

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26—
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

MAY 2, 2005

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Creates interim study of use, allocation and management of water resources in Nevada.
(BDR R-433)

~

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Creating an interim study of the use, allocation and management of water resources in Nevada.

1 WHEREAS, The waters of the State of Nevada are among its
2 most precious and vital resources; and

3 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada is the most arid state in the
4 country and has relatively few supplies of surface water and
5 groundwater, a condition which is periodically exacerbated by
6 drought conditions in Nevada and in the Rocky Mountains which
7 supply the headwaters of the Colorado River; and

8 WHEREAS, Adequate, long-term supplies of water are essential
9 to maintaining stable economic growth and the development of rural
10 and urban areas of this State; and

11 WHEREAS, The conservative and prudent use of supplies of
12 water is necessary to promote adequate, long-term supplies and to
13 protect the environment of this State; and

14 WHEREAS, The rapid growth in the population and the economy
15 of this State within the last 30 years has placed growing demands on
16 the limited water supplies and has resulted in an increasing number
17 of projects for the reallocation of water resources from areas of
18 supply to areas of demand; and

19 WHEREAS, The residents of this State are vitally interested in the
20 decisions made relating to the use, management and allocation of
21 Nevada's scarce water resources; and

22 WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature has conducted several
23 interim studies on the general topic of laws and activities related to



1 water resources and large amounts of information concerning
2 Nevada's water resources have been compiled through the years and
3 the degree to which these materials fill the current needs is not
4 immediately evident; and

5 WHEREAS, The provision of services related to water, including
6 the supply of safe water for municipal and industrial uses, the
7 management of wastewater and storm drainage, the management of
8 floodplains and the administration of water reclamation projects, in
9 an efficient manner is critical to the current and future welfare of the
10 citizens of Washoe County; and

11 WHEREAS, In Washoe County, these water-related services are
12 presently provided through several governmental entities; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
15 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislative Commission is
16 hereby directed to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study
17 of the use, management and allocation of water resources in this
18 State; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the committee must:

20 1. Be composed of eight Legislators as follows:

21 (a) The Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on
22 Government Affairs;

23 (b) The Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Natural
24 Resources;

25 (c) One member appointed by the Majority Leader of the
26 Senate;

27 (d) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
28 Senate;

29 (e) The Chairman of the Assembly Standing Committee on
30 Government Affairs;

31 (f) The Chairman of the Assembly Standing Committee on
32 Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining;

33 (g) One member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly; and

34 (h) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
35 Assembly.

36 2. Select a chairman and vice chairman from among its
37 members; and be it further

38 RESOLVED, That the study must include, without limitation:

39 1. An analysis of the laws, regulations and policies regulating
40 the use, allocation and management of water in this State;

41 2. A review of the status of existing information and studies
42 relating to water use, surface water resources, and groundwater
43 resources in this State;



3. An evaluation of the need, if any, for additional information or studies of water use and water resources in this State, including, without limitation, an analysis of whether:

(a) A need exists for additional field investigations to quantify surface water resources, groundwater resources and water uses, and if so, the procedures and costs associated with such investigations; and

(b) Valuable information can be obtained through placing groundwater basins, or portions thereof, under hydrologic stress by drilling and pumping wells over a period of time within those basins, and if so, the procedures and costs associated with these actions;

4. A review of the report of the State Engineer provided pursuant to Assembly Bill 213 of the 2003 Session of the Nevada Legislature;

5. Development of recommendations concerning appropriate statutory provisions for administrative procedures and penalties to be imposed upon a person who violates the provisions of NRS 533.460;

6. An analysis of the potential ramifications of initiating procedures for the adjudication of existing rights within hydrologic basins in the State;

7. An evaluation of the feasibility and desirability of quantifying the groundwater resources of this State using existing information;

8. A review of statewide water use and the efficiency of water use, including, without limitation:

(a) Per capita water consumption;

(b) Water use by the economic sector; and

(c) Potential methods of increasing the efficiency of water use in this State;

9. An analysis of the effectiveness of existing water systems for administering, controlling, allocating, distributing and protecting the water resources of this State;

10. An evaluation of the potential for the government of this State to provide:

(a) Technical assistance and information services regarding water resources to local governments within the State; and

(b) Increased access to informational and educational services regarding water resources to the residents of the State;

11. An evaluation of the feasibility and advisability of creating a statutory Legislative Committee on Water Resources and prescribing its membership and duties; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission is hereby directed to appoint a subcommittee of the committee to study the feasibility



1 and advisability of consolidating the water-related services in
2 Washoe County; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the subcommittee must:

4 1. Be composed of six Legislators as follows:

5 (a) One member of the Senate appointed by the Chairman of the
6 Committee;

7 (b) One member of the Assembly appointed by the Chairman of
8 the Committee;

9 (c) One member appointed by the Majority Leader of the
10 Senate;

11 (d) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
12 Senate;

13 (e) One member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly; and

14 (f) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
15 Assembly;

16 2. Select a chairman and vice chairman from among its
17 members; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the study conducted by the subcommittee must
19 include, without limitation:

20 1. An analysis of relevant financial considerations, ownership
21 and operation of facilities, and potential management and staffing
22 structures;

23 2. A review of potential alternatives including, without
24 limitation, consolidation of:

25 (a) All water supply, wastewater treatment, flood control, storm
26 drainage and water reclamation programs;

27 (b) Only water supply and wastewater treatment programs;

28 (c) Only the water supply programs;

29 (d) Only the responsibilities for procuring water and water
30 rights, treating the water and providing the water to the existing
31 distributors; and

32 (e) Only the responsibilities for procuring water and water rights
33 and providing the water to the water treatment facilities managed by
34 the various distributors; and be it further

35 RESOLVED, That the entities providing water-related services in
36 Washoe County are hereby directed to participate and cooperate in
37 the study and furnish all necessary assistance to the subcommittee;
38 and be it further

39 RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the
40 committee or subcommittee must be approved by a majority of
41 the members of the Senate and a majority of the members of the
42 Assembly appointed to that committee or subcommittee; and be it
43 further



- 1 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission shall submit a
- 2 report of the results of the studies and any recommendations for
- 3 legislation to the 74th Session of the Nevada Legislature.



