ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 16–COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND MINING

(ON BEHALF OF THE NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 15, 2016

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to agricultural extension programs. (BDR 49-440)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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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 agricultural extension programs; requiring the Treasurer of the Nevada System of Higher Education, in consultation with the President of the University of Nevada, Reno, to submit to the Legislature an annual report regarding cooperative agricultural extension work; revising provisions related to the State's cooperative share of the cost of agricultural extension work; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes the Director of the Agricultural Extension Department of the Public Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education and the board of county commissioners of each county to enter into a cooperative agreement to provide certain programs pertaining to agriculture, community development, health and nutrition, horticulture, personal and family development and natural resources in the rural and urban communities in this State. (NRS 549.010) **Sections 2-12** of this bill change the name of the agency authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the boards of county commissioners from the Agricultural Extension Department of the Public Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education to the Cooperative Extension Department of the University of Nevada, Reno. **Section 1** of this bill requires the Treasurer of the Nevada System of Higher Education, in consultation with the President of the University of Nevada, Reno, to submit to the Legislature, if the Legislature is in session, or to the Interim Finance Committee, if the Legislature is not in session, an annual report: (1) detailing the cooperative agricultural extension work carried out in the preceding year; (2) specifying any county, state and federal money used to

carry out the cooperative agricultural extension work; and (3) updating the status of any cooperative agreements entered into between the Director of the Cooperative Extension Department of the University of Nevada, Reno, and a board of county commissioners.

Existing law requires the Director of the Agricultural Extension Department to prepare and submit to the board of county commissioners for each county participating in cooperative agricultural extension an annual financial budget covering the county, state and federal funds cooperating in the cost of cooperative agricultural extension programs. Existing law: (1) requires each county to levy a tax to meet the county's share of the cooperative agricultural extension work; and (2) prescribes the maximum amount of the State's cooperative share of the cost of agricultural extension work. (NRS 549.020) **Section 4** of this bill revises the amount of the State's cooperative share of the cost of agricultural extension work. **Section 4** also requires the Director to contribute a prescribed amount to each county to pay for certain ancillary services related to the operation of county agricultural extension offices.

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

Section 1. Chapter 549 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

The Treasurer of the Nevada System of Higher Education shall, in consultation with the President of the University of Nevada, Reno, annually on or before April 15, submit to the Legislature, if the Legislature is in session, or to the Interim Finance Committee, if the Legislature is not in session, a written report of:

1. The cooperative agricultural extension work that was carried out pursuant to the provisions of this chapter in the preceding year;

2. The amounts, if any, of county, state and federal money used to carry out the cooperative agricultural extension in the preceding year; and

3. Updating the status of any cooperative agreements entered into between the Director of the Cooperative Extension Department of the University of Nevada, Reno, and a board of county commissioners authorized by NRS 549.010.

Sec. 2. NRS 549.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

549.010 To provide for continued educational, research, outreach and service programs pertaining to agriculture, community development, health and nutrition, horticulture, personal and family development, and natural resources in the rural and urban communities in the State of Nevada, the Director of the ~~[Agricultural]~~ ***Cooperative*** Extension Department of the ~~[Public Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education]~~ ***University of Nevada, Reno,*** and the boards of county

commissioners of any or all of the respective counties of the State of Nevada may enter into cooperative agreements and activities subject to the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 3. NRS 549.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

549.020 1. The Director of the ~~[Agricultural]~~ ***Cooperative*** Extension Department of the ~~[Public Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education]~~ ***University of Nevada, Reno,*** shall prepare and submit to the board of county commissioners, for each county participating, an annual financial budget covering the county, state and federal funds cooperating in the cost of educational, research, outreach and service programs pertaining to agriculture, community development, health and nutrition, horticulture, personal and family development, and natural resources in the rural and urban communities in the State of Nevada.

2. The budget must be adopted by the board of county commissioners and certified as a part of the annual county budget, and the county tax levy provided for agricultural extension work in the annual county budget must include a levy of not less than 1 cent on each $100 of taxable property. If the proceeds of the county tax levy of 1 cent are insufficient to meet the county's share of the cooperative agricultural extension work, as provided in the combined annual financial budget, the board of county commissioners may, by unanimous vote, levy an additional tax so that the total in no instance exceeds 5 cents on each $100 of the county tax rate.

3. The proceeds of such a tax must be placed in the agricultural extension fund in each county treasury and must be paid out on claims drawn by the agricultural extension agent of the county as designated by the Director of the ~~[Agricultural]~~ ***Cooperative*** Extension Department of the ~~[Public Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education,]~~ ***University of Nevada, Reno,*** when approved by the Director and countersigned by the Treasurer of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

4. A record of all such claims approved and paid, segregated by counties, must be kept by the Treasurer of the Nevada System of Higher Education. The cost of maintaining the record must be paid from state funds provided for by this chapter.

5. The State's cooperative share of the cost of such agricultural extension work, as entered in the budget described in this section, must not be more than a sum equal to the proceeds of 1 cent of such county tax rate; but when the proceeds of a 1-cent tax rate are insufficient to carry out the provisions of the budget previously adopted, the Director of the ~~[Agricultural]~~ ***Cooperative*** Extension Department of the ~~[Public Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education]~~ ***University of Nevada, Reno,*** is authorized to

supplement the State's cooperative share from the funds as may be made available in the Public Service Division Fund of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Sec. 4. NRS 549.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

549.020 1. The Director of the Cooperative Extension Department of the University of Nevada, Reno, shall prepare and submit to the board of county commissioners, for each county participating, an annual financial budget covering the county, state and federal funds cooperating in the cost of educational, research, outreach and service programs pertaining to agriculture, community development, health and nutrition, horticulture, personal and family development, and natural resources in the rural and urban communities in the State of Nevada.

2. The budget must be adopted by the board of county commissioners and certified as a part of the annual county budget, and the county tax levy provided for agricultural extension work in the annual county budget must include a levy of not less than 1 cent on each $100 of taxable property. If the proceeds of the county tax levy of 1 cent are insufficient to meet the county's share of the cooperative agricultural extension work, as provided in the combined annual financial budget, the board of county commissioners may, by unanimous vote, levy an additional tax so that the total in no instance exceeds 5 cents on each $100 of the county tax rate.

3. The proceeds of such a tax must be placed in the agricultural extension fund in each county treasury and must be paid out on claims drawn by the agricultural extension agent of the county as designated by the Director of the Cooperative Extension Department of the University of Nevada, Reno, when approved by the Director and countersigned by the Treasurer of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

4. A record of all such claims approved and paid, segregated by counties, must be kept by the Treasurer of the Nevada System of Higher Education. The cost of maintaining the record must be paid from state funds provided for by this chapter.

5. The State's cooperative share of the cost of such agricultural extension work, as entered in the budget described in this section, must ~~[not]~~ be ~~[more than a sum]~~ equal to the proceeds of 1 cent of such county tax rate **.** ~~[; but when]~~ ***If*** the proceeds of a 1-cent tax rate are insufficient to carry out the provisions of the budget previously adopted, the Director of the Cooperative Extension Department of the University of Nevada, Reno, is authorized to supplement the State's cooperative share from the funds as may be made available in the Public Service Division Fund of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

6. In addition to the State's cooperative share of the cost of agricultural extension work prescribed in subsection 5, the Director of the Cooperative Extension Department of the University of Nevada, Reno, shall contribute to each county an amount equal to one-half of the amount expended by the county to pay for ancillary costs, including, without limitation, the salaries of employees and the cost and expense of supplies, materials, equipment, property or land acquired for the use of county agricultural extension offices.

Sec. 5. NRS 549.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

549.030 1. A certified copy of the county extension work budget as adopted and approved pursuant to NRS 549.020 must be filed with the Treasurer of the Nevada System of Higher Education within 10 days after its approval by the board of county commissioners.

2. Necessary modifications thereof, involving county and state funds, resulting from leaves of absence without pay, resignations, changes in salary, dismissals or employment of any cooperative agent, variations in expense accounts or otherwise, not involving an increase in the total expenditures provided to be paid from the funds and consistent with the purposes of this chapter, may be made by filing with the Treasurer of the Nevada System of Higher Education and the board of county commissioners a revised budget, approved by the Director of the ~~[Agricultural]~~ ***Cooperative*** Extension Department of the ~~[Public Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education]~~ ***University of Nevada, Reno,*** and countersigned by the Treasurer of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Sec. 6. NRS 549.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:

549.050 All moneys appropriated pursuant to NRS 549.040 must be expended under the direction of the Director of the ~~[Agricultural]~~ ***Cooperative*** Extension Department of the ~~[Public Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education]~~ ***University of Nevada, Reno,*** to the extent of the financial budget for cooperation between the State and the respective counties provided for in NRS 549.020.

Sec. 7. NRS 550.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

550.010 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Board of Regents" means the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada.

2. "Director" means the Director of the ~~[Agricultural]~~ ***Cooperative*** Extension Department of the ~~[Public Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education.]~~ ***University of Nevada, Reno.***

3. "State 4-H Camp" means the State 4-H Camp Institute and Exhibit.

Sec. 8. NRS 553.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:

553.040 1. Every agricultural demonstration farm or plot under the provisions of this chapter must be conducted by the owner, lessee or manager thereof under the supervision of the ~~[Agricultural]~~ ***Cooperative*** Extension Department of the ~~[Public Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education]~~ ***University of Nevada, Reno,*** and in accordance with the terms of a written project agreement entered into with the ~~[Agricultural]~~ ***Cooperative*** Extension Department of the ~~[Public Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education]~~ ***University of Nevada, Reno,*** and approved by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the agricultural farm or plot is located.

2. The agreement must include the keeping by the owner, lessee or manager of accurate and systematic records and accounts in the form prescribed by the ~~[Agricultural]~~ ***Cooperative*** Extension Department of the ~~[Public Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education.]~~ ***University of Nevada, Reno.*** The records and accounts must be subject to inspection, use and publication in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter.

Sec. 9. NRS 553.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:

553.050 1. The purpose of demonstration farms is to demonstrate the results of improved systems of farm management and accountancy as prescribed by the ~~[Agricultural]~~ ***Cooperative*** Extension Department of the ~~[Public Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education]~~ ***University of Nevada, Reno,*** and applied to the farm units.

2. The purpose of demonstration plots is to demonstrate the value and importance of new or improved varieties of crops, soil management and soil and climate adaptability to certain crops.

Sec. 10. NRS 553.070 is hereby amended to read as follows:

553.070 1. Any county desiring to avail itself of the provisions of this chapter shall, by resolution of its board of county commissioners, bind itself to pay to the owner, lessee or manager of the demonstration farm or plot as follows:

(a) For each demonstration farm, the sum of $10 per acre, but not exceeding the sum of $100 for any such demonstration farm unit.

(b) For any demonstration plot, a minimum of $25 if it is less than 3 acres, and $10 per acre if it contains 3 acres or more.

2. The sums must be paid annually for each year the demonstration is to be continued on the certification by the ~~[Agricultural]~~ ***Cooperative*** Extension Department of the ~~[Public Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education]~~

University of Nevada, Reno, that the demonstration has been conducted in accordance with the agreement.

3. A county is not obligated under the provisions of this section, except with respect to demonstration farms and plots which have been approved by the board of county commissioners as provided in NRS 553.040.

4. The authority to provide for such expenditure in the county budget and to disburse the money is hereby granted to the board of county commissioners and the other officers of the several counties.

Sec. 11. NRS 553.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:

553.090 The ~~[Agricultural]~~ ***Cooperative*** Extension Department of the ~~[Public Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education]~~ ***University of Nevada, Reno,*** annually shall prepare the information resulting from the demonstration in a form serviceable to aid and advance agricultural welfare of the State. The ~~[Agricultural]~~ ***Cooperative*** Extension Department shall cause to be printed a number of copies thereof as may be deemed necessary, not exceeding 10,000, and shall distribute the copies without charge.

Sec. 12. NRS 284.140 is hereby amended to read as follows:

284.140 The unclassified service of the State consists of the following state officers or employees in the Executive Department of the State Government who receive annual salaries for their services:

1. Members of boards and commissions, and heads of departments, agencies and institutions required by law to be appointed.

2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 223.085, 223.570 and 223.600, all persons required by law to be appointed by the Governor or heads of departments or agencies appointed by the Governor or by boards.

3. All employees other than clerical in the Office of the Attorney General and the State Public Defender required by law to be appointed by the Attorney General or the State Public Defender.

4. Except as otherwise provided by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada pursuant to NRS 396.251, officers and members of the teaching staff and the staffs of the ~~[Agricultural]~~ ***Cooperative*** Extension Department ***of the University of Nevada, Reno,*** and ***the*** Experiment Station of the Nevada System of Higher Education, or any other state institution of learning, and student employees of these institutions. Custodial, clerical or maintenance employees of these institutions are in the classified service. The Board of Regents of the University of Nevada shall assist the Administrator in carrying out the provisions of this chapter applicable to the Nevada System of Higher Education.

5. All other officers and employees authorized by law to be employed in the unclassified service.

Sec. 13. The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

Sec. 14. 1. This section and sections 1, 2, 3 and 5 to 13, inclusive, of this act become effective upon passage and approval.

2. Section 4 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 2018.

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