

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Seventy-Fifth Session
May 19, 2009

The Committee on Ways and Means was called to order by Chair Morse Arberry Jr. at 9:20 a.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, in Room 3137 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/75th2009/committees/. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (email: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775-684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Morse Arberry Jr., Chair
Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, Vice Chair
Assemblywoman Barbara E. Buckley
Assemblyman Marcus Conklin
Assemblyman Mo Denis
Assemblywoman Heidi S. Gansert
Assemblyman Pete Goicoechea
Assemblyman Tom Grady
Assemblyman Joseph (Joe) P. Hardy
Assemblyman Joseph M. Hogan
Assemblywoman Ellen Koivisto
Assemblywoman Kathy McClain
Assemblyman John Ocegüera
Assemblywoman Debbie Smith

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Valerie Wiener, Clark County Senatorial District No. 3

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Stevens, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Janice Wright, Committee Secretary
Vickie Kieffer, Committee Assistant

Chair Arberry opened the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 7 (1st Reprint).

Senate Bill 7 (1st Reprint): Makes various changes to the Advisory Council on the State Program for Fitness and Wellness. (BDR 40-23)

Senator Valerie Wiener, Clark County Senatorial District No. 3, explained Senate Bill (S.B.) 7 (1st Reprint) made changes to the State Program for Fitness and Wellness and the Advisory Council on the State Program for Fitness and Wellness. The measure was approved by the Senate Committee on Health and Education, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services. Senate Bill 7 (R1) was now before the Assembly

Committee on Ways and Means because of a fiscal note of \$100,000. Senator Wiener presented proposed amendment 4990 for S.B. 7 (R1) as [Exhibit C](#) to remove the cost from the bill, so there would be no funding contained in S.B. 7 (R1). However, there were several policy considerations that were important to the program as the Legislature continued to work on establishing fitness and wellness policies and programs to serve as a clearing house of for-profit and non-profit agencies, associations, and organizations in this state. Senator Wiener would appreciate the Committee approving S.B. 7 (R1) by moving the policy piece forward and removing the fiscal cost from the bill.

Chair Arberry asked whether the Committee had received the amendment. Senator Wiener said the legal counsel drafted amendment 4990, and she agreed to provide a copy of the amendment to the Committee. She explained that the amendment removed any cost associated with implementing the bill. She said she originally wanted to transfer the appropriation from the 2007-2009 biennium forward to the 2009-2011 biennium, but decided it would be best to remove the funding entirely in section 5 of S.B. 7 (R1).

Maria Canfield, M.S., Chief, Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness, Health Division, testified the Health Division managed the Advisory Council on the State Program for Fitness and Wellness. The Council was vital to the state's ability to secure federal health and wellness funding. She said it was not uncommon for federal grants to require a state requesting a grant to have a wellness program in place. The fact that this Council was established in statute and was an active functioning board would demonstrate to the federal government that Nevada was serious about fitness and wellness. She said quite simply, it made Nevada more competitive for federal funding.

Chair Arberry asked for any further testimony on S.B. 7 (R1), but hearing none, declared the hearing on S.B. 7 (R1) closed and opened the hearing on Senate Bill 146 (1st Reprint).

Senate Bill 146 (1st Reprint): Provides funding to the Department of Wildlife for certain projects. (BDR S-652)

David Pulliam, Administrator, Habitat Division, Department of Wildlife, testified the Department of Wildlife supported the creation of a coordinator position and program to:

1. Protect and restore sagebrush habitats.
2. Restore areas damaged by wildfires.
3. Prevent wildfires.
4. Reduce cheatgrass.

Mr. Pulliam explained the Department had been working to establish the program for the restoration of Nevada rangelands and habitats. A director's council of federal and state agencies unanimously supported the program at a two-day workshop. The Department identified that the coordinator position would be critical to the success of the program and supported Senate Bill (S.B.) 146 (1st Reprint).

Chair Arberry wondered about the provision in section 1 of S.B. 146 (R1), which addressed the funding of \$225,000. Because the Committee was being asked to allocate funding to the Department of Wildlife, Chair Arberry asked what the source of that funding was.

Mr. Pulliam responded that the funding source was from Question 1 bonds for the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) approved by the voters at the General Election held on November 5, 2002. Some of that funding would be transferred to the Department of Wildlife for the 2009-2011 biennium to implement this program.

Chair Arberry mentioned that the coordinator position seemed expensive because \$225,000 was a large salary. Mr. Pulliam said the \$225,000 was to pay for the position for two years of the 2009-2011 biennium and also pay for related costs to implement the program. The position would cost about \$100,000 per year and included salary, benefits, and the start-up funds to pay for a computer and necessary equipment.

Assemblyman Goicoechea said the funding source was Question 1 bond funds and was part of the original \$27.5 million approved by the voters. Mr. Pulliam agreed the funds were Question 1 bond monies but noted they were part of the allocation authorized for the DCNR. He noted the Department of Wildlife was already expending a significant amount of its \$27.5 million allocation on rangeland restoration. This was additional money from Question 1 funds that would be transferred to the Department to support this coordinator position.

Chair Arberry asked that a representative of the DCNR meet with the Fiscal Analysis Division staff to provide the details of the funding. Mr. Pulliam said there had been meetings with the Department of Wildlife and the DCNR, and the testimony provided previously was in full support of the project.

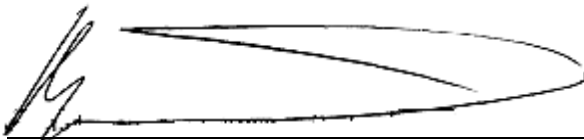
Chair Arberry asked for any further testimony on S.B. 146 (R1), but hearing none, declared the hearing on S.B. 146 (R1) closed.

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, Chair Arberry adjourned the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Janice Wright
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:



Assemblyman Morse Arberry Jr., Chair

DATE: _____

<u>EXHIBITS</u>			
Committee Name: <u>Committee on Ways and Means</u>			
Date: <u>May 19, 2009</u>		Time of Meeting: <u>9:20 a.m.</u>	
Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
	B		Sign-In Sheet
S.B. 7	C	Senator Valerie Wiener	Amendment 4990