

SENATE BILL NO. 556—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

APRIL 11, 2007

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Creates the Supreme Court Commission on Law Libraries and the District Court Commission on Law Libraries. (BDR 1-1475)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

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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 judicial system; creating the Supreme Court Commission on Law Libraries and the District Court Commission on Law Libraries; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Senate Bill No. 184 of the 2001 Legislative Session created the Supreme Court Commission on Law Libraries and the District Court Commission on Law Libraries. The Supreme Court Commission on Law Libraries expired on December 31, 2006, and the District Court Commission on Law Libraries expired on January 2, 2005. (Chapter 597, Statutes of Nevada 2001, p. 3109)

**Section 2** of this bill re-creates the Supreme Court Commission on Law Libraries, prescribes the duties of the Commission and establishes the salaries for the justices who serve on the Commission. **Section 1** of this bill clarifies that salary from service on the Commission is included within the definition of salary for the purposes of the statutory provisions pertaining to pensions.

**Section 3** of this bill re-creates the District Court Commission on Law Libraries, prescribes the duties of the Commission and establishes the salaries for the judges who serve on the Commission. **Section 4** of this bill clarifies that salary from service on the Commission is included within the definition of salary for the purposes of the statutory provisions pertaining to pensions.

**Section 5** of this bill provides that this bill becomes effective on January 1, 2009, if, and only if, Senate Bill No. 248 is enacted by the 74th Session of the Nevada Legislature and approved by the Governor.



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

**Section 1.** NRS 2.060 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2.060 1. Any justice of the Supreme Court who has served as a justice or judge of a district court in any one or more of those courts for a period or periods aggregating 22 years and has ended such service is, after reaching the age of 60 years, entitled to receive annually from the State of Nevada, as a pension during the remainder of his life, a sum of money equal in amount to three-fourths the sum received as a salary for his judicial services during the last year thereof, payable monthly from the Judicial Retirement Fund established pursuant to NRS 1A.160.

2. Any justice of the Supreme Court who has served as a justice or judge of a district court in any one or more of those courts for a period or periods aggregating 5 years and has ended such service is, after reaching the age of 60 years, entitled to receive annually from the State of Nevada, as a pension during the remainder of his life, a sum of money equal in amount to 4.1666 percent of the sum received as a salary for his judicial services during the last year thereof, payable monthly from the Judicial Retirement Fund established pursuant to NRS 1A.160.

3. Any justice of the Supreme Court who qualifies for a pension under the provisions of subsection 2 is entitled to receive, for each year served beyond 5 years up to a maximum of 22 years, an additional 4.1666 percent of the sum received as a salary for his judicial services during the last year thereof, payable as provided in subsection 2.

4. Any justice who has retired pursuant to subsection 3 and is thereafter recalled to additional active service in the court system is entitled to receive credit toward accumulating 22 years' service for the maximum pension based upon the time he actually spends in the additional active service.

5. Any justice who has the years of service necessary to retire but has not attained the required age may retire at any age with a benefit actuarially reduced to the required retirement age. A benefit under this subsection must be reduced in the same manner as benefits are reduced for persons retired under the Public Employees' Retirement System.

6. Any person receiving a pension pursuant to the provisions of this section is entitled to receive postretirement increases equal to those provided for persons retired under the Public Employees' Retirement System.

7. Any justice who desires to receive the benefits of this section must file with the Executive Officer of the Public



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1 Employees' Retirement Board an affidavit setting forth the fact that  
2 he is ending his service, the date and place of his birth, and the years  
3 he has served in any district court or the Supreme Court.

4 8. The faith of the State of Nevada is hereby pledged that this  
5 section shall not be repealed or amended so as to affect any justice  
6 who may have ended his service pursuant to it.

7 *9. As used in this section, "salary" includes a salary received*  
8 *for service on a Supreme Court Commission created by statute.*

9 **Sec. 2.** NRS 2.410 is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 2.410 *1. The Supreme Court Law Library shall be under the*  
11 *supervision and control of the Supreme Court, which may make and*  
12 *enforce such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the*  
13 *government, use and services of the Library. Such rules or*  
14 *regulations shall assure that the Library is accessible for public use*  
15 *and to users in all parts of the State.*

16 *2. There is hereby created a Supreme Court Commission on*  
17 *Law Libraries. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall*  
18 *appoint justices of the Supreme Court who are interested in issues*  
19 *related to improving access by the public to the law and legal*  
20 *publications to serve on the Commission.*

21 *3. The Supreme Court Commission on Law Libraries shall:*

22 *(a) Advise the Supreme Court concerning the government, use*  
23 *and services of the Supreme Court Law Library, including,*  
24 *without limitation, any decisions made by the Supreme Court*  
25 *pursuant to subsection 1 and NRS 2.420 and 2.430;*

26 *(b) Coordinate the development of materials to aid persons*  
27 *who choose to represent themselves in litigation and other legal*  
28 *matters rather than retaining an attorney; and*

29 *(c) Provide assistance and advice to the District Court*  
30 *Commission on Law Libraries, during its existence, concerning*  
31 *the government, use and services of county law libraries.*

32 *4. The Supreme Court Commission on Law Libraries shall*  
33 *meet at least quarterly and shall prepare and submit an annual*  
34 *report to the Office of the Court Administrator.*

35 *5. On January 5, 2009, the Chief Justice of the Supreme*  
36 *Court shall appoint two justices of the Supreme Court to serve*  
37 *terms on the Supreme Court Commission on Law Libraries which*  
38 *begin on January 5, 2009, and end on January 2, 2011, and three*  
39 *justices to serve terms which begin on January 6, 2009, and end*  
40 *on December 31, 2012. If a justice appointed pursuant to this*  
41 *subsection to serve on the Commission ceases to be a justice of the*  
42 *Supreme Court, his term as a member of the Commission expires*  
43 *on the date that he ceases to be a justice of the Supreme Court.*  
44 *Such a vacancy on the Commission may only be filled by the*  
45 *person appointed to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court and*



1 *only for the remainder of the term for which he is appointed and*  
2 *actually serves.*

3 *6. Each member of the Supreme Court Commission on Law*  
4 *Libraries who is appointed pursuant to subsection 5 is entitled to*  
5 *receive a salary of \$42,000 for each year that he serves on the*  
6 *Commission, payable in biweekly installments.*

7 **Sec. 3.** Chapter 3 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto  
8 a new section to read as follows:

9 *1. There is hereby created a District Court Commission on*  
10 *Law Libraries. The Commission shall:*

11 *(a) Make recommendations to and otherwise advise generally*  
12 *the boards of law library trustees established pursuant to chapter*  
13 *380 of NRS concerning policies and procedures related to*  
14 *improving access by the public to the law and legal publications;*

15 *(b) Coordinate the development of materials to aid persons*  
16 *who choose to represent themselves in litigation and other legal*  
17 *matters rather than retaining an attorney; and*

18 *(c) In a county in which the board of county commissioners*  
19 *governs and manages a law library, make recommendations to*  
20 *and otherwise advise the board of county commissioners*  
21 *concerning any issues that arise as the board manages the law*  
22 *library, carries out its duties set forth in chapter 380 of NRS or*  
23 *exercises any power granted to a board of law library trustees*  
24 *pursuant to chapter 380 of NRS and concerning policies and*  
25 *procedures related to improving access by the public to the law*  
26 *and legal publications.*

27 *2. The District Court Commission on Law Libraries shall*  
28 *meet at least quarterly and shall prepare and submit an annual*  
29 *report to the Administrative Office of the Courts.*

30 *3. On January 5, 2009, the:*

31 *(a) Chief Judge of the Second Judicial District shall appoint*  
32 *two district judges from the Second Judicial District to serve terms*  
33 *on the District Court Commission on Law Libraries which begin*  
34 *on January 5, 2009, and end on January 3, 2011; and*

35 *(b) Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial District shall appoint*  
36 *six district judges from the Eighth Judicial District to serve terms*  
37 *on the District Court Commission on Law Libraries which begin*  
38 *on January 5, 2009, and end on January 3, 2011.*

39 *↪ If a district judge appointed pursuant to this subsection to serve*  
40 *on the District Court Commission on Law Libraries ceases to be a*  
41 *district judge, his term as a member of the Commission expires*  
42 *on the date that he ceases to be a district judge. Such a vacancy on*  
43 *the Commission may only be filled by the person appointed to fill*  
44 *the vacancy on the district court and only for the remainder of the*  
45 *term for which he is appointed and actually serves.*



1     **4. On or after January 5, 2009, the Chief Judge of any other**  
2 **judicial district may appoint one district judge to serve on the**  
3 **District Court Commission on Law Libraries.**

4     **5. Each member of the District Court Commission on Law**  
5 **Libraries who was appointed pursuant to subsection 3 is entitled to**  
6 **receive a salary of \$39,000 for each year that he serves on the**  
7 **Commission, payable in biweekly installments.**

8     **Sec. 4.** NRS 3.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:

9     3.090 1. Any judge of the district court who has served as a  
10 justice of the Supreme Court or judge of a district court in any one  
11 or more of those courts for a period or periods aggregating 22 years  
12 and has ended such service is, after reaching the age of 60 years,  
13 entitled to receive annually from the State of Nevada, as a pension  
14 during the remainder of his life, a sum of money equal in amount to  
15 three-fourths the sum received as a salary for his judicial services  
16 during the last year thereof, payable monthly from the Judicial  
17 Retirement Fund established pursuant to NRS 1A.160.

18     2. Any judge of the district court who has served as a justice of  
19 the Supreme Court or judge of a district court in any one or more of  
20 those courts for a period or periods aggregating 5 years and has  
21 ended such service is, after reaching the age of 60 years, entitled to  
22 receive annually from the State of Nevada, as a pension during the  
23 remainder of his life, a sum of money equal in amount to 4.1666  
24 percent of the sum received as a salary for his judicial services  
25 during the last year thereof, payable monthly from the Judicial  
26 Retirement Fund established pursuant to NRS 1A.160.

27     3. Any judge of the district court who qualifies for a pension  
28 under the provisions of subsection 2 is entitled to receive, for each  
29 year served beyond 5 years up to a maximum of 22 years, an  
30 additional 4.1666 percent of the sum received as a salary for his  
31 judicial services during the last year thereof, payable as provided in  
32 subsection 2.

33     4. Any judge who has retired pursuant to subsection 3 and is  
34 thereafter recalled to additional active service in the court system is  
35 entitled to receive credit toward accumulating 22 years' service for  
36 the maximum pension based upon the time he actually spends in the  
37 additional active service.

38     5. Any district judge who has the years of service necessary to  
39 retire but has not attained the required age may retire at any age with  
40 a benefit actuarially reduced to the required retirement age. A  
41 retirement benefit under this subsection must be reduced in the same  
42 manner as benefits are reduced for persons retired under the Public  
43 Employees' Retirement System.

44     6. Any person receiving a pension pursuant to the provisions of  
45 this section is entitled to receive postretirement increases equal to



1 those provided for persons retired in the Public Employees'  
2 Retirement System.

3 7. Any judge of the district court who desires to receive the  
4 benefits of this section must file with the Executive Officer of the  
5 Public Employees' Retirement Board an affidavit setting forth  
6 the fact that he is ending his service, the date and place of his birth,  
7 and the years he has served in any district court or the Supreme  
8 Court.

9 8. The faith of the State of Nevada is hereby pledged that this  
10 section shall not be repealed or amended so as to affect any judge of  
11 the district court who may have ended his service pursuant to it.

12 *9. As used in this section, "salary" includes a salary received*  
13 *for service on a District Court Commission created by statute.*

14 **Sec. 5.** 1. This act becomes effective on January 1, 2009, if,  
15 and only if, Senate Bill No. 248 is enacted by the 74th Session of  
16 the Nevada Legislature and approved by the Governor.

17 2. Sections 3 and 4 of this act expire by limitation on  
18 January 3, 2011.

19 3. Sections 1 and 2 of this act expire by limitation on  
20 December 31, 2012.

