

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21—
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

APRIL 26, 2005

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Urges Washoe County and City of Reno to study feasibility of colocating or unifying Justices' and Municipal Courts. (BDR R-1426)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Urging Washoe County and the City of Reno to study the feasibility of colocating or unifying Reno Justice Court and Reno Municipal Court.

1 WHEREAS, The Washoe County Commission and the Reno City
2 Council have directed that a working group, comprised of the
3 District Attorney and the Reno City Attorney, Judges from
4 the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, staff representatives of
5 the Reno Justice Court and Reno Municipal Court, City and County
6 Managers, and other interested departments or agencies, prepare a
7 fiscal impact statement and recommended legislation in support of
8 the colocation or unification of the Courts; and

9 WHEREAS, The Justice Court and Municipal Court desire to
10 provide the most efficient, clear, convenient and cost-effective
11 access to the court system in Washoe County; and

12 WHEREAS, It is in the interest of the residents of Washoe County
13 to have a court system that meets the needs of a growing population
14 that has increased the burdens on the local courts; and

15 WHEREAS, Those needs might be better met by the colocation or
16 unification of the Justice Court and Municipal Court; and

17 WHEREAS, The unification of the Justice Court and Municipal
18 Court raises significant legal and fiscal issues; and

19 WHEREAS, American University has completed a study of the
20 fiscal impact of colocating the Reno Justice Court and Reno
21 Municipal Court and agreed to increase the scope of its study to
22 include colocating or unifying the Courts in Reno by:



1 1. Identifying the relevant operational issues and
2 considerations to be addressed in determining the potential fiscal
3 implications of court unification;

4 2. Providing other general observations on potential fiscal
5 implications based on other jurisdictions pursuing court unification
6 efforts; and

7 3. Delineating the nature of further study that will need to be
8 conducted, as well as the alternative strategies that need to be
9 considered to implement court unification; and

10 WHEREAS, To evaluate the feasibility of unifying the Courts, a
11 fiscal impact statement must be prepared which identifies all
12 operational elements that may be affected by court unification,
13 estimates the total cost following colocation or unification for each
14 element, and calculates the amount of revenue and property tax rate
15 which would be transferred from the City to the County to effectuate
16 colocation or unification; and

17 WHEREAS, It will also be necessary to thoroughly review the
18 Nevada Constitution, Nevada Revised Statutes, Washoe County
19 Code and the ordinances of the City of Reno to determine any
20 legislative action that would be necessary to effectuate colocation or
21 unification of the Justice Court and Municipal Court; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
24 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the Nevada
25 Legislature hereby urge Washoe County and the City of Reno to
26 study the feasibility of colocating or unifying the Reno Justice Court
27 and the Reno Municipal Court in coordination and consultation with
28 those Courts; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the parties report to the 74th Session of the
30 Nevada Legislature with the results of their fiscal and legal study;
31 and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature supports the efforts to
33 provide greater access to the judicial system in Washoe County and
34 should consider any necessary enabling legislation during the 2007
35 Legislative Session; and be it further

36 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
37 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Washoe County
38 Commission and the Reno City Council.

