NEVADA

Transportation Funding Initiative

Legislative Session: SB 377 was introduced on March 18, 2013.

Title of Legislation: “Revises Provisions Relating to Taxes on Fuel” (Senate Bill 377)

Sponsors of Legislation

- Senator Tick Segerblom (D)
- Senator David Parks (D)
- Senator Mo Denis (D)
- Senator Debbie Smith (D)
- Joint Sponsor: Assembly Member Richard Daly (D)

Summary of Legislation: This proposed legislation included an annual 2 cent/gallon gasoline tax increase. This flat gas tax was estimated to generate $300 million from the first year; over the next ten years roughly $3 billion would be raised (“Nevada Senator Segerblom Seeks 20-cent Gas Tax Hike,” Associated Press). The tax would increase from Nevada’s current 17.5 cents-per-gallon until it added a total of 20 cents by the end of ten years. The new revenues would be used to improve state highways and bridges.

Status of Legislation: As of June 4, 2013, there was no further action taken on behalf of this legislation.

Why Did This Bill Fail?

- Governor Brian Sandoval (R). The Governor made a vow to not support any new taxes, and this was the shared sentiment of Republicans in the Nevada legislature.
- Lack of a Broad Coalition.
- Lack of Support from State Leadership.

Proponents

- Nevada Trucking Association: Mr. Paul Enos, the director of the Nevada Trucking Association, supported SB 377. He said that the estimated $330 increase for the average cost of fuel per truck was “not a substantial hit” (Vogel).
- Senator Tick Segerblom (D-Las Vegas): “I think the public is willing to pay for taxes when it’s going for something they need, like good roads.”
- Sparks Mayor Gino Martini: Mayor Martini tends to oppose tax increases, but he said that “in this case, I don’t see any other choice… ‘We’re behind the 8-ball in fixing roads…if you keep funding the same, it’s never going to be fixed.’” (Nevada Appeal, April 5, 2013).
- Associated General Contractors
- AFL-CIO
Opposition

- Nevada Families for Freedom
- Governor Brian Sandoval: He made a vow of “no-new taxes,” and other Republican lawmakers followed his lead.
- Western States Petroleum Association
- Nevada Families and Eagle Forum

Polling Data: October 2010 Poll by Impact Nevada

- 41.8% of those polled support a fuel tax increase that would improve local roads.
- Less than 13% of respondents would support a fuel tax that expanded interstate highways and roads.
- 42.2% of respondents would prefer to cease road construction instead of passing a fuel tax increase.

Text of Legislation


References


SB 377 Information:  https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/77th2013/Reports/history.cfm?ID=897


ARTBA Contact: Rebecca Schwartz, (202) 289-4434, rschwartz@artba.org