

SENATE BILL NO. 488—COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND LABOR

MARCH 25, 2019

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to businesses engaged in the development of emerging technologies. (BDR 18-783)

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

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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 technology; creating the Emerging Technologies Task Force within the Department of Business and Industry; prescribing the membership of the Task Force; setting forth the powers and duties of the Task Force; authorizing the Director of the Department of Business and Industry to create an Opportunity Center for Emerging Technology Businesses as part of the Office of Business Finance and Planning; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Section 5 of this bill creates the Emerging Technologies Task Force within the Department of Business and Industry and sets forth the composition of the Task Force. **Section 6** of this bill generally requires the Task Force to develop certain strategies and make certain recommendations with regard to attracting to this State businesses that are engaged in the development of blockchain technology and other emerging technologies and encouraging the growth of such businesses. **Section 6** also requires the Task Force to annually submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Director of the Department of Business and Industry and the Legislature.

Existing law authorizes the Director of the Department of Business and Industry to create an Office of Business Finance and Planning for the general purposes of administering and coordinating programs to assist in the growth and retention of business and industry in this State and to provide information to entities engaged in business and industry about such programs. (NRS 232.522) **Section 9** of this bill authorizes the Director to create an Opportunity Center for Emerging Technology Businesses as part of the Office of Business Finance and Planning for the general purposes of advocating for, assisting and supporting the growth of



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18 businesses engaged in the development of blockchain technology and other
19 emerging technologies.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 232 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this
3 act.

4 **Sec. 2.** *As used in sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act, unless*
5 *the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in*
6 *sections 3 and 4 of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in*
7 *those sections.*

8 **Sec. 3.** *“Blockchain” has the meaning ascribed to it in*
9 *NRS 719.045.*

10 **Sec. 4.** *“Task Force” means the Emerging Technologies*
11 *Task Force created by section 5 of this act.*

12 **Sec. 5. 1.** *The Emerging Technologies Task Force is*
13 *hereby created within the Department.*

14 **2.** *The Task Force consists of:*

15 **(a)** *The Director;*

16 **(b)** *The Commissioner of Financial Institutions or his or her*
17 *designee;*

18 **(c)** *One member who is a representative of the Office of the*
19 *Attorney General, appointed by the Attorney General; and*

20 **(d)** *One member who is a representative of the Office of*
21 *Economic Development, appointed by the Executive Director of*
22 *the Office of Economic Development.*

23 **3.** *The Director is the Chair of the Task Force.*

24 **4.** *The members of the Task Force shall meet at least once*
25 *each quarter at the call of the Chair. The Task Force shall*
26 *prescribe procedures for its own management and government.*

27 **5.** *A majority of the members of the Task Force constitutes a*
28 *quorum, and a quorum may exercise all the powers conferred on*
29 *the Task Force.*

30 **Sec. 6. 1.** *The Task Force shall:*

31 **(a)** *Develop concrete strategies to ensure that this State*
32 *remains a leader in technological innovation by attracting*
33 *businesses engaged in the development of blockchain technology*
34 *and other emerging technologies.*

35 **(b)** *Make recommendations for streamlining process,*
36 *regulatory, structural and other barriers a business engaged in the*
37 *development of blockchain technology or other emerging*
38 *technologies may face in relocating to or expanding operations in*
39 *this State.*



(c) Identify opportunities to develop leading practices and standards that will support the growth of businesses engaged in the development of blockchain technology and other emerging technologies.

(d) Address methods to comprehensively incorporate blockchain technology into all levels of government.

(e) Make recommendations for concrete steps to develop a workforce with technical expertise in blockchain technology and other emerging technologies.

(f) Solicit input from persons and organizations with expertise in blockchain technology and other emerging technologies.

(g) On or before February 1 of each year, prepare and submit a report to the Governor, the Director and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature concerning its findings and recommendations.

2. The Task Force may apply for any available grants and accept any gifts, grants or donations to assist the Task Force in carrying out its duties pursuant to this section.

Sec. 7. The Director shall provide the personnel, facilities, equipment and supplies required by the Task Force to carry out the provisions of sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 8. NRS 232.505 is hereby amended to read as follows:
232.505 As used in NRS 232.505 to 232.866, inclusive, **and sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act**, unless the context requires otherwise:

1. "Department" means the Department of Business and Industry.

2. "Director" means the Director of the Department.

Sec. 9. NRS 232.522 is hereby amended to read as follows:
232.522 The Director may:

1. Create within the Department, as part of the Office of the Director, an Office of Business Finance and Planning to:

(a) Administer and coordinate programs related to financing for the assistance of entities engaged in business and industry in this state;

(b) Provide information to the public concerning the regulatory programs, assistance programs, and other services and activities of the Department; and

(c) Interact with other public or private entities to coordinate and improve access to the Department's programs related to the growth and retention of business and industry in this state.

2. Create within the Department, as part of the Office of Business Finance and Planning, a Center for Business Advocacy and Services:



(a) To assist small businesses in obtaining information about financing and other basic resources which are necessary for success;

(b) In cooperation with the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development, to increase public awareness of the importance of developing manufacturing as an industry and to assist in identifying and encouraging public support of businesses and industries that manufacture goods in this state;

(c) To serve as an advocate for small businesses, subject to the supervision of the Director or the Director's representative, both within and outside the Department;

(d) To assist the Office of Business Finance and Planning in establishing an information and referral service within the Department that is responsive to the inquiries of business and industry which are directed to the Department or any entity within the Department; and

(e) In cooperation with the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development, to advise the Director and the Office of Business Finance and Planning in developing and improving programs of the Department to serve more effectively and support the growth, development and diversification of business and industry in this state.

3. *Create within the Department, as part of the Office of Business Finance and Planning, an Opportunity Center for Emerging Technology Businesses:*

(a) To assist businesses engaged in the development of blockchain technology or other emerging technologies in obtaining information about financing and other basic resources which are necessary for success;

(b) In cooperation with the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development, to increase public awareness of the importance of developing blockchain technologies and other emerging technologies and to assist in identifying and encouraging public support for businesses that are engaged in the development of blockchain technology and other emerging technologies;

(c) To serve as an advocate for businesses engaged in the development of blockchain technology and other emerging technologies, subject to the supervision of the Director or the Director's representative, both within and outside the Department;

(d) To assist the Office of Business Finance and Planning in establishing an information and referral service within the Department that is responsive to the inquiries of businesses engaged in the development of blockchain technology and other emerging technologies which are directed to the Department or any entity within the Department;



(e) To collaborate with businesses engaged in the development of blockchain technology and other emerging technologies, persons and organizations with expertise in blockchain technology and other emerging technologies, public and private entities and other interested stakeholders to promote the integration of blockchain technology and other emerging technologies in the private sector and at all levels of government; and

(f) In cooperation with the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development, to advise the Director and the Office of Business Finance and Planning in developing and improving programs of the Department to serve more effectively and support the growth, development and diversification of businesses engaged in the development of blockchain technology and other emerging technologies in this State.

4. Require divisions, offices, commissions, boards, agencies or other entities of the Department to work together to carry out their statutory duties, to resolve or address particular issues or projects or otherwise to increase the efficiency of the operation of the Department as a whole and the level of communication and cooperation among the various entities within the Department.

5. As used in this section, "blockchain" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 719.045.

Sec. 10. The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

Sec. 11. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2019.

