How a Bill becomes a Law (The Paper Chase)

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Bill draft requests (BDRs) are received and very short summaries are posted on the Legislative Website (starting in July before session).

BDRs are numbered sequentially in the order received.

Later the NRS title that is primarily affected or the type of act (R- or S-) is added in front of the sequence number.
## BDR List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Requestor</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Senator Rhoads</td>
<td>Revises provisions governing initiative petition districts</td>
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<td>17- - 2</td>
<td>Assemblyman McArthur</td>
<td>Revises provisions governing initiative petition districts</td>
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<td>38 - - 3</td>
<td>Senator Cegavske</td>
<td>Makes various changes concerning the protection of children.</td>
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<td>S - - 4</td>
<td>Senator Schneider</td>
<td>Makes an appropriation to the State Distributive School Account to ensure that the amount of money expended per pupil meets or exceeds the national average.</td>
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<td>54 - - 5</td>
<td>Senator Schneider</td>
<td>Enacts provisions relating to energy efficiency.</td>
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BDRs Turn Into Bill Drafts That Get Introduced and Turned Into Bills

SUMMARY—Makes various changes concerning the financial organization of irrigation districts. (BDR 48-691)

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

AN ACT relating to irrigation districts; revising limits on indebtedness and assessments of irrigation districts; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

This bill increases the maximum allowable debt for irrigation districts from $350,000 to $500,000 and increases the maximum annual assessment of irrigation districts from $1.50 per acre of land to $5.00 per acre of land. (NRS 539.480)

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

Section 1. NRS 539.480 is hereby amended to read as follows:

539.480. For the purpose of organization or any of the purposes of this chapter, the board of directors may incur an indebtedness not exceeding in the aggregate the sum of

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Statutes of Nevada v. Nevada Revised Statutes

- **Statutes of Nevada:**
  All the bills and resolutions passed during a session (“session laws”) and published in 2-3 volumes of red and yellow bound books.

- **Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS):**
  The “codified” laws in the multi-volume set (44+ indices) of blue notebooks that is updated (revised) after each session.
Statutes of Nevada – Official record of the State’s laws.

Bound compilation of all legislation passed or adopted – bills and resolutions – during a specific time period (regular and special sessions).
Codified version of the laws used on a day-to-day basis – consists of those laws determined by the Legal Division to be of general and continuing application.
Reading a bill – Page One

• Heading: Contains information on who requested bill, to which committee the bill was referred, a summary and the BDR reference, Fiscal Note status and, as needed, certain other information.

• Legislative Digest: Summarizes how the bill changes current law (very helpful) but note that the Digest is not part of the bill and does not become part of the law.
AN ACT relating to State Government, deleting the provisions that require the offices of all state officers, departments, boards, commissions and agencies to remain open during a certain period; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:
Under existing law, the offices of all state officers, departments, boards, commissions and agencies are required to be open for business at least from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, unless otherwise required for the efficient transaction of business and the conduction of the business with which the business is transacted. Any of these offices that are staffed by more than one person are also required to remain open during the normal hours of each working day. (NRS 281.110) Sections 1 & 2 of this bill delete the requirement that those offices remain open during those hours.

The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. NRS 281.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:

281.110. Business required for the efficient transaction of business and the convenience of the persons with whom business is transacted: The offices of all state officers, departments, boards, commissions and agencies must:
The Rainbow Colors

• **Section headings** identify a new NRS provision being added or an existing NRS provision being amended.

• *Italicized and bolded language* is new wording to be added to the NRS.

• **Bracketed and crossed out language** is proposed for deletion.
Advanced Bill Reading

- Sections may enact a provision that will not be added (codified) in the NRS — so-called “transitory” sections.

- Transitory sections are printed in black type (with no bolding, italicizing or color).

- Examples are sections on appropriations, “grandfathering,” and effective dates.
AMENDMENTS TO BILLS

- Amendments can be requested by a committee or be a personal amendment.

- Amendments show the changes in green, purple, red, and orange type – see the key.

- When a bill is amended, the next version is the first reprint and, if amended again, the next version is the second reprint and so on.
EFFECTIVE DATES

- Bills without a specific effective date become law on October 1 after the session.

- Bills effective on “passage and approval” become law when signed by the Governor.

- Bills often are made effective on July 1 of a certain year (to coincide with the start of a fiscal year) but any date can be used.
Statutes of Nevada – Chapter Numbers

- After a bill is passed by both houses, it is enrolled and sent to the Governor for signature.

- After gubernatorial approval (by action or inaction), it goes to the Secretary of State and is assigned a chapter number.

- When the session laws are compiled into the Statutes of Nevada – the bills are put in order according to the chapter number of the bill – not the bill number.
The NRS has 59 “Titles” which are general subject headings.

- Title 1 = State Judicial Department
- Title 17 = State Legislative Department
- Title 18 = State Executive Department
- Title 32 = Revenue and Taxation
- Title 34 = Education

Each Title has chapters - which are different than Statutes of Nevada.

- Preliminary Chapter 0 – contains definition of “population,” “may” and “shall” etc.
- Title 15: Crimes and Punishments – Chapters 193 through 207
- Title 59: Electronic Records & Transactions – Chapters 719 and 720
Resolutions – The Finer Points

- **Simple resolution (A.R. or S.R.):**
  States opinion, purposes, intent of one house.

- **Concurrent Resolution (A.C.R. or S.C.R.):**
  May state opinion/intent of both houses.

- **Joint resolution (A.J.R. or S.J.R):**
  Usually requests federal action, ratifies amendments to U.S. Constitution, or proposes amendments to the Nevada Constitution.
More on Resolutions

• All resolutions are included in the Statutes of Nevada but not in the NRS.

• Resolutions are adopted (not passed).

• Resolutions are assigned file numbers by the Secretary of State (not chapter numbers).
Review – Handout of Examples

- Bill Drafts
- Bill Fronts
- Bill Texts
- Transitory Sections
- Amendments