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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.

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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:**

1 Existing law authorizes the Director of the Agricultural Extension Department  
2 of the Public Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education and the  
3 board of county commissioners of each county to enter into a cooperative  
4 agreement to provide certain programs pertaining to agriculture, community  
5 development, health and nutrition, horticulture, personal and family development  
6 and natural resources in the rural and urban communities in this State. (NRS  
7 549.010) **Sections 2-12** of this bill change the name of the agency authorized to  
8 enter into cooperative agreements with the boards of county commissioners from  
9 the Agricultural Extension Department of the Public Service Division of the  
10 Nevada System of Higher Education to the Cooperative Extension Department of  
11 the University of Nevada, Reno. **Section 1** of this bill requires the Treasurer of the  
12 Nevada System of Higher Education, in consultation with the President of the  
13 University of Nevada, Reno, to submit to the Legislature, if the Legislature is in  
14 session, or to the Interim Finance Committee, if the Legislature is not in session, an  
15 annual report: (1) detailing the cooperative agricultural extension work carried out  
16 in the preceding year; (2) specifying any county, state and federal money used to



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 549.010 To provide for continued educational, research,  
21 outreach and service programs pertaining to agriculture, community  
22 development, health and nutrition, horticulture, personal and family  
23 development, and natural resources in the rural and urban  
24 communities in the State of Nevada, the Director of the  
25 ~~[Agricultural] Cooperative~~ Extension Department of the ~~[Public~~  
26 ~~Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education]~~  
27 *University of Nevada, Reno,* and the boards of county



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

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

5 549.020 1. The Director of the ~~{Agricultural}~~ *Cooperative*  
6 Extension Department of the ~~{Public Service Division of the Nevada~~  
7 ~~System of Higher Education}~~ *University of Nevada, Reno*, shall  
8 prepare and submit to the board of county commissioners, for each  
9 county participating, an annual financial budget covering the  
10 county, state and federal funds cooperating in the cost of  
11 educational, research, outreach and service programs pertaining to  
12 agriculture, community development, health and nutrition,  
13 horticulture, personal and family development, and natural resources  
14 in the rural and urban communities in the State of Nevada.

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

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

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

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



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

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

5 549.020 1. The Director of the Cooperative Extension  
6 Department of the University of Nevada, Reno, shall prepare and  
7 submit to the board of county commissioners, for each county  
8 participating, an annual financial budget covering the county, state  
9 and federal funds cooperating in the cost of educational, research,  
10 outreach and service programs pertaining to agriculture, community  
11 development, health and nutrition, horticulture, personal and family  
12 development, and natural resources in the rural and urban  
13 communities in the State of Nevada.

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

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

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

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



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

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

11       549.030 1. A certified copy of the county extension work  
12 budget as adopted and approved pursuant to NRS 549.020 must be  
13 filed with the Treasurer of the Nevada System of Higher Education  
14 within 10 days after its approval by the board of county  
15 commissioners.

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

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

29       549.050 All moneys appropriated pursuant to NRS 549.040  
30 must be expended under the direction of the Director of the  
31 ~~{Agricultural}~~ *Cooperative* Extension Department of the ~~{Public~~  
32 ~~Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education}~~  
33 *University of Nevada, Reno*, to the extent of the financial budget for  
34 cooperation between the State and the respective counties provided  
35 for in NRS 549.020.

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

37       550.010 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise  
38 requires:

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

41       2. "Director" means the Director of the ~~{Agricultural}~~  
42 *Cooperative* Extension Department of the ~~{Public Service Division~~  
43 ~~of the Nevada System of Higher Education.}~~ *University of Nevada,*  
44 *Reno.*



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

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

4 553.040 1. Every agricultural demonstration farm or plot  
5 under the provisions of this chapter must be conducted by the  
6 owner, lessee or manager thereof under the supervision of the  
7 ~~{Agricultural}~~ *Cooperative* Extension Department of the ~~{Public~~  
8 ~~Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher Education}~~  
9 *University of Nevada, Reno*, and in accordance with the terms of a  
10 written project agreement entered into with the ~~{Agricultural}~~  
11 *Cooperative* Extension Department of the ~~{Public Service Division~~  
12 ~~of the Nevada System of Higher Education}~~ *University of Nevada,*  
13 *Reno*, and approved by the board of county commissioners of the  
14 county in which the agricultural farm or plot is located.

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

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

23 553.050 1. The purpose of demonstration farms is to  
24 demonstrate the results of improved systems of farm management  
25 and accountancy as prescribed by the ~~{Agricultural}~~ *Cooperative*  
26 Extension Department of the ~~{Public Service Division of the Nevada~~  
27 ~~System of Higher Education}~~ *University of Nevada, Reno*, and  
28 applied to the farm units.

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

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

33 553.070 1. Any county desiring to avail itself of the  
34 provisions of this chapter shall, by resolution of its board of county  
35 commissioners, bind itself to pay to the owner, lessee or manager of  
36 the demonstration farm or plot as follows:

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

11 553.090 The ~~{Agricultural}~~ *Cooperative* Extension Department  
12 of the ~~{Public Service Division of the Nevada System of Higher~~  
13 ~~Education}~~ *University of Nevada, Reno*, annually shall prepare the  
14 information resulting from the demonstration in a form serviceable  
15 to aid and advance agricultural welfare of the State. The  
16 ~~{Agricultural}~~ *Cooperative* Extension Department shall cause to be  
17 printed a number of copies thereof as may be deemed necessary, not  
18 exceeding 10,000, and shall distribute the copies without charge.

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

20 284.140 The unclassified service of the State consists of the  
21 following state officers or employees in the Executive Department  
22 of the State Government who receive annual salaries for their  
23 services:

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

27 2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 223.085, 223.570 and  
28 223.600, all persons required by law to be appointed by the  
29 Governor or heads of departments or agencies appointed by the  
30 Governor or by boards.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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