How a Bill Becomes a Law (The Paper Chase)

Presented by:

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Bill draft requests (BDRs) are received and very short summaries are posted on the Legislature’s 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.
<table>
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<th>Number</th>
<th>Requestor</th>
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<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.</td>
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<td>S.B. 2</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 48-991)


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 $2.00 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 1. 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
Reading a Bill – Page One

- **Heading:** Contains information on who requested bill, to which committee the bill was referred, a summary and BDR number, 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.
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 301—ASSEMBLYMEN OSCARSON, ELLISON; SWANK AND WHEELER

MARCH 15, 2013

J OINT SPONSOR: SENATOR GOICOECHEA

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Requires the Legislative Committee on Public Lands to conduct a study concerning water conservation and alternative sources of water for Nevada communities. (BDR S-807)


EXPLANATION—Matter in **bold italics** is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to water; requiring the Legislative Committee on Public Lands to conduct a study concerning water conservation and alternative sources of water for Nevada communities; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1. Under existing law, the Legislative Committee on Public Lands is authorized to review and comment on the laws, regulations and policies relating to the use, allocation and management of water in this State. (NRS 218E.525) This bill requires the Committee to conduct a study concerning water conservation and alternative sources of water for Nevada communities and to submit a report of its findings and any recommendations for legislation to the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

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

Section 1. 1. The Legislative Committee on Public Lands shall conduct a study during the 2013-2014 interim concerning water conservation and alternative sources of water for Nevada
Rainbow Colors

- **Section headings** identify new NRS provision being added or 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

- Section may enact a language that will not be added (codified) to the NRS – known as “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.
No Limit on Reprints
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 may be made effective on July 1 of a certain year (to coincide with the start of a fiscal year) or January 1 – or any other date desired.
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 to 3 volumes of red and yellow hardbound books.

- **Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS):**
  “Codified” laws published in a multi-volume set of blue notebooks (44+ indices) that are revised after each session.
Bound compilation of all legislation passed or adopted – bills and resolutions – during a specific time period (regular or special sessions).

Statutes of Nevada – Official record of the State’s laws.
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.

Nevada Revised Statutes - Codified laws but not complete record.
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), bill goes to the Secretary of State and assigned a chapter number.

When the “Session Laws” are compiled into the Statutes of Nevada – bills are put in order according to the chapter number of the bill – not the bill number.
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Statutes of the State of Nevada
Sixty-Fourth Session, 1987

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<td>AN ACT relating to control of floods; advancing the effective date of the tax levied for the support of the Clark County Regional Flood Control District; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. Assembly Bill No. 2—Assemblymen McGaughey, Thompson, Schofield, Craddock, Arberry, Wendell Williams, Banner, Gaston, Myrna Williams, Wisdom, Jeffrey, Sedway, Teubs, Callister, Brookman, Spinello, Fay, Triggs, May, Kissam, Porter, DuBois, Garner and Price. Approved February 2, 1987</td>
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<td>AN ACT increasing the authority of the Colorado River commission to issue bonds for certain projects relating to Hoover Dam; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. Senate Bill No. 42—Committee on Government Affairs. Approved February 3, 1987</td>
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<td>AN ACT making supplemental appropriations to the Mental Hygiene and Mental Retardation Division; extending the time within which a certain allocation made by the Interim Finance Committee may be committed for expenditure; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. Senate Bill No. 78—Committee on Finance. Approved February 19, 1987</td>
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<td>AN ACT relating to the incorporation of cities; imposing a temporary moratorium in certain counties on incorporation under the provisions of chapter 266 of NRS; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. Assembly Bill No. 4—Committee on Government Affairs. Approved February 25, 1987</td>
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<td>AN ACT relating to Las Vegas High School; restricting the sale or lease of the real property which is currently the site of the school, its buildings and athletic fields; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. Senate Bill No. 63—Senators Coffin, Vargas, Horn, Beyer, Hickey, Jones, O'Connell, O'Donnell, Raggio, Rawson, Shaffer and Wagner. Approved February 27, 1987</td>
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<td>AN ACT relating to fraudulent conveyances; adopting the Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act; repealing the Uniform Fraudulent Conveyance Act; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. Assembly Bill No. 60—Assemblyman Sader. Approved March 3, 1987</td>
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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 NRS Title has chapters - (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
CHAPTER 200
CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON

HOMICIDE

NRS 200.010  “Murder” defined.
NRS 200.020  Malice: Express and implied defined.
NRS 200.030  Degrees of murder; penalties.
NRS 200.033  Circumstances aggravating first degree murder.
NRS 200.035  Circumstances mitigating first degree murder.
NRS 200.040  “Manslaughter” defined.
NRS 200.050  “Voluntary manslaughter” defined.
NRS 200.060  When killing punished as murder.
NRS 200.070  “Involuntary manslaughter” defined.
NRS 200.080  Punishment for voluntary manslaughter.
NRS 200.090  Punishment for involuntary manslaughter.
NRS 200.110  Place of trial for homicide.
NRS 200.120  “Justifiable homicide” defined; no duty to retreat under certain circumstances.
NRS 200.130  Bare fear insufficient to justify killing; reasonable fear required.
NRS 200.140  Justifiable homicide by public officer.
NRS 200.150  Justifiable or excusable homicide.
NRS 200.160  Additional cases of justifiable homicide.
NRS 200.170  Burden of proving circumstances of mitigation or justifiable or excusable homicide.
NRS 200.180  Excusable homicide by misadventure.
NRS 200.190  Justifiable or excusable homicide not punishable.
NRS 200.210  Killing of unborn quick child; penalty.
NRS 200.220  Taking drugs to terminate pregnancy; penalty.
NRS 200.230  Death resulting from overloading of passenger vessel; penalties.
NRS 200.240  Owner of animal that kills human being guilty of manslaughter under certain circumstances; penalty.
NRS 200.260  Death resulting from unlawful manufacture or storage of explosives; penalty.

BODILY INJURY

NRS 200.275  Justifiable infliction or threat of bodily injury not punishable.
NRS 200.278  Information required to be provided to school district of person in secondary school who causes serious bodily injury.

MAYHEM

NRS 200.280  Definition; penalty.
NRS 200.290  Instrument or manner of inflicting injury immaterial.

200-1 (2013)
Resolutions – 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 are not codified in the NRS.

- Resolutions are adopted (not passed).

- Resolutions are assigned File Numbers by the Secretary of State (rather than chapter numbers).
Review – Handout of Examples

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