

SENATE BILL NO. 487—COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION'S SUBCOMMITTEE
TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY OF CONSOLIDATING
WATER-RELATED SERVICES IN WASHOE COUNTY)

MARCH 26, 2007

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to water resources in
certain counties. (BDR S-183)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
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 water; creating an Advisory Subcommittee of
the Washoe County Regional Water Planning
Commission; requiring the Commission, in conjunction
with the Subcommittee, to assess and examine certain
matters pertaining to the availability and responsible use
of water within Washoe County and to submit a report to
the Legislature in connection therewith; and providing
other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing general law provides for regional planning and management of water
by a water planning commission in counties whose population is 100,000 or more
but less than 400,000 (currently Washoe County). Under that general law, a board
of county commissioners is required to adopt a comprehensive plan for the supply
of municipal and industrial water, quality of water, sanitary sewerage, treatment of
sewage, drainage of storm water and control of floods and is required to take action
by a two-thirds majority. This general law also provides for a water planning
commission, which reports to and advises the board of county commissioners
concerning issues relating to water resources. (NRS 540A.010-540A.310)

Section 2 of this bill creates an Advisory Subcommittee of the Washoe County
Regional Water Planning Commission. The Subcommittee consists of six members,
including two Legislators appointed, respectively, by the Majority Leader of the
Senate and the Speaker of the Assembly and four members of the general public
who are appointed by the four purveyors of water in Washoe County: (1) the South
Truckee Meadows General Improvement District; (2) the Sun Valley General



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Improvement District; (3) the Truckee Meadows Water Authority; and (4) Washoe County.

Section 3 of this bill requires the Commission, in conjunction with the Subcommittee, to make assessments, determinations and recommendations regarding several issues pertaining to the availability and responsible use of water within Washoe County.

Section 4 of this bill requires the Commission, in conjunction with the Subcommittee, to report on the activities carried out pursuant to **section 3** and submit that report, accompanied by any recommendations for legislation, to the 75th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

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

Section 1. As used in sections 1 to 4, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Commission" means the Washoe County Regional Water Planning Commission.

2. "Purveyor of water" means:

(a) The South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District;

(b) The Sun Valley General Improvement District;

(c) The Truckee Meadows Water Authority; and

(d) Washoe County.

3. "Subcommittee" means the Advisory Subcommittee created pursuant to section 2 of this act.

Sec. 2. 1. There is hereby created an Advisory Subcommittee of the Washoe County Regional Water Planning Commission.

2. The Subcommittee consists of six members as follows:

(a) One member of the Senate, appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate;

(b) One member of the Assembly, appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly; and

(c) Four members of the general public who are consumers of water services, one appointed by each of the four purveyors of water.

3. The Commission shall provide the Subcommittee with any necessary staff and administrative support.

Sec. 3. The Commission, in conjunction with the Subcommittee, shall:

1. Assess conjunctive use by the purveyors of water to determine if those purveyors are maximizing conjunctive use and, if not, recommend ways in which maximized conjunctive use may be achieved. As used in this subsection, "conjunctive use" means the combined use of surface water and groundwater systems to optimize resource use.



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2. Determine the amount of water required to accommodate the substantial completion of development of land as anticipated in the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan, and assess how much of that required amount of water is available within Washoe County.

3. If the amount of water required to accommodate the substantial completion of development of land as anticipated in the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan, as determined pursuant to subsection 2, is not available within Washoe County:

(a) Examine other potential locations from which additional water may be obtained; and

(b) Prepare a reasonably detailed estimate of the cost of obtaining that additional water from other locations.

4. Determine the extent to which there is a duplication of water facilities and recommend a course of action to eliminate or minimize such duplication.

5. Identify sources of funding to pay for the water required to accommodate the substantial completion of development of land as anticipated in the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan, including, without limitation, sources of funding to pay for:

(a) Water that is available within Washoe County; and

(b) Water that will need to be obtained from other locations.

6. Assess the adequacy of any water conservation plans developed or adopted by the purveyors of water and, if it is determined that those plans are inadequate, make recommendations as to the specific manner in which those plans may be improved.

Sec. 4. On or before July 1, 2008, the Commission, in conjunction with the Subcommittee, shall prepare a written report of the matters considered and the actions taken pursuant to section 3 of this act and shall submit the report, accompanied by any recommendations for legislation, to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 75th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Sec. 5. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this act, the Majority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly and the purveyors of water, as defined in section 1 of this act, shall appoint to the Advisory Subcommittee of the Washoe County Regional Water Planning Commission the members described in section 2 of this act.

Sec. 6. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval and expires by limitation on June 30, 2009.

