EXEMPT

(Reprinted with amendments adopted on April 20, 2005)
FIRST REPRINT **A.B. 111**

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 expanding or 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 expanding or relocating certain state agencies to rural communities under certain circumstances; requiring the Department to recommend, if feasible, the expansion or 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:

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

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

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WHEREAS, Rural America is home to one-fifth of the total population of the United States, is keeper of natural amenities and national treasures, and is the safeguard of a unique part of American culture, tradition and history; and

WHEREAS, Today, rural America comprises over 2,300 counties, contains 83 percent of the land in the United States, and includes 56 million people; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) Lower costs of living;

(2) The aesthetics of rural life;

(3) Decreased commuting time;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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