

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Eighty-first Session
May 21, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources was called to order by Chair Fabian Donate at 1:49 p.m. on Friday, May 21, 2021, Online and in Room 2144 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Fabian Donate, Chair
Senator Melanie Scheible, Vice Chair
Senator Chris Brooks
Senator Pete Goicoechea
Senator Ira Hansen

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Ruedy, Policy Analyst
Allan Amburn, Counsel
Christine Miner, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Ott, Director, State Department of Agriculture
Doug Busselman, Executive Vice President, Nevada Farm Bureau Federation
Douglas Farris, Administrator, Animal Industry, State Department of Agriculture

CHAIR DONATE:

We will open the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 454.

SENATE BILL 454: Revises provisions relating to agriculture. (BDR 50-1102)

JENNIFER OTT (Director, State Department of Agriculture):

I will outline the provisions in S.B. 454 concerning livestock inspections and brands. I will read from my written testimony ([Exhibit B](#)).

DOUG BUSSELMAN (Executive Vice President, Nevada Farm Bureau Federation):

The Nevada Farm Bureau Federation supports S.B. 454. The Farm Bureau participated in a regulatory workshop dealing with the rewrite of provisions for Nevada's brand inspection program. The bill is one of the components in the process for implementing the business plan the State Department of Agriculture has prepared to bring the brand program to a financially sustainable operation. The support of the Farm Bureau is based on the critical importance for long-term viability of the brand program for conducting interstate commerce.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

The bill indicates the method of notification of applications or renewals of brands is at the discretion of the Department. If it is an active account, a letter would be the preferred method. If a person misses the email, it could cancel or suspend that person's brand. I would like you to send a letter.

CHAIR DONATE:

The bill indicates notification is at the discretion of the Department unless otherwise requested by an owner.

Ms. OTT:

Using electronic submissions is often preferred by many people. If a customer sends an email requesting electronic communications, the Department will comply, and it is a cost saving measure. If only a mailing address is listed on file, then notification will go via mail. If there is no response to the Department's attempt at communication, there are other opportunities for communication.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I had a neighbor years ago who owned a branding iron for a long period of time. The neighbor missed the brand deadline notification and ended up having to rebrand the cow herd. For active users, I recommend a letter be sent to those who might lapse in their renewal.

SENATOR HANSEN:

How many brands are there on the books? Are the 5,700 registered brands active? What happens to a brand when a ranch is no longer in business?

Senate Committee on Natural Resources
May 21, 2021
Page 3

DOUGLAS FARRIS (Administrator, Animal Industry, State Department of Agriculture):

The 5,700 total brands include all brands, even those that have not been renewed. If someone does not record a brand within a year, it is called "loss to record." Brands will sit vacant, and anyone can apply for them.

CHAIR DONATE:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 454. I will entertain a motion to do pass S.B. 454.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 454.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Senate Committee on Natural Resources
May 21, 2021
Page 4

CHAIR DONATE:

Having no further business, I adjourn this meeting at 2:01 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Christine Miner,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Fabian Donate, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit Letter	Begins on Page	Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
S.B. 454	B	1	Jennifer Ott / State Department of Agriculture	Written Testimony