

Senate Bill No. 118–Senator Ford (by request)

Joint Sponsor: Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to financial security; creating the Nevada Task Force on Financial Security to conduct a comprehensive examination during the 2017-2018 legislative interim of the financial security of individuals and families in Nevada; prescribing the powers and duties of the Task Force; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

This bill creates the Nevada Task Force on Financial Security, consisting of nine voting members, to conduct a comprehensive examination during the 2017-2018 legislative interim of the financial security of individuals and families in Nevada, including, without limitation, their opportunities to build assets and reduce debt. The costs of the Task Force will be paid only from gifts, grants and donations received by the Task Force. The Task Force is required to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Counsel Bureau on or before September 1, 2018.

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

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WHEREAS, The financial crisis and Great Recession of 2008, which was followed by a record number of home foreclosures and soaring unemployment rates, have created an environment in the United States where many families struggle with reduced liquid assets and overall household wealth; and

WHEREAS, Many individuals and families in Nevada continue to face financial insecurity as a result of persisting high unemployment and stagnant wages; and

WHEREAS, According to the *2016 Assets & Opportunity Scorecard* published by the Corporation for Enterprise Development, 55.6 percent of Nevada households are without sufficient liquid assets to subsist at or above the poverty level for 3 months in the absence of income; and

WHEREAS, Statistics from the Bureau of the Census of the United States Department of Commerce reveal that the median household income in Nevada has declined approximately 17 percent between 2007 and 2013, the largest such decline in any state; and

WHEREAS, The national recession and subsequent recovery has highlighted the need to assist individuals and families in Nevada achieve greater financial security through increased access to opportunities to build financial and tangible assets such as savings, a



home or a business, strategies for reducing debt and financial education; and

WHEREAS, Identifying pathways for more Nevadans to obtain the resources they need to become more financially secure will facilitate a more educated, resilient and employable workforce to further ensure an economically prosperous Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Financial insecurity negatively impacts children and their prospects for lifelong economic opportunity, with children in families experiencing financial insecurity being more likely to experience material hardship and less likely to perform well in school; and

WHEREAS, Based on recent estimates, 14.7 percent of Nevadans live below the poverty threshold, including 20 percent of Hispanics, 25 percent of African-Americans and 20.7 percent of Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, Efforts to increase the financial security and opportunities for Nevadans have been limited and fragmented across financial institutions, business foundations, governmental agencies, community development organizations and religious and nonprofit institutions; and

WHEREAS, Because of the effect that financial best practices have on all Nevadans and the economy of Nevada as a whole, a comprehensive examination by the State of Nevada of ways to educate and empower Nevadans to improve their financial resources and economic security would create a better future for all Nevadans; now, therefore,

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

**Section 1.** 1. The Nevada Task Force on Financial Security is hereby created. The Task Force consists of the following voting members:

(a) Two members of the Senate appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate;

(b) Two members of the Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly;

(c) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

(d) One member of the Assembly appointed by the Minority Leader of the Assembly;

(e) Two members appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate as follows:



(1) A representative of a statewide organization that is currently engaged in activities concerning the financial security and financial education of individuals and families; and

(2) A representative of an organization which is exempt from taxation pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) who has expertise in policies for building financial assets; and

(f) One member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly who is a representative of a statewide organization approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as a housing counseling agency.

2. A vacancy occurring in the appointed voting membership of the Task Force must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

3. At its first meeting, the voting members of the Task Force shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair from among the voting members who are Legislators.

4. A majority of the voting members of the Task Force may appoint nonvoting advisory members to the Task Force.

5. The members of the Task Force serve without compensation or per diem allowance. A member may receive reimbursement for travel expenses if sufficient money collected pursuant to subsection 8 or 9 for the Task Force to carry out its duties is available.

6. The Task Force shall hold its first meeting by not later than September 1, 2017, and shall meet at least four times.

7. The Task Force shall consult with and solicit input from persons and entities with expertise in matters relevant to the Task Force in carrying out its duties pursuant to this section.

8. The Task Force may apply for any available grants and accept any gifts, grants or donations, including, without limitation, administrative support, to assist the Task Force in carrying out its duties pursuant to this section.

9. The Task Force shall select an organization which is exempt from taxation pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) to serve as the fiscal agent of the Task Force. As fiscal agent, that organization may accept money from private persons and entities and expend such money for the expenses incurred by the Task Force in carrying out its duties pursuant to this section.

10. The Task Force shall conduct an examination of the financial security of the residents of this State, including, without limitation, the causes, extent and consequences of financial insecurity in this State, with the goal of identifying concrete strategies and recommendations for improving the financial condition of Nevadans. The study must include, without limitation:



(a) An identification and review of programs that are currently available to further the economic advancement of residents of this State and the manner in which the impact of those programs is measured;

(b) A review of best practices implemented around the United States to increase the financial education of individuals and families, their access to banking and other resources to assist in building assets and strategies for reducing their debt and recommendations for implementation for such practices in this State;

(c) Recommendations of methods to increase the economic mobility of residents of this State to strengthen and support a resilient and growing middle class;

(d) Recommendations of concrete strategies and measurable goals to increase economic opportunities and reduce financial insecurity of residents of this State, particularly low-income families and communities of color; and

(e) Recommendations of concrete steps to develop a competitive workforce in this State that can meet the demands of the globally competitive market of the 21st century.

11. On or before September 1, 2018, the Task Force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 80th Session of the Legislature.

12. The Task Force shall carry out the duties of this section only to the extent that money is available to do so from private persons and entities, including, without limitation, gifts, grants and donations.

**Sec. 2.** As soon as practicable after the effective date of this act but not later than July 1, 2017, the Majority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the Assembly shall appoint the voting members of the Nevada Task Force on Financial Security as prescribed by section 1 of this act.

**Sec. 3.** 1. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval for the purpose of appointing the voting members to the Nevada Task Force on Financial Security created by section 1 of this act, and on July 1, 2017, for all other purposes.

2. This act expires by limitation on June 30, 2019.

