



## OFFICE OF GOVERNOR STEVE SISOLAK

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### SB 538 - Governor's Office for New Americans

The Office for New Americans (ONA) will help new and aspiring Americans participate fully in economic and civic life by cultivating the entrepreneurial propensities of our immigrant communities, while promoting Nevada as a state that values diversity. In recent years, Nevada has emerged as a popular destination for immigrants growing from 8.7% in 1990 to 21% of our population today. This means that more than 637,000 immigrants call the Silver State their home.

Beyond enriching our state with diversity and a wide range of cultural traditions, immigrants are an essential part of our thriving tourism industry. These new and aspiring Americans make up a disproportional share of the workforce our tourism industry depends on to flourish and grow. Immigrants account for 71% of all guest room attendants and housekeeping workers, 54% of chefs and cooks, 58% of grounds maintenance workers, 49% of gaming services workers and 51% of janitors and building cleaners. As a result, immigrants in Nevada have a combined spending power of \$13.1 billion and contribute upwards of \$3.6 billion in taxes.

By focusing on economic and civic integration, SB 538 will help immigrants and refugees ascend the economic ladder by breaking down bureaucratic barriers that hinder economic self-sufficiency. ONA will bridge the world of state government and the complex changes in immigration law and policy that affect all Nevadans. It will listen directly to impacted immigrant communities, advocates, and nonprofits with the goal of identifying service gaps and redundancy. ONA will act as an information clearinghouse – not only for constituents – but also for state agencies. ONA will empower new and aspiring Americans and allow them to further contribute to our state's economic growth. The following is a breakdown of SB 538's key provisions:

- **Section 3, Sub 2:** The Director will be appointed by the Governor will advise the Governor and state agencies on all matters relating to the formulation and implementation of policies, programs, and procedures affecting immigrants in Nevada.
- **Section 4:** Director shall ensure that the office serves as the coordinating office for each state agency that is responsible for a program that provides services to immigrants in this State including, but not limited to, professional licensing, registration, business resources and workforce development training.
- **Section 4, Sub 2:** ONA will analyze and make recommendations to the Governor on proposals and policies relating to immigrants in this State and will provide recommendations for the elimination of duplication in existing state programs in these areas.
- **Section 4, Sub 3:** ONA will provide information and assistance to state agencies relating to issues affecting immigrants, both directly and by serving the state as a clearinghouse for information received from state agencies, other branches of government, any other state or the Federal Government.
- **Section 4, Sub 5:** ONA will develop sustainable partnerships with existing community foundations, nonprofits and private sector providers that serve immigrant communities in Nevada.
- **Section 6:** ONA will create online resources to make the process of obtaining an occupational and professional license easier for all Nevadans.