

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

**Eighty-first Session  
April 6, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources was called to order by Chair Fabian Donate at 3:40 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, Online. [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:**

Cadence Matijevich, Administrator, Division of Consumer Equitability, State  
Department of Agriculture  
Tony Wasley, Director, Department of Wildlife  
Jack Robb, Deputy Director, Department of Wildlife  
Joel Donalson, Permitting, Ranches and Land, Nevada Gold Mines, LLC  
Tiffany East, Chair, Board of Wildlife Commissioners, Department of Wildlife  
Allen Biaggi, Nevada Mining Association  
Meghan Brown, Deputy Administrator, Division of Plant Industry, State  
Department of Agriculture  
James Russell, President, Northern Nevada Beekeepers Association  
Emanuela Heller-MacNeilage, M.D., Vice President, Northern Nevada Beekeepers  
Association  
Daniel Fenwick, President, Bees4Vets  
Rebekah Stetson, Executive Director, Farmily; Manager, Flint Street Farms  
Shane Piccinini, Food Bank of Northern Nevada

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Sarah Sanchez, Executive Director, Carson Valley Community Food Closet  
Jennifer Ott, Director, State Department of Agriculture

CHAIR DONATE:

I will open the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 400.

**SENATE BILL 400**: Makes various changes to certain unlawful acts relating to consumer protection. (BDR 51-1101)

CADENCE MATIJEVICH (Administrator, Division of Consumer Equitability, State Department of Agriculture):

I will read from my written testimony ([Exhibit B](#)) for S.B. 400.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

If a person is convicted three times in a two-year period, does that mean offense one, two or three is washed out every three years? How many times can a person be convicted when the two-year period is over?

MS. MATIJEVICH:

The bill attempts to provide a graduated penalty structure. When a person, officer, agent or employee has been convicted for the subsequent offenses over a two-year period, most of the penalty comes into place then.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

After a person is issued a warning, how long before it is considered a second offense?

MS. MATIJEVICH:

There is no time limitation between certain offenses. For each violation occurring after the initial warning, law enforcement will site and enforce the provisions of statute whether it is one day or one year following the warning.

ALLAN AMBURN (Counsel):

It does not matter if a warning or a misdemeanor occurs; three offenses in a two-year period applies. If there are three offenses under section 1 of S.B. 400, then higher penalties would apply.

SENATOR HANSEN:

Is this a common problem? Normally, fines are based on dollar amounts of the offense. If someone cheats another out of \$5 of gasoline, then cheats 10,000 customers of \$5, the penalty would grow with the severity of the act. In S.B. 400, it seems the penalty is the same despite the severity of the crime.

MS. MATIJEVICH:

Regular violations occur, but a vast majority are unintentional. Perhaps a violator is unaware of requirements or was unaware a scale or meter was out of tolerance. Individuals typically want to comply, and a process is worked through to gain compliance. Civil penalties allow for a warning in cases of unintentional violations.

Occasionally, customers are defrauded. A case with law enforcement in Clark County found a ring of criminals stealing fuel using stolen credit cards and selling the fuel at an offsite location. In severe instances, serious penalties are important. The vast majority of violations are not willful and are resolved quickly.

Each case begins with a warning, and the second violation is a misdemeanor. Some discretion can be applied for the amount of financial penalty. It can range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for a second offense, then escalate for a gross misdemeanor. Senate Bill 400 addresses escalating repeat offenses, not specific monetary values attributed to a violation.

SENATOR HANSEN:

I will assume there is some prosecutorial discretion by the local district attorney. This is not the only possible avenue for someone breaking this law, and prosecution could happen in the egregious cases.

CHAIR DONATE:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 400. We will open the hearing on S.B. 404.

**[SENATE BILL 404](#)**: Revises provisions governing cannabis. (BDR 51-1086)

MS. MATIJEVICH:

I will read from my written testimony ([Exhibit C](#)) for S.B. 404.

CHAIR DONATE:

Why does S.B. 404 require a two-thirds majority vote?

MS. MATIJEVICH:

The bill will impose a fee on a new group of devices. The fee for annual licensure of commercial weighing and measuring equipment is \$35 per year, and this is the fee for the new group of devices. I have been contacted by industry stakeholders with concerns for provisions relating to testing facilities, and the Division is open to working on an amendment.

CHAIR DONATE:

I would like to address that issue, and I will have Counsel follow up with you. I will close the hearing on S.B. 404 and open the hearing on S.B. 406.

**SENATE BILL 406**: Revises provisions relating to wildlife. (BDR 45-1089)

TONY WASLEY (Director, Department of Wildlife):

Senate Bill 406 revises provisions governing the Wildlife Trust Fund, authorizes a tag to be in an electronic format under certain circumstances and revises the requirement of an annual resident specialty combination hunting and fishing license.

Sections 1 and 7 of this bill exempt private money accepted by the Department of Wildlife (NDOW) for deposit in the Fund from the requirements of existing law for the acceptance of gifts by a State agency. Section 1 requires the Director of NDOW or the Director's designee to submit an annual report to the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) that sets forth the private money accepted into the Fund and the investment and expenditure of the money in the Fund from the previous fiscal year.

Section 4 provides that NDOW may designate a paper or electronic form for a hunting tag. Section 3 provides that an electronic tag must be validated before the holder of the tag transports the species of wildlife. Section 2 and 5 make conforming changes relating to electronic tags and validating electronic tags.

The Department is required to issue an annual resident specialty combination hunting and fishing license to any person 65 years of age or older who has continuously resided in this State for a period of 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application for the license. Section 6 removes the requirement

for such a person to have continuously resided in the State for the five years immediately preceding the date of the application.

The Wildlife Trust Fund account was created as a nonexecutive budget account by A.B. No. 525 of the 76th Session. The primary focus and intent was to leverage partner interest in expanding ongoing efforts by NDOW. The first fiscal year this account was in service was 2012. Continued interest is being seen for the account.

In the current fiscal year, the Wildlife Trust Fund has accepted over \$2 million in donations from industry partners and nongovernmental organizations (NGO). It is an opportunity for NDOW to leverage partner interest in expanding ongoing efforts. Many of the activities include the purchase of seed for post-fire revegetation, removal of unsuitable habitat and habitat enhancement projects. For example, NDOW wildfire restoration totaled 422,240 acres in the past 5 years. The success of this project was due to the broad coalition of over 15 different partnering entities helping generate over \$8 million in supporting funds. Dedicated sportsmen, NGOs, private landowners, industry partners, the Board of Wildlife Commissioners and federal and State agency partners allowed this accomplishment. Many of the industry partnerships have come since the establishment and creation of the Wildlife Trust Fund.

The nonexecutive Wildlife Trust Fund benefits from many of the same exemptions that Nevada System of Higher Education, Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs enjoy with IFC approval for accepting donated funds.

The Department of Wildlife is able to leverage industry and NGO partner funds to improve its effectiveness and response to catastrophic opportunities. The language in section 1, subsection 1 states "The provisions of NRS 353.335 do not apply to any gift, donation, bequest, devise or grant from any private source accepted pursuant to this subsection." It achieves the same exemption afforded the Nevada System of Higher Education, Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs.

Section 1, subsection 4 states:

The Director or the Director's designee shall on or before September 30 of each year: (a) Submit a report to the Director of

the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Interim Finance Committee setting forth for the previous fiscal year: (1) The amount of gifts, donations, bequests, devises and grants from any private source that were deposited in the Wildlife Trust Fund; and (2) The investment and expenditure of money in the Wildlife Trust Fund.(b) Post the report submitted pursuant to paragraph (a) on the Internet website maintained by the Department.

JACK ROBB (Deputy Director, Department of Wildlife):

I will present the provisions in S.B. 406 referring to the update, modernization and simplification for individuals who apply and obtain big game tags. Obtaining an electronic tag is optional. This will be phased in as people convert to electronic tags. An electronic tag allows a person to receive an electronic tag in the field without having to visit an NDOW office to pick up the tag or wait for a mailed tag.

Another advantage of electronic tags is real-time data received by NDOW. It will be in an application format. If a hunter is out of cell phone range upon harvesting an animal, the information can be filled out on the application, and it will automatically save the pertinent information required until cell phone range is achieved. This replaces returning cards to NDOW after the hunt.

Individuals often fail to return the completed cards. It is mandatory for big game tag holders to fill out a return card. From September through December each year, NDOW sends out monthly reminders to tag holders on the return card requirement. In January, the deadline, NDOW sends four or five emails, then text message reminders. Game cards indicate location of harvest, number of days in the field and other pertinent data NDOW relies on for decision-making.

This will benefit the customer and NDOW and is the continuation of its simplification process started years ago through the Legislative process and the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Page 6, line 40 of S.B. 406 strikes the language "continuously for the 5 years." All other residency requirements in statute is six months, regardless if applying for big game or other types of tags or licenses. The senior residency requirement of five years creates confusion at NDOW front counters and online. It causes inadvertent errors in the field. It has been found that less is more. When fewer dollars are charged, better participation occurs. People choosing

not to participate in licensing because of pricing is a lost opportunity. A \$15 fee is less a deterrent than an \$80 fee. Reduced rates for senior and junior licenses have resulted in tremendous participation growth. In turn, more funds are provided by the Pitman-Robinson Act and the Dingle-Johnson Act. The volume in purchases of certified hunter and angler licenses qualifies NDOW for more federally-matched funds.

SENATOR HANSEN:

The Wildlife Trust Fund allows the Director total authority. The provisions of *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 353.335 require any private funds be given some level of Legislative oversight. Why remove it when you have complete discretion with a little IFC or legislative oversight?

MR. WASLEY:

The intention of S.B. 406 is not to remove oversight. This has nothing to do with NDOW trying to avoid oversight and everything to do with NDOW wishing to be as effective as possible in leveraging to the maximum extent the interests its partners share in its mission. The opportunity to leverage partnerships and interests to expand ongoing efforts through those partners and NGOs provides huge benefits to NDOW and the State.

SENATOR HANSEN:

It seems backwards. We should be expanding the amount of oversight of private dollars being expended through the Wildlife Trust Fund. Any funds going to a State agency to be expended at the almost complete discretion of one individual depletes oversight.

VICE CHAIR SCHEIBLE:

Is a report still required for submission to IFC?

MR. WASLEY:

The application of this account is different than is characterized. Despite the characterization that it is at the discretion of the Director, the Director must conform to the direction provided by the donating party. Each donation is accompanied by instructions outlining eligible expenditures. If those expenditures are unlawful or inconsistent with the mission of NDOW, those donations must be denied.

Any donated funds of \$20,000 or greater are subject to IFC approval for acceptance and expenditure. The cumbersome nature of inviting and encouraging industry and NGO partnerships to assist in leveraging their interests with the ongoing efforts for the betterment of wildlife is what NDOW is seeking to streamline and simplify.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

This is a step in the right direction, and I know where you are headed with the Wildlife Trust Fund. There is some confusion with this and other budget accounts. There are five nonexecutive budget accounts under the discretion of the Director of NDOW or the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Private sector interests when making a donation over \$20,000 have to give direction on what account it will be accepted in and where the funds are to be spent. More oversight and clarity is needed for the expenditures of the Silver State Tag funds and other NGO account funds.

MR. WASLEY:

The Silver State Tag funds go into the Wildlife Heritage Trust account over which the Board of Wildlife Commissioners has authority. The nine gubernatorial members have discretionary authority. It is a process where NDOW and private citizens, industry or NGO partners submit a project proposal and the Wildlife Commission evaluates and determines expenditures for the project accordingly.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

To whom does the Wildlife Commission report expenditures? When I speak to Wildlife Commissioners, they do not seem to know where expenditures are spent.

VICE CHAIR SCHEIBLE:

I remember discussions on residency requirements for senior permit holders from a previous Legislative Session. What happened on this?

MR. ROBB:

It was part of discussions and should have been handled during license simplification, and it was overlooked. Senate Bill 406 will correct it and make it easier for participation in wildlife activities.



JOEL DONALSON (Permitting, Ranches and Land, Nevada Gold Mines, LLC):  
Nevada Gold Mines, LLC supports sections 1 and 7 of S.B. 406 allowing NDOW to accept and use gifts, donations, bequests and grants in a timely manner. Nevada Gold Mines owns cattle ranches in eastern Nevada and engages in large-scale conservation efforts, especially sage grouse and mule deer habitat restoration.

When Nevada faces an event like a wildfire, Nevada Gold Mines works closely with NDOW and other agencies to respond quickly to protect rangeland ecosystems. In these situations and others, we supported NDOW's response efforts through donations made to the Wildlife Trust Fund. Given the unforeseen nature of the occurrences, it is important for rehabilitation to be completed in a timely manner to achieve maximum benefit and prevent waste of resources. Donations are made to address a specific need to complete a project identified in partnership with NDOW. Allowing NDOW the flexibility to direct funds as needs arise and provide accountability for how the funds are used is important. Nevada Gold Mines is neutral on the remaining sections of the bill.

TIFFANY EAST (Chair, Board of Wildlife Commissioners, Department of Wildlife):  
The Board of Wildlife Commissioners has not met to determine a position on S.B. 406.

Nevada is the most arid State in the Country. Last fall it experienced an unprecedented water shortage causing a number of big game water guzzlers to go dry multiple times. This left wildlife who are dependent upon these sources with no alternatives. Nevada sportsmen organizations donated \$125,000 toward the \$350,000 needed to pay for water hauls. The Wildlife Trust Fund provides a secure tool for NDOW to deposit donated funds and gifts for emergency situations. This is one example of the benefits the Wildlife Trust Fund provides. It is important funds are available on an emergency basis.

The Wildlife Commission Policy Number 1 prescribes that the Commission has guidance over monies which are deposited in the Wildlife Trust Fund and any programs developed for wildlife management activity providing oversight. The Commission receives reports twice per year.

Senate Bill 406 removes the 5-year residency requirement for seniors 65 years and older. Commission Policy Number 24 states that the Commission has the duties to provide reasonable hunting opportunities to Nevada citizens and

promote family, social, cultural, historic, scenic and natural connections to the outdoors.

Commission Policy 24 addresses electronic tags. It states hunting in Nevada is an important activity for its citizens for many reasons, including the values previously mentioned. Electronic tags provide important data influencing decisions made for quotas and seasons.

ALLEN BIAGGI (Nevada Mining Association):

The Nevada Mining Association supports sections 1 and 7 of S.B. 406 allowing NDOW to accept gifts, donations, bequests and grants and utilize those resources in a timely manner. Section 1, subsection 4 will ensure transparency and accountability for how gifts and donations are used through mandatory recording provided to the Legislature annually.

The Nevada Mining Association and NDOW are often partners in restoring lands scarred by wildfire, the improvement of sagebrush habitat benefiting sage grouse and other species and addressing game migration and population enhancements. Wildfire rehabilitation requires timely reseeding to ensure maximum viability and effectiveness. Senate Bill 406 will reduce delays and ensure the necessary work for natural resource rehabilitation and protection can be timely accomplished.

The Nevada Mining Association is neutral on the remaining sections of S.B. 406 because they do not pertain to mining.

VICE CHAIR SCHEIBLE:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 406 and open the hearing on S.B. 407.

**SENATE BILL 407**: Enacts provisions relating to apiaries. (BDR 49-1085)

MEGHAN BROWN (Deputy Administrator, Division of Plant Industry, State Department of Agriculture):

Senate Bill 407 modifies statute related to apiaries. This bill will only affect individuals and businesses with apiaries not holding a producer's certificate as outlined in NRS 576.128.

Apiaries pose a significant pest-intrusion risk that can devastate industry and hive health. Pests can impact the health of bees and ultimately cause failures in

hives. Hives are randomly tested through the National Honeybee Survey. Mites and diseases have been found throughout the State, and it is important to continue the testing process to gain a full picture of hive locations to ensure communication and survey work are completed.

Bordering states to Nevada have aviary registration requirements. Regulations in Nevada will help in the prevention of bees and hives discarded from other states entering Nevada.

The State Department of Agriculture (NDA) receives frequent complaints involving apiary issues, especially pertaining to poor hive health which poses risks to other bees or neighboring areas. Registration of apiaries will allow NDA to notify owners of regional pest issues, issues relating to spray notifications, identify pest risks and take appropriate enforcement actions to protect the industry.

Apiaries are regulated through registration and inspection in bordering states necessitating appropriate measures needed in Nevada to prevent poor health or pest infected apiaries from being abandoned. Potential abandoned hives help spread disease and invite new pests. The registration of apiaries will allow NDA to notify and communicate with owners of regional pest issues, spray notifications and other issues. Communication is restricted without registrations. It is important for the industry and NDA to ensure communication and information related to these matters are quickly and efficiently executed.

Funds are received by NDA from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to conduct survey work related to disease and pest occurrences. Registration of apiaries will help for more effective surveys to protect the industry and hive health and enhance investigations related to industry concerns. There was a voluntary registration program for apiaries allowing those with hives to register with NDA. This would allow pesticide applicators to get locations of registered hives prior to implementing spray programs. The program was underutilized and ineffective in projecting hive health and impacts.

SENATOR BROOKS:

Does S.B. 407 affect all beekeepers in the State including hobbyists?

Ms. BROWN:

Yes, it will cover all hives not currently covered under the producer's certificate, including backyard hobbyists.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Will a fee be required?

Ms. BROWN:

Yes, a fee will be required.

VICE CHAIR SCHEIBLE:

Is it intended for the fee to be the same for all producers? Will the fee be determined per hive or by production? There are nonprofits who engage in beekeeping and apiary. Will fees be different for commercial or larger operations producing and selling honey? Will there be a delineation between types of registrations and fees?

Ms. BROWN:

A standard has not been set. The tiered approach based on the number of hives and various other approaches will be considered.

VICE CHAIR SCHEIBLE:

Will the regulatory process for the bill be subject to the standards of NRS 233B?

MR. AMBURN:

All of the processes in NRS 233B apply for this situation.

JAMES RUSSELL (President, Northern Nevada Beekeepers Association):

Northern Nevada Beekeepers Association opposes S.B. 407. Many of its members are hobby backyard beekeepers. Backyard beekeeping is not a moneymaking endeavor. Honey produced is typically for friends and family. Keeping bees and pollinators makes a difference to the environment. The mission of Northern Nevada Beekeepers Association is to communicate the benefits of bees and pollinators for the local environment. It helps people differentiate between bees and wasps. Wasps are responsible for many of the flying insect stings. People are encouraged to plant pollinator gardens. Members are helped by the organization to monitor hive health and look for varroa mites and the viruses they spread.

Requiring registration and fees to backyard beekeepers will cause many hobbyists to cease keeping bees. The results will decrease consumer garden yields and birds that rely on bees as part of its food chain.

I see the benefits of registration for commercial beekeepers or city or town regulations. Statewide registration for the backyard beekeeper is government overreach.

EMANUELA HELLER-MACNEILAGE, M.D. (Vice President, Northern Nevada Beekeepers Association):

The Northern Nevada Beekeepers Association opposes S.B. 407. Bee pollination produces 80 percent of Nevada crops, and a significant portion comes from backyard beekeeping. Treatment for varroa mites, winterizing hives and dealing with the death of bees from pesticides are some of the challenges of beekeeping. The Beekeepers Association helps noncertified backyard beekeepers set up hives. It has a beneficial program for veterans called Bees4Vets. The Beekeepers Association donates wax annually to breast cancer survivors for special cosmetic products and educates members on reportable diseases like the American foulbrood bacterial disease.

What is the purpose of S.B. 407? It is logistically unrealistic to inspect all hives of hobby beekeepers in the State. It takes 20 minutes to 30 minutes per hive for inspections. Inspections increase the risks of contamination and disease which can spread from one hive or apiary to the next. This law would make beekeeping unattractive for hobbyists and lead to the reduction of pollinators.

DANIEL FENWICK (President, Bees4Vets):

Bees4Vets is not opposed to hive registration or the reasoning behind it. Bees4Vets has issues with section 1 of S.B. 407. Subsection 1 of section 1 states vaguely "the Department shall adopt regulations..." Subsection 3 of section 1 does not identify limits to annual registration fees.

Senate Bill 407 could be used to curtail hobbyist backyard beekeeping. It would be detrimental for Bees4Vets student veterans and first responders suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury. When students complete the program, they can take the hive home and maintain it on their properties. To pay fees for this will push many of them out of the program and discourage other hobbyist beekeepers.

Bees from hives in my backyard pollinate gardens for those in a decent radius around my yard. If my hives go away, those gardens will not be pollinated resulting in lower crop yields. Limits on the fees should be included in the bill, and language should be less vague on who is required to register and for what purpose. Any information from registrations should be kept expressly confidential, not public. There is a problem nationally with theft and vandalism of beehives. Privacy should be in statute and not rely on good intentions.

REBEKAH STETSON (Executive Director, Farmily; Manager, Flint Street Farms):  
I oppose S.B. 407 as it compromises the biosecurity of bees by allowing one person to perform inspections of many sites. A registration fee will make involvement in backyard beekeeping more difficult. A portion of a fee assessed to commercial beekeepers could be applied for the education of backyard beekeepers. Bees are important to the environment. For 12 years, I have kept bees to increase production of the nonprofit organic farms I manage. An additional registration fee for a nonprofit organization may prohibit participation.

MS. BROWN:

The goal of requiring registration is to protect bee health and allow proper communication related to spray notifications and help address overall hive health issues impacting bees and apiaries. The NDA supports the industry and bee health and will consider the situation of small hobbyist beekeepers.

VICE CHAIR SCHEIBLE:

I will close the hearing on S.B. 407 and open the hearing on S.B. 370.

**SENATE BILL 370**: Revises provisions relating to food policy. (BDR 50-824)

SENATOR FABIAN DONATE (Senatorial District No. 10):

Senate Bill 370 comes at a timely period as we continue to respond to the public health crisis and find innovative ways for economic recovery. The intent of the bill is to help supplement food security opportunities. It authorizes NDA to purchase nutritious foods grown, raised, produced and processed in Nevada for the purpose of distribution to food insecure individuals experiencing hunger.

Senate Bill 370 provides an economic stimulus and helps the local farming industry. Food banks will work with NDA to make this locally procured food available to those most in need.

Three Square and Food Bank of Northern Nevada will provide explanations of how the public health crisis has impacted food insecurity rates in Nevada and is influenced by the decline of federal nutrition assistance programs such as the Emergency Food Assistant Program. Three Square is southern Nevada's only food bank serving four counties. The Food Bank of Northern Nevada serves the remaining 13 counties. Both Food Banks are members of the Feeding America network, the Nation's largest hunger-relief organization consisting of 200 food banks.

SHANE PICCININI (Food Bank of Northern Nevada):

I will explain the intentions of S.B. 370 with my slide presentation ([Exhibit D](#)). Nevada is one of the most food insecure states in the Country. Page 2 of [Exhibit D](#) shows the current state of food insecurity in Nevada. There are just under 400,000 people struggling with hunger. Over 134,000 of those are children. One in eight adults and one in five children struggle with hunger.

Nevada is tied in fourth place with Louisiana in the most overall food insecure states at 20 percent of households. In 2019, Nevada was ranked twentieth at 12 percent of households. Nevada is tied with Louisiana with the highest child food insecurity rate at 32 percent. In 2019, Nevada ranked ninth at nearly 20 percent of children.

Senate Bill 370 presents an economic opportunity to support agriculture as Nevada continues to strengthen its agricultural communities. As depicted on page 4 of [Exhibit D](#), Nevada agriculture had an economic output of \$4.71 billion in 2020. The agriculture output of ranching and farming was \$787.8 million and food and beverage manufacturing output was \$3.925 billion. Page 4 lists the principal products produced or raised in Nevada.

Nevada receives food values at approximately \$47 million through the federal entitlement programs. Very little is sourced from Nevada, which needs to change.

There is a proposed amendment for S.B. 370 ([Exhibit E](#)). The bill as written amended an existing program, and this was not the intention. The existing programs operated by NDA should be kept in place. A new subchapter in NRS 561 will create what I will now present.

In section 1, subsection 1 of [Exhibit E](#), the Director of NDA shall establish the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program to supplement the supply of nutritious food available to persons through a food bank or other such provider as identified further in the bill.

Section 1, subsection 2 allows the Director to solicit any gift, grant or donation for the Program. Upon receipt of any gift or grant, the donation amount must be deposited into the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program Account. The deposits in the Account must be used in the same manner as other money in the Account.

Section 1, subsection 3 requires the Director to develop a process by which nutritious food raised, grown, produced or processed in Nevada be distributed to the food banks that operate in the State. The food purchased will be distributed at no cost to the 140 partner agencies of The Food Bank of Northern Nevada and Three Square to ensure people in need are serviced.

Section 1, subsection 4 directs food banks to distribute the food to the emergency food pantries, soup kitchens or homeless shelters. Subsection 5 requires NDA to supply a report annually to the Governor's Council on Food Security. Three Square and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada are required to supply NDA with quarterly reports.

SENATOR HANSEN:

Is the \$47 million food value per year just what the food banks distribute?

MR. PICCININI:

The \$47 million is the amount spent on food distribution in Nevada through The Emergency Food Assistance Program and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program for seniors, both federal entitlement programs.

SENATOR HANSEN:

Can you estimate how much is spent annually on all food programs in Nevada?

MR. PICCININI:

I will research and provide you with the amount. The system works with the two Food Banks providing food to nonprofit partner agencies. The nonprofit partner agencies can procure food from other sources. I expect the amount to be far greater than \$47 million.



SENATOR HANSEN:

The isolated pockets in rural areas of needy individuals have benefited from these programs and have been a blessing to many of my constituents. Will there be an increase in costs for buying Nevada only products?

MR. PICCININI:

The goal is to create a program to allow the NDA and food banks to leverage resources and include Nevada grown foods in the existing programs, not using Nevada grown foods exclusively. Food producers, growers and ranchers will have the opportunity to participate in the hunger-relief work being done in Nevada. It is a supplemental program and costs should not be prohibitive.

SENATOR HANSEN:

For years, there was a program for hunters to donate to food programs. Is that still in place?

MR. PICCININI:

The program exists. Donations are accepted by partner agencies likely in rural communities.

SENATOR HANSEN:

I would like to let my constituents in rural Nevada know which agencies accept donations from hunters.

MR. PICCININI:

I will provide you with a list of those agencies.

SARAH SANCHEZ (Executive Director, Carson Valley Community Food Closet):

The Carson Valley Community Food Closet (CVCFC) has been serving residents of Douglas County since 1989. An average of 700 people are provided with supplemental food monthly. This is over 230,000 meals yearly. Food being distributed come from a variety of sources, the biggest contributor being the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, specifically for fresh produce. The CVCFC is a distributor of The Emergency Food Assistance Program. While the CVCFC gleans from local grocers, the produce is often at the end of its nutritional value and usability. Occasionally, local gardeners and small farms donate fruits and vegetables, but not on the scale of the nutritional needs required by our clients.

The new fruits and vegetables received from the Food Bank of Northern Nevada go a long way to help offset all of the high sodium and high sugar products received from grocers. As a small rural food pantry, this connection with the Food Bank is invaluable. Senate Bill 370 will have an immense impact on helping residents maintain access to nutrient-dense foods with the added benefit to agriculture communities.

MS. STETSON:

I am Executive Director of Farmily and the Manager of Flint Street Farms that grow food which is directly donated to nonprofit agencies for houseless individuals or food pantries to serve the food insecure households. I serve on the Governor's Council on Food Security, and this bill will provide the opportunity for us to highlight locally grown fresh produce to be distributed to those needing it most.

JENNIFER OTT (Director, State Department of Agriculture):

The NDA is a proud partner of the two Nevada Food Banks and other food distribution entities. Senate Bill 370 is a good solution for supporting food banks, farmers, ranchers, processors and producers.

VICE CHAIR SCHEIBLE:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 370 and open public comment.

DR. HELLER-MACNEILAGE:

Backyard beekeeping apiaries contribute to food security. Many people now grow their own food and taking away pollinators would be unproductive. There are projects in the Reno food system and other smaller private gardens who support local food banks and depend on pollinators provided by backyard beekeepers. Food insecurity entities could partner with backyard beekeepers.

VICE CHAIR SCHEIBLE:

It would be interesting to see a collaborative project between backyard beekeepers and food security champions.

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VICE CHAIR SCHEIBLE:

With no further business, we will adjourn this meeting at 5:24 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Christine Miner,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Fabian Donate, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>EXHIBIT SUMMARY</b>				
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Exhibit Letter</b>	<b>Begins on Page</b>	<b>Witness / Entity</b>	<b>Description</b>
	A	1		Agenda
S.B. 400	B	1	Cadence Matijevich / Division of Consumer Equitability / State Department of Agriculture	Written Testimony
S.B. 404	C	1	Cadence Matijevich / Division of Consumer Equitability / State Department of Agriculture	Written Testimony
S.B. 370	D	2	Shane Piccinini / Food Bank of Northern Nevada	Slide Presentation
S.B. 370	E	1	Shane Piccinini / Food Bank of Northern Nevada	Proposed Amendment