

SENATE BILL NO. 8—JOINT RULES COMMITTEE

PREFILED JUNE 13, 2001

Referred to Committee of the Whole

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to state financial administration. (BDR 23-7)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation included in Executive Budget.

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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 financial administration; revising the amounts paid to certain public officers and employees as allowances for certain expenses; making appropriations to the contingency fund to restore and increase the balance in the fund; making appropriations to the Interim Finance Committee to assist state agencies and school districts in paying for certain energy needs; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

- 1     **Section 1.** NRS 281.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2     281.160 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 or 5, or by  
3     specific statute, any district judge, state officer, state employee or member  
4     of an advisory board supported in whole or in part by any public money,  
5     whether the public money is received from the Federal Government or any  
6     branch or agency thereof, or from private or any other sources, is entitled  
7     to receive his expenses in the transaction of public business outside of the  
8     municipality or other area in which his principal office is located, to be  
9     paid at the rate of ~~1\$691~~ *1\$76* for each 24-hour period during which he is  
10    away from the office and within the state, and ~~1\$271~~ *1\$26* in addition to a  
11    reasonable room rate for each 24-hour period during which he is outside of  
12    the state.  
13    2. Any person enumerated in subsection 1 is entitled to receive  
14    expenses for a period of less than 24 hours in accordance with regulations  
15    of the state board of examiners conforming generally to those rates.  
16    3. Any person enumerated in subsection 1 is entitled to receive an  
17    allowance for transportation in the transaction of public business, whether  
18    within or outside of the municipality or other area in which his principal  
19    office is located. Transportation must be by the most economical means,  
20    considering total cost, time spent in transit and the availability of state-  
21    owned automobiles and special use vehicles. The state board of examiners,



1 on or before July 1 of each year, shall establish the rate of the allowance  
2 for travel by private conveyance. The rate must equal the standard mileage  
3 reimbursement rate for which a deduction is allowed for the purposes of  
4 federal income tax that is in effect at the time the annual rate is established.  
5 If a private conveyance is used for reasons of personal convenience in  
6 transaction of state business, the allowance for travel is one-half the  
7 established rate.

8 4. The state board of examiners may establish a transportation  
9 allowance for the use of private, special use vehicles on public business by  
10 any person enumerated in subsection 1, whether within or outside of the  
11 municipality or other area in which his principal office is located. The  
12 allowance must be established at rates higher than the rates established in  
13 subsection 3.

14 5. The state board of examiners may establish:

15 (a) A room rate in excess of the normal allowance for reimbursement of  
16 employees who are required to travel on weekends to serve the needs of the  
17 public. The board may require the submission of receipts as a condition of  
18 reimbursement at the special rate.

19 (b) Reasonable rates for expenses outside of the United States that will  
20 allow a person to purchase the same quality of food as the domestic rate  
21 allows.

22 6. The state board of examiners shall adopt regulations, and shall  
23 require other state agencies to adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
24 purpose of this section, and a state agency may, with the approval of the  
25 state board of examiners, adopt a rate of reimbursement less than the  
26 amounts specified in subsection 1 where unusual circumstances make that  
27 rate desirable.

28 **Sec. 2.** NRS 281.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

29 281.160 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 or 5, or by  
30 specific statute, any district judge, state officer, state employee or member  
31 of an advisory board supported in whole or in part by any public money,  
32 whether the public money is received from the Federal Government or any  
33 branch or agency thereof, or from private or any other sources, is entitled  
34 to receive his expenses in the transaction of public business outside of the  
35 municipality or other area in which his principal office is located, to be  
36 paid at the rate of ~~\$76~~ **\$84** for each 24-hour period during which he is  
37 away from the office and within the state, and \$26 in addition to a  
38 reasonable room rate for each 24-hour period during which he is outside of  
39 the state.

40 2. Any person enumerated in subsection 1 is entitled to receive  
41 expenses for a period of less than 24 hours in accordance with regulations  
42 of the state board of examiners conforming generally to those rates.

43 3. Any person enumerated in subsection 1 is entitled to receive an  
44 allowance for transportation in the transaction of public business, whether  
45 within or outside of the municipality or other area in which his principal  
46 office is located. Transportation must be by the most economical means,  
47 considering total cost, time spent in transit and the availability of state-  
48 owned automobiles and special use vehicles. The state board of examiners,  
49 on or before July 1 of each year, shall establish the rate of the allowance



1 for travel by private conveyance. The rate must equal the standard mileage  
2 reimbursement rate for which a deduction is allowed for the purposes of  
3 federal income tax that is in effect at the time the annual rate is established.  
4 If a private conveyance is used for reasons of personal convenience in  
5 transaction of state business, the allowance for travel is one-half the  
6 established rate.

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8 allowance for the use of private, special use vehicles on public business by  
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10 municipality or other area in which his principal office is located. The  
11 allowance must be established at rates higher than the rates established in  
12 subsection 3.

13 5. The state board of examiners may establish:

14 (a) A room rate in excess of the normal allowance for reimbursement of  
15 employees who are required to travel on weekends to serve the needs of the  
16 public. The board may require the submission of receipts as a condition of  
17 reimbursement at the special rate.

18 (b) Reasonable rates for expenses outside of the United States that will  
19 allow a person to purchase the same quality of food as the domestic rate  
20 allows.

21 6. The state board of examiners shall adopt regulations, and shall  
22 require other state agencies to adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
23 purpose of this section, and a state agency may, with the approval of the  
24 state board of examiners, adopt a rate of reimbursement less than the  
25 amounts specified in subsection 1 where unusual circumstances make that  
26 rate desirable.

27 **Sec. 3.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the state general fund  
28 to the contingency fund, created by NRS 353.266, the sum of \$11,000,000  
29 to restore and increase the balance in the fund to \$11,000,000.

30 2. There is hereby appropriated from the state highway fund to the  
31 contingency fund, created by NRS 353.266, the sum of \$2,000,000. The  
32 money appropriated in this subsection must be accounted for separately  
33 and may only be used for expenditures that may be properly made from the  
34 state highway fund.

35 **Sec. 4.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the state general fund  
36 to the Interim Finance Committee:

37 (a) The sum of \$3,750,000 on the effective date of this section; and

38 (b) The sum of \$13,250,000 on July 1, 2001,

39 to assist state agencies, including the University and Community College  
40 System of Nevada, in paying for energy (utilities) needs that exceed the  
41 amount that has otherwise been appropriated by the Legislature for that  
42 purpose.

43 2. Money allocated pursuant to subsection 1 may only be used if all  
44 other sources of funding for energy (utilities) needs that have been  
45 appropriated by the Legislature have been exhausted by the requesting  
46 state agency, including the University and Community College System  
47 of Nevada.

48 3. If a state agency, including the University and Community College  
49 System of Nevada, desires to request funding pursuant to subsection 1,



1 such a request must be approved by the State Board of Examiners before it  
2 may be submitted to the Interim Finance Committee. The Interim Finance  
3 Committee is not required to approve the entire funding in any request or  
4 to allocate the entire amount appropriated.

5 4. The Interim Finance Committee shall require such documentation  
6 and reporting by a requesting state agency, including the University and  
7 Community College System of Nevada, as it deems necessary to ensure the  
8 productive use of the money appropriated in subsection 1.

9 5. The sums appropriated by subsection 1 are available for either fiscal  
10 year. Any remaining balance of the sum appropriated by subsection 1 must  
11 not be allocated by the Interim Finance Committee after June 30, 2003, and  
12 reverts to the state general fund as soon as all payments of money  
13 committed have been made.

14 **Sec. 5.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the state general fund  
15 to the Interim Finance Committee the sum of \$6,500,000. This  
16 appropriation is provided as a one-time energy (utilities) pool available to  
17 school districts in meeting energy (utilities) costs which are greater than  
18 the amounts budgeted for the 2001-2003 biennium. No additional  
19 appropriation will be made for this purpose.

20 2. The State Board of Examiners shall establish policies, procedures  
21 and criteria for the review of requests for funding pursuant to subsection 1.  
22 Upon the adoption of such policies, procedures and criteria, the State  
23 Board of Examiners shall transmit a copy of the policies, procedures and  
24 criteria to the Interim Finance Committee for approval. Upon approval of  
25 the policies, procedures and criteria, the Interim Finance Committee shall  
26 transmit a copy of the policies, procedures and criteria to the Department  
27 of Education.

28 3. If a school district finds that its energy (utilities) costs are greater  
29 than the amounts budgeted for the 2001-2003 biennium, the school district  
30 may submit a request to the Department of Education for an allocation  
31 from the energy (utilities) pool created by subsection 1.

32 4. The Department of Education, the Budget Division of the  
33 Department of Administration and the Fiscal Analysis Division of the  
34 Legislative Counsel Bureau shall jointly review a request submitted  
35 pursuant to subsection 3, using the policies, procedures and criteria  
36 approved by the Interim Finance Committee pursuant to subsection 2.  
37 Upon completion of the review, a recommendation for or against an  
38 allocation to the requesting school district must be submitted to the State  
39 Board of Examiners.

40 5. The State Board of Examiners shall consider each request and  
41 recommend the amount of the allocation, if any, to the Interim Finance  
42 Committee.

43 6. The Interim Finance Committee is not required to approve the entire  
44 recommendation of the allocation pursuant to subsection 5 or to allocate  
45 the entire amount appropriated pursuant to subsection 1.

46 7. The sum appropriated by subsection 1 is available for either fiscal  
47 year. Any remaining balance of the sum appropriated by subsection 1 must  
48 not be allocated by the Interim Finance Committee after June 30, 2003, and



1 reverts to the state general fund as soon as all payments of money  
2 committed have been made.

3 **Sec. 6.** 1. This section and sections 3, 4 and 5 of this act become  
4 effective upon passage and approval.

5 2. Section 1 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 2001.

6 3. Section 2 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 2002.

