



WORK SESSION DOCUMENT

JOINT INTERIM STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

(Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS] [218E.320](#))

August 23, 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Chair and Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) staff of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Government Affairs have prepared this "Work Session Document" (WSD) to assist the Committee in determining which legislative measures it will request for the 2025 Session of the Nevada Legislature as well as other actions the Committee may endorse. The WSD contains a summary of recommendations presented during public meetings, through communication with individual Committee Members, or through correspondence submitted to Committee Members or staff.

The Members of the Committee do not necessarily support or oppose the recommendations in this WSD. Committee staff has compiled and organized the proposals so Committee Members can review them and decide whether they want to accept, reject, modify, or take no action on the recommendations. The WSD groups the proposals by topic and they are not preferentially ordered.

Pursuant to [NRS 218D.160](#), the Committee is limited to ten legislative measures, which includes both bill draft requests (BDRs) and requests for the drafting of resolutions. The Committee may vote to: (1) send as many statements or letters of recommendation or support as it chooses; and (2) include statements in its final report. Additionally, subsection 3 of NRS [218E.325](#) requires that any recommended legislation proposed by the Committee must be approved by a majority of the Members of the Senate and a majority of the Members of the Assembly serving on the Committee.

Committee Members are advised that LCB staff, at the direction of the Chair, may coordinate with interested parties to obtain additional information for drafting purposes or for information to be included in the Committee's final report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. **Request the drafting of a bill** to require a natural person to make decisions during emergency management situations regarding the allocation of resources and response planning.

Requested by Chair Torres, Joint Interim Standing Committee on Government Affairs, based on testimony provided at the meeting held on May 30, 2024.

B. COPPER WIRE THEFTS

2. **Request the drafting of a bill** to make it illegal to possess certain types of copper wire.

Discussed as a possible recommendation during the meeting held on May 30, 2024, during the presentation by the Nevada Urban Consortium.

C. CYBER SECURITY

3. **Request the drafting of a bill** to: (1) make the Nevada Office of Cyber Defense Coordination, Department of Public Safety, an independent agency; (2) set the minimum qualifications for the Executive Director; and (3) require reports of data incidents or security breaches for public entities, public utilities, infrastructure entities, and certain private entities to be submitted to the Nevada Office of Cyber Defense Coordination.

Requested by Chair Torres, Joint Interim Standing Committee on Government Affairs, based on testimony provided at the meetings held on February 22 and May 30, 2024.

4. **Send a letter** to the Governor to encourage the State to expedite the migration of public websites from .com to .gov for the purposes of improving security.

Requested by Chair Torres, Joint Interim Standing Committee on Government Affairs, based on testimony provided at the meeting held on May 30, 2024.

D. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

5. **Request the drafting of a bill** to appropriate \$5 million to the Governor's Office for New Americans (ONA) to provide grants to local governments to implement language access plans. Of the \$5 million appropriation, no more than \$200,000 may be used by ONA to administer the grant program.

Requested by Chair Torres, Joint Interim Standing Committee on Government Affairs, based on testimony provided at the meetings held on February 22 and May 30, 2024.

6. **Request the drafting of a bill** to include the provisions of [Senate Bill 169](#) (2023), as approved by the Legislature, which requires certain local governments to include a heat mitigation element in master plans, including a plan to develop heat mitigation strategies such as cooling spaces, public drinking water, shade over paved surfaces, and urban tree canopies.

Requested by Jackie Spicer, Climate Equity Policy Fellow, Nevada Environmental Justice Coalition.

7. **Send a letter** to local governments in Clark County requesting them to consider creating a mosquito abatement district to improve coordination and ensure there is a comprehensive approach to controlling mosquitos and other vectors.

Requested by Chair Torres, Joint Interim Standing Committee on Government Affairs, based on testimony provided at the meeting held on April 16, 2024.

E. NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD

8. **Request the drafting of a bill** to make workers' compensation for injuries or death benefits for National Guard members, serving under State authority, equivalent to benefits provided while serving under federal authority.

Requested by Major General Ondra L. Berry, Adjutant General, Nevada National Guard, Office of the Military.

F. PEACE OFFICER WELLNESS

9. **Request the drafting of a bill** to create a Blue-Ribbon Panel/Task Force on Peace Officer Wellness. The panel, composed of various stakeholders throughout the State, will study state-level policies to support officers and other positions within law enforcement regarding their personal wellness by looking at best practices across the country. Additional topics to study include, but are not limited to, mandatory mental wellness checks for officers and staff, and the use of peer support officers.

Requested by Chair Torres, Joint Interim Standing Committee on Government Affairs, based on testimony provided at the meeting held on February 22, 2024.

G. PUBLIC RECORDS

10. **Request the drafting of a bill** to create the Office of the Public Records Ombudsman in the Executive Branch to help resolve disputes arising from records requests made under Nevada's public records law (Chapter 239 ["Public Records"] of NRS).

Requested by Chair Torres, Joint Interim Standing Committee on Government Affairs, based on testimony provided at the meetings held on February 22 and May 30, 2024.

H. PREVAILING WAGE

11. **Request the drafting of a bill** to: (1) create three new positions in the Office of the Labor Commissioner, Department of Business and Industry, to enforce wage and hour provisions of Chapter 338 ("Public Works") of NRS; and (2) revise [NRS 338.070](#) to provide that a public body awarding a contract is not required to conduct an investigation and is only required to report possible violations committed in the course of the execution of a contract to the Labor Commissioner to investigate.

Requested by Assemblyman Carter based on testimony provided at the meeting held on May 30, 2024.

I. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

12. **Request the drafting of a bill** to include the provisions of [Assembly Bill 222](#) (2023), which provides for an employee of a school district, who is a member of the Public Employees' Retirement System, to receive a full year of service credit if the employee works at least 900 hours in a school year.

Requested by Assemblyman Carter.