

Senate Bill No. 254—Senators Brooks, Cancela, Cannizzaro, Spearman, Parks; Denis, Dondero Loop, D. Harris, Ohrenschall, Ratti, Scheible and Woodhouse

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Peters, McCurdy, Assefa, Nguyen, Torres; Bilbray-Axelrod, Fumo, Watts and Yeager

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to greenhouse gas emissions; requiring the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to issue an annual report concerning greenhouse gas emissions in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law requires the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to issue, at least every 4 years, a statewide inventory of greenhouse gases released in this State, including the origins, types and amounts of the greenhouse gases, together with the Department’s analysis of that information. The Department’s inventory is required to be supported with documentation. (NRS 445B.380)

This bill requires the Department to submit an annual report that includes a statewide inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and a projection of annual greenhouse gas emissions in this State for the 20 years immediately following the date of the report. For each year of the inventory and projection, this bill requires a statement of the sources and amounts of greenhouse gas emissions in this State and the sources and amounts of reductions of greenhouse gas emissions in this State from the following sectors: (1) electricity production; and (2) transportation. For the first year and every fourth year thereafter, the statement must also include the same information relating to the following sectors: (1) industry; (2) commercial and residential; (3) agriculture; and (4) land use and forestry. This bill also requires the report to provide policies, identified by an entity or entities designated by the Governor, that could achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and a qualitative assessment of whether such policies support long-term reductions of greenhouse gas emissions in this State to zero or near-zero by the year 2050. In preparing the report, this bill requires the Department to consult with certain state agencies and entities.

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

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

Section 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

1. Human activities, including the burning of fossil fuels for electricity, transportation and heat in buildings, cause the release of greenhouse gases that trap heat in the Earth’s atmosphere, and these human activities have been and continue to be the primary driver of global climate change.



2. Climate change is already affecting Nevada and it threatens the health, lives and safety of Nevada's residents, as well as Nevada's diverse ecosystems, wildlands and wildlife. Rising temperatures have increased the severity and length of droughts and the frequency and intensity of wildfires.

3. Climate change threatens Nevada's economy. Rising temperatures, compounded by the urban heat island effect, will likely make summers in southern Nevada dangerously hot, potentially deterring visitors and reducing the hours where it is safe to engage in outdoor activities, like construction. In northern Nevada, rising temperatures have been shrinking the snowpack since the 1950's, which shortens the season for skiing and other winter sports and recreation.

4. Throughout the State, rising temperatures will impact public health by increasing heat stress on vulnerable populations and increasing air pollution from more frequent wildfires.

5. The State of Nevada would benefit from the diversification and economic growth driven by a transition to a low-carbon emission and clean-energy economy.

6. Greenhouse gas emissions need to be decreased globally to reduce the harm caused by global warming to Nevadans, and to keep the average increase of near-surface air temperatures to well below 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, or 2 degrees Celsius.

7. The State of Nevada must act now to ensure that Nevada's greenhouse gas emissions decrease on a trajectory consistent with emissions reduction commitments made by the United States to implement the Paris Agreement adopted in 2015 at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Sec. 2. NRS 445B.380 is hereby amended to read as follows:

445B.380 1. The Department shall, not later than December 31, ~~[2008,]~~ **2019**, and ~~[at least every 4 years]~~ **each year** thereafter, issue a **report that includes a** statewide inventory of greenhouse ~~[gases released]~~ **gas emissions** in this State ~~[]~~ **and a projection of annual greenhouse gas emissions in this State for the 20 years immediately following the date of the report.**

2. The ~~[inventory]~~ **report** must include, without limitation:

(a) **For each year of the inventory and projection required by subsection 1:**

(1) The ~~[origins, types]~~ **sources** and amounts of ~~[those]~~ greenhouse ~~[gases:]~~ **gas emissions in this State from each of the following sectors:**

(1) **Electricity production; and**



(II) Transportation.

(2) The sources and amounts of reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in this State from each of the sectors set forth in subparagraph (1).

(b) For the first and every fourth year thereafter of the inventory and projection required by subsection 1:

(1) The sources and amounts of greenhouse gas emissions in this State from each of the following sectors:

(I) Industry;

(II) Commercial and residential;

(III) Agriculture; and

(IV) Land use and forestry.

(2) The sources and amounts of reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in this State from each of the sectors set forth in subparagraph (1).

(c) A statement of policies, including, without limitation, regulations, identified by the entity or entities designated by the Governor pursuant to subsection 4 that could achieve reductions in projected greenhouse gas emissions by the sectors set forth in subparagraph (1) of paragraph (a) and subparagraph (1) of paragraph (b), if applicable, and:

(1) For each report due on or before December 31, 2024, a quantification of the reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in this State that would be required to achieve a statewide reduction of net greenhouse gas emissions of 28 percent by the year 2025, as compared to the level of greenhouse gas emissions in this State in 2005.

(2) For each report due on or before December 31, 2029, a quantification of the reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in this State that would be required to achieve a statewide reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions of 45 percent by the year 2030, as compared to the level of greenhouse gas emissions in this State in 2005.

(d) A qualitative assessment of whether the policies identified in the statement of policies required by paragraph (c) support long-term reductions of greenhouse gas emissions to zero or near-zero by the year 2050.

*(e) The Department's analysis of the information set forth in ~~paragraph (a); and~~
~~(c)~~ paragraphs (a) to (d), inclusive.*

(f) Documentation for the information set forth in paragraphs (a) ~~and (b).~~ to (e), inclusive.



3. In preparing the report required by this section, the Department shall consult with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, the Office of Energy, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Motor Vehicles and the entity or entities designated by the Governor pursuant to subsection 4.

4. The Governor shall designate an entity or entities to consult with the Department and identify for the Department the policies required pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 2.

