

---

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 227—ASSEMBLYMEN ELLISON, WHEELER, HANSEN, HICKEY, HARDY; PAUL ANDERSON, BUSTAMANTE ADAMS, CARRILLO, DUNCAN, FIORE, FLORES, GRADY, HAMBRICK, HEALEY, KIRKPATRICK, KIRNER, LIVERMORE, NEAL, OHRENSCHALL, OSCARSON, SPIEGEL, STEWART AND WOODBURY

MARCH 11, 2013

---

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS GOICOECHEA, GUSTAVSON, ROBERSON, HUTCHISON, HAMMOND; ATKINSON, BROWER, CEGAVSKE, DENIS, HARDY, JONES, KIECKHEFER, KIHUEN, MANENDO, PARKS, SETTELMEYER, SPEARMAN AND WOODHOUSE

---

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Creates the Nevada Land Management Implementation Committee to conduct a study addressing the transfer of certain public lands in this State. (BDR S-594)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

---

AN ACT relating to public lands; creating the Nevada Land Management Implementation Committee to conduct a study addressing the transfer of public lands in Nevada from the Federal Government to the State of Nevada; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

1 This bill creates the Nevada Land Management Implementation Committee,  
2 consisting of a representative from each county in this State appointed by the board  
3 of county commissioners, to conduct a study during the 2013-2014 legislative  
4 interim to address the transfer of public lands in Nevada from the Federal  
5 Government to the State of Nevada, in contemplation of Congress turning over the  
6 management and control of those public lands to the State of Nevada on or before  
7 June 30, 2015. The Committee is required to submit a report of its findings and



\* A B 2 2 7 \*

8 recommendations to the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature on or before  
9 February 1, 2015. This Committee is similar to an interim commission that is being  
10 recommended for creation in the State of Utah to study issues relating to the  
11 transfer of public lands in Utah from the Federal Government to the State of Utah.  
12 (House Bill No. 148, 2012 Utah Laws, ch. 353, § 5)

---

1 WHEREAS, Unlike the eastern states that received dominion over  
2 their lands upon joining the Union, the western states have been  
3 placed in an inferior position as a result of the Federal Government  
4 withholding a significant portion of land from those states as a  
5 condition of admission to the Union; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the Congressional Research Service, as  
7 of 2010, the Federal Government manages and controls  
8 approximately 640 million acres, or about 28 percent of the 2.27  
9 billion acres, of land in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, The highest concentration of land managed and  
11 controlled by the Federal Government is in Alaska (61.8 percent)  
12 and the 11 coterminous western states, namely Arizona (42.3  
13 percent), California (47.7 percent), Colorado (36.2 percent), Idaho  
14 (61.7 percent), Montana (28.9 percent), Nevada (81.1 percent), New  
15 Mexico (34.7 percent), Oregon (53.0 percent), Utah (66.5 percent),  
16 Washington (28.5 percent) and Wyoming (48.2 percent); and

17 WHEREAS, In contrast, the Federal Government only manages  
18 and controls 4 percent of the land in the states east of those western  
19 states; and

20 WHEREAS, The state with the highest percentage of lands within  
21 its boundaries that is managed and controlled by the Federal  
22 Government is Nevada, with over 80 percent of its lands being  
23 managed and controlled by various federal agencies, including the  
24 Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the United  
25 States Forest Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
26 and the Department of Energy; and

27 WHEREAS, Increased control by the State of Nevada over the  
28 public lands within its borders would benefit the residents of  
29 Nevada significantly by allowing the State to balance the economic,  
30 recreational and other critical interests of its residents, with special  
31 emphasis on the multiple uses that are allowed presently on the  
32 public lands; and

33 WHEREAS, In March 2012, legislation was enacted in the State  
34 of Utah that, among other things, requires the Federal Government  
35 to turn over management and control of the public lands in Utah to  
36 the State of Utah and requires the study of various issues that may  
37 arise during such a transfer; and

38 WHEREAS, Other western states are considering the enactment  
39 of similar laws and momentum is building towards the Federal



1 Government turning over management and control of certain public  
2 lands to the western states; and

3 WHEREAS, In light of the magnitude of federal management and  
4 control of public lands in Nevada, a study by the State of Nevada, in  
5 contemplation of Congress turning over the management and  
6 control of public lands in Nevada to the State of Nevada on or  
7 before June 30, 2015, would assist in ensuring that the transfer  
8 proceeds in a timely and orderly manner; now therefore

9  
10 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
11 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:  
12

13 **Section 1.** 1. The Nevada Land Management  
14 Implementation Committee, consisting of 17 members, is hereby  
15 created. Within 30 days after the effective date of this act, the board  
16 of county commissioners of each county shall appoint one member  
17 to the Committee.

18 2. A vacancy on the Committee must be filled in the same  
19 manner as the original appointment.

20 3. The Committee shall hold its first meeting on or before  
21 July 1, 2013. At the first meeting, the Committee shall elect a Chair  
22 and Vice Chair from among its members.

23 4. While engaged in the business of the Committee, each  
24 member of the Committee is entitled to receive such per diem  
25 allowance and travel expenses as provided by the board of county  
26 commissioners that appointed the member. Each board of county  
27 commissioners shall pay the per diem allowance and travel expenses  
28 required by this subsection to the member that is appointed by that  
29 board of county commissioners.

30 5. The Legislative Counsel Bureau shall provide such  
31 administrative support to the Committee as is necessary to carry out  
32 the duties of the Committee.

33 6. The Committee shall conduct a study to address the transfer  
34 of public lands in Nevada from the Federal Government to the State  
35 of Nevada in contemplation of Congress turning over the  
36 management and control of those public lands to the State of  
37 Nevada on or before June 30, 2015. The study must include, without  
38 limitation:

39 (a) An identification of the public lands to be transferred and the  
40 interests, rights and uses associated with those lands;

41 (b) The development of a proposed plan for the administration,  
42 management and use of the public lands, including, without  
43 limitation, the designation of wilderness or other conservation areas  
44 or the sale, lease or other disposition of those lands; and



1 (c) An economic analysis concerning the transfer of the public  
2 lands, including, without limitation:

3 (1) The identification of the costs directly incident to the  
4 transfer of title of those lands;

5 (2) The identification of sources of revenue to pay for the  
6 administration and maintenance of those lands by the State of  
7 Nevada;

8 (3) A determination of the amount of any revenue that is  
9 currently received by the State of Nevada or a political subdivision  
10 of this State in connection with those lands, including, without  
11 limitation, any payments made in lieu of taxes and mineral leases;  
12 and

13 (4) The identification of any potential revenue to be received  
14 from those lands by the State of Nevada after the transfer of the  
15 lands and recommendations for the distribution of those revenues.

16 7. On or before February 1, 2015, the Committee shall submit a  
17 report of its findings and recommendations to the Director of the  
18 Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 78th Session of the  
19 Nevada Legislature. During that session, one or more members of  
20 the Committee must be available, upon request, to present the  
21 recommendations of the Committee to the Legislature or the  
22 appropriate standing committees with jurisdiction over public lands  
23 matters.

24 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval  
25 and expires by limitation on June 30, 2015.

