

**EXECUTIVE AGENCY
FISCAL NOTE**

AGENCY'S ESTIMATES

Date Prepared: January 29, 2015

Agency Submitting: Nevada Commission on Ethics

Items of Revenue or Expense, or Both	Fiscal Year 2014-15	Fiscal Year 2015-16	Fiscal Year 2016-17	Effect on Future Biennia
Expense - Section 3: Potential increased staff resources (Expense)				
Total	0	0	0	0

Explanation

(Use Additional Sheets of Attachments, if required)

A.B. 60 (BDR 23-309) clarifies various provisions of the Ethics in Government Law (NRS 281A). Primarily, the bill clarifies various legal distinctions and timelines for the filing and disposition of requests for opinion from the Nevada Commission on Ethics.

Section 3 authorizes the Commission to accept anonymous complaints (third-party requests for opinion). This may result in increased filings with the Commission with public requests for the Commission to investigate allegations of misconduct by public officers and employees. However, the same minimum evidentiary threshold will remain required for the Commission to accept jurisdiction and initiate an investigation of such a complaint. The anonymity simply means that a person requesting the opinion does not need to be identified if the request is filed with sufficient evidence to warrant an investigation. The provisions are also discretionary such that the Commission is not mandated to accept jurisdiction or undertake an investigation of all such complaints. It is anticipated that the Commission will receive more complaints and increased case-load as a result of this amended language, but it has established staff practices to properly evaluate those requests for sufficiency to investigate. It is not anticipated or requested that the Commission will require additional staff to accommodate this function and the Commission has the current resources to absorb the additional staff time it will take to evaluate such requests. No other provisions of the bill impose any new obligations on the Commission. Therefore, the Commission has determined that this bill does not create a fiscal impact on the Commission.

Name /s/ Yvonne M. Nevarez-Goodson

Title Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION'S COMMENTS

Date Thursday, January 15, 2015

The agency's response appears reasonable.

Name Julia Teska

Title Director