

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 111—ASSEMBLYMEN SHERER, GOICOECHEA,
GRADY, HARDY, HETTRICK, MABEY, MARVEL AND WEBER

FEBRUARY 22, 2005

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 under certain circumstances. (BDR S-989)

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

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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 state government; requiring the Department of Administration to conduct a study concerning the feasibility and desirability of relocating certain state agencies to rural communities under certain circumstances; requiring the Department to recommend, if feasible, the relocation of at least one such agency; authorizing the Director of the Department to receive and expend money to conduct the study; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 This bill requires the Department of Administration to conduct a study to
2 determine the feasibility and desirability of relocating certain state agencies to rural
3 areas. The study must include a survey of state employees regarding their
4 willingness to relocate to a rural area. The study will be conducted only if money to
5 pay the costs of the study is received from grants, gifts, donations, bequests or other
6 sources.

7 This bill requires the Department of Administration to recommend the
8 relocation, if feasible, of at least one state agency, or portion thereof, to a rural area
9 as a result of the study. The Budget Division must consider the results of the study
10 when preparing the proposed state budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, including any
11 recommendation to relocate a state agency as a result of the study.



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

8 WHEREAS, It has been said often that a strong rural economy
9 plays an important role in maintaining a strong economy for an
10 entire state; and

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

14 WHEREAS, According to figures obtained from the 2000 census,
15 approximately 14 percent of the residents of the State of Nevada live
16 in rural communities and the remaining 86 percent reside in the
17 urban areas of this State; and

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

21 WHEREAS, Efforts are under way by many organizations and
22 public and private entities to promote economic growth and
23 development in this State; and

24 WHEREAS, One proposal that will serve to enhance the economy
25 in the rural areas of this State is to relocate certain state agencies, or
26 portions thereof, to rural communities; and

27 WHEREAS, Today's modern methods of communication and
28 technological advances in telecommunications would serve to
29 increase the feasibility of such a proposal by ensuring that
30 information systems currently in use by state agencies in urban areas
31 would operate effectively and efficiently in rural areas; and

32 WHEREAS, Rural communities in this State would welcome the
33 increase in population and economy that would result from such a
34 relocation of one or more state agencies, or portions thereof; now,
35 therefore,

36
37 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
38 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
39

40 **Section 1.** 1. If the Director of the Department of
41 Administration determines that there is sufficient money in the
42 account established pursuant to section 2 of this act, the Department
43 shall conduct a study of the feasibility and desirability of relocating
44 one or more state agencies, or portions thereof, to rural
45 communities.



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

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

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

9 (1) Lower costs of living;

10 (2) The aesthetics of rural life;

11 (3) Decreased commuting time;

12 (4) An environment free from pollution, traffic congestion
13 and high crime; and

14 (5) Methods of communication which are equivalent to those
15 that are available in urban areas.

16 3. In conducting the study to determine the feasibility of
17 relocating a particular state agency, or portions thereof, the
18 committee shall first consider the mission and programs of
19 the agency to ensure that they do not require the employees of the
20 agency to perform their duties or provide customer service at a
21 specific location.

22 4. In conducting the study, the Department shall conduct a
23 written survey of state employees who work in urban areas to
24 determine the number of employees who would be willing to
25 relocate to a rural community if the office in which they are
26 currently working were to be relocated. A copy of the survey must
27 be distributed to each such employee with the employee's payroll
28 check, or copy thereof, and may be returned to the Director of the
29 Department through interoffice state mail.

30 5. The Department shall submit a report of the results of the
31 study on or before September 1, 2006, to the Governor and to the
32 Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to
33 the 74th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

34 6. The Chief of the Budget Division of the Department of
35 Administration shall consider the results of the study during the
36 preparation of the proposed state budget that will be presented by
37 the Governor in January 2007. As a result of the study, the
38 Department shall, if feasible, recommend the relocation of at least
39 one state agency, or portion thereof, to a rural community and
40 include that relocation as part of the proposed state budget for Fiscal
41 Year 2008-2009.

42 **Sec. 2.** 1. The Director of the Department of Administration
43 may apply for and accept any grant, gift, donation, bequest or other
44 source of money to conduct the study described in section 1 of this
45 act.



1 2. Any money received by the Director pursuant to subsection
2 1 must be deposited in a separate account in the State General Fund.

3 3. The account must be administered by the Director, who may
4 expend the money in the account only for the purpose of conducting
5 the study described in section 1 of this act.

6 4. The interest earned on the money in the account, after
7 deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the account.

8 5. If the Director determines that there is insufficient money in
9 the account to conduct the study described in section 1 of this act,
10 all money in the account must be returned to the persons who
11 donated or otherwise provided the money, except that any interest
12 credited to the account must be transferred to the State General
13 Fund.

14 6. Unless otherwise provided by the terms of any grant, gift,
15 donation or bequest made for the study, all money remaining in the
16 account upon the completion of the study that has not been
17 committed for expenditure must be transferred to the State General
18 Fund.

19 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2005.

