

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 219—ASSEMBLYMEN SHERER, ANGLE,
CARPENTER, CHRISTENSEN, COLLINS, CONKLIN, GEDDES,
GOICOECHEA, GRIFFIN, GUSTAVSON, HETTRICK, KNECHT,
KOIVISTO AND OCEGUERA (BY REQUEST)

FEBRUARY 28, 2003

JOINT SPONSOR: SENATOR MCGINNESS

Referred to Concurrent Committees on Government
Affairs and Ways and Means

SUMMARY—Requires Department of Administration to conduct
study concerning feasibility and desirability of
relocating certain state agencies to rural
communities. (BDR S-1088)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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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 the economic development of rural
communities; requiring the Department of Administration
to conduct a study concerning the feasibility and
desirability of relocating certain state agencies to rural
communities; requiring the Department to recommend the
relocation of at least one such agency; and providing
other matters properly relating thereto.

- 1 WHEREAS, Rural America is home to one-fifth of the total
- 2 population of the United States, is keeper of natural amenities and
- 3 national treasures, and is the safeguard of a unique part of American
- 4 culture, tradition and history; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Today, rural America comprises over 2,300 counties,
- 6 contains 83 percent of the land in the United States, and includes 56
- 7 million people; and



1 WHEREAS, It has been said often that a strong rural economy
2 plays an important role in maintaining a strong economy for an
3 entire state; and

4 WHEREAS, It is a well-known fact that economic development in
5 rural communities is vital to the financial prosperity and survival of
6 these communities; and

7 WHEREAS, According to figures obtained from the 2000 census,
8 approximately 14 percent of the residents of the State of Nevada live
9 in rural communities and the remaining 86 percent reside in the
10 urban areas of this state; and

11 WHEREAS, Rural communities provide a high quality of life
12 with such services and amenities that may be attractive to residents
13 now living in urban areas; and

14 WHEREAS, Efforts are under way by many organizations and
15 public and private entities to promote economic growth and
16 development in this state; and

17 WHEREAS, One proposal that will serve to enhance the economy
18 in the rural areas of this state is to relocate certain state agencies, or
19 portions thereof, to rural communities; and

20 WHEREAS, Today's modern methods of communication and
21 technological advances in telecommunications would serve to
22 increase the feasibility of such a proposal by ensuring that
23 information systems currently in use by state agencies in urban areas
24 would operate effectively and efficiently in rural areas; and

25 WHEREAS, Rural communities in this state would welcome the
26 increase in population and economy that would result from such a
27 relocation of one or more state agencies, or portions thereof; now,
28 therefore,

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

32

33 **Section 1.** 1. The Department of Administration shall
34 conduct a study of the feasibility and desirability of relocating
35 certain state agencies, or portions thereof, to rural communities.

36 2. The Director of the Department shall appoint a committee of
37 such persons as he deems appropriate to conduct the study,
38 including, without limitation:

39 (a) Persons who are familiar with the operation of State
40 Government and the work performed by state employees; and

41 (b) Persons who are familiar with the services and amenities that
42 rural communities could offer to state employees, including, without
43 limitation:

44 (1) Lower costs of living;

45 (2) The aesthetics of rural life;



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- 1 (3) Decreased commuting time;
2 (4) An environment free from pollution, traffic congestion
3 and high crime; and
4 (5) Methods of communication which are equivalent to those
5 that are available in urban areas.
- 6 3. In conducting the study to determine the feasibility of
7 relocating a particular state agency, or portion thereof, the
8 committee shall first consider the mission and programs of the
9 agency to ensure that they do not require the employees of
10 the agency to perform their duties or provide customer service at a
11 specific location.
- 12 4. In conducting the study, the Department shall conduct a
13 written survey of state employees who work in urban areas to
14 determine the number of employees who would be willing to
15 relocate to a rural community if the office in which they are
16 currently working were to be relocated. A copy of the survey must
17 be distributed to each such employee with the employee's payroll
18 check, or copy thereof, and may be returned to the Director of the
19 Department through interoffice state mail.
- 20 5. The Department shall submit a report of the results of
21 the study on or before September 1, 2004, to the Director of the
22 Legislative Counsel Bureau.
- 23 6. The Chief of the Budget Division of the Department shall
24 consider the results of the study during the preparation of the
25 proposed state budget that will be presented by the Governor in
26 January 2005. As a result of the study, the Department shall
27 recommend the relocation of at least one state agency, or portion
28 thereof, to a rural community and include that relocation as part of
29 the proposed state budget for fiscal year 2006-2007.
- 30 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2003.

