

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 530—COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND LABOR

MARCH 26, 2007

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Creates the Office of Ombudsman of Consumer Affairs for Minorities. (BDR 18-1375)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

~

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

AN ACT relating to minority affairs; creating the Office of Ombudsman of Consumer Affairs for Minorities; providing for the duties of the Ombudsman; requiring the Ombudsman to serve as the Executive Secretary to the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs; revising provisions relating to the provision of staff for the Commission; repealing the prospective expiration of the Commission; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law creates the Consumer Affairs Division within the Department of Business and Industry. (NRS 232.510) **Section 2** of this bill creates the Office of Ombudsman of Consumer Affairs for Minorities within the Division and provides that the person appointed to the position will be within the unclassified service of the State. **Section 3** of this bill establishes the duties of the Ombudsman, which include outreach and education for members of minority groups regarding consumer fraud and assistance to members of minority groups who are victims of consumer fraud.

Section 4 of this bill requires the Ombudsman to serve as the Executive Secretary to the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs, which is created by existing law to study matters affecting minorities in this State and provide information to minority groups on the resources available to them in this State. (NRS 233J.020, 233J.060)

Section 5 of this bill transfers the duty to provide staff assistance to the Commission from the Director of the Department of Administration to the Director of the Department of Business and Industry. (NRS 233J.080)



* A B 5 3 0 *

17 **Section 6** of this bill repeals the sunset provision that would abolish the
18 Commission on June 30, 2007. **Section 7** of this bill appropriates \$15,000 to the
19 Commission to carry out its duties.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 232 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.

3 **Sec. 2. 1. *The Office of Ombudsman of Consumer Affairs***
4 ***for Minorities is hereby created within the Consumer Affairs***
5 ***Division of the Department.***

6 **2. *The Director shall appoint the Ombudsman of Consumer***
7 ***Affairs for Minorities. The person so appointed:***

8 ***(a) Must be qualified by training and experience to perform***
9 ***the duties and functions of his office; and***

10 ***(b) Is in the unclassified service of the State.***

11 **Sec. 3. 1. *The Ombudsman of Consumer Affairs for***
12 ***Minorities shall:***

13 ***(a) Provide for continued educational, outreach and service***
14 ***programs for minority groups pertaining to consumer fraud;***

15 ***(b) Provide assistance to members of minority groups who are***
16 ***victims of consumer fraud, including, without limitation,***
17 ***coordinating resources and services available to victims of***
18 ***consumer fraud from state and local governmental agencies;***

19 ***(c) Serve as the Executive Secretary to the Nevada***
20 ***Commission on Minority Affairs created by NRS 233J.020; and***

21 ***(d) Perform such other tasks as are necessary to carry out his***
22 ***duties and the functions of his office.***

23 **2. *As used in this section, "consumer fraud" has the meaning***
24 ***ascribed to it in NRS 41.600.***

25 **Sec. 4.** NRS 233J.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

26 233J.020 1. The Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs,
27 consisting of nine members appointed by the Legislative
28 Commission, is hereby created. Appointments to the Commission
29 must be made from a list of persons recommended to the Legislative
30 Commission by organizations and other entities which represent or
31 promote the interests of minority groups in this State.

32 2. The members appointed to the Commission must represent a
33 variety of minority groups that reflects the general population of this
34 State.

35 3. The members of the Commission shall elect a Chairman and
36 a Vice Chairman from among their number.

37 4. The term of Office of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman
38 is 2 years.



* A B 5 3 0 *

5. Not more than four members of the Commission may be from the same minority group.

6. The Ombudsman of Consumer Affairs for Minorities appointed pursuant to section 2 of this act shall serve as Executive Secretary to the Commission pursuant to section 3 of this act.

Sec. 5. NRS 233J.080 is hereby amended to read as follows:

233J.080 1. The Director of the Department of ~~Administration~~ ***Business and Industry*** shall provide staff assistance to the Commission as the Governor deems appropriate.

2. The Commission may engage the services of volunteer workers and consultants without compensation as is necessary from time to time.

Sec. 6. Section 22 of chapter 7, Statutes of Nevada 2003, 20th Special Session, at page 269, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 22. 1. This section and sections 1 to 10, inclusive, and 21 of this act become effective upon passage and approval. ~~[, and expire by limitation on June 30, 2007.]~~

2. Sections 11 to 20, inclusive, of this act become effective on October 1, 2003.

Sec. 7. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs to carry out its duties:

For the Fiscal Year 2007-2008.....\$10,000

For the Fiscal Year 2008-2009.....\$5,000

2. The sums appropriated by subsection 1 are available for either fiscal year. Any remaining balance of these sums must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2009, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September 18, 2009, by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 18, 2009.

Sec. 8. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

