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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 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, April 22, 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 second meeting on Thursday, April 22, 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.

The Committee is charged with examining the structure, formation, functions, and powers of local governments in the State of Nevada. **"Given the current budget crisis, there has never been a better time to discuss the critical role of local government and the provision of key services,"** Lee explained. **"Nevada is not a 'home rule' state, and one of the primary goals of this interim study is to find ways to give local governments greater flexibility in their general functions and operations."** The study will, among other things, discuss the

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feasibility of increasing the powers of local governments and consider recommendations made by the Interim Technical Advisory Committee for Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR), which was created at the same time as the interim legislative committee. The ACIR includes six local government representatives and three representatives of State agencies and is due to make its final report to the interim legislative committee by June 1, 2010.

Senator Lee, Chair of the Committee, explained that the meeting will begin with a comparison of general law and charter forms of municipal government from Steve Driscoll, Assistant City Manager for the City of Sparks. This will be followed by an update on the activities of the ACIR and a discussion of preliminary recommendations from the ACIR. One anticipated recommendation is to draft legislation establishing a permanent ACIR for Nevada. **“A permanent intergovernmental relations committee consisting of local, state, and legislative representatives is long overdue,”** Senator Lee noted. **“Nevada needs a permanent body where the issues of local governments can be openly discussed, thoroughly vetted, and then taken to the Legislature for consideration. I believe this will help streamline government, save money, and help us determine which level of government can most efficiently and effectively provide certain services.”**

In addition, the Committee will receive updates on other possible proposals, including the authorization of counties to operate under a county charter and changing Nevada law regarding the method of setting the salaries for certain county elected officials. Also on the agenda is a discussion of possible approaches the Committee may use to provide greater “home rule” for local government for broad “day-to-day” functions and a proposed recommendation to allow local governments to sell naming rights to parks or certain recreational or public facilities.

Finally, in advance of its final meeting and work session scheduled for June 23, 2010, the Committee will be soliciting recommendations from the public regarding powers delegated to local governments. **“In June, the Committee will be reviewing and approving final recommendations for Committee action, and we’re offering an opportunity for the public to make suggestions early so we can get a head start on developing a set of proposals,”** Lee concluded. **“I cannot guarantee that every suggestion will be included in the final “Work Session Document”; however, we want to hear as many ideas as possible. We’re also accepting written recommendations,”** Lee added.

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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