

Senate Bill No. 583—Committee on Finance

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to tourism; establishing a grant program for the development of projects relating to tourism; creating a committee to administer the grant program; prescribing the membership and duties of the committee; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

Section 1. Chapter 231 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. *As used in sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in sections 3, 4 and 5 of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.*

Sec. 3. *“Committee” means the committee for the development of projects relating to tourism created by section 6 of this act.*

Sec. 4. *“Development of projects relating to tourism” means the development of publicly owned property, facilities and infrastructure within this state to support and attract visitors to this state.*

Sec. 5. *“Grant program” means the grant program administered by the committee for the development of projects relating to tourism.*

Sec. 6. *1. The committee for the development of projects relating to tourism is hereby created within the commission on tourism. The committee consists of:*

(a) The lieutenant governor, who is an ex officio member of the committee and shall serve as the chairman of the committee;

(b) Three members of the commission on economic development, appointed by the lieutenant governor; and

(c) Three members of the commission on tourism, appointed by the lieutenant governor.

2. If an appointed member of the committee ceases to be a member of the commission on economic development or the commission on tourism, the appointed member becomes ineligible for membership on the committee and the lieutenant governor shall appoint a replacement from the commission on economic development or the commission on tourism, respectively.

3. The lieutenant governor may remove an appointed member from the committee if the member neglects his duty or commits malfeasance in office.

4. The appointed members of the committee who are members of the commission on economic development or the commission on tourism, respectively, may be paid the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally by their respective commissions, as the budgets of those commissions allow.

5. The committee shall meet at the call of the lieutenant governor.

6. The commission on tourism and the commission on economic development shall jointly provide administrative support for the committee.

Sec. 7. *1. The committee may provide grants of money to counties, cities, and local and regional organizations in this state for the development of projects relating to tourism to the extent that:*

(a) Money in the fund for the promotion of tourism created by NRS 231.250 is made available for that purpose. Not more than \$200,000 of revenue from taxes on the gross receipts from the rental of transient lodging may be made available for that purpose in any biennium.

(b) Gifts, grants or other money is made available for that purpose.

2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the state controller shall, upon the request of the committee, transfer to the state general fund all money made available for the use of the committee pursuant to subsection 1. All such money must be accounted for separately in the state general fund. The state controller shall not transfer any revenue from taxes on the gross receipts from the rental of transient lodging from the fund for the promotion of tourism to the state general fund unless the transfer is approved by the interim finance committee.

3. The committee shall administer the account created pursuant to subsection 2 and may make grants only from that account. Any interest earned on the money in the account must be credited to the account quarterly. The money in the account does not revert to the state general fund at the end of any fiscal year and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

4. The committee shall:

(a) Develop and administer the grant program for the development of projects relating to tourism;

(b) Establish guidelines for the submission and review of applications to receive money from the grant program;

(c) Establish the criteria for eligibility to receive money from the grant program; and

(d) Consider and approve or disapprove applications for money from the grant program.

5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, as a condition of eligibility for a grant from the committee pursuant to this section, an applicant must provide an amount of money, at least equal to the amount of the grant, for the same purpose.

6. If an applicant for a grant is from a county whose population is less than 100,000 and the committee determines that the applicant is financially unable to provide the matching money otherwise required by subsection 5, the committee may provide a grant with less than equal matching money provided by the applicant.

Sec. 8. NRS 231.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:

231.220 The executive director of the commission on tourism shall direct and supervise all its administrative and technical activities, including coordinating its plans for tourism and publications, scheduling its programs, analyzing the effectiveness of those programs and associated expenditures, and cooperating with other governmental agencies which have programs related to travel and tourism. In addition to other powers and duties, the executive director:

1. Shall attend all meetings of the commission and act as its secretary, keeping minutes of its proceedings.
2. Shall report regularly to the commission concerning the administration of its policies and programs.
3. Shall serve as the director of the division of tourism.
4. Shall appoint the administrator of the division of publications.
5. May perform any other lawful acts which he considers necessary to carry out the provisions of NRS 231.160 to 231.300, inclusive ~~H~~ , and *sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act.*

Sec. 9. On or before July 1, 2001, the state controller shall transfer to the account created in the state general fund pursuant to subsection 2 of section 7 of this act all money in the fund for the promotion of tourism created by NRS 231.250 which has been granted by the commission on tourism but not yet disbursed for the V. & T. Railroad reconstruction project. The money so transferred must remain in the account until it is disbursed by the commission on tourism for the V. & T. Railroad reconstruction project.

Sec. 10. 1. This section and section 9 of this act become effective upon passage and approval.

2. Sections 1 to 8, inclusive, of this act become effective on July 1, 2001.