

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21–
Committee on Judiciary

FILE NUMBER.....

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, To evaluate the feasibility of unifying the Courts, a fiscal impact statement must be prepared which identifies all operational elements that may be affected by court unification, estimates the total cost following colocation or unification for each element, and calculates the amount of revenue and property tax rate

which would be transferred from the City to the County to effectuate colocation or unification; and

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

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

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

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

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