

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

**Eighty-first Session  
April 8, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources was called to order by Chair Fabian Donate at 3:39 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, 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:**

Tony Wasley, Director, Department of Wildlife  
Shane Piccinini, Food Bank of Northern Nevada  
Meghan Brown, Deputy Administrator, Division of Plant Industry, State  
Department of Agriculture

CHAIR DONATE:

We will not be considering agenda item Senate Bill (S.B.) 336. We will open the work session on S.B. 78.

**SENATE BILL 336**: Revises provisions governing veterinary medicine. (BDR 54-534)

**SENATE BILL 78**: Revises the membership of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners. (BDR 45-107)

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JENNIFER RUEDY (Policy Analyst):

I will read the summary of the bill and the amendments from the work session document ([Exhibit B](#)). The proposed amendment keeps the Board of Wildlife Commissioners at nine members. The fiscal note from the Department of Wildlife was for two additional members being added to the Board. The proposed amendment may remove the fiscal impact, and the Department will need to confirm that.

CHAIR DONATE:

Will the proposed amendment remove the fiscal impact?

TONY WASLEY (Director, Department of Wildlife):

The fiscal note was related to adding two members to the Board of Wildlife Commissioners for travel, per diem and lodging costs associated with the nine Commission meetings per year. These are two-day meetings occurring on Fridays and Saturdays at various geographic locations between Reno, Las Vegas and elsewhere in Nevada. These costs comprised the fiscal note. Keeping the Wildlife Commission to nine members eliminates the fiscal note.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I understood two members could come from the same county with under 100,000 in population. Is that a drafting error or is one member the intent?

ALLAN AMBURN (Counsel):

I am under the impression the intent was for one member, but if the intent of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources is to increase that number to two members, the official amendment can reflect that.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

The way it reads now is if the cattlemen representative is from Elko County, a sportsman from Elko County could not be eligible to be on the Board.

CHAIR DONATE:

Other Committee members and myself agree it should be two members, and we request Legal Counsel to adjust the proposed amendment to reflect two members are allowed from the same county whose population is less than 100,000.

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I will entertain a motion to amend and do pass S.B. 78 with the inclusion of the change as discussed.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 78 WITH THE CHANGE IN THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT ALLOWING TWO MEMBERS ON THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS TO BE FROM THE SAME COUNTY OF UNDER 100,000 POPULATION.

SENATOR BROOKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR DONATE:

We will move to the work session on S.B. 112.

**SENATE BILL 112**: Exempts certain products for the treatment of domestic animals from regulation under state law. (BDR 54-821)

Ms. REUDY:

I will read the summary of the bill and the amendments from the work session document ([Exhibit C](#)).

SENATOR HANSEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 112.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONATE:

We will move to S.B. 114.

**SENATE BILL 114**: Authorizes food that contains hemp to be produced or sold at a food establishment under certain circumstances. (BDR 49-65)

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Ms. REUDY:

I will read the summary of the bill and the amendments from the work session document ([Exhibit D](#)). This bill is eligible for exemption due to the fiscal note.

CHAIR DONATE:

I will entertain a motion to amend and do pass as amended S.B. 114.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 114.

SENATOR HANSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Does the motion include all of the amendments?

Ms. REUDY:

Yes, all amendments are included.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONATE:

We will go to S.B. 344.

**SENATE BILL 344**: Enacts provisions relating to the importation, possession, sale, transfer and breeding of dangerous wild animals. (BDR 50-871)

Ms. REUDY:

I will read the summary of the bill and the amendments from the work session document ([Exhibit E](#)). On the last page of the work session document, the permissive language for a fee is deleted, which removes the two-thirds majority vote requirement.

MR. AMBURN:

On page 2 of [Exhibit E](#) under "Proposed Changes," section 1 is a typo and it is actually section 8. On page 3 of [Exhibit E](#) in the proposed amendment, language is added to section 8, subsection 7, paragraph (c) to give an individual holding a Class "C" license for exhibitors who have had their license or permit for the

care, possession, sale, exhibition or breeding of animals revoked or suspended or who have entered into any stipulation, consent decree or settlement, 90 days to correct the underlying violation before losing exemption status.

CHAIR DONATE:

The intention of adding the language is to ensure due process considering the pandemic situation.

SENATOR BROOKS:

Grandfathering in existing owners, traveling through the State, the film industry and live entertainment casino shows were portions of the bill that concerned me. I am more comfortable now with the bill with the proposed amendments.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

For clarification, would everyone related to this subject have to be licensed with a Class "C" license or better?

MR. AMBURN:

One of the exemption statuses under section 8, provides a series of exemptions from the prohibition in subsection 7 of section 8. Among the list of exemptions is a holder of a federal Class "C" license for exhibitors. This concerns the zoological part of productions, circuses, resort hotels and entities that would have to comply with the federal licensure requirement.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Would anyone not fitting the exemption category be grandfathered in, or would it be illegal to hold the animals?

MR. AMBURN:

Section 9 is the grandfathering provision and applies to an individual who currently possesses an animal, and certain conditions would apply to the grandfathering clause.

SENATOR HANSEN:

I appreciate the amendments addressing some of my concerns. I will vote no because there has not been a chance to meet with some of the people very concerned about the bill.

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SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I will vote no on the bill. It is better and has addressed some concerns, but there are still things concerning my constituents.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 344.

SENATOR BROOKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATORS GOICOECHEA AND HANSEN VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR DONATE:

We will move to S.B. 349.

[SENATE BILL 349](#): Revises provisions relating to public health. (BDR 40-90)

MS. REUDY:

I will read the summary of the bill and the amendments from the work session document ([Exhibit F](#)).

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I like the first half of the bill. The urban composting zone will be determined by local ordinance, not state law. I want to be sure individuals using the buckets to compost have someone to pick them up, or it becomes garbage.

CHAIR DONATE:

I also was concerned and wanted to be sure support was provided and empowered to local jurisdictions for decisions as to how to implement composting zones.

SENATOR HANSEN:

Is it mandatory for local jurisdictions to create policy on this subject?

MR. AMBURN:

This authorizes local governments but is not a requirement.

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CHAIR DONATE:

I will entertain a motion to amend and do pass as amended S.B. 349.

SENATOR BROOKS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 349.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONATE:

We will move to S.B. 370.

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

Ms. REUDY:

I will read the summary of the bill and the amendments from the work session document ([Exhibit G](#)). The amendment deletes most of the provisions of the bill; it transfers those to a new program and keeps the annual report.

SENATOR BROOKS:

Does the amendment have any impact on the operations of the Nevada Council on Food Security, requiring it to procure more resources?

SHANE PICCININI (Food Bank of Northern Nevada):

The Nevada Council on Food Security is working on a number of various facets of what a Statewide food security plan would entail. It does not appear the reports required would be a strain on the Council. The reports are for transparency purposes.

CHAIR DONATE:

I will entertain a motion to amend and do pass as amended S.B. 370.

SENATOR HANSEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 370.

SENATOR BROOKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONATE:  
We will move to S.B. 400.

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

Ms. REUDY:  
I will read the summary of the bill from the work session document ([Exhibit H](#)).

SENATOR GOICOECHEA MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 400.

SENATOR HANSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONATE:  
We will move to S.B. 404.

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

Ms. REUDY:  
I will read the summary of the bill from the work session document ([Exhibit I](#)).

SENATOR BROOKS MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 404.

SENATOR HANSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONATE:  
We will move to S.B. 406.



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

MS. REUDY:

I will read the summary of the bill from the work session document ([Exhibit J](#)). The Senate Committee on Natural Resources proposes a conceptual amendment to remove the proposed changes to *Nevada Revised Statutes* 501.3585 and 353.335. The proposed conceptual amendment will delete sections 1 and 7 of S.B. 406 which are the provisions related to exempting of the private funds. The fiscal note by the Department of Wildlife shows zero impact.

SENATOR HANSEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 406.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DONATE:

We will move to the final bill in the work session, S.B. 407.

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

MS. REUDY:

I will read the summary of the bill and the amendment from the work session document ([Exhibit K](#)).

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I assume an apiary is a hive. Is there a designation on how big in size a hive can be?

MR. AMBURN:

*Nevada Revised Statutes* 552.0851 defines an apiary as "any hive or other place where bees are kept, located or found, and all appliances used in connection therewith." A hive means any receptacle or container made or prepared for the use of bees. There is no description on the size limit.

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MEGHAN BROWN (Deputy Administrator, Division of Plant Industry, State  
Department of Agriculture):  
The definition in statute is sufficient.

CHAIR DONATE:

I will entertain a motion to amend and do pass as amended S.B. 407.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS S.B. 407.

SENATOR BROOKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR HANSEN:

I will vote no on the motion. I disagree with additional regulations on this  
subject.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I will vote in favor. There are issues on this subject in southern Nevada needing  
some regulations.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATOR HANSEN VOTED NO.)

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Remainder of page intentionally left blank; signature page to follow.

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CHAIR DONATE:

Having concluded our business, we will close the meeting at 4:34 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. 78	B	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 112	C	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 114	D	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 344	E	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 344	E	2	Allan Amburn	Work Session Document
S.B. 349	F	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 370	G	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 400	H	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 404	I	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 406	J	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 407	K	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document