

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 356—ASSEMBLYMEN LIVERMORE, HICKEY;
ELLISON, GRADY, HANSEN, HARDY, HEALEY, OSCARSON,
SWANK AND WOODBURY

MARCH 18, 2013

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Encourages the development of recommendations to
preserve the Nevada State Prison for historic and
certain other purposes. (BDR S-493)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
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 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:

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

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

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

8 WHEREAS, The sandstone quarry on the site contributed to the
9 construction of state, city and private buildings during the early
10 history of the State of Nevada and Carson City, including the
11 Capitol Building, the United States Mint, the Virginia and Truckee



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1 Railroad engine house and many other public and private buildings;
2 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

20
21 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
22 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
23

24 **Section 1.** The Nevada Legislature hereby finds and declares:

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

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

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

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

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

