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**MEMORANDUM**

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**Date:** December 19, 2024

**To:** Chairman and Members of the Legislative Commission

**From:** Diane Thornton, Acting Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau

**Subject:** Transmittal of Budgets of Legislative Counsel Bureau and Interim Nevada Legislature

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I am seeking approval of the Legislative Commission to transmit a proposed budget for the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) and Interim Nevada Legislature to the Governor's Office of Finance, pursuant to subsection 6 of NRS 353.210, for inclusion in the Executive Budget for the 2025-2027 Biennium. The proposed budget for the LCB and Interim Nevada Legislature calls for appropriations totaling approximately \$101.9 million for fiscal year 2026 and \$102.2 million for fiscal year 2027. This total proposed biennial appropriation of \$204.1 million represents an increase of approximately \$52.6 million (35%) from the appropriation approved for the current 2023-2025 Biennium of \$151.5 million. Included in the aforementioned totals are the budgets for the Interim Nevada Legislature, which call for appropriations totaling approximately \$4.8 million for both fiscal years of the 2025-2027 Biennium.

Preparing a balanced budget that enabled the LCB to adequately function and serve the needs of the Legislature and all its constituents in the 2025-2027 Biennium required that the budgeted appropriations be increased to match budgeted expenditures. Overall, the increase in budgeted expenditures is primarily due to the expansion of the LCB's operations in Southern Nevada, which includes the addition of three buildings and two parking garages. The facilities in Southern Nevada will provide additional public meeting rooms and offices for use by Legislators and LCB Staff.

### **Administrative Division – LCB**

The budget request for the 2025-2027 Biennium includes General Fund appropriations totaling approximately \$57.0 million for FY 2026 and approximately \$56.4 million for FY 2027 for the support of the Administrative Division. The Administrative Division operates and maintains all of the LCB’s facilities, provides information technology and accounting services, and includes the Director’s Office and Legislative Police.

### **Audit Division – LCB**

The budget request for the 2025-2027 Biennium includes General Fund appropriations totaling approximately \$10.0 million for FY 2026 and approximately \$10.1 million for FY 2027 for the support of the Audit Division.

### **Fiscal Analysis Division – LCB**

The budget request for the 2025-2027 Biennium includes General Fund appropriations totaling approximately \$6.2 million for FY 2026 and approximately \$6.2 for FY 2027 for the support of the Fiscal Analysis Division.

### **Legal Division – LCB**

The budget request for the 2025-2027 Biennium includes General Fund appropriations totaling approximately \$17.0 million for FY 2026 and approximately \$17.9 million for FY 2027 for the support of the Legal Division.

### **Research Division – LCB**

The budget request for the 2025-2027 Biennium includes General Fund appropriations totaling approximately \$8.7 million for FY 2026 and approximately \$8.7 million for FY 2027 for the support of the Research Division.

### **State Printing Office**

The State Printing Office is administered by the Director’s Office of the LCB within the Administrative Division. The office’s revenues come primarily from the sale of documents printed at the request of the Legislature and other state and local government entities. The budget request for the State Printing Office includes revenues and expenditures totaling approximately \$3.5 million in Fiscal year 2026 and \$3.5 million in fiscal year 2027.

### **Legislative Commission**

The budget request for the 2025-2027 Biennium includes General Fund appropriations totaling approximately \$550,000 for FY 2026 and approximately \$470,000 for FY 2027 for the support of the Legislative Commission and Legislative Committees.

**Interim Nevada Legislature**

As indicated previously, the budget request for the 2025-2027 Biennium includes General Fund appropriations totaling approximately \$2.4 million for fiscal year 2026 and \$2.4 million for fiscal year 2027 for support of the Senate and Assembly permanent legislative staff.

**One-Shot/CIP Appropriation**

I am requesting authority to transmit to the Governor a request for an appropriation totaling \$264,853,380 that includes the payment of dues to national organizations, and funding for construction, improvement and renovation projects.

**Conclusion**

In granting the authority to transmit this proposed budget to the Governor’s Finance Office for inclusion in the Executive Budget for the upcoming Biennium, the Legislative Commission is not formally approving the proposed budget. The Commission is merely granting authority for transmittal to the Governor’s Office. During the 2025 Session, the budget will be presented to the money committees for consideration and the appropriate level of funding for the Legislative Department will be determined.

I would request the Commission’s authority to change our budgets as necessary between now and the completion of the Executive Budget to ensure that the compensation of Legislative Branch employees remains commensurate to that of Executive Branch employees, should any changes to compensation occur. I also request that I be authorized to adjust statewide rates as necessary to ensure our budget conforms with the Governor’s recommended budget to the extent possible. Finally, I request approval to balance forward appropriations amounts from fiscal year 2026 to fiscal year 2027 as needed to ensure both fiscal years’ budgets are in balance when the budget is finalized.