

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 514—COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

MARCH 23, 2007

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Makes various changes to the Charter of the City of Las Vegas. (BDR S-1381)

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 the City of Las Vegas; making various changes to the powers of the City Council; making various other changes to the Charter of the City of Las Vegas; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

**Section 1** of this bill provides that the City Council of the City of Las Vegas has the power to adopt necessary and proper ordinances for the development and provision of affordable housing.

**Section 2** of this bill authorizes the City Council to establish a salary commission with the authority to fix the salaries of the Mayor and City Councilmen, the members of which are to be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the Assembly.

**Section 3** of this bill provides that the City Council has the power to adopt necessary and proper ordinances for the development and provision of employment and training programs.

**Section 4** of this bill provides for the appointment of Hearing Commissioners by the City Council to hear and decide certain misdemeanor actions.

**Section 5** of this bill extends the time that the City Council has to fill vacancies in the office of Mayor, Councilman or Municipal Judge from 30 to 60 days.

**Section 8** of this bill amends the time by which a proposed ordinance must be adopted or rejected by the City Council from 30 days to 60 days.

**Section 9** of this bill authorizes the City Council to adopt an alternative procedure for a person to appeal the denial, suspension or revocation of a work permit or identification card.

**Section 11** of this bill authorizes the Director of Financial Management of the City to serve as the City Treasurer.

**Section 12** of this bill removes the requirement that the Director of Public Services be a licensed professional engineer.

Existing law provides that a Master Judge must be selected on the basis of seniority. (Las Vegas City Charter § 4.020) **Section 13** of this bill provides that the



Municipal Judges shall elect the Master Judge from among their own number to serve for a 2-year term. In the event of a tie vote, the tie is to be decided by the drawing of lots.

**Section 14** of this bill provides that the City Council may determine that the System of Civil Service must be administered by a Board of Civil Service Trustees.

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

**Section 1.** The Charter of the City of Las Vegas, being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, at page 1391, is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to be designated as section 2.145, immediately following section 2.140, to read as follows:

*Sec. 2.145 Powers of City Council: Affordable Housing. In addition to any other powers authorized by specific statute, the City Council may exercise such powers and enact such ordinances, not in conflict with the laws of this State, as the City Council determines are necessary and proper for the development and provision of affordable housing.*

**Sec. 2.** The Charter of the City of Las Vegas, being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, at page 1391, is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to be designated as section 2.340, immediately following section 2.330, to read as follows:

*Sec. 2.340 Powers of City Council: Salaries of Mayor and Councilmen.*

*1. The City Council may by ordinance or resolution establish an independent salary commission to fix the salaries of the Mayor and the Councilmen. Such ordinance or resolution must include, without limitation, the terms of office of the members of the salary commission. If the City Council establishes a salary commission by ordinance or resolution, it shall provide written notice of that fact to:*

*(a) The Majority Leader of the Senate; and*

*(b) The Speaker of the Assembly.*

*2. If a salary commission is established pursuant to subsection 1, the Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the Assembly, within 60 days after receiving the written notice described in that subsection, shall jointly appoint to the salary commission a total of seven members, one of whom must be a member at large and six of whom must represent the different wards into which the City is divided. Each of the six members representing one of the wards into which the City is divided must be a person who:*

*(a) Resides within the ward which he represents;*



*(b) Is not a member of the household of the Councilman who represents that ward;*

*(c) Is not related by blood, adoption or marriage within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity to the Councilman who represents that ward; and*

*(d) Does not have a substantial and continuing business relationship with either the City or the Councilman who represents that ward.*

*3. A member must be appointed on the basis of his education, training, experience and demonstrated abilities. Of the total of the seven members appointed to the salary commission:*

*(a) One member must be affiliated with an organization representing the interests of businesses;*

*(b) One member must be affiliated with an organization representing the interests of taxpayers;*

*(c) One member must be affiliated with an organization representing the interests of the development community;*

*(d) One member must have expertise in human resource management;*

*(e) One member must have expertise in finance; and*

*(f) Two members must be representative of the general public.*

*4. Members of the salary commission:*

*(a) Serve without compensation; and*

*(b) May, upon written request, receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally while engaged in the business of the salary commission.*

*5. The salary commission must meet at least once every 5 years.*

*6. The salary commission is entitled to such staff or employees of the City as is necessary to assist in the performance of the duties of the salary commission that are set forth in subsection 7.*

*7. In setting the salaries of the Mayor and Councilmen, the salary commission shall conduct at least one public hearing and consider the following:*

*(a) The amount of work performed by the Mayor or Councilmen in representing their constituents, based upon the population and geographical size of the area that the Mayor or Councilmen represent.*

*(b) The amount of time dedicated by the Mayor or Councilmen in representing their constituents.*

*(c) The projected population growth of the City.*



(d) Existing compensation levels for comparable positions in other geographic locations.

(e) The current and projected financial conditions of the City.

(f) Any other condition or factor that the salary commission determines is relevant to fixing the salaries of the Mayor or the Councilmen.

**Sec. 3.** The Charter of the City of Las Vegas, being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, at page 1391, is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to be designated as section 3.300, immediately following section 3.290, to read as follows:

**Sec. 3.300 Programs: Employment and Training.**  
*In addition to any other powers authorized by specific statute, the City Council may exercise such powers and enact such ordinances, not in conflict with the laws of this State, as the City Council determines are necessary and proper for the development and provision of programs relating to employment and training.*

**Sec. 4.** The Charter of the City of Las Vegas, being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, at page 1391, is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to be designated as section 4.040, immediately following section 4.030, to read as follows:

**Sec. 4.040 Hearing Commissioners.**

*1. The City Council may appoint one or more Hearing Commissioners to hear and decide:*

*(a) Any action for a misdemeanor constituting a violation of chapter 484 of NRS, except NRS 484.379; and*

*(b) Any action for a misdemeanor constituting a violation of the Las Vegas Municipal Code, except chapter 11.14 of that Code.*

*2. Each Hearing Commissioner must:*

*(a) Be a duly licensed member, in good standing, of the State Bar of Nevada;*

*(b) Be a resident of the State;*

*(c) Be a qualified elector in the City;*

*(d) Have been a bona fide resident of the City for not less than 1 year next preceding his appointment; and*

*(e) Not have ever been removed or retired from any judicial office by the Commission on Judicial Discipline.*

*3. In connection with any action of a type described in subsection 1, a Hearing Commissioner has all the powers and duties of a Municipal Judge and a magistrate pursuant to the laws of this State. To the extent possible and practicable, the proceedings in such actions must be subject to and governed by the provisions of the laws of this State,*



*this Charter and city ordinances pertaining to Municipal Judges.*

*4. Hearing Commissioners shall receive such compensation as may be allowed by the City Council.*

**Sec. 5.** Section 1.160 of the Charter of the City of Las Vegas, being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, as last amended by chapter 515, Statutes of Nevada 1997, at page 2451, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1.160 Elective Offices: Vacancies.

1. A vacancy in the office of Mayor, Councilman or Municipal Judge must be filled by the majority vote of the entire City Council within ~~30~~ 60 days after the occurrence of that vacancy. A person may be selected to fill a prospective vacancy ~~in the City Council~~ before the vacancy occurs. In such a case, each member of the Council, except any member whose term of office expires before the occurrence of the vacancy, may participate in any action taken by the Council pursuant to this section. The appointee must have the same qualifications as are required of the elective official ~~H~~, *including, without limitation, any applicable residency requirement.*

2. No appointment extends beyond the first regular meeting of the City Council that follows the next general municipal election, at that election the office must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term, or beyond the first regular meeting of the City Council after the Tuesday after the first Monday in the next succeeding June in an odd-numbered year, if no general municipal election is held in that year.

**Sec. 6.** Section 2.020 of the Charter of the City of Las Vegas, being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, at page 1394, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2.020 Mayor and Councilmen: Qualifications; terms of office; salary.

1. The Mayor must be a qualified elector who has resided within the territory which is established by the boundaries of the City for a period of not less than 30 days immediately before the last day for filing a declaration of candidacy for that office and be elected by the registered voters of the City at large.

2. Each Councilman must be a qualified elector who has resided within the ward which he represents for a period of not less than 30 days immediately before the last day for filing a declaration of candidacy for his office and be elected by the registered voters of that ward.



\* A B 5 1 4 R 2 \*

3. The Mayor or any Councilman automatically forfeits the remainder of his term of office and that office becomes vacant if he ceases to be a resident of the City or of the ward which he represents, as the case may be.

4. ~~[The]~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 2 of this act, the* respective salaries of the Mayor and Councilmen must be fixed by ordinance.

**Sec. 7.** Section 2.040 of the Charter of the City of Las Vegas, being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, at page 1394, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2.040 Mayor and Councilmen not to hold other office.

1. The Mayor and Councilmen may not:

(a) Hold any other elective office of the State or any political subdivision of the State or any other employment with the County or the City, except as is provided by law or as a member of a board or commission for which no compensation is received.

(b) Be ~~[elected or]~~ appointed to any office which was created, or the compensation for which was increased or fixed, by the City Council until 1 year after the expiration of the term for which the Mayor or Councilman was elected or appointed.

2. Any person who ~~[accepts any office which is proscribed by]~~ *violates the provisions of* subsection 1 automatically forfeits his office as Mayor or Councilman.

**Sec. 8.** Section 2.110 of the Charter of the City of Las Vegas, being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, as amended by chapter 568, Statutes of Nevada 1991, at page 1882, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2.110 Ordinances: Procedure for enactment; emergency ordinances.

1. All proposed ordinances, when they are first proposed, must be read to the City Council by title and *may be* referred for consideration to a committee which is composed of any number of members of the City Council who are designated by the Mayor, after which an adequate number of copies of the proposed ordinance must be deposited with the City Clerk for public examination and distribution upon request. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3 and for the adoption of specialized or uniform codes, notice of the deposit must be published once at least 10 days before the adoption of the ordinance. The City Council must adopt or reject the ordinance, or an amendment thereto, within ~~[30]~~ *60* days after the date of that publication. *A*



*committee described in this subsection shall meet as often as is reasonably necessary but not less frequently than once each calendar quarter.*

2. ~~[At the first regular meeting of the City Council, or any adjournment of that meeting, after the proposal of an ordinance and its reference to a committee, the committee must report to the City Council with respect to the proposed ordinance, at which time the committee may request additional time to consider it. The committee must complete its additional consideration of the proposed ordinance and report its recommendations to the board with the 30 day period which is specified in subsection 1. After a recommendation by the committee for the adoption of the proposed ordinance, the]~~ *Following the first reading by title, an ordinance that has been referred pursuant to subsection 1 must be considered by the committee. Such committee must report its recommendations, if any, to the City Council. Regardless of whether a proposed ordinance is referred to a committee pursuant to subsection 1, it* must be read by title as first introduced, or as amended, and finally voted upon or action thereon postponed, but the proposed ordinance must be adopted, with or without amendments, or rejected within ~~[30]~~ *60* days after the date of the publication which is provided for in subsection 1.

3. In cases of emergency or where the ordinance is of a kind whose enactment as if an emergency existed is permitted by a provision of NRS or section 7.020 or 8.210 of this Charter, final action, upon the unanimous vote of the entire City Council, may be taken immediately or at a special meeting which has been called for that purpose, and no notice of the filing of copies of the proposed ordinance with the City Clerk need be published.

4. Each ordinance must be signed by the Mayor, attested by the City Clerk and published at least once by title, together with the names of the members of the City Council who voted for or against its adoption, and the ordinance becomes effective on the day after that publication. The City Council may, by majority vote, order the publication of the ordinance in full in lieu of publication by title only.

5. The City Clerk shall record all ordinances which have been adopted in a register which is kept for that purpose, together with the affidavits of publication by the publisher.





1     **Sec. 9.** Section 2.130 of the Charter of the City of Las Vegas,  
2 being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, at page 1398, is hereby  
3 amended to read as follows:

4         Sec. 2.130 Powers of City Council: Denial, suspension  
5 or revocation of work permit; appeal to City Council ~~[H]~~ ;  
6 *alternative procedure established by City Council.*  
7 Whenever under any city ordinance a person is required to  
8 obtain a work permit or an identification card from the Sheriff  
9 of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department or any City  
10 officer as a condition of employment in any establishment  
11 which has been determined to be privileged by the City  
12 Council and licensed by the City, and his work permit or  
13 identification card is denied, suspended or revoked by the  
14 Sheriff or City officer, the person aggrieved may appeal from  
15 that action ~~[to]~~ :

16         1. *To the City Council by filing a written notice of*  
17 *appeal with the City Clerk within 10 days after the date of the*  
18 *denial, suspension or revocation of his work permit or*  
19 *identification card ~~[H]~~ ; or*

20         2. *To any judicial or administrative body that the City*  
21 *Council has designated to hear such appeals.*

22     **Sec. 10.** (Deleted by amendment.)

23     **Sec. 11.** Section 3.150 of the Charter of the City of Las Vegas,  
24 being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, at page 1409, is hereby  
25 amended to read as follows:

26         Sec. 3.150 City Treasurer: Duties.

27         1. The Director of Financial Management may *serve as*  
28 *the City Treasurer or may* recommend *a City Treasurer* for  
29 appointment by the City Manager. ~~[a City Treasurer.]~~

30         2. The City Treasurer:

31             (a) Shall perform such duties as may be designated by the  
32 Director of Financial Management or prescribed by  
33 ordinance.

34             (b) Must provide a surety bond in the amount which is  
35 fixed by the City Council.

36     **Sec. 12.** Section 3.190 of the Charter of the City of Las Vegas,  
37 being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, at page 1410, is hereby  
38 amended to read as follows:

39         Sec. 3.190 Director of Public Services: Qualifications.

40         The Director of Public Services must ~~[be a licensed~~  
41 ~~professional engineer in the State and]~~ have such ~~[other]~~  
42 qualifications as may be prescribed by ordinance.





1     **Sec. 13.** Section 4.020 of the Charter of the City of Las Vegas,  
2 being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, as amended by chapter  
3 127, Statutes of Nevada 1989, at page 283, is hereby amended to  
4 read as follows:

5         Sec. 4.020 Municipal Court: Qualifications of  
6 Municipal Judges; salary; Master Judge; departments;  
7 Alternate Judges.

8         1. Each Municipal Judge shall devote his full time to the  
9 duties of his office and must be:

10         (a) A duly licensed member, in good standing, of the  
11 State Bar of Nevada, but this qualification does not apply to  
12 any Municipal Judge who is an incumbent when this Charter  
13 becomes effective as long as he continues to serve as such in  
14 uninterrupted terms.

15         (b) A qualified elector who has resided within the  
16 territory which is established by the boundaries of the City for  
17 a period of not less than 30 days immediately before the last  
18 day for filing a declaration of candidacy for the department  
19 for which he is a candidate.

20         (c) Voted upon by the registered voters of the City at  
21 large.

22         2. The salary of the Municipal Judges must be fixed by  
23 ordinance and be uniform for all departments of the  
24 Municipal Court. The salary may be increased during the  
25 terms for which the Judges are elected or appointed.

26         3. ~~[The Municipal Judge who holds seniority in years of~~  
27 ~~service in office, either elected or appointed, is the Master~~  
28 ~~Judge. If two or more Judges are equal in seniority, the]~~ *The*  
29 *Municipal Judges of the six departments shall elect a*  
30 *Master Judge [must be chosen] from among [them by the City*  
31 *Council.] their number. The Master Judge shall hold office*  
32 *for a term of 2 years commencing on July 1 of each odd-*  
33 *numbered year. If a vacancy occurs in the position of*  
34 *Master Judge, the Municipal Judges shall elect a*  
35 *replacement for the remainder of the unexpired term. If two*  
36 *or more Municipal Judges receive an equal number of votes*  
37 *for the position of Master Judge, the candidates who have*  
38 *received the tie votes shall resolve the tie vote by the*  
39 *drawing of lots.* The Master Judge:

40         (a) Shall establish and enforce administrative regulations  
41 for governing the affairs of the Municipal Court.

42         (b) Is responsible for setting trial dates and other matters  
43 which pertain to the Court calendar.

44         (c) Shall perform such other Court administrative duties  
45 as may be required by the City Council.



4. Alternate Judges in sufficient numbers may be appointed annually by the Mayor, each of whom:

(a) Must be a duly licensed member, in good standing, of the State Bar of Nevada and have such other qualifications as are prescribed by ordinance.

(b) Has all of the powers and jurisdiction of a Municipal Judge while he is acting as such.

(c) Is entitled to such compensation as may be fixed by the City Council.

5. Any Municipal Judge, other than an Alternate Judge, automatically forfeits his office if he ceases to be a resident of the City.

**Sec. 14.** Section 10.010 of the Charter of the City of Las Vegas, being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, as amended by chapter 45, Statutes of Nevada 1991, at page 95, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 10.010 Civil Service.

1. There is hereby created a System of Civil Service which is applicable to and governs all of the employees of the City except the elected officials, persons who serve as members of boards, commissioners or committees for which no compensation is received, the City Manager, the City Attorney, persons who are appointed pursuant to sections 3.040 and 3.070 of this Charter, persons who hold such probationary, provisional or temporary appointments as are designated in the Civil Service rules, Alternate Judges and persons who hold such other positions as are designated by the City Council.

2. The *City Council may determine that the* System of Civil Service must be administered by a Board of Civil Service Trustees which is composed of five members who are appointed by the City Council for terms of 4 years.

3. The City Council shall adopt by ordinance ~~following their approval by the Board of Civil Service Trustees,~~ a codification of the rules which govern the System of Civil Service and may from time to time amend those rules ~~. [by ordinance upon the recommendation of the]~~ *If the System of Civil Service is administered by a Board of Civil Service Trustees [Those], the rules which govern the System of Civil Service, and any amendments thereto, must be reviewed by the Board before the City Council adopts them.*

4. *The rules which govern the System of Civil Service* must provide for:

(a) The examination of potential employees;



- (b) Recruitment and placement procedures;
- (c) The classification of positions;
- (d) Procedures for the promotion of employees;
- (e) Procedures for disciplinary actions against, and the discharge of, employees;
- (f) Appeals with respect to actions which are taken pursuant to paragraphs (d) and (e);
- (g) The acceptance and processing of citizens' complaints against employees; and
- (h) Such other matters , *if any*, as the Board of Civil Service Trustees *or the City Council* deems are necessary or appropriate.

~~4~~ 5. Copies of the rules of the System of Civil Service must be made available to all of the employees of the City.

**Sec. 15.** 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and approval.

2. Section 13 of this act becomes effective upon passage and approval for the purpose of electing a Master Judge and on July 1, 2007, for all other purposes.

3. Sections 1 to 12, inclusive, and 14 of this act become effective on July 1, 2007.

