

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1—SENATOR RATTI

PREFILED FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Directs the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study relating to affordable housing within the State of Nevada. (BDR R-835)

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study relating to affordable housing within the State of Nevada.

1 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Housing and Urban
2 Development defines affordable housing as housing for which an
3 occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of his or her income for
4 gross housing costs, including utilities; and

5 WHEREAS, Families who pay more than 30 percent of their
6 income for housing may have difficulty affording essentials such as
7 food, clothing, transportation and medical care; and

8 WHEREAS, According to statistics from the American
9 Community Survey conducted by the United States Census Bureau,
10 of units occupied by persons paying rent in Nevada, an estimated
11 46.8 percent of occupants spent more than 30 percent of their
12 household income on rent and utilities in 2015; and

13 WHEREAS, According to statistics from the Housing Division of
14 the Department of Business and Industry, rent for affordable
15 housing units in Nevada increased by 11 percent between 2013 and
16 2015, while average wages in Nevada increased by only 3 percent
17 during that same period and average vacancy rates for affordable
18 housing units decreased to 4 percent; and

19 WHEREAS, The shortage of affordable housing has forced
20 thousands of seniors, veterans, families and children in Nevada to
21 occupy motels that typically have minimal or no facilities for the



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1 preparation and storage of food and which serve as an inadequate
2 substitute for stable, long-term housing; and

3 WHEREAS, Various research studies on the impact of housing on
4 children's academic success indicate that the availability of
5 adequate, safe, affordable housing can provide children with
6 enhanced opportunities for academic success by reducing the
7 frequency of unwanted moves which disrupt both the continuity of
8 educational instruction and the social bonds and networks that
9 support learning; and

10 WHEREAS, Increasing the availability of adequate, safe,
11 affordable housing may also assist the State in meeting its economic
12 development goals, increase the ability of the State to attract and
13 retain a skilled workforce and improve educational outcomes for
14 children in Nevada; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
16 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislative Commission is
17 hereby directed to appoint a committee composed of three members
18 of the Assembly and three members of the Senate, one of whom
19 must be appointed by the Legislative Commission as Chair of the
20 committee, to conduct an interim study of affordable housing within
21 the State of Nevada; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the study must include, without limitation, an
23 examination of:

24 1. The present and prospective need for affordable housing in
25 the State, including, without limitation, affordable housing that is
26 accessible to persons with disabilities;

27 2. Any impediments to the development of affordable housing
28 in the State;

29 3. Methods to increase the availability of affordable housing in
30 rural, suburban and urban areas of the State; and

31 4. Any other matters which are deemed relevant to the issue of
32 affordable housing; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the committee solicit the input of interested
34 stakeholders, including, without limitation, agencies and
35 organizations that provide access to affordable housing and
36 affordable housing assistance; and be it further

37 RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the
38 committee must be approved by a majority of the members of the
39 Senate and a majority of the members of the Assembly appointed to
40 the committee; and be it further

41 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission submit a report of
42 the results of the study and any recommended legislation to the 80th
43 Session of the Nevada Legislature; and be it further



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- 1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
- 2 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Administrator of the
- 3 Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry.

