

SENATE BILL NO. 381—SENATORS FORD, KIHUEN, WOODHOUSE,
PARKS, SPEARMAN; ATKINSON, SEGERBLOM AND SMITH

MARCH 17, 2015

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN BUSTAMANTE ADAMS
AND MUNFORD

Referred to Committee on Revenue and
Economic Development

SUMMARY—Creates the Nevada Task Force on Financial
Security. (BDR S-1037)

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

~

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

AN ACT relating to financial security; creating the Nevada Task Force on Financial Security to conduct a comprehensive examination during the 2015-2016 legislative interim of the financial security of individuals and families in Nevada; requiring the Task Force to perform certain duties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 This bill creates the Nevada Task Force on Financial Security, consisting of
2 five voting members, to conduct a comprehensive examination during the 2015-
3 2016 legislative interim of the financial security of individuals and families in
4 Nevada, including, without limitation, their opportunities to build assets and reduce
5 debt. The costs of the Task Force will be paid only from gifts, grants and donations
6 received by the Task Force. The Task Force is required to submit a report of its
7 findings and recommendations to the Legislative Counsel Bureau on or before
8 September 1, 2016.

1 WHEREAS, The financial crisis and Great Recession of 2008,
2 which was followed by a record number of home foreclosures and
3 soaring unemployment rates, have created an environment in the



* S B 3 8 1 *

1 United States where many residents must do more with reduced
2 financial resources; and

3 WHEREAS, Many individuals and families in Nevada continue to
4 face financial insecurity as a result of persisting high unemployment
5 and stagnant wages; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the *2015 Assets & Opportunity*
7 *Scorecard* published by the Corporation for Enterprise
8 Development, 56 percent of Nevada households are without
9 sufficient liquid assets to subsist at the poverty level for 3 months in
10 the absence of income; and

11 WHEREAS, Statistics from the Bureau of the Census of the
12 United States Department of Commerce reveal that the median
13 household income in Nevada has declined approximately 17 percent
14 between 2007 and 2013, the largest such decline in any state; and

15 WHEREAS, The national recession and subsequent recovery has
16 highlighted the need to assist individuals and families in Nevada
17 achieve greater financial security through increased access to
18 opportunities to build financial and tangible assets such as savings, a
19 home or a business, strategies for reducing debt and financial
20 education; and

21 WHEREAS, Identifying pathways for more Nevadans to obtain
22 the resources they need to become more financially secure will
23 facilitate a more educated, adaptable and employable workforce to
24 further ensure an economically prosperous Nevada; and

25 WHEREAS, Efforts to increase the financial security and
26 opportunities for Nevadans have been fragmented across financial
27 institutions, business foundations, governmental agencies,
28 community-development organizations and religious and nonprofit
29 institutions; and

30 WHEREAS, Because of the effect that financial best practices
31 have on all Nevadans and the economy of Nevada as a whole, a
32 comprehensive examination by the State of Nevada of ways to
33 educate and empower Nevadans to improve their financial resources
34 and economic security would create a better future for all Nevadans;
35 now, therefore,

36
37 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
38 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
39

40 **Section 1.** 1. The Nevada Task Force on Financial Security
41 is hereby created. The Task Force consists of:

42 (a) The Minority Leader of the Senate, or his or her designee;

43 (b) The Majority Leader of the Assembly, or his or her designee;

44 (c) Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the
45 Senate as follows:



(1) A representative of a statewide organization that is currently engaged in activities concerning the financial security and financial education of individuals and families; and

(2) A representative of an organization which is exempt from taxation pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) who has expertise in policies for building financial assets; and

(d) One member appointed by the Majority Leader of the Assembly who is a representative of a statewide organization approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as a housing counseling agency.

2. A vacancy occurring in the appointed voting membership of the Task Force must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

3. At its first meeting, the voting members of the Task Force shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among the voting members.

4. A majority of the voting members of the Task Force may appoint nonvoting advisory members to the Task Force.

5. The members of the Task Force serve without compensation or per diem allowance. A member may receive reimbursement for travel expenses if sufficient money collected pursuant to subsection 7 or 8 for the Task Force to carry out its duties is available.

6. The Task Force shall consult with and solicit input from individuals and organizations with expertise in matters relevant to the Task Force in carrying out its duties pursuant to this section.

7. The Task Force may apply for any available grants and accept any gifts, grants or donations, including, without limitation, administrative support, to assist the Task Force in carrying out its duties pursuant to this section.

8. The Task Force shall select an organization which is exempt from taxation pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) to serve as the fiscal agent of the Task Force. As fiscal agent, that organization may accept money from private persons and entities and expend such money for the expenses incurred by the Task Force in carrying out its duties pursuant to this section.

9. The Task Force shall conduct an examination of the financial security of the residents of this State, including, without limitation, the causes, extent and consequences of financial insecurity in this State, with the goal of identifying concrete strategies and recommendations for improving the financial condition of Nevadans. The study must include, without limitation:

(a) An identification and review of programs that are currently available to further the economic advancement of residents of this State and the manner in which the impact of those programs is measured;



(b) A review of best practices implemented around the United States to increase the financial education of individuals and families, their access to banking and other resources to assist in building assets and strategies for reducing their debt and recommendations for implementation for such practices in this State;

(c) Recommendations of methods to increase the economic mobility of residents of this State to strengthen and support a resilient and growing middle class;

(d) Recommendations of concrete strategies and measurable goals to increase economic opportunities and reduce financial insecurity of residents of this State; and

(e) Recommendations of concrete steps to develop a competitive workforce in this State that can meet the demands of the globally competitive market of the 21st century.

10. On or before September 1, 2016, the Task Force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 79th Session of the Legislature.

11. The Task Force shall carry out the duties of this section only to the extent that money is available to do so from private persons and entities, including, without limitation, gifts, grants and donations.

Sec. 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this act but not later than July 1, 2015, the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Majority Leader of the Assembly shall appoint the voting members of the Nevada Task Force on Financial Security as prescribed by section 1 of this act.

Sec. 3. 1. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval for the purpose of appointing the voting members to the Nevada Task Force on Financial Security created by section 1 of this act, and on July 1, 2015, for all other purposes.

2. This act expires by limitation on June 30, 2017.

