

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, but prohibits the imposition or increase of a tax by the City Council for those purposes unless otherwise authorized by specific statute.

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, but prohibits the imposition or increase of a tax by the City Council for those purposes unless otherwise authorized by specific statute.

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

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. (Las Vegas City Charter § 2.110)

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 an identification card. (Las Vegas City Charter § 2.130)

Section 10.3 of this bill requires the City Manager to appoint a City Treasurer, subject to ratification by the City Council. (Las Vegas City Charter § 3.070)

Section 11 of this bill eliminates a requirement that the City Treasurer perform duties designated by the Director of Financial Management, and instead requires the City Treasurer to perform duties that may be prescribed by ordinance by the City Council or designated by the City Manager. (Las Vegas City Charter § 3.150)

Section 12 of this bill removes the requirement that the Director of Public Services be a licensed professional engineer. (Las Vegas City Charter § 3.190)



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. (Las Vegas City Charter § 10.010)

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.

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 and 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.

2. The City Council shall not impose or increase a tax for the purposes set forth in subsection 1 unless the tax or increase is otherwise authorized by specific statute.

Sec. 2. (Deleted by amendment.)

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.

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 and 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.

2. The City Council shall not impose or increase a tax for the purposes set forth in subsection 1 unless the tax or increase is otherwise authorized by specific statute.



1 **Sec. 4.** The Charter of the City of Las Vegas, being chapter
2 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, at page 1391, is hereby amended by
3 adding thereto a new section to be designated as section 4.040,
4 immediately following section 4.030, to read as follows:

5 ***Sec. 4.040 Hearing Commissioners.***

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

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

10 (b) *Any action for a misdemeanor constituting a*
11 *violation of the Las Vegas Municipal Code, except chapter*
12 *11.14 of that Code.*

13 2. *Each Hearing Commissioner must:*

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

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

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

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

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

22 3. *In connection with any action of a type described in*
23 *subsection 1, a Hearing Commissioner has all the powers*
24 *and duties of a Municipal Judge and a magistrate pursuant*
25 *to the laws of this State. To the extent possible and*
26 *practicable, the proceedings in such actions must be subject*
27 *to and governed by the provisions of the laws of this State,*
28 *this Charter and city ordinances pertaining to Municipal*
29 *Judges.*

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

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

36 Sec. 1.160 Elective Offices: Vacancies.

37 1. A vacancy in the office of Mayor, Councilman or
38 Municipal Judge must be filled by the majority vote of the
39 entire City Council within 30 days after the occurrence of that
40 vacancy. A person may be selected to fill a prospective
41 vacancy ~~[in the City Council]~~ before the vacancy occurs. In
42 such a case, each member of the Council, except any member
43 whose term of office expires before the occurrence of the
44 vacancy, may participate in any action taken by the Council
45 pursuant to this section. The appointee must have the same



1 qualifications as are required of the elective official ~~H~~ ,
2 *including, without limitation, any applicable residency*
3 *requirement.*

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

12 **Sec. 6.** (Deleted by amendment.)

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

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

18 1. The Mayor and Councilmen may not:

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

24 (b) Be ~~{elected-or}~~ appointed to any office which was
25 created, or the compensation for which was increased or
26 fixed, by the City Council until 1 year after the expiration of
27 the term for which the Mayor or Councilman was elected or
28 appointed.

29 2. Any person who ~~{accepts any office which is~~
30 ~~proscribed-by}~~ *violates the provisions of* subsection 1
31 automatically forfeits his office as Mayor or Councilman.

32 **Sec. 8.** Section 2.110 of the Charter of the City of Las Vegas,
33 being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, as amended by chapter
34 568, Statutes of Nevada 1991, at page 1882, is hereby amended to
35 read as follows:

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

38 1. All proposed ordinances, when they are first
39 proposed, must be read to the City Council by title and *may*
40 *be* referred for consideration to a committee which is
41 composed of any number of members of the City Council
42 who are designated by the Mayor, after which an adequate
43 number of copies of the proposed ordinance must be
44 deposited with the City Clerk for public examination and
45 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.

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

Sec. 2.130 Powers of City Council: Denial, suspension or revocation of work permit; appeal to City Council ~~[H]~~ ; *alternative procedure established by City Council.* Whenever under any city ordinance a person is required to obtain a work permit or an identification card from the Sheriff of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department or any City officer as a condition of employment in any establishment which has been determined to be privileged by the City Council and licensed by the City, and his work permit or identification card is denied, suspended or revoked by the Sheriff or City officer, the person aggrieved may ~~[appeal from that action to the City Council]~~ , by filing a written notice of appeal with the City Clerk within 10 days after the date of the denial, suspension or revocation of his work permit or identification card ~~[H]~~ , *appeal from that action to:*

(a) The City Council, unless the City Council has designated an administrative body pursuant to paragraph (b); or

(b) Any administrative body that the City Council has designated to hear such appeals. If such an administrative body denies a person's appeal, the person may appeal to the City Council.

Sec. 10. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 10.3. Section 3.070 of the Charter of the City of Las Vegas, being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, as last amended by chapter 45, Statutes of Nevada 1991, at page 93, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 3.070 Appointive officers: Appointment by City Manager. The City Manager shall appoint the following officers, subject to ratification by the City Council:

1. Director of Financial Management.
2. Director of Public Services.
3. Fire Chief.
4. City Clerk.
5. *City Treasurer.*

6. A Director of each department which is established pursuant to section 3.060 of this Charter.

~~[6.]~~ **7.** Such other officers as may be necessary.



* A B 5 1 4 R 4 *

1 **Sec. 10.5.** Section 3.140 of the Charter of the City of Las
2 Vegas, being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, at page 1409, is
3 hereby amended to read as follows:

4 Sec. 3.140 Department of Financial Management:
5 Audits.

6 1. The Department of Financial Management shall
7 maintain complete records of all fiscal transactions of and
8 claims against the City.

9 2. Before payment, all claims and accounts against the
10 City must be approved by the Department of Financial
11 Management. No money may be paid for any purpose except
12 by following procedures which have been approved by the
13 City Council. The City Treasurer shall prepare all warrants, to
14 be drawn against the proper accounts, in payment of those
15 claims. The warrants which are issued must bear the
16 signatures of the Director of Financial Management and the
17 City Treasurer . ~~{, if any.}~~ Facsimile signatures may be
18 permitted under the procedures which are prescribed by
19 ordinance.

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

23 Sec. 3.150 City Treasurer: Duties.

24 ~~{1. The Director of Financial Management may~~
25 ~~recommend for appointment by the City Manager a City~~
26 ~~Treasurer.}~~

27 ~~{2.}~~ The City Treasurer:

28 ~~{(a)}~~ 1. Shall perform such duties as may be ~~{designated~~
29 ~~by the Director of Financial Management or}~~ prescribed by
30 ordinance ~~{}~~ *or designated by the City Manager pursuant to*
31 *section 3.180.*

32 ~~{(b)}~~ 2. Must provide a surety bond in the amount which
33 is fixed by the City Council.

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

37 Sec. 3.190 Director of Public Services: Qualifications.

38 The Director of Public Services must ~~{be a licensed~~
39 ~~professional engineer in the State and}~~ have such ~~{other}~~
40 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.

