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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 10, 2010

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Legislative Commission's Committee to Study Powers Delegated to Local Governments** (Senate Bill 264, Chapter 462, *Statutes of Nevada 2009*)

Date: Thursday, February 18, 2010  
Time: 9 a.m.  
Place: Grant Sawyer State Office Building  
Room 4401  
555 E. Washington Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
Videoconference:  
Legislative Building  
Room 3138  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada

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### **POWERS DELEGATED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (S.B. 264)**

Senator John J. Lee (D-Las Vegas) announced today that the Legislative Commission's Committee to Study Powers Delegated to Local Governments will hold its first meeting on Thursday, February 18, 2010, at 9 a.m. in Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building in Las Vegas. The meeting will be simultaneously videoconferenced to Room 3138 of the Legislative Building in Carson City. An agenda is attached with this news release.

Senator Lee, Chair of the Committee, explained that the meeting will begin with an overview of Senate Bill 264 of the 2009 Legislative Session, which authorized the interim study, followed by several presentations concerning local government powers and "home rule." Home rule refers to the concept of local self-governance and the powers granted to the citizens of a local area to structure, organize, and empower their local government. Nevada is considered a state without home rule for local governments, as few constitutional and statutory

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provisions exist in Nevada relating to home rule authority. **“For many years, local governments have had to bring localized issues to the Legislature for consideration,”** Lee noted. **“One of the goals of this interim study is to identify those issues that are better addressed at the local level and explore the possibility of giving more flexibility to local governments.”**

The Committee will also hear an update of the activities and scope of the Interim Technical Advisory Committee for Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR), which was also created by S.B. 264. The ACIR consists of six local government representatives and three State agency representatives and is charged with fostering communication and cooperation among the State government and local governments, serving as a forum for discussion among governments regarding State and local powers, and reporting to the full S.B. 264 Committee. Also on the agenda are presentations from former State Senator Warren B. Hardy II and a brief overview of government consolidation efforts in Clark and Washoe Counties.

Senator Lee has identified several specific local government operations and powers that may be more suitably addressed at the local level. These topics, which will be discussed at the February 18, 2010, meeting, include county elected official salaries, local naming rights, certain parity issues between cities and counties, and city charters and charter amendments. The Committee will also discuss the concept of possibly authorizing county governments to operate under a charter similar to some cities. **“We want to examine a number of local powers and duties to ensure that government operates efficiently and effectively,”** Lee concluded. **“Identifying the proper level of government to deliver essential services can save tax dollars and streamline both State and local operations.”** A period for public comment will also be provided.

The other members of the Committee to Study the Powers Delegated to Local Governments are Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair (D-North Las Vegas), Senator Terry Care (D-Las Vegas), Senator Mike McGinness (R-Fallon), Assemblyman Pete Goicoechea (R-Eureka), and Assemblyman Tick Segerblom (D-Las Vegas).

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