

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 455—COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC LANDS)

MARCH 23, 2015

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Directs the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study regarding the present and future supplies of water and allocation levels in this State. (BDR S-481)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

~

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

AN ACT relating to water; directing the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study regarding the present and future supplies of water and allocation levels in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 Under existing law, the Legislative Committee on Public Lands is authorized to
- 2 review and comment on the laws, regulations and policies relating to the use,
- 3 allocation and management of water in this State. (NRS 218E.525) **Section 2** of this
- 4 bill directs the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an
- 5 interim study to focus specifically on the present and future supplies of water and
- 6 allocation levels in this State. **Section 3** of this bill requires the Legislative Counsel
- 7 Bureau to provide administrative and technical assistance to the committee at the
- 8 request of the Chair of the committee.



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

Section 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

1. The waters of the State of Nevada are among its most precious and vital resources;

2. The State of Nevada is one of the most arid states in the United States and its limited surface water and groundwater resources have been depleted by recent drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin and the Great Basin;

3. Adequate, long-term supplies of water are essential to Nevada's economic future, valued quality of life and natural environment;

4. The creation of a long-term statewide water plan and water supply program may better enable the State of Nevada to address the issues necessary to ensure adequate, long-term supplies of water in this State; and

5. Compiling and analyzing data which quantifies the existing water resources in this State and analyzes the present and future water needs and requirements of the residents of Nevada is an essential step in creating a long-term statewide water plan and water supply program.

Sec. 2. 1. The Legislative Commission shall appoint a committee consisting of seven members to conduct a study during the 2015-2016 interim of issues relating to water resources in this State, including, without limitation, a review of:

(a) The present and future supplies of water and allocation levels in this State, including, without limitation:

(1) The annual groundwater levels in this State;

(2) The need to measure the annual amounts of groundwater pumpage;

(3) The water-budget estimates and the relationship of those estimates to the allocation of available water resources in this State; and

(4) The capability of the State to meet the projected demands for water in this State, including any projected shortfall in water resources; and

(b) Sufficient data relating to the water resources and projected demands for water in this State to enable the creation of a long-term statewide water plan and water supply program.

2. The Legislative Commission shall appoint to the committee:

(a) A member of the Senate or Assembly, who serves as the Chair of the committee;

(b) The State Engineer who serves as an ex officio member of the committee;



(c) A representative of the Southern Nevada Water Authority;
(d) A representative of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority;
(e) A representative of the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority;

(f) A member who is a Commissioner of the Colorado River Commission of Nevada; and

(g) A representative of a public or private entity with which any county in the State has an agreement regarding the planning, development or distribution of water resources, or any combination thereof.

3. An ex officio member of the committee may designate an alternate within his or her office to attend any meeting of the committee in his or her place. Any vacancy in the committee may be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

4. The committee shall submit a report of its findings, including, without limitation, any recommendations for legislation, to the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Sec. 3. The Legislative Counsel Bureau shall provide administrative and technical assistance to the committee appointed pursuant to section 2 of this act as requested by the Chair of the committee.

Sec. 4. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

