

Assembly Bill No. 307—Assemblymen Bobzien, Carlton;
Atkinson, Kirkpatrick, Segerblom and Smith

Joint Sponsors: Senators Leslie, Horsford and Rhoads

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to governmental administration; requiring a person who files certain applications for an energy development project to file a notice concurrently with the Department of Wildlife; requiring the Department of Wildlife to adopt regulations for the provision of information relating to wildlife based on the location of an energy development project; creating the Energy Planning and Conservation Fund; requiring the Department of Wildlife to use money from the Energy Planning and Conservation Fund for certain wildlife activities; creating the Fund for the Recovery of Costs; requiring the Department of Wildlife to use money from the Fund for the Recovery of Costs solely to provide certain information relating to wildlife based on the location of an energy development project; requiring the Director of the Office of Energy to coordinate certain discussions with interested parties relating to an energy development project in certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law creates the Department of Wildlife and requires the Department to administer the wildlife laws of this State. (NRS 501.331) Existing law also creates the Office of Energy within the Office of the Governor to analyze, review and study the use of energy and availability of energy in this State, as well as to coordinate activities with other agencies to administer programs related to the use of renewable energy and to conserve or reduce the demand for energy. (NRS 701.150, 701.180) This bill requires the Department of Wildlife and the Office of Energy to cooperate in acting as a resource for the Federal Government, the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, the counties of this State and the public by compiling and providing certain information relating to certain energy development projects.

Section 5 of this bill defines an "energy development project" as any project for the generation, transmission and development of energy, whether on public or private land. **Section 6** of this bill exempts from the provisions of this bill a project that has a generating capacity of less than 10 megawatts.

Section 7 of this bill requires any person who files an application with the Federal Government for a lease or easement for a right-of-way for an energy development project or an application with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada or any county in this State relating to the construction of an energy development project to file a notice concurrently with the Department of Wildlife. The notice required by **section 7** must include a description of the location, boundaries and estimated infrastructure requirements for the project and a description of the project itself and an estimate of the energy output of the project. **Section 7** further requires the Department to provide a copy of the notice to the



Office of Energy and requires the Department, in consultation with the Office of Energy, to adopt regulations to provide for making reasonable deposits and reimbursing the Department for providing information relating to wildlife or wildlife habitat based on the location of an energy development project.

Section 9 of this bill creates the Energy Planning and Conservation Fund and requires the money in the Fund to be administered by the Director of the Department of Wildlife and used by the Department in accordance with the State Wildlife Action Plan for conducting surveys of wildlife, for mapping locations of wildlife and its habitat, for conservation projects for the habitat of wildlife impacted by energy development projects and to match any federal money for a project or program for the conservation of any species of wildlife which is of critical concern.

Section 9.5 of this bill creates the Fund for the Recovery of Costs and requires the money in the Fund to be administered by the Director of the Department of Wildlife and used by the Department solely to provide to the Federal Government, the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada or any person with information relating to wildlife or wildlife habitat based on the location of an energy development project or to match any federal money for a project or program for the conservation of any species of wildlife.

Section 8 of this bill requires the Department of Wildlife to compile and maintain information on all energy development projects for which notice is filed pursuant to **section 7** and to prepare and submit a report detailing such projects to the Legislative Commission in even-numbered years and, in odd-numbered years, to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature.

Section 11 of this bill expands the duties of the Director of the Office of Energy to include coordinating discussions with interested parties concerning the potential effects of energy development projects.

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

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 501.331 is hereby amended to read as follows:
501.331 The Department of Wildlife is hereby created. The
Department:

1. Shall administer the wildlife laws of this State , ~~and~~
chapter 488 of NRS ~~and sections 7 to 9.5, inclusive, of this act.~~

2. Shall, on or before the fifth calendar day of each regular session of the Legislature, submit to the Legislature a financial report for each of the immediately preceding 2 fiscal years setting forth the activity and status of the Wildlife Obligated Reserve Account in the State General Fund, each subaccount within that Account and any other account or subaccount administered by the Department for which the use of the money in the account or subaccount is restricted. The report must include, without limitation:

(a) A description of each project for which money is expended from each of those accounts and subaccounts and a description of each recipient of that money; and



(b) The total amount of money expended from each of those accounts and subaccounts for each fiscal year, including, without limitation, the amount of any matching contributions received for those accounts and subaccounts for each fiscal year.

Sec. 2. NRS 501.337 is hereby amended to read as follows:

501.337 The Director shall:

1. Carry out the policies and regulations of the Commission.
2. Direct and supervise all administrative and operational activities of the Department, and all programs administered by the Department as provided by law. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 284.143, the Director shall devote his or her entire time to the duties of the office and shall not follow any other gainful employment or occupation.
3. Within such limitations as may be provided by law, organize the Department and, from time to time with the consent of the Commission, may alter the organization. The Director shall reassign responsibilities and duties as he or she may deem appropriate.
4. Appoint or remove such technical, clerical and operational staff as the execution of his or her duties and the operation of the Department may require, and all those employees are responsible to the Director for the proper carrying out of the duties and responsibilities of their respective positions. The Director shall designate a number of employees as game wardens and provide for their training.
5. Submit technical and other reports to the Commission as may be necessary or as may be requested, which will enable the Commission to establish policy and regulations.
6. Prepare, in consultation with the Commission, the biennial budget of the Department consistent with the provisions of this title, ~~[and]~~ chapter 488 of NRS *and sections 7 to 9.5, inclusive, of this act* and submit it to the Commission for its review and recommendation before the budget is submitted to the Chief of the Budget Division of the Department of Administration pursuant to NRS 553.210.
7. Administer real property assigned to the Department.
8. Maintain full control, by proper methods and inventories, of all personal property of the State acquired and held for the purposes contemplated by this title and by chapter 488 of NRS.
9. Act as nonvoting Secretary to the Commission.
10. *Adopt the regulations required pursuant to sections 7 and 9 of this act.*

Sec. 3. NRS 501.356 is hereby amended to read as follows:

501.356 1. Money received by the Department from:



- (a) The sale of licenses;
- (b) Fees pursuant to the provisions of NRS 488.075 and 488.1795;
- (c) Remittances from the State Treasurer pursuant to the provisions of NRS 365.535;
- (d) Appropriations made by the Legislature; and
- (e) All other sources, except money derived from the forfeiture of any property described in NRS 501.3857 or money deposited in the Wildlife Heritage Trust Account pursuant to NRS 501.3575, ~~for~~ ~~in~~ the Trout Management Account pursuant to NRS 502.327, *the Energy Planning and Conservation Fund created by section 9 of this act or the Fund for the Recovery of Costs created by section 9.5 of this act,*
➔ must be deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Wildlife Account in the State General Fund.

2. The interest and income earned on the money in the Wildlife Account, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Account.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, the Department may use money in the Wildlife Account only to carry out the provisions of this title and chapter 488 of NRS and as provided in NRS 365.535, and the money must not be diverted to any other use.

4. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 502.250 and 504.155, all fees for the sale or issuance of stamps, tags, permits and licenses that are required to be deposited in the Wildlife Account pursuant to the provisions of this title and any matching money received by the Department from any source must be accounted for separately and must be used:

- (a) Only for the management of wildlife; and
- (b) If the fee is for the sale or issuance of a license, permit or tag other than a tag specified in subsection 5 or 6 of NRS 502.250, under the guidance of the Commission pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 501.181.

Sec. 4. Chapter 701 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 5 to 9.5, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 5. *“Energy development project” means a project for the generation, transmission and development of energy located on public or private land. The term includes, without limitation:*

- 1. A utility facility, as defined in NRS 704.860, constructed on private land; and*



2. *Electric generating plants and their associated facilities which use or will use renewable energy, as defined in NRS 704.7811, as their primary source of energy to generate electricity.*

Sec. 6. *The provisions of sections 7, 8 and 9 of this act do not apply to a project that has a generating capacity of less than 10 megawatts.*

Sec. 7. 1. *Except as otherwise provided in section 6 of this act, a person who files an application with the Federal Government for a lease or easement for a right-of-way for an energy development project or an application with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada or any county in this State relating to the construction of an energy development project shall, concurrently with the filing of the application, file a notice of the energy development project with the Department of Wildlife.*

2. *The notice required by subsection 1 must be provided to the Department of Wildlife in such form as the Department prescribes and contain:*

(a) *A description of the location and the energy development project to be built thereon;*

(b) *A description of the boundaries of the project and the estimated requirements for infrastructure of the project; and*

(c) *The estimated energy output for the energy development project.*

3. *Within 30 days after a notice is filed pursuant to subsection 1, the Department of Wildlife shall provide a copy of the notice to the Office of Energy.*

4. *The Department of Wildlife shall, in consultation with the Office of Energy, adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this section. The regulations must include, without limitation:*

(a) *Provisions setting forth the requirements for making reasonable deposits and reimbursing the Department of Wildlife for the actual costs, not to exceed \$100,000, incurred by the Department of Wildlife for providing to the Federal Government, the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, an applicant or any county in this State any information relating to any wildlife or wildlife habitat based on the location of the energy development project for which a notice is filed pursuant to subsection 1; and*

(b) *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, any other requirements concerning the filing of a notice pursuant to subsection 1.*

5. *Any regulations adopted pursuant to subsection 4 must not require a person to reimburse any costs incurred by the Department of Wildlife for providing any information requested by*



the Federal Government, the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada or an applicant relating to an energy development project that was previously provided pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 4.

Sec. 8. *The Department of Wildlife shall:*

1. Compile and maintain detailed information concerning each energy development project for which notice is filed pursuant to section 7 of this act. The information must include, without limitation:

- (a) The location of the energy development project;*
- (b) A description of the energy development project;*
- (c) The estimated energy output of the energy development project; and*
- (d) The amount charged for the reimbursement of costs for the energy development project in accordance with the regulations specified in subsection 4 of section 7 of this act.*

2. Prepare a report:

- (a) Containing the information compiled pursuant to subsection 1; and*
- (b) Setting forth the effect, if any, on the budget of the Department of Wildlife as a result of receiving the reimbursement of costs for providing information concerning energy development projects and the manner in which the total amount received for those costs was used by the Department of Wildlife.*

3. On or before January 1 of each even-numbered year, submit the report required pursuant to subsection 2 to the Legislative Commission. On or before January 1 of each odd-numbered year, the Department of Wildlife shall submit the report required pursuant to subsection 2 to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature.

Sec. 9. *1. The Energy Planning and Conservation Fund is hereby created in the State Treasury as a special revenue fund.*

2. The Director of the Department of Wildlife may apply for and accept any gift, donation, bequest, grant or other source of money for use by the Fund. Any money so received must be deposited in the State Treasury for credit to the Fund.

3. The Fund is a continuing fund without reversion. The money in the Fund must be invested as the money in other state funds is invested. The interest and income earned on the money in the Fund, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Fund. Claims against the Fund must be paid as other claims against the State are paid.



4. The Director of the Department of Wildlife shall administer the Fund. The money in the Fund must be used in accordance with the State Wildlife Action Plan and used by the Department of Wildlife:

- (a) To conduct surveys of wildlife;*
- (b) To map locations of wildlife and wildlife habitat in this State;*
- (c) To pay for conservation projects for wildlife and its habitat;*
- (d) To match any federal money for a project or program for the conservation of any species of wildlife which is of critical concern; and*
- (e) To coordinate carrying out the provisions of this subsection in cooperation with the Office of Energy.*

5. The Department of Wildlife shall adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this section. The regulations must include, without limitation, the criteria for projects for which the Department of Wildlife may use money from the Fund.

6. As used in this section, "State Wildlife Action Plan" means a statewide plan prepared by the Department of Wildlife and approved by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service which sets forth provisions for the conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat, including, without limitation, provisions for assisting in the prevention of any species of wildlife from becoming threatened or endangered.

Sec. 9.5. *1. The Fund for the Recovery of Costs is hereby created in the State Treasury as a special revenue fund.*

2. All money collected by the Department of Wildlife in accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to section 7 of this act must be deposited in the State Treasury for credit to the Fund.

3. The Fund is a continuing fund without reversion. The money in the Fund must be invested as the money in other state funds is invested.

4. The interest and income earned on the money in the Fund, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Fund. Claims against the Fund must be paid as other claims against the State are paid.

5. The Director of the Department of Wildlife may apply for and accept any gift, donation, bequest, grant or other source of money for use by the Fund. Any money so received must be deposited in the State Treasury for credit to the Fund. If the Director of the Department of Wildlife receives any matching federal money which is credited to the Fund pursuant to this subsection, the amount of money credited may be transferred to



the Energy Planning and Conservation Fund created by section 9 of this act.

6. The Director of the Department of Wildlife shall administer the Fund. The money in the Fund must be used by the Department of Wildlife solely:

(a) To provide to the Federal Government, the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada or any person any information relating to wildlife or wildlife habitat based on the location of an energy development project; or

(b) To match any federal money for a project or program for the conservation of any species of wildlife.

Sec. 10. NRS 701.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

701.020 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 701.025 to 701.090, inclusive, *and section 5 of this act* have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

Sec. 11. NRS 701.180 is hereby amended to read as follows:

701.180 The Director shall:

1. Acquire and analyze information relating to energy and to the supply, demand and conservation of its sources, including, without limitation:

(a) Information relating to the Solar Energy Systems Incentive Program created pursuant to NRS 701B.240 including, without limitation, information relating to:

(1) The development of distributed generation systems in this State pursuant to participation in the Solar Energy Systems Incentive Program;

(2) The use of carbon-based energy in residential and commercial applications due to participation in the Program; and

(3) The average cost of generation on a kilowatt-hour basis for residential and commercial applications due to participation in the Program; and

(b) Information relating to any money distributed pursuant to NRS 702.270.

2. Review and evaluate information which identifies trends and permits forecasting of the energy available to the State. Such forecasts must include estimates on:

(a) The level of demand for energy in the State for 5-, 10- and 20-year periods;

(b) The amount of energy available to meet each level of demand;

(c) The probable implications of the forecast on the demand and supply of energy; and



(d) The sources of renewable energy and other alternative sources of energy which are available and their possible effects.

3. Study means of reducing wasteful, inefficient, unnecessary or uneconomical uses of energy and encourage the maximum utilization of existing sources of energy in the State.

4. Solicit and serve as the point of contact for grants and other money from the Federal Government, including, without limitation, any grants and other money available pursuant to any program administered by the United States Department of Energy, and other sources to cooperate with the Commissioner and the Authority:

(a) To promote energy projects that enhance the economic development of the State;

(b) To promote the use of renewable energy in this State;

(c) To promote the use of measures which conserve or reduce the demand for energy or which result in more efficient use of energy;

(d) To develop a comprehensive program for retrofitting public buildings in this State with energy efficiency measures; and

(e) If the Commissioner determines that it is feasible and cost-effective, to enter into contracts with researchers from the Nevada System of Higher Education for the design of energy efficiency and retrofit projects to carry out the comprehensive program for retrofitting public buildings in this State developed pursuant to paragraph (d).

5. Coordinate the activities and programs of the Office of Energy with the activities and programs of the Authority, the Consumer's Advocate and the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, and with other federal, state and local officers and agencies that promote, fund, administer or operate activities and programs related to the use of renewable energy and the use of measures which conserve or reduce the demand for energy or which result in more efficient use of energy.

6. If requested to make a determination pursuant to NRS 111.239 or 278.0208, make the determination within 30 days after receiving the request. If the Director needs additional information to make the determination, the Director may request the information from the person making the request for a determination. Within 15 days after receiving the additional information, the Director shall make a determination on the request.

7. *Cooperate with the Department of Wildlife in carrying out the provisions of sections 6 to 9.5, inclusive, of this act.*

8. *Upon request by a developer of an energy development project or a local government in a county in which an energy*



development project is proposed to be located, coordinate discussions, not otherwise required by any existing regulatory agency, with interested parties concerning any potential effect of the energy development project.

9. Carry out all other directives concerning energy that are prescribed by the Governor.

Sec. 12. The Department of Wildlife shall, before October 1, 2011, adopt any regulations which are required by or necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

Sec. 13. This act becomes effective:

1. Upon passage and approval for the purposes of adopting regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and
2. On October 1, 2011, for all other purposes.

