III)
Budget Account 201-4721

MR. KRMPOTIC:

The closing items for B/A 201-4721, Highway Safety Grants Account, are on pages 16 and 17 of [Exhibit C](#). This account is federally funded representing the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance program operated by the Highway Patrol. There are no major closing issues for this account. Funding is provided in this account for laptop computers and for four new officer positions assigned to commercial enforcement duties. Staff requests approval to make changes to decision unit E-425 subject to the approval of these new positions.

E-425 Enable, Motivate & Reward Self Sufficiency – Page PUBLIC SAFETY-89

In decision unit E-710, the Governor recommends replacement equipment. Staff recommends approval of this decision unit as adjusted by staff for revised quantities.

E-710 Replacement Equipment – Page PUBLIC SAFETY-89

Staff recommends approval of decision units E-711 and E-720 without adjustments. Staff requests authority to make changes to the amounts in

Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety/Natural Resources/Transportation
Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
May 3, 2007
Page 13

decision units M-801 and E-801 based upon the final approval of the Department's indirect cost allocations.

E-711 Replacement Equipment – Page PUBLIC SAFETY-89
E-720 New Equipment – Page PUBLIC SAFETY-90
M-801 Cost Allocation – Page PUBLIC SAFETY-88
E-801 Cost Allocation – Page PUBLIC SAFETY-90

SENATOR RHOADS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE TO APPROVE DECISION UNITS E-425, E-710, E-711, E-720, M-801 AND E-801; TO ALLOW FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS IN B/A 201-4721 BASED ON REVISED INFORMATION IN DECISION UNITS E-425 AND E-710; AND TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE DEPARTMENT'S INDIRECT AND TECHNOLOGY COST ALLOCATIONS BASED ON FINAL APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT'S BUDGETS.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

CHAIR PARKS:

The Subcommittee will close B/A 201-4721 and move to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, B/A 101-4195.

INFRASTRUCTURE

CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DCNR - Forestry – Budget Page DCNR-148 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4195

JEFFREY A. FERGUSON (Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau):

The closing items for B/A 101-4195, Forestry, are on pages 18 through 21 of [Exhibit C](#). The Subcommittee previously closed portions of this budget. The Governor recommends elimination of a position and seasonal salary costs in decision unit E-600. General Funds would be reduced by \$136,097 in FY 2007-2008 and \$139,026 in FY 2008-2009. In decision unit E-605, the Governor recommends General Funds of \$165,340 over the biennium to reestablish the seasonal salary costs eliminated in decision unit E-600. This appears reasonable to staff.

E-600 Budget Reductions – Page DCNR-154
E-605 Budget Reductions – Page DCNR-155

SENATOR RHOADS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF DECISION UNITS E-600 AND E-605 IN B/A 101-4195 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

ASSEMBLYMAN GRADY SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

MR. FERGUSON:

The Governor recommends funds of \$304,625 in FY 2007-2008 for deferred maintenance projects for the Sierra Front Dispatch Center, Kyle Canyon Fire Station and the Southern Region Headquarters. The Subcommittee has previously recommended decision modules M-750 be moved to a separate bill. Does the Subcommittee wish to include this decision unit in a bill, reduced by \$40,500, or at the original Governor's recommended amount?

M-750 Building Construction Outside Cap – Page DCNR-154

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN:

When the Subcommittee moved the other M-750s to a bill, did we use the original Governor's recommended budget amount to discuss the funding in the bill?

MR. FERGUSON:

Yes, the original Governor's recommended amount was used.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE TO MOVE DECISION UNIT M-750 AS ORIGINALLY RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR FROM B/A 101-4195 TO A BILL.

SENATOR RHOADS SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

MR. FERGUSON:

The Department has a fixed-wing aircraft which is no longer needed and intends to sell it through the Purchasing Division. The sale should generate \$300,000 and should take place by the end of this fiscal year. The sale receipts will go to the General Fund. Staff requests authority to make technical adjustments to this budget and to remove applicable costs related to the aircraft, including insurance, in response to the potential sale before the end of the 2007 Legislative Session. Staff has made technical adjustments based on fringe benefits and cost-of-living allowance calculations.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF STAFF RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS IN B/A 101-4195 BASED ON THE SALE OF THE FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT; AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS TO FRINGE BENEFITS,

COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE AND POTENTIAL CHANGES IN ASSESSMENTS.

SENATOR RHOADS SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

CHAIR PARKS:

The Subcommittee will close B/A 101-4195 and open the hearing on B/A 101-4196.

DCNR - Forest Fire Suppression – Budget Page DCNR-161 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4196

MR. FERGUSON:

The closing items for B/A 101-4196, Forest Fire Suppression, are on pages 22 and 23 of [Exhibit C](#). The Governor recommends increasing the General Fund support of this budget by \$1.5 million annually. The *Executive Budget* erroneously states the increase is \$500,000 each year. This budget currently receives a General Fund appropriation of \$1 million in each fiscal year to pay the cost of forest-fire-suppression activities. The \$1 million appropriation each year has been insufficient to cover fire suppression costs during the past few years. As a result, the Division has had to rely on allocations from the IFC Contingency Fund to pay fire-suppression costs. In some recent years, the IFC Contingency Fund did not have the funds to accommodate the needs of this budget.

In FY 2005-2006 and FY 2006-2007, the Division had to request funds from the Disaster Relief Account to pay fire-suppression costs. The Governor's recommendation to increase funding by \$1.5 million in each year of the biennium has merit. The Division will continue to bear the cost of fire-suppression activities in the State regardless of the funding source. This recommendation would provide State funding up front, thereby preserving the balance in the IFC Contingency Fund to be used for other unforeseen funding shortfalls during the 2007-2009 biennium.

SENATOR RHOADS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO INCREASE B/A 101-4196 BY \$1.5 MILLION FOR FIRE-SUPPRESSION COSTS.

SENATOR BEERS SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN:

Is this budget increasing from \$1 million to \$2.5 million?

Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety/Natural Resources/Transportation
Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
May 3, 2007
Page 16

MR. FERGUSON:

Yes, it is. These costs must be paid regardless of where the funds come from. This recommendation will preserve the integrity of the IFC Contingency Fund. The Division will probably still need to approach the IFC for additional funds.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN:

If the Division does not need all of the funds for fire suppression, will the remaining funds revert to the General Fund?

MR. FERGUSON:

Yes, the funds revert to the General Fund.

SENATOR TITUS:

How does the Fire Council relate to this budget?

MR. FERGUSON:

The Fire Council is separate from the Division. There is a bill to provide some State funding for the Fire Council. The Fire Council does not duplicate the Division's fire-suppression efforts.

SENATOR TITUS:

Is the Fire Council active in preventing fires?

MR. FERGUSON:

That is correct.

SENATOR BEERS:

The Sierras are at half of the normal snowpack. It will be a big fire year. With the addition of the \$1.5 million, we have not avoided seeing the Division return to the IFC.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

MR. FERGUSON:

Staff has made some technical adjustments to correct budget errors. These adjustments are reflected in [Exhibit C](#).

SENATOR RHOADS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF IN B/A 101-4196.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety/Natural Resources/Transportation
Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
May 3, 2007
Page 17

CHAIR PARKS:

The Subcommittee will close B/A 101-4196 and open the hearing on B/A 101-4227.

DCNR - Forestry Inter-Governmental Agreements – Budget Page DCNR-173
(Volume III)

Budget Account 101-4227

MR. FERGUSON:

The closing items for B/A 101-4227, Inter-Governmental Agreements, are on pages 24 and 25 of [Exhibit C](#). The issue in this budget, moving two fire management officer positions, was covered in the closing of the Administration budget. Staff will make the change in this budget to reflect the Subcommittee's desire to close the Administration budget.

SENATOR RHOADS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF B/A 101-4227 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN WEBER SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

CHAIR PARKS:

The Subcommittee closes B/A 101-4227 and will hear B/A 257-4235.

DCNR - Forestry Nurseries – Budget Page DCNR-179 (Volume III)
Budget Account 257-4235

MR. FERGUSON:

The closing items for B/A 257-4235, Forestry Nurseries, are on pages 25 and 26 of [Exhibit C](#). There are no major closing issues in this budget. In decision unit E-350, the Governor recommends continuing price adjustments for plant materials sold by the Division's nurseries. The procedure will fund the General Fund payback for the Las Vegas Nursery Capital Improvement Project approved by the 2005 Legislature and the Division's three seasonal positions currently funded with a federal grant. The revenues are included in this enhancement module because, although they are now in effect, they were not included in the base year. This recommendation appears reasonable to staff. Staff seeks authority to create a separate expenditure category to house the General Fund payback transfers to simplify tracking these funds.

E-350 Environmental Policies and Programs – Page DCNR-181

In decision unit E-710, the Governor requests reserve reductions of \$3,728 over the biennium to replace two desktop personal computers and software in accordance with the standard replacement schedule.

E-710 Replacement Equipment – Page DCNR-181

SENATOR RHOADS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF B/A 257-4235 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH AUTHORITY FOR STAFF TO CREATE A SEPARATE EXPENDITURE CATEGORY TO HOUSE PAYBACK TRANSFERS AND MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN McCLAIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

CHAIR PARKS:
Since there is no more business to come before this Subcommittee, the meeting is adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Sandra K. Small,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Chair

DATE: _____

Assemblyman David R. Parks, Chair

DATE: _____