

Assembly Bill No. 356—Assemblymen Livermore, Hickey; Ellison, Grady, Hansen, Hardy, Healey, Oscarson, Swank and Woodbury

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to the Nevada State Prison; encouraging the development of recommendations to preserve the Nevada State Prison for use as a historical, educational and scientific resource for the State of Nevada; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

This bill encourages the development of recommendations for the preservation of the Nevada State Prison for use as a historical, educational and scientific resource for the State of Nevada.

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

WHEREAS, The Nevada State Prison located on East Fifth Street in Carson City was originally built in 1860 by pioneer Abraham Curry as the Warm Springs Hotel; and

WHEREAS, The landmark prison was established in 1862 by the Nevada Territorial Legislature and administered by Abraham Curry at the site of the Warm Springs Hotel, and thus represents the first executive agency created in the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, The sandstone quarry on the site contributed to the construction of state, city and private buildings during the early history of the State of Nevada and Carson City, including the Capitol Building, the United States Mint, the Virginia and Truckee Railroad engine house and many other public and private buildings; and

WHEREAS, The lands and grounds of the prison are known to contain unique specimens of extinct species and the legend of *Homo Nevadensis*; and

WHEREAS, The first lethal gas execution chamber in the world was designed and used at the prison and is currently active; and

WHEREAS, The prison has a well-established and colorful history as a maximum security prison, replete with riots, escapes, gangs, executions, musicians, gambling and Hollywood filming, all of which provide intriguing historical value; and

WHEREAS, The history of the manufacture of Nevada's license plates is integral to the prison; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada State Prison was decommissioned in May of 2012 and is likely to fall into a state of disrepair without continued maintenance and upkeep; and



WHEREAS, Efforts are underway to establish the historic sections of the prison as a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. The Nevada Legislature hereby finds and declares:

1. That the Nevada State Prison is an integral part of the history of the State of Nevada, particularly with respect to Carson City and the early development of this State, and should be preserved as a historic place.

2. That Carson City, any nonprofit organization and any other interested stakeholder are encouraged to work cooperatively with the Department of Corrections, the Office of Historic Preservation of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the State Land Registrar to:

(a) Develop recommendations for the preservation, development and use of the Nevada State Prison as a historical, educational and scientific resource for the State of Nevada; and

(b) Present the recommendations to the Nevada Legislature along with any recommendations for legislation that may be necessary to fully implement the recommendations.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2013.

