

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Eighty-first Session  
May 10, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Growth and Infrastructure was called to order by Chair Dallas Harris at 3:32 p.m. on Monday, May 10, 2021, Online and in Room 2144 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Dallas Harris, Chair  
Senator Chris Brooks, Vice Chair  
Senator Pat Spearman  
Senator Scott Hammond  
Senator Keith F. Pickard

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May, Assembly District No. 42  
Assemblyman Tom Roberts, Assembly District No. 13

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Susan Scholley, Policy Analyst  
Eileen O'Grady, Counsel  
Diane Rea, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Steve Sisolak, Governor  
Zach Conine, State Treasurer  
Will Adler, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe  
Mary Beth Sewald, President and CEO, Vegas Chamber  
Brian Reeder, Nevada Contractors Association  
Jonathan Leleu, NAIOP  
Wesley Harper, Executive Director, Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities  
Christi Cabrera, Nevada Conservation League  
Kanani Espinoza, American Counsel of Engineering Companies of Nevada  
Nate Blouin, Interwest Energy Alliance

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Devlin Daneshforouz, NV Energy  
Jaina Moan, The Nature Conservancy  
Andrew MacKay, Executive Director, Nevada Franchised Auto Dealers  
Association  
Anthony Ruiz, Nevada State College  
Rob Benner, Northern Nevada Building and Construction Trades Council  
Sabra Newby, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Brenda Pearson, Clark County Education Association  
Christine Hess, Nevada Housing Coalition  
Christina Bailey Shaver, NV Energy  
Susan Fisher, Central Electricity Regulator Commission  
Sean Sever, Department of Motor Vehicles

SENATOR HARRIS:

We will open the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 430.

**SENATE BILL 430**: Revises provisions governing the Nevada State Infrastructure Bank. (BDR 35-1110)

STEVE SISOLAK (Governor):

Senate Bill 430 is being proposed to launch and expand Nevada State Infrastructure Bank (NSIB) so we can fast-track much-needed infrastructure projects across the state and create thousands of good-paying jobs.

As I highlighted in my State of the State Address earlier this year, investing in infrastructure helps to create real jobs for real Nevadans. This proposed legislation along with a \$75 million appropriation in my recommended budget will help Nevada create a robust pipeline of critical infrastructure projects, allowing us to put hundreds of millions of dollars into our economy to help get people back to work.

Capital projects not only create high-paying construction development jobs now, but those infrastructure improvements serve as building blocks for our State's economic expansion for decades to come.

The concept of NSIB was approved by the State Legislature in 2017, but the bank has not been funded or initiated. It has yet to move any projects or create a single job. This bill will be the first step toward changing that by ensuring

NSIB has the necessary tools to help the State, local governments and tribal nations get projects off the ground immediately.

Launching the NSIB will play a major role in helping to immediately create pathways for good-paying jobs in Nevada while helping to build projects for communities that need it. We know that our State needs better roads, schools, more affordable housing and more sustainable forms of energy.

Senate Bill 430 will help in making all of these projects a reality while improving the quality of life for all Nevadans. At the same time, these changes will allow the State to best maximize federal dollars dedicated to infrastructure projects within President Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the proposed American Jobs Plan (AJP). This bill will enable us to fast-track billions of dollars of infrastructure projects that have not been started. The faster we move these projects from the list of things to do to the list that we are doing, the more Nevadans we will put to work. This bill has been made possible thanks to the continued support provided by trusted State and community leaders who know this is an effective and productive way to move our State forward together.

These leaders include State Treasurer Zach Conine; Rob Benner, Secretary-Treasurer of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Northern Nevada along with many other leaders from Nevada's labor community; Mary Beth Sewald, President and CEO, Vegas Chamber; Elizabeth Fielder, President of NAIOP Northern Nevada; and David Strickland, President of NAIOP Southern Nevada.

Overall, the proposed legislative changes coupled with the funding for the NSIB could allow Nevada to launch up to \$200 million in new infrastructure projects by the end of 2021 and \$1 billion in new infrastructure investments over the next five years.

This proposal is anticipated to create 16,000 construction jobs by year's-end. By the end of 2031, the passage of this bill could create up to 30,000 good-paying jobs for Nevadans.

We are all aware the State of Nevada has undergone trying times through this pandemic. Senate Bill 430 is the first step toward delivering a promise to the people of Nevada to build back a better Nevada. I look forward to working with the Legislature on this investment toward our State's economic recovery in

future prosperity. My summary proposal ([Exhibit B](#)) recognizes the importance of this bill.

ZACH CONINE (State Treasurer):

This is a jobs bill and one of the largest bills in the history of Nevada. Each word and definition is a step toward building high-paying, middle-class, family-supporting jobs.

The Legislature passed A.B. No. 399 of the 79th Session unanimously. This bipartisan bill established the framework for the NSIB to leverage capital from outside Nevada to kick-start priority transportation and utility infrastructure projects. The bill was passed at a time when it looked like the federal government was going to move a large federal infrastructure package forward and the State needed a mechanism to centralize and vet priority projects to meet our infrastructure needs. That federal money never came in until now. That infrastructure work never happened until now.

Since the 2017 Legislative Session, Nevada's infrastructure needs have continued to rise; now more than ever, we need to do everything we can to revitalize our communities. Leading up to the pandemic, our office spent time looking at ways we could fund the NSIB using outside sources of capital. We researched best practices from other states and countries. We talked to leading experts in the field to learn more about what Nevada could be doing to create meaningful investments in infrastructure. Once the economic effects of the pandemic began to take hold, launching the NSIB became an economic necessity to ensure we could invest money in the communities while creating good-paying jobs in the building and construction trades.

Leading up to the Governor's State of the State Address in January the Treasurer's Office began working with numerous other agencies to find how we could best improve upon the existing framework of NSIB to get projects off the ground quickly and effectively. Through those conversations, we determined that NSIB's focus on transportation and utilities infrastructure was limited as it came to attracting capital and putting people back to work. We started looking at ways we could expand the Bank's focus to prioritize additional types of infrastructure projects to put more people to work more quickly and put investment into the communities traditionally left behind.

Senate Bill 430 seeks to ensure we have the tools needed to start tackling the State's infrastructure needs immediately.

Sections 2 through 7 of the bill are definition sections which help to define the various types of infrastructure projects referenced through the bill.

Section 10 expands the type of infrastructure projects which can be financed by the Bank to include transportation facilities, utility infrastructure, water and wastewater infrastructure, renewable energy infrastructure, recycling and sustainability infrastructure, digital infrastructure, social infrastructure and other infrastructure related to economic development.

Section 12 of the bill expands the definition of a qualified borrower to include local governments, tribal governments or private entities which are created solely for charitable or educational purpose.

Section 15 expands the Board of Directors to include the Director of the Governor's Office of Energy. The bill clarifies that the NSIB's budget account will be held under the Nevada Department of Transportation; however, section 15 states the Bank will operate and be governed under the direction of a separate Board of Directors.

Section 16 of the bill provides the Board with the flexibility to establish various accounts and subaccounts for the operation of the Bank but ensures all accounting is done in accordance with all applicable federal laws.

Section 19 allows any division of the Department of Transportation, Department of Business and Industry (B&I), Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Treasurer's Office, Governor's Office of Energy or any other governmental unit, to the extent money is available, to provide technical advice, support and assistance to the Bank.

Section 20 ensures the Bank can become operational beginning on July 1. This will ensure we can get a pipeline of projects ready in anticipation of funding from the ARP and AJP, but ensuring our economic recovery is as strong as possible.

The remaining sections of the bill make technical and conforming changes to the statute.

SENATOR PICKARD:

Is the \$75 million appropriation intended to come from the ARP, General Fund or another source?

TREASURER CONINE:

The \$75 million proposed in the Governor's budget is actually a general obligation bond that will be issued through the Treasurer. We have a high credit rating at the State; through that we were able to generate \$100 million of additional bonding capacity compared to the last biennium, even during the middle of the pandemic. The Governor felt it important to use those funds toward job creation activities.

SENATOR PICKARD:

Section 7, subsection 1 references "brackish or seawater desalination" projects. Why are we authorizing pulling seawater from any seashores?

TREASURER CONINE:

We are not aware of any seashores either. All definitions are intended to be as broad as possible. If an opportunity to get involved in a project made sense from a job creation standpoint or for some economic reason, we would be able to.

SENATOR PICKARD:

Are we looking for jobs anywhere in the United States or jobs in Nevada?

TREASURER CONINE:

We are looking in Nevada. Historically, Nevada has done a good job of exporting our water technologies. We want to make sure if there is a technology to export, we take advantage of it.

SENATOR PICKARD:

Looking at section 10, I noticed recycling is mentioned. What type of recycling are we talking about? Generally, is it plastics, whatever is taken in by waste services or something else?

TREASURER CONINE:

Our intention is to have the broadest language possible. Instead of identifying one specific recycling project, when we asked for local and municipal governments to give us ideas for projects, there were a lot of ideas. We wanted to make sure whichever direction the Bank chooses to go, through the Board, we have the flexibility to do that.

SENATOR PICKARD:

While researching infrastructure banks, the consensus in the media was the national infrastructure bank made sense but less the state infrastructure banks because they were undercapitalized and operated by offices that do not fully understand the banking system. They pointed to a serious history of failed state infrastructure banks. What are we doing differently to avoid that?

TREASURER CONINE:

When we looked at successful and unsuccessful state infrastructure banks, nationally and internationally, we came up with specific needs of the bank—flexibility, the ability to move into projects as the market dictates and out-of-state investors who want to invest in State infrastructure but only for a specific kind of project. We also knew it was important to get a wide group of stakeholders, which is why you have the GOED and B&I individuals who have experience with the capital stacking that becomes necessary for a state infrastructure bank.

One of the things that makes sense about a bank is the centralization of planning functions from an economic infrastructure perspective. There are new market tax credits and opportunity zones, the availability of EB-5 and EB-6 schemes of funding, all of the different financial opportunities. In Nevada, we often fall at the bottom of federal infrastructure spending of discretionary funding because we are not prepared to do the work. The Bank lets us do the work.

SENATOR PICKARD:

Would you speak to the capitalization level? It was suggested we are talking about numbers that should be in the hundreds of millions or billions to properly capitalize an effective infrastructure bank, but we are coming in at \$75 million. Is this seed money? What are the steps to get to a functioning bank?

TREASURER CONINE:

Over the past year, we have seen that undercapitalized businesses had a harder time than those overcapitalized. That is generally what is seen in small businesses, large businesses and government functions. Nevada has been undercapitalizing for a long time.

Proposed changes to the Office of Grants, Procurement, Coordination and Management will help us bring in more than \$1 billion of federal funding every year. There is funding coming in from ARP. The \$75 million is seed capital. On top of that, we will get any funds that go into the State from ARP specifically for infrastructure that need to go through an infrastructure bank, any funds from AJP that need to go through an infrastructure bank and any additional capital we are able to get. Billions of dollars of capital in pension funds and investment companies are looking for a return higher than the yield they get in the U.S. Treasury securities market and lower than the risk associated in the stock market. Based on all of our conversations and talking to these funds, there is an opportunity for that money to come to Nevada.

SENATOR PICKARD:

If properly capitalized and run, can an infrastructure bank be good for the State? If we are not taking the ARP money to adequately fund the Bank, are we just like the other states where infrastructure banks collapsed?

TREASURER CONINE:

We need to make sure we capitalize this Bank properly. The \$75 million will not fix all the infrastructure needs in our State. Even \$750 million would not fix them all. We have an opportunity to start the work that should continue for generations. It is necessary now, especially coming out of the pandemic with the opportunities in front of us from prospective federal capitalization to take the binder off the shelf and put people to work. If the \$75 million is all it gets, we are going to have trouble.

SENATOR HAMMOND:

We are proposing infrastructure that neither exists nor competes with private businesses; we are not creating a competition between the government and private industry. We want to see something new so others could come in and enjoy the structure created and the growth and diversification of our economy.



TREASURER CONINE:

The focus of NSIB is on helping underserved and unserved communities. In that space, we will focus toward areas where there is no service. The focus is how we can put people back to work and fix problems that no one else is fixing. The function of the Bank is not to be in competition with private businesses but to work with and leverage private businesses to provide services to Nevadans and jobs for Nevadans.

SENATOR SPEARMAN:

There is something called the New Energy Economy. Many of the underserved communities are not participating in that from the level of entrepreneurship. Does anything speak to how we make sure underserved communities are being reached out to for this New Energy Economy so there is some parity?

TREASURER CONINE:

The banks that are successful reach out to the community and provide the needed services. They are looking for areas underserved. Where the return is possible, they can solve a problem that cannot be better solved by another function. That is the purpose of the Bank. As the board develops the bylaws through which they will evaluate projects, it makes sense for that to be one of the things to be looked at—not just how many jobs are being created or how much money is being spent, not just the risk of the project or potential rewards but whether we are dealing with the systemic issues.

The guidance released by the federal government today on ARP spoke specifically on fixing problems existing prior to the COVID-19 pandemic that have been exacerbated. All of these have to work together to make us successful.

Last week, the Governor said, "Spending is easy, investing is hard." Nevada State Infrastructure Bank is here to do the hard work.

WILL ADLER (Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe):

Pyramid Lake would like to thank the Governor and State Treasurer for the inclusion of tribal nations in the availability for applicants for the NSIB and what that could do for tribal nations around the State.

MARY BETH SEWALD (President and CEO, Vegas Chamber):

The Vegas Chamber supports Governor Sisolak for his commitment and insight to promote NSIB with the introduction of Senate Bill 430. The Chamber has a long legacy of supporting infrastructure investment projects in Nevada because of the positive economic benefits associated with these types of projects. We believe by investing in the Infrastructure Bank and making it a strategic priority of the State, Nevada can plan for the future and build the infrastructure necessary to diversify the economy and create jobs.

This is the type of legislation that will help stimulate the economy and attract economic development throughout Nevada, foster career opportunities and help put more Nevadans back to work. State infrastructure banks are the type of innovative and pragmatic physical policies that we need to embrace as they allow for greater flexibility for financing infrastructure investments. Infrastructure banks also allow states to better leverage traditional federal aid, highway and transit grants. This will benefit Nevada's taxpayers as we work to increase our share of federal grant dollars and increase the economic impact of each dollar we put back into our economy. This investment by the State is a crucial step as we work together to rebuild and reinvent Nevada's economy together.

BRIAN REEDER (Nevada Contractors Association):

Nevada Contractors Association represents general and subcontractors and businesses affiliated with the commercial construction industry throughout southern Nevada. We are in support of this bill.

JONATHAN LELEU (NAIOP):

I am testifying in support of S.B. 430 on behalf of NAIOP. As one of the original proponents of A.B. No. 399 of the 79th Session, it has worked hard alongside the Regional Transportation Commission, Senator Hammond and former Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams in getting the NSIB formed and passed. We have worked since to get the Infrastructure Bank funded and would like to credit Governor Sisolak and Treasurer Conine for finding a creative solution to getting the Bank running and funded.

WESLEY HARPER (Executive Director, Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities):

The Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities is in support of S.B. 430 and appreciates the work of the Governor's Office and bill sponsors to bring this bill forward and the members of the Senate Growth and Infrastructure Committee

for hearing it. The NSIB has the capability of being an important partner to local governments by providing capital and financial assistance, addressing transportation projects and facilities, utility infrastructure, critical infrastructure needs in water, wastewater, renewables, recycling, sustainability, digital and social improvement infrastructure, and economic development. This bill is a thoughtful expansion of the scope and breadth of the Bank's capacity and authority.

CHRISTI CABRERA (Nevada Conservation League):

Senate Bill 430 will allow the NSIB to be used for water, wastewater infrastructure, renewable energy, recycling and sustainability infrastructure. This produces no fossil fuels but is rich in clean energy potential. Focusing on homegrown renewable energy will keep Nevada's money invested in our State and grow our clean energy economy. Senate Bill 430 will allow our State to make investments in infrastructure to reduce pollution, address environmental injustice and prepare for breadth of climate change, all while building an economy which puts every community back to work.

KANANI ESPINOZA (American Council of Engineering Companies of Nevada):

American Council of Engineering Companies of Nevada represents Nevada's design and engineering community. We are in support of S.B. 430 and would like to thank Governor Sisolak and Treasurer Conine for prioritizing infrastructure. Activating the NSIB will add another important mechanism for funding critical infrastructure projects in our State.

NATE BLOUIN (Interwest Energy Alliance):

Interwest is the regional trade association representing the Nation's leading developers and manufacturers of renewable energy resources in Nevada and across the West. I am here in support of S.B. 430 and the economic development benefits this bill will have at a critical point in Nevada's recovery from the pandemic. Senate Bill 430 will allow federal economic recovery funding to flow toward shovel-ready renewable energy projects and transmission that will allow Nevada to meet State energy and climate goals on schedule. Adding renewable energy and associated infrastructure to the Infrastructure Bank and providing substantial funding to incentivize these projects to start construction soon will provide additional revenues to State and local government while enabling thousands of new jobs. Transmission projects that are vital to opening new solar, wind and geothermal development will

benefit from S.B. 430 passage. As a representative of the renewable energy industry, I would urge support of this bill.

DEVLIN DANESHFOROUZ (NV Energy):

NV Energy comes in support of S.B. 430 which aims to provide provisions governing NSIB. It has been a difficult year for Nevadans. We are beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel. Work still needs to be done. Senate Bill 430 would play a pivotal role in Nevada's economic recovery as outlined by the Governor in his State of the State Address. A well-funded State Infrastructure Bank will allow Nevada to leverage outside capital to fund important infrastructure projects and create jobs that are desperately needed today. The GOED has already identified at least 162 potential shovel-ready projects across the State that could be funded by such an Infrastructure Bank. Infrastructure projects mean thousands of good-paying jobs for Nevada. NV Energy is in the business of building the infrastructure which powers our State's economy. Financing that infrastructure is a different story for us due to the support we receive from our parent company. Sometimes, other infrastructure projects do not go forward due to the lack of financing. NV Energy supports additional investments in infrastructure.

JAINA MOAN (The Nature Conservancy):

We appreciate Governor Sisolak for this effort to expand the facilities and projects that can receive loans and other financial assistance from NSIB. This provides an opportunity for incorporating nature-based solutions in Nevada's infrastructure plan. The 2020 Nevada Climate Strategy highlighted the importance of considering how existing and planned infrastructure will withstand conditions of increasing heat, drought and extreme weather. Fortunately, nature is a smart solution to meet Nevada's infrastructure needs. Natural infrastructure can be used for floodplain restoration and enhancement, reducing risks of flood and improving water quality. An example can be seen along the Truckee River where the Conservancy has restored natural river meanders and riparian vegetation. This work has helped to ensure that the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center has a clean water supply and has mitigated flood risks that would have generated costly road repairs, property loss or human injury. Wildlife crossings are nature-based solutions that provide safe passage for migrating wildlife while preventing accidents. At the community development level, nature-based solutions include pavement, vegetated shallows and green streets. These activities also create jobs. Incorporating

nature-based solutions into infrastructure facilities will help position Nevada to receive federal infrastructure dollars.

ANDREW MACKAY (Executive Director, Nevada Franchised Auto Dealers Association):

We echo all the sentiments of the previous speakers. We believe infrastructure is a quality-of-life issue. One of the keys of quality of life are jobs. This accomplishes two of those factors.

ANTHONY RUIZ (Nevada State College):

Nevada State College is in full support of S.B. 430 and would like to thank Governor Sisolak and Treasurer Conine for bringing this forward and for their foresight. We support the broadening of the types of infrastructure projects they will permit and the job creations element Nevadans can expect from passage of this bill.

ROB BENNER (Northern Nevada Building and Construction Trades Council):

This bill will help create good-paying union jobs that are a pathway to the middle class for recovering from this pandemic. It is critical we invest in our infrastructure and make sure we are creating good-paying jobs for Nevada's workers. This proposal will create thousands of jobs for Nevada's workers over the next ten years. This is a long-term investment in Nevada's future.

SABRA NEWBY (University of Nevada, Las Vegas):

I am representing the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), in support of S.B. 430. We would like to thank Governor Sisolak and Treasurer Conine for bringing this important piece of legislation and especially for broadening the definition of infrastructure. We are in a transformative moment for our State with both the power and opportunity to change Nevada's trajectory toward more research, innovation and prosperity. The UNLV is ready to assist in the recovery of Nevada through applied research, innovation and preparing teacher-students for the jobs and economy for the future.

BRENDA PEARSON (Clark County Education Association):

In 2020, the Clark County Education Association (CCEA) commissioned an evaluation by the Anderson Economic Group on Nevada Economic Diversification ([Exhibit C](#)) to determine ways to invest in existing industries to diversify our economy. The report found that Nevada created the NSIB in 2017 but failed to fund it. The CCEA is in support of the changes to the Bank

provided by S.B. 430. Nevada remains in the minority of states without a functioning infrastructure bank. Without one, we are potentially missing out on federal transportation opportunities and utility infrastructure. The language in S.B. 430 will provide needed support for the Bank to work toward an economically diverse Nevada. We have submitted the Anderson Economic Group's Report and Executive Summary, [Exhibit C](#).

CHRISTINE HESS (Nevada Housing Coalition):

The Nevada Housing Coalition is in support of S.B. 430 and would like to thank the Governor and State Treasurer for their leadership. We recognize affordable housing is infrastructure. Nevada has a shortage of affordable housing and needs to make sure we are positioning employees to access all available tools for affordable housing production as we work to alleviate this deficit.

CHAIR HARRIS:

There has been discussion about forcing the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) to use its investment funds to fund this Bank. Is it your intention to use any of those funds to get this Bank started?

TREASURER CONINE:

It is not our intention to use any PERS funds to get the Bank running; PERS makes its own investments and does a good job. We intend to do what attracts outside capital to all banks, tell people the work the Bank is to do and do it. We will provide clear metrics, goals and an understanding of what that capital will be used for. I hope we attract everybody's money.

SENATOR SPEARMAN:

An article says the differently abled community suffers about 26 times more than their able-bodied counterparts. Are there any provisions for those who are differently abled to share in what the Infrastructure Bank will bring?

TREASURER CONINE:

Our Office runs ABLE—Achieving a Better Life Experience—accounts that allow individuals who are differently abled to save for and create their own future and a better life for themselves and their families. One of the things that has shown us is parts of our State are less accessible for everyone. There are opportunities for us to fix long-term systemic issues. One of the reasons we have not is money. We are able to attract the capital we expect to attract, use and leverage that capital and solve some of those problems. The point of the Bank is to

invest in areas overlooked in the past to fix some of these long-term blitzes on our success as a government.

SENATOR SPEARMAN:

Some communities are historically overlooked or an afterthought.

TREASURER CONINE:

A year ago, we were confused and then scared. When the economy started to recover for some, we were hopeful. This Bank represents our determined side, willingness and dedication to do the hard work to build the Nevada we deserve.

SENATOR HARRIS:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 430 and open the hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 154.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 154 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions governing certain notice provided by public utilities. (BDR 58-510)

ASSEMBLYMAN TOM ROBERTS (Assembly District No. 13):

With me today is Christina Bailey Shaver from NV Energy who will cover the technical aspects of the bill.

While discussing a problem with Judy Stokey at NV Energy about statutes which require all communication regarding rate increases or adjustments in writing by mail, we learned many customers opt for all-electronic communications. This bill allows for a person who opts to receive communications in that manner to receive any communications electronically. An amendment introduced in the bill hearing is that those notices would be done on a specific color of paper which adds to the cost of mail. That requirement was removed due to the additional costs; however, there would be ample printing to notify those persons who choose to receive their correspondence by mail instead of electronically.

CHRISTINA BAILEY SHAVER (NV Energy):

Existing statutes and regulations impose different requirements on the format and manner of notice that NV Energy must provide to its customers. It has been more than 15 years since this language was put into place, and we now have more ways to communicate with customers. Thousands of NV Energy

customers have requested to receive communications via electronic notices, but statutes and regulations do not expressly permit NV Energy to do this.

Assembly Bill 154 makes clear that NV Energy can provide all communications required by statute via electronic notice to customers who have requested they receive communications electronically. By providing notices electronically, NV Energy will be eliminating administrative burdens and furthering customers desires to go paperless. Forty percent of customers, about 545,000, have requested paperless billing. For customers who continue to desire mailed paper notices, they will continue to receive those notices.

Assembly Bill 154 also removes cumbersome printing requirements which require the use of stand-alone fluorescent paper. While the intent to use fluorescent paper was to provide clear notice, the advancement of printed technology has made it so we can create a clearer and engaging notice for customers if we utilize standard printing paper with easy-to-read graphics and images to support the required notice language. Using regular size paper will be more efficient and save money. Any savings will be passed back to our customers. NV Energy utilizes our website, social media, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada website and other means of communication to send rate adjustments. These additional means of communication provide customers with ample opportunities to see and hear about rate adjustments.

SENATOR PICKARD:

How do you avoid recreating the problem the fluorescent paper was intended to fix?

MS. BAILEY SHAVER:

Fifteen years ago, our bills looked very different and were monotone. Our bills today come on white paper. Boxes we put messaging on have a larger font and sometimes have a picture. They are eye-grabbing and clearly marked.

SENATOR PICKARD:

Your answer means you will do other things to make it stand out. This is not going to allow NV Energy or anyone to hide the information.

MS. BAILEY SHAVER:

There is no intention of putting it into a small font or tuck it away out of sight. Getting the information out is important to our customers and to us.



SENATOR SPEARMAN:

What happens with the cost savings?

MS. BAILEY SHAVER:

Any cost savings will be passed back to our customers.

SENATOR SPEARMAN:

Do you have any plans to show what this cost savings would be? Is there any plan to say, "This is what we are doing, and this is why"?

MS. BAILEY SHAVER:

I am not certain what the amount of the cost savings would be, but I am certain with the passage of this bill that is something we would share with our customers to show them the benefits of going paperless. The administrative savings which add up would go back to the customer.

SUSAN FISHER (Central Electricity Regulator Commission):

Central Electricity Regulator Commission (CERC) is a geothermal company serving more than 105 homes in the Reno area with geothermal heat. It is embedded within NV Energy service territory, so electricity is from NV Energy but any heat resources come from CERC energy. We support Assembly Bill 154.

CHAIR HARRIS:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 154 and open the hearing on A.B. 188.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 188 (1st Reprint)**: Abolishes the Commission on Special License Plates. (BDR 43-476)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TRACY BROWN-MAY (Assembly District No. 42):

For those familiar with the Commission on Special License Plates, you may recognize this bill as one of five recommendations which came from that Commission as a result of the meetings held throughout the Interim.

This bill returns the responsibility of special license plates to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) while retaining an auditing provision in the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB).

Nevada permitted the use of special license plates beginning in 1977, and A.B. No. 358 of the 72nd Session expanded the creation of special license

plates for different organizations and created the Commission on Special License Plates. The Commission has met every interim since its creation. Its membership consists of five Legislators and three members representing the DMV, Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, and Department of Public Safety. The responsibility of the Commission is to approve or disapprove applications for the design, preparation and issuance of special license plates which are submitted to the DMV. The application process is according to the process described in *Nevada Revised Statutes* 482 and corresponding regulations.

The Commission has met to make certain determinations relating to charitable organizations that receive fees from special license plates, to notify charitable organizations that have failed to comply with certain requirements and to take additional action when organizations have not taken corrective action following notification from the Commission.

Special license plates have remained a resourceful way for charitable organizations to raise additional dollars. The proposed plates have to go through a number of technological programming preparations through the DMV in order to comply and be deemed a safe plate.

Nothing in A.B. 188 is intended to disrupt the existing system or alter the ability of organizations to apply for special license plates. There are neither new requirements regarding how special license plates are issued nor revisions to the standard for applications. Special license plates and the entities requesting a special plate will continue to have the same requirements under existing law and regulations and be processed chronologically by the DMV.

This measure retains the existing application process for charitable organizations and requires the DMV to hold public meetings to review, approve or disapprove the applications received. The DMV may send a notice or take action against charitable organizations that do not meet certain program requirements.

The measure abolishes the Commission on Special License Plates to eliminate redundant government by giving back the responsibility of special license plates to the DMV as a result of the number of years spent by the Legislative Body to craft a good and solid system to make sure there are parameters in place for the issuance and governance of special license plates.

The process of applying for a special license plate requires several levels and takes years for an organization to receive the ability to appear before the Commission on Special License Plates.

This bill recommends the Commission be abolished in an effort to streamline and reduce redundancy. However, the LCB Legislative Auditor will retain the existing requirement to examine the financial records of each of the nonprofit organizations receiving special license plate fees and will provide an annual report to the Legislature.

Through the efforts of various members of the Commission over the past 18 years, Nevada has a refined process for the application, review and approval of special license plates. The DMV holds public hearings so people are aware of the process to seek approval for a special license plate and the auditing that comes back to the Legislative body.

SENATOR HAMMOND:

You had me at "abolishes the Commission on Special License Plates."

SENATOR PICKARD:

We created this in 2003 for a reason. I do not know what that reason was, but are we recreating a problem we had before that the Commission fixed? How do we avoid getting into the problem we had before?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BROWN-MAY:

The problem did not exist before the Commission on Special License Plates was created. The Commission was able to take an application out of order as opposed to chronological order of application. It was not uncommon to have to wait a long time for an application to be brought forward. By eliminating this, we also eliminate the redundancy in government and add fairness back into the process so everyone who applies will go through the DMV's chronological application process.

SENATOR PICKARD:

I would like to know why we created this Commission and how we avoid recreating a problem.

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SEAN SEVER (Department of Motor Vehicles):

The DMV is okay with absorbing the duties of the Commission. We have found a lot of duplication of what the DMV is already doing. We have submitted a no-impact fiscal note that says we will absorb the cost.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BROWN-MAY:

This is an exciting and publicly aware bill. Thank you for hearing it.

CHAIR HARRIS:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 188. The meeting is adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Diane Rea,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Dallas Harris, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit Letter	Begins on Page	Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
S.B. 430	B	1	Governor Steve Sisolak	Summary Proposal
S.B. 430	C	1	Brenda Pearson / Clark County Education Association	Anderson Economic Group's Report on Nevada Economic Diversification