

SENATE BILL NO. 152—SENATORS HORSFORD, SCHNEIDER,
CARLTON, BREEDEN, WIENER; COPENING AND
WOODHOUSE

FEBRUARY 19, 2009

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN BUCKLEY, OCEGUERA,
CONKLIN, KIRKPATRICK, BOBZIEN; AND LESLIE

Referred to Committee on Energy, Infrastructure and Transportation

SUMMARY—Enacts the Green Jobs Initiative. (BDR 58-172)

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 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:

1 This bill provides for the use of the incentives contained in the recently signed
2 federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to provide job training,
3 the promotion of energy efficiency and the promotion of the use of renewable
4 energy in Nevada. **Sections 9 and 10** of this bill seek to take advantage of those
5 incentives by providing specific training to persons in this State, establishing
6 projects that will require the skills for which those persons are trained and
7 providing for the employment of those persons. **Section 9** requires the Department
8 of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation and the Housing Division of the
9 Department of Business and Industry to establish contractual relationships with
10 nonprofit collaboratives to provide training in the fields of energy efficiency and
11 renewable energy, including training in the areas of weatherization, energy retrofit
12 applications and performing energy audits. Within the limits of available money,
13 the collaboratives will carry out programs for job training and provide
14 apprenticeship programs in specific energy-related fields. Within the limits of
15 money available, the Housing Division is required to contract with the nonprofit
16 collaboratives, governmental entities, community action agencies and other
17 nonprofit corporations to identify neighborhoods that will qualify for funding for
18 residential weatherization projects and award contracts for projects to promote



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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.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32
33 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
34 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
35

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

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

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



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

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

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

- 8 **(a) Biomass;**
- 9 **(b) Fuel cells;**
- 10 **(c) Geothermal energy;**
- 11 **(d) Solar energy;**
- 12 **(e) Waste heat;**
- 13 **(f) Waterpower; and**
- 14 **(g) Wind.**

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

17 **Sec. 7. “Retrofitting” means the alteration, improvement,**
18 **modification, remodeling or renovation of a building, facility,**
19 **residence or structure to make that building, facility, residence or**
20 **structure more energy efficient.**

21 **Sec. 8. “Weatherization” means materials or measures, and**
22 **their installation, that are used to improve the thermal efficiency**
23 **of a building, facility, residence or structure.**

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

10 (b) In concert with a labor management agency or other
11 affiliated agency which has established an apprenticeship
12 program that is registered and approved by the State
13 Apprenticeship Council pursuant to chapter 610 of NRS, develop
14 apprenticeship programs to train laborers in skills related to:

15 (1) The implementation of energy efficiency measures.

16 (2) The use of renewable energy.

17 (3) Performing audits of the energy efficiency of buildings,
18 facilities, residences and structures.

19 (4) The weatherization of buildings, facilities, residences
20 and structures.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

44 (a) Identify, in different regions of the State, neighborhoods
45 that will qualify for funding for residential weatherization projects



1 pursuant to federal programs focusing on residential
2 weatherization; and

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

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

10 (2) Provisions requiring that each outside contractor:

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

15 (II) If the Director of the Department determines in
16 writing, pursuant to a request submitted by the contractor, that the
17 contractor cannot reasonably comply with the provisions of sub-
18 subparagraph (I) because there are not available a sufficient
19 number of such trained persons, employ a number of persons
20 trained as described in paragraph (b) of subsection 3 or trained
21 through any apprenticeship program that is registered and
22 approved by the State Apprenticeship Council pursuant to chapter
23 610 of NRS that is equal to or greater than 50 percent of the total
24 workforce the contractor employs on the project;

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

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

34 7. The Department and the Division:

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

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

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

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

44 8. The Department and the Division shall each report to the
45 Interim Finance Committee at each meeting held by the Interim



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1 *Finance Committee with respect to the activities in which they*
2 *have engaged pursuant to this section.*

3 9. As used in this section, "community action agencies"
4 means private corporations or public agencies established
5 pursuant to the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, Public Law
6 88-452, which are authorized to administer money received from
7 federal, state, local or private funding entities to assess, design,
8 operate, finance and oversee antipoverty programs.

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

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

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

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

22 (d) The estimated cost of the project.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 2. The board of trustees of each school district shall, within
40 90 days after the effective date of this act, determine the specific
41 projects to weatherize and retrofit public buildings, facilities and
42 structures, including, without limitation, traffic-control systems,
43 and to otherwise use sources of renewable energy to serve those
44 buildings, facilities and structures pursuant to the provisions of



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1 *this section and section 9 of this act. The projects must be*
2 *prioritized and selected on the basis of the following criteria:*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (2) *If the Director of the Department determines in writing,*
27 *pursuant to a request submitted by the contractor or*
28 *subcontractor, that the contractor or subcontractor cannot*
29 *reasonably comply with the provisions of subparagraph (1)*
30 *because there are not available a sufficient number of such*
31 *trained persons, employ a number of persons trained as described*
32 *in paragraph (b) of subsection 3 of section 9 of this act or trained*
33 *through any apprenticeship program that is registered and*
34 *approved by the State Apprenticeship Council pursuant to chapter*
35 *610 of NRS that is equal to or greater than 50 percent of the total*
36 *workforce the contractor or subcontractor employs on the project;*

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

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



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1 **5. The State Public Works Board, each of the school districts**
2 **and the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada shall each**
3 **provide a report to the Interim Finance Committee which**
4 **describes the projects selected pursuant to this section and a report**
5 **of the dates on which those projects are scheduled to be completed.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

