

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1—Senator Ratti

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study relating to affordable housing within the State of Nevada.

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development defines affordable housing as housing for which an occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of his or her income for gross housing costs, including utilities; and

WHEREAS, Families who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing may have difficulty affording essentials such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care; and

WHEREAS, According to statistics from the American Community Survey conducted by the United States Census Bureau, of units occupied by persons paying rent in Nevada, an estimated 46.8 percent of occupants spent more than 30 percent of their household income on rent and utilities in 2015; and

WHEREAS, According to statistics from the Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry, rent for affordable housing units in Nevada increased by 11 percent between 2013 and 2015, while average wages in Nevada increased by only 3 percent during that same period and average vacancy rates for affordable housing units decreased to 4 percent; and

WHEREAS, The shortage of affordable housing has forced thousands of seniors, veterans, families and children in Nevada to occupy motels that typically have minimal or no facilities for the preparation and storage of food and which serve as an inadequate substitute for stable, long-term housing; and

WHEREAS, Various research studies on the impact of housing on children's academic success indicate that the availability of adequate, safe, affordable housing can provide children with enhanced opportunities for academic success by reducing the frequency of unwanted moves which disrupt both the continuity of educational instruction and the social bonds and networks that support learning; and

WHEREAS, Increasing the availability of adequate, safe, affordable housing may also assist the State in meeting its economic development goals, increase the ability of the State to attract and retain a skilled workforce and improve educational outcomes for children in Nevada; now, therefore, be it



RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislative Commission is hereby directed to appoint a committee composed of three members of the Assembly and three members of the Senate, one of whom must be appointed by the Legislative Commission as Chair of the committee, to conduct an interim study of affordable housing within the State of Nevada; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the study must include, without limitation, an examination of:

1. The present and prospective need for affordable housing in the State, including, without limitation, affordable housing that is accessible to persons with disabilities;

2. Any impediments to the development of affordable housing in the State;

3. Methods to increase the availability of affordable housing in rural, suburban and urban areas of the State; and

4. Any other matters which are deemed relevant to the issue of affordable housing; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee solicit the input of interested stakeholders, including, without limitation, agencies and organizations that provide access to affordable housing and affordable housing assistance; and be it further

RESOLVED, 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 appointed to the committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission submit a report of the results of the study and any recommended legislation to the 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Administrator of the Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry.

