

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

**Seventy-Sixth Session
March 30, 2011**

The Committee on Ways and Means was called to order by Chairwoman Debbie Smith at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, March 30, 2011, 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/76th2011/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:

Assemblywoman Debbie Smith, Chairwoman
Assemblyman Marcus Conklin, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Paul Aizley
Assemblyman Kelvin Atkinson
Assemblyman David P. Bobzien
Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton
Assemblyman Tom Grady
Assemblyman John Hambrick
Assemblyman Crescent Hardy
Assemblyman Pat Hickey
Assemblyman Joseph M. Hogan
Assemblyman Randy Kirner
Assemblywoman April Mastroluca
Assemblyman John Ocegüera

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Assemblyman Pete Goicoechea

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rick Combs, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Mike Chapman, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Connie Davis, Committee Secretary
Cynthia Wyett, Committee Assistant

Assembly Bill 19: Revises provisions governing the issuance of certain fishing licenses and permits. (BDR 45-471)

Chairwoman Smith opened the hearing on Assembly Bill 19 and advised that the bill was previously heard by the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining for its policy considerations, and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means would consider the bill's fiscal effects.

Rob Buonamici, Chief Game Warden, Division of Law Enforcement, Department of Wildlife (NDOW), identified himself for the record. Mr. Buonamici testified that A.B. 19 would expand the requirement of existing law for NDOW to issue special fishing permits to educational institutions operated for the benefit of children. He explained that currently various entities that asked for special fishing permits did not meet the provisions of the language under *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 502.077.

Additionally, Mr. Buonamici testified that A.B. 19 would also allow NDOW to issue annual licenses to fish on reciprocal waters of the Colorado River, Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, Lake Tahoe, and Topaz Lake. He reported that at one time NDOW issued a license that allowed individuals to fish the Colorado River system whether they were in Arizona or Nevada. Mr. Buonamici reported, however, that in 2003 (Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 420 of the 72nd Session) language was removed from the NRS that allowed NDOW to issue licenses to fish in the reciprocal waters of the Colorado River, Lake Mead and Lake Mohave. He said because of the 2003 legislation, over 330 license sales and approximately \$200,000 in revenue was lost to Arizona. Mr. Buonamici said that A.B. 19, if approved, would reverse the 2003 legislation and regenerate the loss of revenue. He said the reciprocal waters of Lake Tahoe and Topaz Lake were also included in the bill to gain additional revenue. Mr. Buonamici advised that approximately \$200,000 was estimated to be gained from passage of the bill, which was based on the amount that was lost, although he said the amount would fluctuate with regard to the economy and the water level. He pointed out that because the current year would be a "good water year," NDOW representatives indicated that the \$200,000 might be a conservative estimate.

Chairwoman Smith thanked Mr. Buonamici for his testimony and asked whether the Governor supported the bill since a fee increase was involved.

Mr. Buonamici expressed uncertainty concerning the Governor's support for the bill but said that NDOW representatives had been in contact with the Governor's staff concerning all of NDOW's proposed bills.

Chairwoman Smith opened the hearing to questions from Committee members.

Assemblyman Hickey asked whether a Nevada license would allow him to go to South Shore, the California side of Lake Tahoe, and the south end of Topaz Lake to fish in the California portions of the Lake.

Mr. Buonamici responded that Nevada currently had a reciprocal agreement with California for both Topaz Lake and Lake Tahoe that allowed those individuals holding either a California or Nevada license to fish either of the lakes and lake shorelines. He said, however, that A.B. 19 would permit licenses to be issued to those individuals who did not wish to pay the nonresident fee, which would provide out-of-state visitors the opportunity to buy a Nevada license for \$25.

Chairwoman Smith asked Rick Combs, the Committee's Fiscal Analyst to discuss additional information that was needed to process the bill.

Rick Combs, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, advised that at the time the bill was being processed, Fiscal staff had contacted NDOW to determine whether there would be any programming or staffing expenses associated with implementation of the bill. At the time, Mr. Combs indicated there was an understanding that there would be some associated expenses but that the Department felt that the increased revenue would offset those expenses. Mr. Combs said, however, that typically, the Committee's Fiscal staff wanted to review a budget that reflected those expenses before the Committee agreed to move the bill. Although he said the Fiscal staff had no concerns with the bill, a financial plan of projected revenues and expenditures was considered necessary to go forward.

Mr. Buonamici advised that NDOW had a budget prior to the change in 2003 and simply wanted to reestablish issuing licenses to fish on reciprocal waters, which he said from a logical perspective would keep the cost of implementation to a minimum.

Chairwoman Smith asked Mr. Buonamici to ask the appropriate NDOW fiscal staff to respond to Mr. Comb's request for budgeting information concerning the implementation A.B. 19.

Mr. Buonamici agreed and advised that from an enforcement standpoint, additional costs would not be incurred because staff would already be working to check licenses.

Chairwoman Smith indicated that a written response to the concerns expressed by Mr. Combs would be appreciated, and the Committee could then look forward to moving the bill.

Assemblyman Aizley expressed support for passage of the bill and recalled that he had one of the Colorado River licenses. He said, however, as a matter of increased revenue he knew of at least one person who indicated she would buy more Nevada licenses if the license was good for a year from the date it was purchased, which was currently not the case.

In response to a question from Assemblyman Atkinson concerning revenue, Mr. Buonamici estimated that approximately \$200,000 per year would be gained based on NDOW's loss of approximately \$200,000 when the licensing to fish reciprocal waters was eliminated.

Chairwoman Smith reiterated that the bill would be processed after receipt of the budget information requested by Mr. Combs.

Hearing no additional questions from the Committee, Chairwoman Smith asked Mr. Combs for information on the following day's Joint Subcommittee activities.

Mr. Combs announced that the Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education and Higher Education would meet in Room 3137 to conclude its work on five remaining budget accounts for the Department of Education as well as an abbreviated work session on other matters related to K-12 Education. Additionally, the Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety, Military and Veterans Services would meet in Room 2134 to work on budgets for the Department of Corrections, the Division of Parole and Probation, and the Division of Investigation, the Department of Public Safety.

Chairwoman Smith announced, for the benefit of the new Committee members, that money committee work sessions were related to closing budgets rather than policy as in other legislative committee work sessions.

Chairwoman Smith also announced the Committee would be reviewing a large number of budget bills as well as other bills not related to the budget that would require considerable hearing time. Additionally, Chairwoman Smith advised that she would be working on a hearing schedule with Mr. Combs and in several days would provide the members with information regarding evening and Saturday Committee hearings.

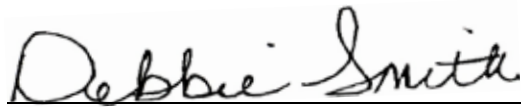
Public Comment

Hearing no response to her request for public comment, Chairwoman Smith adjourned the hearing at 9:18. a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Connie Davis
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Smith". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Assemblywoman Debbie Smith, Chairwoman

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

Committee Name: Committee on Ways and Means

Date: March 30, 2011

Time of Meeting: 9 a.m.

Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
AB 19	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster