



**PRESESSION ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW LEGISLATORS 2011
BRIEFINGS ON SELECTED POLICY ISSUES
NOVEMBER 30 AND DECEMBER 7, 2010
*Revised: November 29, 2010***

Tuesday, November 30

Location: Room 4100, Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada, and Room 4401, Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Las Vegas, Nevada, with a videoconference to Great Basin College, Room 118, Greenhaw Technical Arts Building, 1500 College Parkway, Elko, Nevada.

8:30 a.m. — Health and Human Services

In this session, legislators will briefly review major health and human services topics, including an overview of recent federal health care reforms; Medicaid and Nevada Check Up; caseload growth for certain supportive services; issues concerning children, senior adults, and persons with disabilities; public health concerns; and mental health and development services. Legislators will also receive information on the roles of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and local governments. The session will conclude with a discussion regarding the process in Nevada for determining: (a) whether certain health and human services are essential services or optional services; and (b) who should provide the services.

Tentative Presenters: Michael J. Willden, Director, DHHS; Mary Liveratti, Deputy Director, DHHS; Nancy McLane, Director, Clark County Social Service Department; Marsheilah D. Lyons, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB); and Amber J. Joiner, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB.

10:45 a.m. — Economic Development and Energy

Legislators will receive an overview of Nevada's energy industry. The presentation will include federal and State jurisdictional differences, including the role of the federal Bureau of Land Management in generation and transmission siting decisions, funding for energy under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), State energy regulatory and advisory apparatus, and the energy industry structure.

In the second part of this session, legislators will receive information on economic development programs in Nevada. The session will cover Nevada's Commission on Economic Development (NCED), county and regional development authorities, and partners in such key areas as education, renewable energy, and workforce development. Legislators will learn about recent accomplishments in global business development as well as other economic strategies employed by NCED. Legislators will be briefed on strengths, weaknesses, and current issues in the economic development environment.

Tentative Presenters: Michael E. Skaggs, Executive Director, NCED; Rebecca D. Wagner, Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada; Jim Groth, Director, Office of Energy, Office of the Governor; and Scott Young, Principal Policy and Special Projects Analyst, Research Division, LCB.

12:45 p.m. — LUNCH

1:30 p.m. — Public Employees: Benefits, Retirement, and Collective Bargaining

At this briefing, legislators will receive information on the Public Employees' Benefits Program (PEBP) and how the budget shortfall is being shifted to active employees and retirees either through decreased benefits or increased premiums.

In the second part of this session, legislators will receive an overview of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Nevada (PERS), which is a tax-qualified defined benefit plan that provides retirement and disability benefits to State employees, police and firefighters, nonprofessional staff of the Nevada System of Higher Education, county and city employees, and school district and other local district employees. The Legislature oversees PERS, although PERS has an independent board with an executive director and staff who handle day-to-day operations. The Legislative Retirement System is one of two additional retirement systems overseen by PERS for a specific group of public employees. The other system, the Judicial Retirement System, includes Supreme Court and District Court Judges, as well as local judges. The presentation will include PERS' structure, benefit design, eligibility requirements, and contribution rates and mechanisms, and the unfunded liability payment.

The final part of this session will cover the statutes and issues relating to collective bargaining for local governments and their employees. The presentation will include the formation of employee bargaining units, the role of the Local Government Employee-Management Relations Board, mandatory and permissive subjects of collective bargaining, and the dispute resolution processes.

Tentative Presenters: James R. Wells, Executive Officer, PEBP; Dana K. Bilyeu, Executive Officer, PERS; James W. Penrose, Partner, Dyer Lawrence Law Firm, Carson City; and Dan Tarwater, Human Resources Director, City of Las Vegas.

Tuesday, December 7

Location: Room 4100, Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada, and Room 4401, Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Las Vegas, Nevada, with a videoconference to Great Basin College, Room 118, Greenhaw Technical Arts Building, 1500 College Parkway, Elko, Nevada.

8:30 a.m. — Transportation

This session will provide an overview of current transportation issues. The presentation will include the role of State and local agencies in developing and maintaining Nevada's transportation system from the perspective of Nevada's Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Additionally, the presentation will provide a summary of the recommendations made by the Nevada Vision Stakeholder Group concerning transportation.

Tentative Presenters: Edgar Roberts, Director, DMV; Susan Martinovich, P.E., Director, NDOT; Scott Rawlins, P.E., C.P.M., Deputy Director/Chief Engineer, NDOT; Rudy Malfabon, P.E., Deputy Director, Southern Nevada, NDOT; and Terry J. Reynolds, The Reynolds Company, and member, Nevada Vision Stakeholder Group.

10:45 a.m. — Education: Public K-12 and Higher Education in Nevada

Legislative staff will provide an overview of the two major public education systems in Nevada. The Superintendent of Public Instruction will then provide a briefing about K-12 education, including governance; the basic structure of school funding; demographic information on school districts, licensed staff and students; graduation rates; selected state rankings; and state-funded categorical programs.

Next, the Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) will provide information concerning the various System institutions; System goals; and student demographics including enrollment data and graduation rates.

Tentative Presenters: Keith Rheault, Ph.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction; Daniel J. Klaich, Chancellor, NSHE; Crystal Abba, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academics and Student Affairs, NSHE; H. Pepper Sturm, Chief Deputy Research Director, Research Division, LCB; and Melinda Martini, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB.

12:45 p.m. — LUNCH

1:30 p.m. — Reapportionment and Redistricting

During this briefing, legislators will learn the basics of the reapportionment and redistricting process in Nevada. The program will begin with a general overview of the requirements for this process, along with a brief review of the history of reapportionment and redistricting and potential scenarios for drawing legislative districts based on population estimates. This will be followed by an overview of the LCB's work with the United States Census Bureau in preparation for reapportionment and redistricting. A review of the legal requirements and parameters under which reapportionment and redistricting must be conducted will also be provided. In addition, the session will include a discussion of the available computer technology and functions of the LCB's Information Technology Services Unit relating to redistricting. The session will conclude with a review of the anticipated timeline for reapportionment and redistricting during the 2011 Legislative Session and an overview of the findings and recommendations of the Legislative Commission's Committee to Study the Requirements for Reapportionment and Redistricting (Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 19, File No. 76, *Statutes of Nevada 2009*).

Presenters: Patrick Guinan, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB (Moderator); Michael J. Stewart, Supervising Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB; Brian L. Davie, Legislative Services Officer, Las Vegas Office, LCB; Eileen G. O'Grady, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB; Kristin C. Roberts, Senior Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB; Kathy Steinle, Support Services Manager and GIS Specialist, Information Technology Services Unit, LCB; and Lorne J. Malkiewich, Director, LCB.

3:45 p.m. — Mining

Legislators will receive information on the mining industry from the perspective of the Nevada Mining Association. The presentation will include an overview of mining's role in the social and economic development in Nevada.

Tentative Presenter: Tim Crowley, President, Nevada Mining Association