

MARCH 25, 1971

PRESENT: Ronzone, Dreyer, Fry, Smith, May, Homer and Olsen

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ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Assemblyman Brookman; Glen Griffith, Bill Parsons and Fred Wright all from the Nevada Department of Fish and Game

Chairman Ronzone called the meeting to order at 10:50 A.M. for the purpose of discussing A.B. 396. It "extensively amends fish and game license, tag and permit provisions and hunting, fishing and trapping laws." Mrs. Brookman was present to explain her amendments which would lower the fee to \$1, lower the residency requirement from 20 years down to 5 years and would include disabled veterans.

Mr. Griffith said it would be difficult to determine how much revenue would be lost because we don't know how many people will come under this. It will be a big loss to us, however, in revenue. We would rather see the \$2 fee remain. If we were a general fund agency whereby this could be reimbursed, or if it were on a general tax basis, it would be different.

Mr. May asked how long the \$2 fee had been effect. Mr. Griffith said it had been changed last session from a \$1 fee.

Mrs. Brookman then spoke. She again stated that at the hearing she had attended with the Fish and Game Department, that they had been in accordance with her proposed amendments. She repeated that the people who would be affected by this are on fixed incomes and deserved the lower fees and the benefits. She said she did not feel that the loss of revenue would be so great. She concluded by saying she urged the committee to go ahead with the \$1 tag fee, the 5-year residency and the inclusion of veterans.

Fred Wright then spoke. He said by reducing the residency requirements from 20 to 5 years, approximately 18,000 more people will be potentially eligible to secure a license at the lower rate of \$1. It looks like somewhere around \$40,000 could be lost because of this and primarily because of this residency change. He then quoted figures relating to this. See attached.

Mr. May asked how the length of residency is determined or what enforcement there is to make sure people are actually eligible. Mr. Parsons said periodic checks are made to see that the facts comply with the information on the license forms.

Dr. Homer commented that he would like to bring out the fact that this is not dealing with State money. It is dealing with sportsmen's money. This is what supports the program. Mr. Wright commented that he didn't feel they could really be in a position to arbitrate. All of these things cost the Fish and Game Department money and we do feel that we are on a fixed income.

Mr. Griffith added that the Department has just as much sympathy for this class of people as anyone does. But, he said, this has to come from only 1/5 of the population of the State - not all the people of the State. The Department feels this should be supported by all - not just those who buy a fishing license.

Mr. Smith asked what percentage of the Department's budget was received from Federal funds. Mr. Wright said it is difficult to say and it depends on the program. He said the Department was on a 75-25 matching basis.

Mr. Griffith said this deals with all of sportsmen's money. It is earmarked tax money but is not on a broad base population tax basis.

Mrs. Brookman then commented that the budget of the Fish and Game Department was one of the healthiest budgets that the Ways and Means Committee has been going over. She said she really didn't think this would cause a great impact on the Fish and Game budget.

Mr. Smith said he would like to see this for two years. Then the Department could get some better figures on this. He added that the sportsman is supporting himself with his own money because of the tax on fishing tackle and equipment.

Mr. Fry moved to drop the residency requirement from 20 years to 5 years and to keep the \$2 fee. Mr. Dreyer seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Fry moved the adoption of the language in the amendment as it applies to the disabled veterans charging them a \$2 fee. Dr. Homer seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

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