

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 345—ASSEMBLYMEN BOBZIEN, EISEN,
DALY; DIAZ, FLORES, KIRKPATRICK AND SPRINKLE

MARCH 18, 2013

JOINT SPONSOR: SENATOR SMITH

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Agriculture, and Mining

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing the management of
certain wildlife. (BDR 45-273)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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

AN ACT relating to wildlife; declaring that wildlife in this State must be managed according to the best scientific data available; requiring the Department of Wildlife to use money in the Wildlife Fund Account in the State General Fund for costs related to programs to improve the habitat of sage grouse in this State and to conduct a study of predatory wildlife in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Under existing law, the Nevada Legislature has declared that wildlife in this State is part of the natural resources belonging to the people of the State of Nevada and that preserving, protecting, managing and restoring wildlife in this State contributes immeasurably to the aesthetic, recreational and economic aspects of those natural resources. (NRS 501.100) **Section 1** of this bill expands the legislative declaration to require that wildlife in this State be managed according to the best scientific data available.

Under existing law, in addition to the fee for a game tag, the Department of Wildlife charges an additional fee of \$3 for processing each application for a game tag, the revenue from which must be deposited into the Wildlife Fund Account in the State General Fund and be used by the Department for costs related to the management and control of injurious predatory wildlife and the protection of certain game animals and wildlife habitat. (NRS 502.253) **Section 2** of this bill requires the Department to use the revenue generated from that fee for programs to



15 improve the habitat of sage grouse in this State and to conduct any necessary
16 research to determine successful techniques for managing and controlling predatory
17 wildlife. **Section 3** of this bill requires the Department to: (1) spend between
18 \$20,000 and \$100,000 from the Wildlife Fund Account to contract with a private
19 entity to conduct a study concerning predatory wildlife in this State, including any
20 programs or other actions taken in this State to control predatory wildlife and the
21 effectiveness of those actions; and (2) use any money remaining in the Wildlife
22 Fund Account to improve the habitat of sage grouse in this State. **Section 3** also
23 requires the Department to prepare a report summarizing the results of the study
24 and submit the report to the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 501.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 501.100 1. Wildlife in this State not domesticated and in its
3 natural habitat is part of the natural resources belonging to the
4 people of the State of Nevada ~~††~~ *and must be managed according*
5 *to the best scientific data available.*

6 2. The preservation, protection, management and restoration of
7 wildlife within the State contribute immeasurably to the aesthetic,
8 recreational and economic aspects of these natural resources.

9 **Sec. 2.** NRS 502.253 is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 502.253 1. In addition to any fee charged and collected
11 pursuant to NRS 502.250, a fee of \$3 must be charged for
12 processing each application for a game tag, the revenue from which
13 must be accounted for separately, deposited with the State Treasurer
14 for credit to the Wildlife Fund Account in the State General Fund
15 and used by the Department for costs related to:

16 (a) Programs ~~for the management and control of injurious~~
17 ~~predatory wildlife;~~

18 ~~—(b) Wildlife management activities relating to the protection of~~
19 ~~nonpredatory game animals, sensitive wildlife species and related~~
20 ~~wildlife habitat;~~

21 ~~—(c)†† to improve the habitat of sage grouse in this State; and~~

22 (b) Conducting research, as needed, to determine successful
23 techniques for managing and controlling predatory wildlife,
24 including studies necessary to ensure effective programs for the
25 management and control of injurious predatory wildlife. ~~†† and~~

26 ~~—(d) Programs for the education of the general public concerning~~
27 ~~the management and control of predatory wildlife.~~

28 ~~—2. The Department of Wildlife is hereby authorized to expend a~~
29 ~~portion of the money collected pursuant to subsection 1 to enable~~
30 ~~the State Department of Agriculture to develop and carry out the~~
31 ~~programs described in subsection 1.~~



~~3.1~~ 2. Any program developed or ~~wildlife management activity or~~ research conducted pursuant to this section must be developed or conducted under the guidance of the Commission pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 501.181.

~~4.1~~ 3. The money in the Wildlife Fund Account remains in the Account and does not revert to the State General Fund at the end of any fiscal year.

Sec. 3. In addition to any research conducted pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 502.253, as amended by section 2 of this act, and if sufficient money is available from any amount deposited for credit to the Wildlife Fund Account pursuant to NRS 502.253, as amended by section 2 of this act, the Department of Wildlife shall expend not less than \$20,000 but not more than \$100,000 from the Wildlife Fund Account in the State General Fund to contract with a private, peer-reviewed entity to conduct a study concerning predatory wildlife in this State. The study must include, without limitation, any programs or actions taken to control predatory wildlife in this State and the effectiveness of those actions. After the completion of the study and any projects for the control of predatory wildlife recommended by the Department for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2013, and ending on June 30, 2014, the Department shall use any money remaining in the Account to improve the habitat of sage grouse in this State. The Department shall prepare a report summarizing the results of the study and submit the report to the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Sec. 4. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2013, and expires by limitation on June 30, 2015.

