

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1—Senators Horsford, Raggio, Townsend, Lee, Care; Amodei, Breeden, Carlton, Cegavske, Coffin, Copenig, Mathews, McGinness, Nolan, Olsen, Parks, Rhoads, Schneider, Washington, Wiener and Woodhouse

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Urging local government employers and local government employee organizations to mutually address the impacts of the budget shortfall.

WHEREAS, The continued downturn in the national economy has had a dramatic negative impact on the economy of the State of Nevada, including creating the highest unemployment rate in the history of the State and one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, causing many people to lose their health insurance benefits, placing a burden on the social services provided in the State and forcing many businesses to close and families to lose their jobs and homes; and

WHEREAS, The 2009 Session of the Nevada Legislature addressed what was then a looming budget gap by making cuts to the State's budget of about \$1 billion, implementing temporary tax increases amounting to an estimated \$781 million and imposing furlough requirements on state employees which amounted to a 4.6 percent temporary reduction in salaries; and

WHEREAS, Because recent projections yield an unprecedented budget shortfall of nearly \$900 million, the Legislature has been called into this Special Session to deal with this dire fiscal emergency; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature has a constitutional duty to balance the State's budget and therefore is making careful but difficult decisions that include consideration of steep reductions in almost every major governmental program, additional furlough hours for state employees and deviation from the required hours of operation for both state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, The support and services provided by local governments in Nevada is critical, and there must be awareness that without consideration of temporary reductions to salaries, massive layoffs will occur through negotiated agreements and further cuts will have to be made to these vital public services; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest collectively for the State and the local governments to recognize the "shared sacrifice" we all must make to ensure further layoffs will not happen, as those layoffs



would in turn have a further negative impact on the State's unemployment rate and mortgage crisis; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of this "shared sacrifice," the local government employees have risen to the occasion by making concessions during this difficult time; and

WHEREAS, The process of local government collective bargaining in this State historically has been conducted between employers and employees and does not provide an opportunity for the public to raise meaningful questions and offer input; and

WHEREAS, A collective bargaining process that allows for more transparency would benefit the public for a better understanding of the process and outcome of the negotiated agreement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislature hereby urges local government employers and local government employee organizations to recognize the difficult task with which this Legislature is faced and to recognize the "shared sacrifice" that is necessary to reduce the impact of the crippling budget shortfall on this State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That these employers and employee organizations are hereby urged to rise to the challenge by recognizing that desperate times call for desperate measures and that now is the time to think outside the box and consider ways to come mutually to the bargaining table outside the clogged bureaucratic process and cooperatively address the budget shortfall in an effort to avoid massive layoffs and cuts to vital public services; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Special Session of the Legislature hereby urges the 2011 Regular Session of the Legislature to examine the current process of local government collective bargaining and contract negotiations in this State with the goal of increasing the transparency to provide the public with a meaningful opportunity to hold local governments and local government employee organizations accountable; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to local government employers of this State and the local government employee organizations in this State.