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JOINT INTERIM STANDING COMMITTEE ON GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE BRIEF
2021–2022 INTERIM
JANUARY 12, 2022

INTRODUCTION

The Joint Interim Standing Committee on Growth and Infrastructure (Committee) considers topics related to transportation and energy, including the following:

- Highways, roads, and bridges;
- Mass transit projects;
- Motor carriers;
- Motor vehicles, including motorcycles and off-highway vehicles;
- Traffic safety and laws, including bicycles and pedestrian issues;
- Energy policy;
- Public utilities; and
- Renewable energy policy and programs.

This committee brief provides an overview of potential transportation and energy issues the Committee may consider during the 2021–2022 Legislative Interim; relevant audits, reports, and studies; meeting dates; and staff contact information.

MEMBERS

The following legislators have been appointed to the Committee:

- Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Chair;
- Senator Dallas Harris, Vice Chair;
- Senator Chris Brooks;
- Senator Scott T. Hammond;
- Assemblyman John C. Ellison;
- Assemblyman Glen Leavitt;
- Assemblyman C.H. Miller; and
- Assemblyman Howard Watts III.

The following legislators serve as alternates:

- Senator Keith F. Pickard;
- Senator Patricia (Pat) Spearman;
- Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May;
- Assemblywoman Melissa Hardy; and
- Assemblywoman Shondra Summers-Armstrong.

ASSEMBLY BILL 443

[Assembly Bill 443](#) (2021) created the Joint Interim Committee on Growth and Infrastructure. The jurisdiction and members of the standing Senate and Assembly Committees on Growth and Infrastructure are reflected in the Committee.

In addition, the Legislative Committee on Energy was repealed, and the duties and responsibilities related to the committee were transferred to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Growth and Infrastructure, which include evaluating, reviewing, and commenting on energy use and policy in Nevada.

Further, the Committee may request up to ten bill drafts requests on issues that address transportation and energy.

PRIORITY ISSUES OF STUDY

The Committee will focus its time and attention primarily on issues related to:

- Broadband infrastructure;
- Electric vehicles, including electrification of highways and infrastructure;
- Energy, including renewable energy, energy markets, and workforce development;
- Implementation and impacts of the [State Climate Strategy](#); and
- Transportation infrastructure, safety, and supply chain issues.

The Committee may pursue any other matters in its jurisdiction as needed based on current events.

RELEVANT REPORTS

A variety of reports and audits are available regarding transportation and energy issues in Nevada, including reports produced by legislative committees, executive branch agencies and boards, published by the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), or mandated by statute.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES—2019–2020 INTERIM COMMITTEE BULLETINS

During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Commission on Special License Plates was abolished, and its duties and responsibilities transferred to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) ([AB 188](#)). Also, the Legislative Committee on Energy was repealed, and its duties and responsibilities transferred to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Growth and Infrastructure (AB 443). The following are summaries of the committee's legislative bulletins from the 2019–2020 Interim:

[Commission on Special License Plates](#)—The Commission on Special License Plates was a permanent committee of the Legislature authorized to approve or disapprove applications for special license plates. The final report of the Commission for the 2019–2020 Interim is [LCB Bulletin No. 21-21, Commission on Special License Plates, February 2021](#). This report highlights the activities of the Commission during the 2019–2020 Interim and lists the various special license plates the Commission recommended for approval by the DMV. The Commission requested the drafting of four bills. The following two bills were passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor:

- Revises provisions governing punitive actions concerning special license plates ([AB 150](#)); and
- Abolishes the Commission on Special License Plates (AB 188).

Legislative Committee on Energy—The Legislative Committee on Energy was a permanent committee of the Legislature authorized to evaluate, review, and comment on energy use and policy in Nevada. The final report of the Committee for the 2019–2020 Interim is [LCB Bulletin No 21-16, Legislative Committee on Energy, December 2020](#). The report summarizes the activities of the Committee during the interim and its final recommendations, including the drafting of two bills that would:

- **Require Nevada’s Department of Transportation** (NDOT) to establish a working group to study certain issues related to transportation ([AB 413](#)). [The Nevada Department of Transportation created the Nevada Sustainable Transportation Funding Study and Advisory Working Group](#), which must prepare and submit a written report describing its activities, findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Nevada Legislature by December 31, 2022.
- Amend the *Nevada Constitution* to revise provisions limiting the use of vehicle fees and fuel taxes. ([Assembly Joint Resolution 6](#), did not pass).

REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES AND BOARDS

The Office of Energy Office of the Governor (GOE), prepares an annual status of energy report ([2020 Status of Energy Report](#)).

In December 2020, pursuant to Governor Sisolak’s [Executive Order 2019–22](#), the GOE and the Division of Environmental Protection, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, issued the inaugural version of the Nevada State Climate Strategy ([State of Nevada Climate Initiative: 2020 Climate Strategy](#) [climateaction.nv.gov]).

Nevada’s Department of Transportation, as well as other transportation entities, must present reports to the Legislature each session as required by Nevada law. These reports are available in **the LCB’s** Research Library and on the [Research Library’s](#) webpage, as well as NELIS.

STATUTORILY MANDATED REPORTS			
Entity	Reference	Scope of Report	Due Date
NDOT	Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 244A.638	Annual report on highway construction projects undertaken with money received from issuance of bonds. For transmittal to the Interim Finance Committee (IFC).	Annually by December 31
NDOT	NRS 408.133	Plan for measuring performance of Department; report on level of achievement. For transmittal to the IFC.	Annually by December 31
NDOT	NRS 408.203(1) and 408.203(2)	Report concerning the four-year and ten-year plans for the construction and maintenance of highways. For transmittal to the chairs of the Standing Committees on Transportation.	October 1 of even-numbered years
NDOT	NRS 408.203(3)	Report to the Legislature concerning the ten-year plan for resurfacing of state highways.	February 1 of odd-numbered years
NDOT	NRS 408.203(4)	Report concerning all mobile equipment eliminated by outsourcing, purchased, or leased in the preceding two fiscal years. For transmittal to the Legislature.	February 1 of odd-numbered years

STATUTORILY MANDATED REPORTS			
Entity	Reference	Scope of Report	Due Date
DMV	<u>NRS 487.557</u>	Report concerning garages, garage operators, and body shops. For transmittal to the Legislature and the Chairs of the Standing Committees on Transportation.	Annually or before January 1
Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Southern Nevada	<u>Senate Bill 506</u> (2011)	Report concerning the demonstration project for the development of the Boulder City Bypass. For transmittal to the Legislature.	Annually by February 1
Nevada Transportation Authority	<u>AB 176</u> (2015)	Report on limits of coverage required for transportation network companies.	Annually by December 1

RESEARCH DIVISION PUBLICATIONS

In addition to Executive Branch reports regarding transportation issues provided to the Legislature, the Research Division **publishes policy papers on current “hot” topics and** major policy areas that are available [online](#). Topics covered include autonomous vehicles, driver authorization cards, driving under the influence, and special license plates.

2021–2022 MEETING DATES

- January 11, 2022;
- March 9, 2022;
- May 11, 2022;
- June 8, 2022; and
- July 27, 2022

STAFF SERVICES

Legislative Counsel Bureau staff for the Committee during the 2021–2022 Legislative Interim include:

Research Division (775) 684-6825

- Marjorie Paslov Thomas, Senior Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division, LCB
- Christina Harper, Acting Manager of Research Policy Assistants, Research Division, LCB

Legal Division (775) 684-6830

- Jessica Dummer, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB

Fiscal Analysis Division (775) 684-6821

- Julie Waller, Principal Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB

RESEARCH DIVISION ASSISTANCE

The mission of the Research Division is to serve the Nevada Legislature and its standing and interim committees—in a professional and nonpartisan manner—by providing useful, accurate, and timely information concerning public policy issues. The Research Division is available to provide the Committee and its members with assistance on any issue related to matters before the Committee. In addition, the Research Division provides individual members of the Legislature with information and assistance, on a confidential basis, on any topic and may be reached by telephone at (775) 684-6825 or via email at research@lcb.state.nv.us.