



NMTA 511

Legislative Update

March 19 - 23, 2007

Massive Number of Bill Introduced As One Deadline Passes and Another One Looms

On Monday, March 19th, over 200 bills were introduced in the Senate and Assembly, as the deadline for the introduction of individual legislators bills passed. 75 bills were introduced in the assembly and 127 bills were introduced in the senate. In all 253 bills were introduced this week. On Monday, March 26th, the legislature meets up with another deadline for committee bills to be introduced. Among the bills introduced this week were bills enabling the state of Nevada to build toll roads, a bill to abolish the transportation services authority, and legislation to fund Nevada's infrastructure needs. Please visit our website at www.nmta.com to view individual pieces of legislation, which impact the trucking industry and the business climate in Nevada.

S.B. 324 - Nevada Highway Funding and Accountability Act of 2007 Introduced

On Monday S.B. 324, the Nevada Highway Funding and Accountability Act of 2007, was introduced by the senate committee on taxation. The bill would generate revenue by doing the following:

- Adjust vehicle depreciation schedules to generate \$ 95 million;
- Redirect 2% of the sales tax on vehicles and repairs to generate \$ 140 million annually ;
- Index the state gasoline and diesel tax to inflation of maximum of 4 ½ percent to generate \$ 31 million per year at a 2.7 % inflation rate ;
- Increase driver's license fee by \$ 20 to generate \$11.5 million annually ; and
- Increase the tax on gas and diesel by a total of 6 cents of two years to generate 228 million dollars.

The bill also establishes significant reforms in the Nevada Department of Transportation by implementing performance measurements, which will make

NDOT more transparent and requiring that benefits cost analysis be done on all new highway construction.

A.B. 374 - Ports of Entry Bill Heard in Assembly Transportation



On Thursday, March 22nd, the Assembly Transportation Committee heard A.B. 374, which would establish ports of entry in Nevada. The bill, sponsored by Assembly Majority Leader John Ocegüera (D - Las Vegas), would require the Department of Transportation to construct ports of entry on interstates 15 in southern Nevada, and interstate 80 in the north.

The establishment of ports of entry in Nevada would result in significant delays and costs to the trucking industry. There is a provision in the bill that would require each motor carrier entering the state of Nevada, on those routes, to be subjected and charged for an inspection using x-ray technology. The Nevada Motor Transport Association opposes this bill on many grounds, including a possible violation of the Interstate Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution. Government Affairs Director, Ron Levine, testified that while the industry recognizes a need for greater safety, and security checks, the bill would be too costly and time consuming for the State to properly enforce. The technology to scan commercial vehicles is expected to cost the State \$100 million alone, that is before factoring in the costs for the bricks and mortar at the ports of entry. The language in the bill places the entire burden of these costs on the trucking industry. The bill will be considered in a subsequent work session of the Assembly Committee of Transportation.

You can voice your opposition to A.B. 374 by calling the legislative hotline at 1-800-992-0973.



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Paul J. Enos

CEO

Nevada Motor Transport Association

(775) 843-7580