

SENATE BILL NO. 34—COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

(ON BEHALF OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Makes various changes relating to agriculture. (BDR 50-330)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
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 agriculture; revising provisions relating to certain employees of the State Department of Agriculture who have the powers of a peace officer; clarifying that certain inspections conducted by the Department are visual inspections; revising the definition of “police officer” to include agricultural police officers for purposes of certain benefits and exemptions; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

- 1 Under existing law, a brand inspector or a person designated as a field agent or
- 2 inspector by the Director of the State Department of Agriculture is a category II
- 3 peace officer with enforcement powers related to certain provisions of law related
- 4 to agriculture. (NRS 289.290, 289.470, 561.225) **Section 1** of this bill authorizes
- 5 the Director to, instead, appoint agricultural police officers to enforce certain
- 6 provisions of law relating to agriculture. **Section 12** of this bill makes an
- 7 agricultural police officer a category I peace officer. **Sections 2 and 7-15** of this
- 8 bill make conforming changes related to the appointment of agricultural police
- 9 officers in place of field agents and inspectors.
- 10 **Section 11** of this bill authorizes an agricultural police officer to: (1) serve such
- 11 legal process as may be required in the enforcement of various provisions of law
- 12 related to agriculture; and (2) enforce all laws of the State while performing duties
- 13 pursuant to various provisions of law related to agriculture.
- 14 Existing law authorizes the Director of the Department to establish brand
- 15 inspection districts in this State. If such districts are established, any animal within
- 16 those districts is subject to brand inspection before the animal may be consigned for
- 17 slaughter, sold or removed from any of those districts. (NRS 565.040, 565.090,



18 565.100, 565.110) **Sections 3-6** of this bill clarify that a brand inspection is a visual
19 examination.

20 Existing law defines “police officer” to include various law enforcement
21 officers of this State for the purposes of certain provisions relating to eligibility for
22 benefits under the Nevada Occupational Diseases Act. (NRS 617.135) **Section 16**
23 of this bill expands the definition of “police officer” to include agricultural police
24 officers. Furthermore, because various other provisions of NRS reference “police
25 officer” as that term is defined in the Act, **section 16** makes applicable to
26 agricultural police officers: (1) the industrial insurance coverage for police officers;
27 (2) exemption from service as grand or trial jurors; (3) the compensation for police
28 officers with temporary disabilities; and (4) eligibility for certain programs of group
29 insurance or other medical or hospital service for the surviving spouse or any child
30 of police officers and firefighters. (NRS 6.020, 281.153, 287.021, 287.0477,
31 chapters 616A-616D of NRS)

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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 561.225 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 561.225 1. The Director shall appoint such technical, clerical
3 and operational staff as the execution of the Director’s duties and
4 the operation of the Department may require.

5 2. The Director may ~~designate such department personnel as~~
6 ~~are required to be field agents and inspectors in the enforcement of]~~
7 *appoint agricultural police officers for the purposes of enforcing*
8 the provisions of Titles 49 and 50 of NRS and chapters 581, 582,
9 583, 584, 586, 587, 588 and 590 of NRS.

10 **Sec. 2.** NRS 561.421 is hereby amended to read as follows:
11 561.421 Any ~~field agent, inspector, or other~~ officer or
12 employee of the Department, who collects currency in payment of
13 any taxes, assessments, proceeds of sale, fees or other charges
14 imposed pursuant to the provisions of this Title in an area of the
15 State so remote that the currency can only be transmitted to the
16 Department by mail, may mail a check in lieu of the amount
17 collected in currency.

18 **Sec. 3.** NRS 565.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:
19 565.010 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
20 requires:

21 1. *“Agricultural police officer” means a person appointed by*
22 *the Director pursuant to NRS 561.225 who has the powers of a*
23 *peace officer pursuant to NRS 289.290.*

- 24 2. “Animals” means:
25 (a) All cattle or animals of the bovine species except dairy breed
26 calves under the age of 1 month.
27 (b) All horses, mules, burros and asses or animals of the equine
28 species.
29 (c) All swine or animals of the porcine species.



1 (d) Alternative livestock as defined in NRS 501.003.

2 ~~[2.]~~ 3. “Brand inspection” means a careful *visual* examination
3 of each animal offered for such inspection and ~~[and]~~ *a visual*
4 examination of any brands, marks or other characteristics thereon.

5 ~~[3.]~~ 4. “Department” means the State Department of
6 Agriculture.

7 ~~[4.]~~ 5. “Director” means the Director of the Department.

8 **Sec. 4.** NRS 565.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 565.090 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 3 and
10 6 and NRS 565.095, it is unlawful for any person to drive or
11 otherwise remove any animals out of a brand inspection district
12 created under the provisions of this chapter until the animals have
13 been *visually* inspected and a brand inspection clearance certificate
14 is issued by the Department or a written permit from the Department
15 has been issued authorizing the movement without brand inspection.

16 2. Any person contemplating the driving or movement of any
17 animals out of a brand inspection district shall notify the
18 Department or an inspector thereof of the person’s intention, stating:

19 (a) The place at which it is proposed to cross the border of the
20 brand inspection district with the animals.

21 (b) The number and kind of animals.

22 (c) The owner of the animals.

23 (d) The brands and marks of the animals claimed by each owner
24 and, if they are other than the brands and marks legally recorded in
25 the name of the owner, information concerning the basis for the
26 claim of ownership or legal possession.

27 (e) The date of the proposed movement across the border of the
28 brand inspection district and the destination of the movement.

29 (f) If a brand inspection is required, a statement setting forth the
30 place where the animals will be held for brand inspection.

31 3. The provisions of this section do not apply to animals whose
32 accustomed range is on both sides of the boundary of any brand
33 inspection district but contiguous to that district and which are being
34 moved from one portion of the accustomed range to another merely
35 for pasturing and grazing thereon.

36 4. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 565.095, the
37 provisions of this section apply at all times to the movement of any
38 animals across the Nevada state line to any point outside of the State
39 of Nevada, except animals whose accustomed range is on both sides
40 of the Nevada state line but contiguous thereto and which are being
41 moved from one portion to another of the accustomed range merely
42 for pasturing and grazing thereon.

43 5. In addition to the penalty imposed in NRS 565.170, a person
44 who violates the provisions of subsection 1 is:



1 (a) For the first violation, subject to an immediate brand
2 inspection of the animals by the Department and shall reimburse the
3 Department for its time and mileage and pay the usual fees for the
4 brand inspection.

5 (b) For the second and any subsequent violation, ineligible for a
6 permit to move any livestock without a brand inspection until the
7 State Board of Agriculture is satisfied that any future movement will
8 comply with all applicable statutes and regulations.

9 6. The Department may establish regulations specifying the
10 circumstances under which a permit may be issued authorizing the
11 movement of livestock without a brand inspection pursuant to this
12 section. The circumstances may include, without limitation, the
13 routine movement of horses and bulls within and from this State for
14 the purpose of participating in a rodeo.

15 **Sec. 5.** NRS 565.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

16 565.100 It is unlawful for any person to consign for slaughter,
17 or slaughter at an approved plant, or transfer ownership of any
18 animals by sale or otherwise within any brand inspection district
19 created under the provisions of this chapter, until the animals have
20 been *visually* inspected by an inspector of the Department and a
21 brand inspection clearance certificate issued covering the animals.

22 **Sec. 6.** NRS 565.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:

23 565.110 Except as otherwise provided in NRS 565.090, a
24 person intending to move, drive, ship or transport by common
25 carrier, or otherwise, any animals out of any brand inspection
26 district created under the provisions of this chapter shall assemble
27 and hold them at some convenient and adequate place for such
28 brand inspection as may be required until the animals have been
29 *visually* inspected and released as provided for in this chapter.

30 **Sec. 7.** NRS 565.140 is hereby amended to read as follows:

31 565.140 1. Whenever, incident to any brand inspection under
32 the provisions of this chapter, any inspector shall find in the
33 possession of any person or persons offering animals for inspection
34 any animals to which such person or persons cannot establish their
35 legal ownership or right of possession and the inspector shall be able
36 to determine by means of the brands or brands and marks on such
37 animal or animals, or upon other reliable evidence, the actual legal
38 owner or owners of such animal or animals, the inspector shall
39 immediately notify an agricultural ~~enforcement~~ *police* officer of
40 the inspector's findings.

41 2. The inspector shall include in such notice:

42 (a) The date and place where such animal or animals were
43 found.

44 (b) A full description of the same.



1 (c) The name and address of any person or persons in whose
2 possession they were found.

3 (d) All other information which may aid the agricultural
4 ~~enforcement~~ *police* officer or the legal owner or owners of such
5 animal or animals in securing the return thereof or compensation
6 therefor, or in any civil suit or criminal prosecution relating thereto.

7 3. Upon receipt of the notice, the agricultural ~~enforcement~~
8 *police* officer shall investigate the findings of the inspector and, as
9 soon as practicable, provide notification of those findings to the
10 legal owner or owners of such animal or animals.

11 ~~[4.—As used in this section, “agricultural enforcement officer”~~
12 ~~has the meaning ascribed to it in regulations adopted by the~~
13 ~~Department.]~~

14 **Sec. 8.** NRS 565.150 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 565.150 1. Whenever, incident to any brand inspection under
16 the provisions of this chapter, any inspector shall find in the
17 possession of any persons offering animals for inspection any
18 animals to which such person or persons cannot establish their legal
19 ownership or right to possession, and the inspector shall be unable
20 to determine by means of the brands or brands and marks on such
21 animals, or otherwise, the actual legal owners of the animals, or, if
22 in the judgment of the inspector such action is necessary to
23 safeguard the legal owners of the animals, if known to the inspector,
24 against their loss, the inspector shall immediately *notify an*
25 *agricultural police officer. The agricultural police officer shall*
26 *seize and take possession of such animals and proceed to dispose of*
27 *the same, under the provisions of NRS 569.010 or 569.040 to*
28 *569.130, inclusive.*

29 2. Such seizure and disposal by an ~~inspector~~ *agricultural*
30 *police officer* shall in no way relieve the persons in whose
31 possession the animals were found of any civil or criminal liability
32 arising out of the unlawful removal of such animals from the
33 grazing commons or the unlawful possession of the same.

34 **Sec. 9.** NRS 565.155 is hereby amended to read as follows:

35 565.155 In addition to enforcing the provisions of this chapter
36 through its ~~inspectors,~~ *agricultural police officers,* the Department
37 may:

38 1. Authorize other peace officers to enforce the provisions of
39 this chapter; and

40 2. Adopt regulations specifying the procedures for the
41 enforcement of the provisions of this chapter by ~~the inspectors of~~
42 ~~the Department~~ *agricultural police officers* and other peace
43 officers.



1 **Sec. 10.** NRS 566.025 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 566.025 1. It is unlawful for any person to have in his or her
3 possession all or part of the carcass of any bovine animal unless:

4 (a) The animal was slaughtered at a slaughtering establishment
5 under a United States Government, state, county or municipal
6 inspection system which provides for adequate stamping for
7 identification of all carcasses or parts of carcasses before release; or

8 (b) The person exhibits to any inspector or agricultural
9 ~~enforcement~~ *police* officer of the Department, on demand:

10 (1) The hide of the animal from which the carcass was
11 obtained, with ears and brands attached without disfiguration or
12 alteration; or

13 (2) A certificate of inspection or release of the carcass, or of
14 the carcass and hide, issued by an inspector of the Department.

15 2. As used in this section, "agricultural ~~enforcement~~ *police*
16 officer" ~~[has the meaning ascribed to it in regulations adopted by the~~
17 ~~Department.] means a person appointed by the Director of the~~
18 ~~Department pursuant to NRS 561.225 who has the powers of a~~
19 ~~peace officer pursuant to NRS 289.290.~~

20 **Sec. 11.** NRS 289.290 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21 289.290 1. ~~[A person designated]~~ *An agricultural police*
22 *officer appointed* by the Director of the State Department of
23 Agriculture ~~[as a field agent or an inspector]~~ pursuant to ~~[subsection~~
24 ~~2 of]~~ NRS 561.225 ~~[has the powers of]~~ *is* a peace officer ~~[to make~~
25 ~~investigations and arrests and to execute warrants of search and~~
26 ~~seizure, and may temporarily stop a vehicle in the enforcement of~~
27 ~~the provisions]~~ *for the purposes of:*

28 (a) *The service of such legal process, including warrants and*
29 *subpoenas, as may be required in the enforcement* of titles 49 and
30 50 of NRS and chapters 581, 582, 583, 584, 586, 587, 588 and 590
31 of NRS.

32 ~~[2.—An officer appointed by the Nevada Junior Livestock Show~~
33 ~~Board pursuant to NRS 563.120 has the powers of a peace officer~~
34 ~~for the preservation of order and peace on the grounds and in the~~
35 ~~buildings and the approaches thereto of the livestock shows and~~
36 ~~exhibitions that the Board conducts.~~

37 ~~—3.— In carrying out the provisions of chapter 565]~~

38 (b) *The enforcement of all laws of the State of Nevada while*
39 *they are performing their duties pursuant to titles 49 and 50* of
40 NRS ~~[, an inspector of the State Department of Agriculture has the~~
41 ~~powers of a peace officer to make investigations and arrests and to~~
42 ~~execute warrants of search and seizure.] and chapters 581, 582,~~
43 ~~583, 584, 586, 587, 588 and 590 of NRS.~~

44 2. *Before any officer described in subsection 1 may exercise*
45 *the powers of a peace officer, he or she must be certified as a*



1 *category I peace officer by the Peace Officers' Standards and*
2 *Training Commission.*

3 **Sec. 12.** NRS 289.470 is hereby amended to read as follows:
4 289.470 "Category II peace officer" means:

5 1. The bailiffs of the district courts, justice courts and
6 municipal courts whose duties require them to carry weapons and
7 make arrests;

8 2. Subject to the provisions of NRS 258.070, constables and
9 their deputies;

10 3. Inspectors employed by the Nevada Transportation
11 Authority who exercise those powers of enforcement conferred by
12 chapters 706 and 712 of NRS;

13 4. Special investigators who are employed full-time by the
14 office of any district attorney or the Attorney General;

15 5. Investigators of arson for fire departments who are specially
16 designated by the appointing authority;

17 6. ~~The brand inspectors of the State Department of Agriculture~~
18 ~~who exercise the powers of enforcement conferred by chapter 565~~
19 ~~of NRS;~~

20 ~~—7.— The field agents and inspectors by the Director of the State~~
21 ~~Department of Agriculture who exercise the powers of enforcement~~
22 ~~conferred by NRS 561.225;~~

23 ~~—8.]~~ Investigators for the State Forester Firewarden who are
24 specially designated by the State Forester Firewarden and whose
25 primary duties are related to the investigation of arson;

26 ~~[9.]~~ 7. Agents of the Nevada Gaming Control Board who
27 exercise the powers of enforcement specified in NRS 289.360,
28 463.140 or 463.1405, except those agents whose duties relate
29 primarily to auditing, accounting, the collection of taxes or license
30 fees, or the investigation of applicants for licenses;

31 ~~[10.]~~ 8. Investigators and administrators of the Division of
32 Compliance Enforcement of the Department of Motor Vehicles who
33 perform the duties specified in subsection 2 of NRS 481.048;

34 ~~[11.]~~ 9. Officers and investigators of the Section for the
35 Control of Emissions From Vehicles and the Enforcement of
36 Matters Related to the Use of Special Fuel of the Department of
37 Motor Vehicles who perform the duties specified in subsection 3
38 of NRS 481.0481;

39 ~~[12.]~~ 10. Legislative police officers of the State of Nevada;

40 ~~[13.]~~ 11. Parole counselors of the Division of Child and
41 Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services;

42 ~~[14.]~~ 12. Juvenile probation officers and deputy juvenile
43 probation officers employed by the various judicial districts in the
44 State of Nevada or by a department of juvenile justice services
45 established by ordinance pursuant to NRS 62G.210 whose official



1 duties require them to enforce court orders on juvenile offenders and
2 make arrests;

3 ~~[15.]~~ 13. Field investigators of the Taxicab Authority;

4 ~~[16.]~~ 14. Security officers employed full-time by a city or
5 county whose official duties require them to carry weapons and
6 make arrests;

7 ~~[17.]~~ 15. The chief of a department of alternative sentencing
8 created pursuant to NRS 211A.080 and the assistant alternative
9 sentencing officers employed by that department;

10 ~~[18.]~~ 16. Agents of the Cannabis Compliance Board who
11 exercise the powers of enforcement specified in NRS 289.355;

12 ~~[19.]~~ 17. Criminal investigators who are employed by the
13 Secretary of State; and

14 ~~[20.]~~ 18. The Inspector General of the Department of
15 Corrections and any person employed by the Department as a
16 criminal investigator.

17 **Sec. 13.** NRS 289.480 is hereby amended to read as follows:

18 289.480 “Category III peace officer” means a peace officer
19 whose authority is limited to correctional services, including the
20 superintendents and correctional officers of the Department of
21 Corrections. The term does not include a person described in
22 subsection ~~[20]~~ 18 of NRS 289.470.

23 **Sec. 14.** NRS 484A.205 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 484A.205 “Regulatory agency” means any of the agencies
25 granted police or enforcement powers under the provisions of
26 subsection 1 of NRS 289.250, NRS 289.260, subsection 2 of NRS
27 289.270, NRS 289.280, ~~[subsection 3 of NRS]~~ 289.290 , ~~[or NRS]~~
28 289.320, 289.340, 407.065, 472.040, 481.048, 501.349, 565.155 or
29 706.8821.

30 **Sec. 15.** NRS 584.091 is hereby amended to read as follows:

31 584.091 Each ~~[field agent or inspector of the Department]~~
32 *agricultural police officer* who has the powers of a peace officer
33 pursuant to NRS 289.290 shall render assistance to the Director in
34 the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter.

35 **Sec. 16.** NRS 617.135 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 617.135 “Police officer” includes:

37 1. A sheriff, deputy sheriff, officer of a metropolitan police
38 department or city police officer;

39 2. A chief, inspector, supervisor, commercial officer or trooper
40 of the Nevada Highway Patrol Division of the Department of Public
41 Safety;

42 3. A chief, investigator or agent of the Investigation Division
43 of the Department of Public Safety;



1 4. A chief, supervisor, investigator or training officer of the
2 Training Division of the Department of Public Safety;

3 5. A chief or investigator of an office of the Department of
4 Public Safety that conducts internal investigations of employees of
5 the Department of Public Safety or investigates other issues relating
6 to the professional responsibility of those employees;

7 6. A chief or investigator of the Department of Public Safety
8 whose duties include, without limitation:

9 (a) The execution, administration or enforcement of the
10 provisions of chapter 179A of NRS; and

11 (b) The provision of technology support services to the Director
12 and the divisions of the Department of Public Safety;

13 7. An officer or investigator of the Section for the Control of
14 Emissions From Vehicles and the Enforcement of Matters Related
15 to the Use of Special Fuel of the Department of Motor Vehicles;

16 8. An investigator of the Division of Compliance Enforcement
17 of the Department of Motor Vehicles;

18 9. A member of the police department of the Nevada System of
19 Higher Education;

20 10. A:

21 (a) Uniformed employee of; or

22 (b) Forensic specialist employed by,

23 ↪ the Department of Corrections whose position requires regular
24 and frequent contact with the offenders imprisoned and subjects the
25 employee to recall in emergencies;

26 11. A parole and probation officer of the Division of Parole
27 and Probation of the Department of Public Safety;

28 12. A forensic specialist or correctional officer employed by
29 the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of
30 Health and Human Services at facilities for mentally disordered
31 offenders;

32 13. The State Fire Marshal and his or her assistant and
33 deputies;

34 14. A game warden of the Department of Wildlife who has the
35 powers of a peace officer pursuant to NRS 289.280;

36 15. A ranger or employee of the Division of State Parks of the
37 State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources who has
38 the powers of a peace officer pursuant to NRS 289.260; ~~and~~

39 16. A bailiff or a deputy marshal of the district court or justice
40 court whose duties require him or her to carry a weapon and to make
41 arrests ~~and~~; and

42 *17. An agricultural police officer appointed by the Director of*
43 *the State Department of Agriculture pursuant to NRS 561.225 who*
44 *has the powers of a peace officer pursuant to NRS 289.290.*



1 **Sec. 17.** This act becomes effective upon passage and
2 approval.

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