Nevada Legislature
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU

RESEARCH DIVISION

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE BRIEF

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INTRODUCTION

During each legislative session, the Senate Committee on Government Affairs considers numerous bills and resolutions on topics related primarily to State and local government. This Committee Brief provides information on the Committee's staff, jurisdiction, workload statistics, and related reports.

COMMITTEE STAFF

Staff services for the Senate Committee on Government Affairs during the 2025 Legislative Session are provided by the following individuals:

- Jann Stinnesbeck, Committee Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB);
- Heidi Chlarson, Committee Counsel, Legal Division, LCB;
- Lauren Spratt, Committee Counsel, Legal Division, LCB;
- Michael Harbert, Legislative Assistant to Chair Flores;
- Linda Drew, Committee Manager;
- Spencer Jones, Committee Secretary;
- Diane Rea, Committee Secretary; and
- Sarah Baker, Research Policy Assistant, Research Division, LCB.

SESSION DEADLINES

Below is a list of deadlines during the 2025 Legislative Session that are particularly important to the Committee's work.

- **April 11** Bills must be passed (if at all) out of the committee of reference in the first house.
- **April 22** Bills must be passed (if at all) out of the house of origin.
- **May 16** Bills must be passed (if at all) out of the committee of reference in the second house.
- **May 23** Bills must be passed (if at all) out of the second house.
- **June 2** *Sine Die*.

Prior to the April 11 deadline (not including April 11) for "first house committee passage," the Committee will have 28 regularly scheduled meetings if meetings are held every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; starting on Wednesday, February 5, 2025. If the Committee has the same number of Senate bills referred as in 2023 (77 bills), the Committee will need to hear approximately 2 to 3 bills per meeting, assuming meetings are held 3 days per week, prior to the April 11 deadline (assuming all bills receive a hearing). If the Committee meets twice a week, that will increase the number of bills to be heard each meeting to 3 to 5 bills per meeting (assuming all bills receive a hearing).

Between the April 11 "first house committee passage" deadline and the May 16 "second house committee passage" deadline, the Committee will have approximately 14 regularly scheduled meetings (not including May 16). If the Committee is referred 37 Assembly measures as it was in 2023, the Committee will need to hear roughly 3 bills per meeting (assuming all bills receive a hearing).

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY DURING THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

During the 2023 Session, 114 measures were referred to the Committee. Of those, 91 measures were voted out of the Committee, and 76 measures were passed and sent to the Governor. Of those, 18 were vetoed by the Governor. Out of the vetoed measures, 10 will return during the 2025 Session.

Type of Measure	Number Referred	Number Voted Out of Committee	Number Sent to Governor	Number Vetoed	Number That Became Law
Assembly Bills	37	33	32	5	27
Senate Bills	77	58	44	13	31
Total	114	91	76	18	58

Returning Bills from Previous Session	
AB 172	Revises provisions governing collective bargaining for local government employees.
AB 305	Revises provisions governing public works.
SB 81	Revises provisions governing regional planning.
SB 246	Revises provisions relating to governmental administration.
SB 262	Revises the qualifications for membership on certain advisory councils and boards.
SB 272	Revises provisions relating to governmental administration.
SB 301	Revises provisions governing public works.
SB 319	Revises provisions relating to public employees.
SB 371	Revises provisions governing local governments.
SB 384	Establishes certain provisions relating to the award of grants of federal money by a State agency for the development of broadband services and infrastructure.

ANTICIPATED TOPICS DURING THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Committee can expect bills to address, at a minimum, the following important topics:

- Affordable housing;
- City charters;
- Confidentiality of personal information;
- Emergency management;
- Military and veterans;
- Open Meeting Law;
- Public employee retirement and benefits;
- Public records;
- Public works and purchasing; and
- State financial administration.

A glossary of select government affairs-related terms is in Appendix A.

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

Except for prefiled bills[1], measures are referred to the Committee by a vote of the Senate upon a motion made by the bill's sponsor in accordance with guidelines prepared by Senate leadership. In recent years, efforts have been made to more closely align the jurisdictions of the Senate and Assembly Committees on Government Affairs, but they are not identical. Despite regular adjustments made to Rule 40 of *Senate Standing Rules* at the start of each session, the Senate Committee on Government Affairs continues to exercise broad jurisdiction. Overall, the Committee has jurisdiction over approximately 124 Chapters and 18 Titles of *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS). The table below shows the general jurisdiction of the Committee by Title number.

NRS Title Number	Description
18	State Executive Department (Excluding Chapters 231 ["Economic Development, Tourism and Cultural Affairs"], 231A ["Nevada New Markets Jobs Act"], and measures affecting primarily the provisions of the *Nevada Administrative Procedure Act* that govern the adjudication of contested cases.)
19	Miscellaneous Matters Related to Government and Public Affairs (Excluding Chapter 237A ["Foreign Trade Zones and Trade Districts".]
20	Counties and Townships: Formation, Government and Officers
21	Cities and Towns
22	Cooperative Agreements by Public Agencies; Regional Transportation Commissions; Planning and Zoning; Development and Redevelopment (Excluding Chapters 271A ["Tourism Improvements"], 271B ["Economic Diversification"], 274 ["Zones for Economic Development"], measures affecting marijuana, and measures affecting primarily the provisions of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, State and local revenue, and State and federal budget issues.)
23	Public Officers and Employees (Only Chapters 286 through 289 ["Public Employees' Retirement"], ["Programs for Public Employees"], ["Relations Between Governments and Public Employees"], and ["Peace Officers and Other Law Enforcement Personnel".])
25	Public Organizations for Community Service
27	Public Property and Purchasing
28	Public Works and Planning
30	Public Borrowing and Obligations
31	Public Financial Administration (Excluding Chapter 353B ["College Savings Programs".])
33	Libraries; Museums; Historic Preservation (Only Chapters 381 ["State Museums"] and 384 ["Historic Districts".])
36	Military Affairs and Civil Emergencies
37	Veterans; Privileges, Benefits and Recognition Related to Military Service

[1] See website: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/83rd2025/Committee/434/BillStatus

42	Protection From Fire; Explosives (Excluding Chapters 475 ["Crimes and Responsibilities Concerning Fires"] and 476 "[Explosives and Inflammable Materials".])
57	Insurance (Only Chapter 693B ["Continuity of Management During Emergency Resulting from Attack".])
58	Energy; Public Utilities and Similar Entities (Only Chapters 709 ["Franchises by Local Governments"] and 710 ["Utilities Owned by Local Governments".])
59	Electronic Records and Transactions (Only Chapter 720 ["Digital Signatures".])

RELEVANT RESEARCH DIVISION PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER REPORTS

The Research Division prepares research briefs on various policy areas. These publications are available on the Legislature's website. Legislative audit reports and various reports required of the Executive Branch and other entities can also be accessed on the website.

Additional resources include:

- State of Nevada Major Elected Officers;
- Directory of State and Local Government (last updated February 25, 2022); and
- Nevada State Government Organizational Chart.

POPULATION CLASSIFICATIONS

During the legislative session following each decennial census conducted by the United States Census Bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce, a bill is introduced to adjust throughout NRS to the population classifications of cities and counties. The *Constitution of the State of Nevada* prohibits the enactment of special or local laws (Section 20 of Article 4) and requires a uniform system of county and township government (Section 25 of Article 4). To this end, population classifications have been set forth in statute relevant to the subject matter and purpose of the statute. The preliminary chapter of NRS contains a provision (NRS 0.050) defining "population" as that determined by the most recent decennial census, unless otherwise provided by statute. The totals in the new census apply to statutes from July 1 of the calendar year immediately following the decennial census date until June 30 of the calendar year immediately following the next decennial census. The county and city tables adjusted per Assembly Bill 545 (2011) are provided in Appendix B.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The mission of the Research Division is to serve the Nevada Legislature in a professional and nonpartisan manner by providing useful, accurate, and timely information concerning public policy issues. The Division is available to provide the Committee and its members with assistance on any issue related to matters before the Committee.

In addition, the Division provides individual members of the Legislature with information and assistance, **on a confidential basis**, on any topic.

The Research Division is located on the first floor of the Sedway Office Building and may be reached at (775) 684-6825. The Division also maintains an office in Room 1122 of the Legislative Building.

APPENDIX A—GLOSSARY OF SELECT GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS RELATED TERMS

CHARTER CITY

A city created by and operated under a special act or city charter. See City Charters of Nevada to review the city charter for each Nevada city.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

A method of determining conditions of employment by negotiation between representatives of the local government employer and employee organizations, entailing a mutual obligation to meet at reasonable times and bargain in good faith.

CONSTRUCTION DELIVERY METHODS

- **Design-Bid-Build—**A method in which an agency designs a project and awards a construction contract to the lowest bidder based on the agency's completed construction documents. The agency "owns" the details of design during construction and the risk associated with any changed conditions, unknowns, errors, or omissions that are encountered during construction.
- **Design-Build—**A project delivery method in which the agency contracts a single entity to complete the design and construction of a project. Characteristically, a project is approximately 25 to 30 percent designed with a well-defined scope and knowledge of project risks at the point invitations to bid are requested via a value-based procurement. The design-builder retains the risks associated with design, quantities, constructability, et cetera, normally retained by the agency, resulting in greater cost and schedule certainty.
- **Certified Construction Manager at Risk—**A project delivery method by which the agency leads a coordinated team, which works to develop design and construction documents in a manner to minimize overall project risk, improve project delivery schedule, and apply potential innovation to meet or exceed project goals.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

General improvement districts (GIDs) are a type of local government created by counties or by a petition presented by an owner of property in the district. These districts are usually governed by elected boards of trustees. Services provided by GIDs may include cemeteries, emergency medical services, fire protection, recreation facilities, sanitation, sewer, sidewalks, storm drainage, television and radio, utilities, and water. Funding for GIDs can come from ad valorem taxes, connection and usage fees, and special assessments. Such districts also have borrowing powers and may issue revenue bonds and securities in addition to other forms of financing.

GENERAL LAW CITY

A city that operates in accordance with a set of statutes, specifically Chapters 266 and 268 of NRS.

OPEN MEETING LAW

The Nevada Open Meeting Law requires the actions and deliberations of public bodies be conducted openly. A public body is any administrative, advisory, executive, or legislative body of the State or local government which expends or disburses or is supported in whole or in part by tax revenue, or which advises or makes recommendations to any entity which expends or disburses or is supported in whole or in part by tax revenue, including any board, commission, committee, subcommittee, or other subsidiary.

PREVAILING WAGE

Wages paid on publicly funded projects are determined through a survey conducted by Nevada's Labor Commissioner and include a basic hourly rate of pay, the amount of pension, health and welfare, vacation and holiday pay, the cost of apprenticeship training or other similar programs, and other bona fide fringe benefits.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' BENEFITS PROGRAM

The Program provides health insurance benefits such as dental, pharmacy, and vision insurance; accidental death and dismemberment insurance; basic life insurance; long-term disability insurance; group travel accident insurance; and flexible spending accounts for participants, family members, and survivors.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) is a retirement and disability benefits program for State workers as well as other public employees. Participation in PERS is mandatory for public employees and provides retirement portability for persons in government service—an incentive for attracting and retaining public employees. The Legislature oversees PERS, although the System has an independent Board with an Executive Officer and staff who handle day-to-day operations.

PUBLIC RECORDS

A public book or record must be made available upon request if it is readily available, and a public officer or employee must prepare copies of public records upon request. State law allows a governmental entity to charge a fee for copies of records, not exceeding the actual cost of the copy, unless a specific statute or regulation sets a different fee.

SPECIAL DISTRICT

Special districts can be created by a county commission or by petition filed with a county commission. Special districts include GIDs as well as water and sanitation districts, swimming pool districts, municipal power districts, or any other quasi-municipal districts.

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

Tax increment financing, in the context of redevelopment districts, freezes the tax base of properties within redevelopment areas. The increase in tax revenues generated because of subsequent improvements and higher assessments in the redevelopment area is paid to the redevelopment agency.

UNFUNDED MANDATE

A statute or regulation that requires a State or local government to perform certain actions with no money provided for fulfilling the requirements. Statute requires a disclosure on the face of each legislative measure that contains an unfunded mandate placed upon a local government.

APPENDIX B—COUNTY AND CITY TABLES

COUNTIES BY POPULATION

Population Range	County	Population 2023 Census
Over 700,000	Clark	2,361,285
Under 700,000—Over 100,000	Washoe	508,759
Under 100,000—Over 50,000	Lyon	63,179
	Carson City	58,923
	Elko	57,538
	Douglas	54,343
	Nye	52,478
Under 30,000—Over 20,000	Churchill	26,940
Under 20,000—Over 15,000	Humboldt	17,696
Under 15,000—Over 9,000	White Pine	10,005
Under 9,000—Over 4,500	Pershing	7,464
	Lander	6,121
	Mineral	4,842
	Lincoln	4,808
Under 4,500—Over 3,000	Storey	4,454
Under 3,000	Eureka	1,776
	Esmeralda	1,067

Source: Office of the State Demographer, Department of Taxation Link

CITIES BY POPULATION

Population Range	City	Population 2023 Census
Over 500,000	Las Vegas	666,780
Under 500,000—Over 220,000	Henderson	341,980
	North Las Vegas	282,496
	Reno	277,517
Under 150,000—Over 60,000	Sparks	113,816
Under 60,000—Over 25,000	Carson City	58,923
Under 25,000—Over 15,000	Fernley	24,394
	Mesquite	22,711
	Elko	21,707

Under 15,000—Over 7,000	Boulder City	14,958
	Fallon	9,551
	Winnemucca	8,518
Under 7,000—Over 1,000	West Wendover	4,540
	Ely	3,954
	Yerington	3,541
	Carlin	2,578
	Lovelock	2,079
	Wells	1,290
	Caliente	1,114

CITY CATEGORIES

Categories (NRS 266.055)	Population
I	50,000 or more
II	5,000 to 49,999
III	4,999 or less

INCORPORATED CITIES IN NEVADA

Charter	Category	General Law	Category
Boulder City	II	Ely	III
Caliente	III	Fallon	II
Carlin	III	Fernley	II
Carson City	I	Lovelock	III
Elko	II	West Wendover	III
Henderson	I	Winnemucca	II
Las Vegas	I		
Mesquite	II		
North Las Vegas	I		
Reno	I		
Sparks	I		
Wells	III		
Yerington	III		