

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to water; requiring certain public bodies to make written determinations before selling or leasing for a certain period their water rights; 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 533 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a public body shall not sell or lease for a term of more than 5 years a water right owned by the public body unless the public body, after holding at least one public hearing at which public comment was solicited, has issued written findings that:

(a) The sale or lease of the water right is consistent with the prudent, long-term management of the water resources within the jurisdiction of the public body;

(b) The sale or lease of the water right will not deprive residents and businesses within the jurisdiction of the public body of reasonable access to water resources for growth and development;

(c) The sale or lease of the water right is a reasonable means of promoting development and use of the water right; and

(d) The means by which the water right is sold or leased reasonably ensures that the public body will receive the actual value of the water right or comparable economic benefits.

2. As used in this section, “public body” means the State or a county, city, town, school district or any public agency of this State or its political subdivisions. The term does not include a water district organized pursuant to a special act of the Legislature or a water authority organized as a political subdivision created by a cooperative agreement.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

