

Senate Bill No. 152—Senators Horsford, Schneider, Carlton,  
Breedon, Wiener; Copeney and Woodhouse

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Buckley, Ocegüera,  
Conklin, Kirkpatrick, Bobzien; and Leslie

## CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to energy; providing for the training of persons to perform jobs which promote energy efficiency; requiring governmental entities to perform certain functions to promote energy efficiency; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

### **Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

This bill provides for the use of the incentives contained in the recently signed federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to provide job training, the promotion of energy efficiency and the promotion of the use of renewable energy in Nevada. **Sections 9 and 10** of this bill seek to take advantage of those incentives by providing specific training to persons in this State, establishing projects that will require the skills for which those persons are trained and providing for the employment of those persons. **Section 9** requires the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation and the Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry to establish contractual relationships with nonprofit collaboratives to provide training in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy, including training in the areas of weatherization, energy retrofit applications and performing energy audits. Within the limits of available money, the collaboratives will carry out programs for job training and provide apprenticeship programs in specific energy-related fields. Within the limits of money available, the Housing Division is required to contract with the nonprofit collaboratives, governmental entities, community action agencies and other nonprofit corporations to identify neighborhoods that will qualify for funding for residential weatherization projects and award contracts for projects to promote energy efficiency through residential weatherization. Such contracts awarded must provide for employing the persons trained by the nonprofit collaborative for this purpose, paying those employees prevailing wages and offering the employees and their dependents health care insurance.

**Section 10** of this bill requires the State Public Works Board, the board of trustees of each school district and the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada, within 90 days after the effective date of this bill, to each establish projects to weatherize and retrofit public buildings, facilities and structures in this State, including without limitation, traffic-control systems, and to otherwise use sources of renewable energy to serve those buildings, facilities and structures. **Section 10** further sets forth criteria for prioritizing those projects. Those entities are further required to enter into contracts for the projects as soon as practicable. Such contracts are required to provide that employees of the contractors and subcontractors on the project be paid prevailing wages, that the contractor or subcontractor employ a certain number of employees trained by a nonprofit cooperative and pay them prevailing wages and that the contractor offer employees on the project and their dependents health care insurance.

**Section 11** of this bill provides that within the limits of money available, the State Public Works Board and the Division of State Parks of the State Department



of Conservation and Natural Resources shall conduct studies to determine the feasibility of carrying out certain projects for providing alternative sources of energy in this State.

**Section 12** of this bill requires the Labor Commissioner to adopt the job classifications and wage rates established by the Federal Government for certain jobs relating to residential weatherization and to enforce those job classifications and wage rates in the same manner that he enforces the labor laws and regulations of this State generally.

**Section 13** of this bill requires the Office of Energy within the Office of the Governor, the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation and the Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry to report to the Interim Finance Committee concerning the application for and acceptance and expenditure of any money available to the State to carry out the purposes of this bill pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5.

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WHEREAS, The unemployment rate in the State of Nevada is currently 9.1 percent and is expected to reach 11.4 percent sometime during 2009; and

WHEREAS, Many of Nevada's 128,000 unemployed residents have lost jobs in the construction and service sectors as the construction industry has faltered as a result of the mortgage foreclosure crisis and as the service industry, including gaming and tourism, has faltered as a result of the curtailment of discretionary spending on a national level; and

WHEREAS, One of the most effective methods of returning unemployed Nevadans to work is to create "green jobs" by developing new industries in this State in a manner that takes advantage of incentives offered by the Federal Government for job training, the promotion of energy efficiency and the promotion of the use of renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, An immediate step which may be taken to put Nevadans back to work is to coordinate job training with programs for weatherization and energy efficiency that are part of the recently enacted federal economic stimulus package; and

WHEREAS, In such a manner, unemployed Nevadans may learn new skills in fields such as energy auditing and the installation of energy efficient equipment and improvements, and then go to work performing such tasks as performing energy audits, weatherizing homes, retrofitting public buildings, helping lower-income Nevadans to save on their utility bills, and reducing energy costs for schools, government buildings and other public facilities; and

WHEREAS, The performance of energy audits is a critical component of ensuring that the weatherization of homes results in meaningful reductions in energy costs to Nevadans; and



WHEREAS, The average energy auditor can perform 500 energy audits of residences per year; and

WHEREAS, The money available through the recently enacted federal economic stimulus package can be used to ensure that many Nevadans are trained in the skills necessary to perform energy audits thereby resulting in the performance of many thousands of energy audits of residences in Nevada; and

WHEREAS, The Green Jobs Initiative can be accomplished through a public-private partnership that combines the resources of state agencies, local housing authorities, institutions of higher education, joint labor-management partnerships, apprenticeship programs and private contractors under the “umbrella” of a nonprofit collaborative; and

WHEREAS, The Green Jobs Initiative would function to establish programs to provide job training and outreach for the weatherization and retrofitting of buildings and facilities in northern Nevada, southern Nevada and rural Nevada; now, therefore,

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

**Section 1.** Chapter 701B of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this act.

**Sec. 2.** *Sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this act may be cited as the Green Jobs Initiative.*

**Sec. 3.** *As used in sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in sections 4 to 8, inclusive, of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.*

**Sec. 4.** *“Department” means the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation.*

**Sec. 5.** *“Division” means the Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry.*

**Sec. 6. 1.** *“Renewable energy” means a source of energy that occurs naturally or is regenerated naturally, including, without limitation:*

- (a) Biomass;*
- (b) Fuel cells;*
- (c) Geothermal energy;*
- (d) Solar energy;*
- (e) Waste heat;*
- (f) Waterpower; and*
- (g) Wind.*



2. The term does not include coal, natural gas, oil, propane or any other fossil fuel, or nuclear energy.

Sec. 7. "Retrofitting" means the alteration, improvement, modification, remodeling or renovation of a building, facility, residence or structure to make that building, facility, residence or structure more energy efficient.

Sec. 8. "Weatherization" means materials or measures, and their installation, that are used to improve the thermal efficiency of a building, facility, residence or structure.

Sec. 9. 1. The Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation and the Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry shall establish contractual relationships with one or more nonprofit collaboratives to carry out the State's mission of creating new jobs in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy by combining job training with weatherization, energy retrofit applications or the development of renewable energy plants.

2. To qualify as a nonprofit collaborative for the purposes of this section, a nonprofit entity:

(a) Must enter into a written agreement relating to job training and career development activities with:

(1) A labor management agency or other affiliated agency which has established an apprenticeship program that is registered and approved by the State Apprenticeship Council pursuant to chapter 610 of NRS; and

(2) A community college or another institution of higher education; and

(b) Must conduct or have the ability to conduct training programs in at least one of the three geographic regions of this State, including southern Nevada, northern Nevada and rural Nevada.

↪ Such a nonprofit entity may also enter into a written agreement relating to job training and career development activities with a trade association which has an accredited job skills training program.

3. Within the limits of money available to the Department for this purpose, the Department shall contract with one or more qualified nonprofit collaboratives to:

(a) Carry out programs for job training in fields relating to energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

(b) In concert with a labor management agency or other affiliated agency which has established an apprenticeship program that is registered and approved by the State



*Apprenticeship Council pursuant to chapter 610 of NRS, develop apprenticeship programs to train laborers in skills related to:*

- (1) The implementation of energy efficiency measures.*
- (2) The use of renewable energy.*
- (3) Performing audits of the energy efficiency of buildings, facilities, residences and structures.*
- (4) The weatherization of buildings, facilities, residences and structures.*

*(5) The retrofitting of buildings, facilities, residences and structures.*

*(6) The construction and operation of centralized renewable energy plants.*

*(7) The manufacturing of components relating to work performed pursuant to subparagraphs (1) to (6), inclusive.*

*4. The job training described in subsection 3 must be sufficiently detailed to allow workers, as applicable, to perform:*

*(a) The services set forth in NRS 702.270.*

*(b) The services set forth in NRS 618.910 to 618.936, inclusive.*

*(c) Such other vocational or professional services, or both, as the Department deems appropriate.*

*5. Funding provided for the job training described in subsection 3:*

*(a) Must, to the extent money is available for the purpose, include the cost of tuition and supplies.*

*(b) May include a cost-of-living stipend which may or may not be in addition to any available unemployment compensation.*

*6. Within the limits of money available to the Division for the purpose, the Division shall contract with one or more governmental entities, community action agencies or nonprofit organizations, including, without limitation, qualified nonprofit collaboratives, to:*

*(a) Identify, in different regions of the State, neighborhoods that will qualify for funding for residential weatherization projects pursuant to federal programs focusing on residential weatherization; and*

*(b) Issue requests for proposals for contractors and award contracts for projects to promote energy efficiency through weatherization. Any such requests for proposals and contracts must include, without limitation:*

*(1) Provisions stipulating that all employees of the outside contractors who work on the project must be paid prevailing wages;*

*(2) Provisions requiring that each outside contractor:*



*(I) Employ on each such project a number of persons trained as described in paragraph (b) of subsection 3 that is equal to or greater than 50 percent of the total workforce the contractor employs on the project; or*

*(II) If the Director of the Department determines in writing, pursuant to a request submitted by the contractor, that the contractor cannot reasonably comply with the provisions of sub-subparagraph (I) because there are not available a sufficient number of such trained persons, employ a number of persons trained as described in paragraph (b) of subsection 3 or trained through any apprenticeship program that is registered and approved by the State Apprenticeship Council pursuant to chapter 610 of NRS that is equal to or greater than 50 percent of the total workforce the contractor employs on the project;*

*(3) A component pursuant to which persons trained as described in paragraph (b) of subsection 3 must be classified and paid prevailing wages depending upon the classification of the skill in which they are trained; and*

*(4) A component that requires each contractor to offer to employees working on the project, and to their dependents, health care in the same manner as a policy of insurance pursuant to chapters 689A and 689B of NRS or the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.*

*7. The Department and the Division:*

*(a) Shall apply for and accept any grant, appropriation, allocation or other money available pursuant to:*

*(1) The Green Jobs Act of 2007, 29 U.S.C. § 2916(e); and*

*(2) The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5; and*

*(b) May apply for and accept any other available gift, grant, appropriation or donation from any public or private source, to assist the Department and the Division in carrying out the provisions of this section.*

*8. The Department and the Division shall each report to the Interim Finance Committee at each meeting held by the Interim Finance Committee with respect to the activities in which they have engaged pursuant to this section.*

*9. As used in this section, "community action agencies" means private corporations or public agencies established pursuant to the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, Public Law 88-452, which are authorized to administer money received from federal, state, local or private funding entities to assess, design, operate, finance and oversee antipoverty programs.*



**Sec. 10. 1.** *The State Public Works Board shall, within 90 days after the effective date of this act, determine the specific projects to weatherize and retrofit public buildings, facilities and structures, including, without limitation, traffic-control systems, and to otherwise use sources of renewable energy to serve those buildings, facilities and structures pursuant to the provisions of this section and section 9 of this act. The projects must be prioritized and selected on the basis of the following criteria:*

*(a) The length of time necessary to commence the project.*  
*(b) The number of workers estimated to be employed on the project.*  
*(c) The effectiveness of the project in reducing energy consumption.*

*(d) The estimated cost of the project.*  
*(e) Whether the project is able to be powered by or to otherwise use sources of renewable energy.*

*(f) Whether the project has qualified for participation in one or more of the following programs:*

*(1) The Solar Energy Systems Incentive Program created by NRS 701B.240;*

*(2) The Renewable Energy School Pilot Program created by NRS 701B.350;*

*(3) The Wind Energy Systems Demonstration Program created by NRS 701B.580;*

*(4) The Waterpower Energy Systems Demonstration Program created by NRS 701B.820; or*

*(5) An energy efficiency or energy conservation program offered by a public utility, as defined in NRS 704.020, pursuant to a plan approved by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada pursuant to NRS 704.741.*

**2.** *The board of trustees of each school district shall, within 90 days after the effective date of this act, determine the specific projects to weatherize and retrofit public buildings, facilities and structures, including, without limitation, traffic-control systems, and to otherwise use sources of renewable energy to serve those buildings, facilities and structures pursuant to the provisions of this section and section 9 of this act. The projects must be prioritized and selected on the basis of the following criteria:*

*(a) The length of time necessary to commence the project.*  
*(b) The number of workers estimated to be employed on the project.*

*(c) The effectiveness of the project in reducing energy consumption.*



(d) *The estimated cost of the project.*  
(e) *Whether the project is able to be powered by or to otherwise use sources of renewable energy.*

(f) *Whether the project has qualified for participation in one or more of the following programs:*

(1) *The Solar Energy Systems Incentive Program created by NRS 701B.240;*

(2) *The Renewable Energy School Pilot Program created by NRS 701B.350;*

(3) *The Wind Energy Systems Demonstration Program created by NRS 701B.580;*

(4) *The Waterpower Energy Systems Demonstration Program created by NRS 701B.820; or*

(5) *An energy efficiency or energy conservation program offered by a public utility, as defined in NRS 704.020, pursuant to a plan approved by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada pursuant to NRS 704.741.*

3. *The Board of Regents of the University of Nevada shall, within 90 days after the effective date of this act, determine the specific projects to weatherize and retrofit public buildings, facilities and structures, including, without limitation, traffic-control systems, and to otherwise use sources of renewable energy to serve those buildings, facilities and structures pursuant to the provisions of this section and section 9 of this act. The projects must be prioritized and selected on the basis of the following criteria:*

(a) *The length of time necessary to commence the project.*

(b) *The number of workers estimated to be employed on the project.*

(c) *The effectiveness of the project in reducing energy consumption.*

(d) *The estimated cost of the project.*

(e) *Whether the project is able to be powered by or to otherwise use sources of renewable energy.*

(f) *Whether the project has qualified for participation in one or more of the following programs:*

(1) *The Solar Energy Systems Incentive Program created by NRS 701B.240;*

(2) *The Renewable Energy School Pilot Program created by NRS 701B.350;*

(3) *The Wind Energy Systems Demonstration Program created by NRS 701B.580;*





*(4) The Waterpower Energy Systems Demonstration Program created by NRS 701B.820; or*

*(5) An energy efficiency or energy conservation program offered by a public utility, as defined in NRS 704.020, pursuant to a plan approved by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada pursuant to NRS 704.741.*

*4. As soon as practicable after an entity described in subsections 1, 2 and 3 selects a project, the entity shall proceed to enter into a contract with one or more contractors to perform the work on the project. The request for proposals and all contracts for each project must include, without limitation:*

*(a) Provisions stipulating that all employees of the contractors and subcontractors who work on the project must be paid prevailing wages pursuant to the requirements of chapter 338 of NRS;*

*(b) Provisions requiring that each contractor and subcontractor employed on each such project:*

*(1) Employ a number of persons trained as described in paragraph (b) of subsection 3 of section 9 of this act that is equal to or greater than 50 percent of the total workforce the contractor or subcontractor employs on the project; or*

*(2) If the Director of the Department determines in writing, pursuant to a request submitted by the contractor or subcontractor, that the contractor or subcontractor cannot reasonably comply with the provisions of subparagraph (1) because there are not available a sufficient number of such trained persons, employ a number of persons trained as described in paragraph (b) of subsection 3 of section 9 of this act or trained through any apprenticeship program that is registered and approved by the State Apprenticeship Council pursuant to chapter 610 of NRS that is equal to or greater than 50 percent of the total workforce the contractor or subcontractor employs on the project;*

*(c) A component pursuant to which persons trained as described in paragraph (b) of subsection 3 of section 9 of this act must be classified and paid prevailing wages depending upon the classification of the skill in which they are trained; and*

*(d) A component that requires each contractor or subcontractor to offer to employees working on the project, and to their dependents, health care in the same manner as a policy of insurance pursuant to chapters 689A and 689B of NRS or the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.*

*5. The State Public Works Board, each of the school districts and the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada shall each*



*provide a report to the Interim Finance Committee which describes the projects selected pursuant to this section and a report of the dates on which those projects are scheduled to be completed.*

**Sec. 11.** Within limits of money available for the purpose:

1. The State Public Works Board shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of using geothermal resources to provide heating to all or a portion of the Lovelock Correctional Center.

2. The Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of:

(a) Constructing a hydroelectric generation unit at the existing dam on the South Fork Reservoir near Elko, Nevada.

(b) Constructing wind turbines in the vicinity of the South Fork Reservoir near Elko, Nevada.

**Sec. 11.5.** Upon the approval of any contract entered into by the Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry pursuant to section 9 of this act, the State Board of Examiners shall immediately transmit a copy of the contract to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislative Commission.

**Sec. 12.** For the purposes of the State in carrying out the provisions of section 9 of this act governing residential weatherization in compliance with section 1606 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, and notwithstanding any other provision of state law:

1. The Labor Commissioner shall, on the effective date of this act, for each locality in this State for which the Labor Commissioner has not already established job classifications and wage rates pursuant to state law, adopt the job classifications and wage rates relating to residential weatherization established for that locality pursuant to the most current provisions of federal law or, if such job classifications and wage rates have not been established for that locality, the job classifications and wage rates for the closest locality, whether or not in Nevada, for which such job classifications and wage rates have been established, which are necessary to carry out the provisions of section 9 of this act;

2. The Labor Commissioner shall enforce the job classifications and wage rates adopted pursuant to subsection 1 in the same manner as the Labor Commissioner is authorized to enforce the labor laws and regulations of this State generally; and

3. The provisions of NRS 233B.040 to 233B.120, inclusive, do not apply to the adoption by the Labor Commissioner of the job classifications and wage rates required pursuant to subsection 1.



**Sec. 13.** 1. The Office of Energy within the Office of the Governor, the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation and the Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry shall report to the Interim Finance Committee as required by the Committee concerning the application for and acceptance and expenditure of any money available to the State to carry out the purposes of this act pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5.

2. As part of each report required pursuant to subsection 1, the Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry shall provide a written statement to the Interim Finance Committee concerning:

(a) The number of energy audits of residences performed pursuant to section 9 of this act for the period since the previous such report;

(b) The energy savings for residences resulting from the weatherization projects carried out pursuant to section 9 of this act; and

(c) Any other information required by the Interim Finance Committee.

**Sec. 14.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

