
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 112—COMMITTEE
ON GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE

(ON BEHALF OF THE JOINT INTERIM STANDING
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES)

PREFILED FEBRUARY 3, 2023

Referred to Committee on Growth and Infrastructure

SUMMARY—Establishes provisions relating to wildlife crossings.
(BDR 35-340)

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 wildlife; creating the Wildlife Crossings Account in the State General Fund; requiring the Director of the Department of Transportation to administer the Account; requiring the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Department of Wildlife, to develop and publish an inventory and list of certain projects relating to wildlife crossings; requiring the Director of the Department of Transportation to review the standards and specifications for the design and construction of highways in this State to determine the standards and specifications necessary for incorporating wildlife crossings and related highway features into the highways of this State; authorizing the Director of the Department of Transportation to adopt regulations; requiring the State Board of Finance to issue general obligation bonds to implement projects relating to wildlife crossings; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing federal law establishes a wildlife-crossing safety program to provide
2 grants of money to states for projects that seek to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions
3 and improve wildlife habitat connectivity. (23 U.S.C. § 171) **Section 2** of this bill
4 creates the Wildlife Crossings Account in the State General Fund, which is
5 administered by the Director of the Department of Transportation. **Section 2**



6 requires the Department of Transportation to consult with the Department of
7 Wildlife to identify locations and strategies relating to wildlife crossings and
8 prioritize certain areas to fund projects relating to wildlife crossings.

9 **Section 3** of this bill requires the Department of Transportation, in consultation
10 with the Department of Wildlife, to develop, publish and update an inventory of
11 connectivity needs on the state highway system where the implementation of
12 wildlife crossings and other related highway features to improve permeability for
13 wildlife, reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions or enhance wildlife activity.

14 **Section 4** of this bill requires the Director of the Department of Transportation
15 to review the standards and specifications for the design and construction of
16 highways in this State to determine standards and specifications necessary to
17 incorporate wildlife crossings and other related highway features into the highways
18 in this State.

19 **Section 5** of this bill authorizes the Director of the Department of
20 Transportation to adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this bill.

21 **Section 6** of this bill requires the State Board of Finance to issue not more than
22 \$15,000,000 of general obligation bonds for credit to the Wildlife Crossings
23 Account to implement projects relating to wildlife crossings and other highway
24 features to improve permeability for wildlife.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 408 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this
3 act:

4 **Sec. 2. 1. *The Wildlife Crossings Account is hereby created***
5 ***in the State General Fund. The Director shall administer the***
6 ***Account. The Account is a continuing account without reversion.***

7 ***2. Any proceeds from the issuance of bonds or other***
8 ***securities for the Account must be deposited in the State Treasury***
9 ***for credit to the Account.***

10 ***3. The Director may accept gifts, grants and bequests of***
11 ***money from any public or private source. The money must be***
12 ***deposited in the State Treasury for credit to the Account.***

13 ***4. Money in the Account must be used by the Department for***
14 ***the design, construction, identification, restoration and protection***
15 ***of wildlife crossings and other related highway features to improve***
16 ***wildlife permeability in this State, which may include, without***
17 ***limitation:***

18 ***(a) Matching any federal money for a project to design,***
19 ***construct, identify, restore or protect wildlife crossings and other***
20 ***related highway features;***

21 ***(b) Conducting studies on wildlife crossings and other related***
22 ***highway features;***

23 ***(c) Designing or constructing wildlife crossings and other***
24 ***related highway features;***



1 (d) Planning related to wildlife crossings and other related
2 highway features;

3 (e) Staffing needs related to the design, construction,
4 identification, restoration and protection of wildlife crossings and
5 other related highway features; and

6 (f) Carrying out the provisions of sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of
7 this act, in cooperation with the Department of Wildlife.

8 5. In administering the Account, the Department shall
9 consult with the Department of Wildlife to:

10 (a) Identify locations where key wildlife habitat, wildlife
11 migration corridors and highways intersect;

12 (b) Identify and implement strategies to avoid, minimize and
13 mitigate wildlife-vehicle collisions; and

14 (c) Prioritize areas to implement projects for wildlife crossings
15 or other related highway features to improve permeability for
16 wildlife while maintaining highway user safety.

17 6. All claims against the Account must be paid as other
18 claims against the State are paid.

19 **Sec. 3. 1.** The Department shall, in consultation with the
20 Department of Wildlife, develop an inventory of connectivity needs
21 on the state highway system where the implementation of wildlife
22 crossings and other related highway features to improve
23 permeability for wildlife, reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions or
24 enhance wildlife connectivity. The inventory may include, without
25 limitation, projects and needs previously identified by the
26 Department, other state agencies, tribal governments and local
27 governments.

28 2. Not later than December 1, 2023, the Department shall
29 publish:

30 (a) The inventory required pursuant to subsection 1; and

31 (b) A list of any funded transportation projects that
32 implemented wildlife crossings or other related highway features
33 to improve permeability for wildlife or addressed wildlife
34 connectivity needs.

35 3. The Department shall update the inventory and list
36 required to be published pursuant to subsection 2 at least once
37 every 2 years.

38 **Sec. 4.** The Director shall review the standards and
39 specifications for the design and construction of highways in this
40 State to determine the standards and specifications necessary for
41 incorporating wildlife crossings and other related highway
42 features to improve permeability for wildlife in the design and
43 construction of highways in this State.

44 **Sec. 5.** The Director may adopt regulations to carry out the
45 provisions of sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act.



1 **Sec. 6.** 1. The State Board of Finance shall issue general
2 obligation bonds of the State of Nevada in a total face amount of not
3 more than \$15,000,000 pursuant to NRS 349.150 to 349.364,
4 inclusive. The proceeds of the bonds issued pursuant to this section
5 must be deposited with the State Treasurer and credited to the
6 Wildlife Crossings Account created by section 2 of this act to
7 implement projects to design, construct, identify, restore or protect
8 wildlife crossings and other related highway features to improve
9 permeability for wildlife.

10 2. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the issuance
11 of securities and the incurrence of indebtedness pursuant to this
12 section:

13 (a) Are necessary for the protection and preservation of the
14 natural resources of this State and for the purpose of obtaining the
15 benefits thereof; and

16 (b) Constitute an exercise of the authority conferred by the
17 second paragraph of Section 3 of Article 9 of the Constitution of the
18 State of Nevada.

19 **Sec. 7.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

