AN ACT relating to governmental administration; creating the Account for Improving Access to State Museums for Persons with Disabilities in the State General Fund; revising the membership of the Board of Museums and History; requiring the Administrator of the Division of Museums and History of the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs to develop and maintain an Internet website related to institutions of the Division and ensure that the Internet website is accessible to persons who are blind or visually impaired; authorizing the Administrator to authorize or require a museum director of an institution of the Division to establish certain procedures that enable the accessibility of the exhibits in the institution to persons who are blind or visually impaired; requiring the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs to study during the 2023-2024 interim any issues that exist that limit the ability of persons with disabilities to access the institutions of the Division; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law creates the Division of Museums and History of the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, which consists of the Office of the Administrator and certain museums and historical societies which are established as institutions of the Division. (NRS 381.004) Existing law further sets forth various duties of the Administrator. (NRS 381.006, 381.0063) Section 3 of this bill requires the
Administrator to also: (1) develop and maintain an Internet website related to the institutions of the Division and ensure that the Internet website is accessible to persons who are blind or visually impaired; and (2) consult with certain organizations regarding the accessibility of institutions of the Division to persons who are blind or visually impaired. **Section 4** of this bill authorizes the Administrator to authorize or require a museum director of an institution of the Division to establish certain procedures that enable the accessibility of the exhibits in the institution for persons who are blind or visually impaired.

**Section 1** of this bill creates the Account for Improving Access to State Museums for Persons with Disabilities in the State General Fund, to be administered by the Administrator. Money in the Account must be expended only to improve access at institutions of the Division for persons with disabilities, including, without limitation, persons who are blind or visually impaired.

Existing law creates the Board of Museums and History, which consists of twelve members, including five representatives of the general public who are knowledgeable about museums. (NRS 381.002) **Section 2** of this bill provides that one of the representatives of the general public must be a person who is knowledgeable about museums and has a disability, including, without limitation, a person who is blind or visually impaired. **Section 6** of this bill clarifies that the provisions of **section 2** do not affect the term of any person who is a member of the Board on June 30, 2023.

**Section 5** of this bill requires the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs to study during the 2023-2024 interim any issues that exist which limit the ability of persons with disabilities, including, without limitation, persons who are blind or visually impaired, to access the institutions of the Division.

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

**Section 1.** Chapter 381 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. **There is hereby created the Account for Improving Access to State Museums for Persons with Disabilities in the State General Fund.** The Account shall be administered by the Administrator.

2. **The money in the Account must be expended only to improve access at institutions of the Division that are established pursuant to NRS 381.004 for persons with disabilities, including, without limitation, persons who are blind or visually impaired.**

3. **The Administrator may apply for and accept any gift, donation, bequest, grant or other source of money for deposit in the Account.**

4. **The interest and income earned on money in the Account from any gift, donation, bequest or appropriation, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Account.**

5. **Money from any gift, donation, bequest or appropriation that remains in the Account at the end of the fiscal year does not**
revert to the State General Fund, and the balance in the Account
must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

Sec. 2. NRS 381.002 is hereby amended to read as follows:
381.002 1. The Board of Museums and History, consisting of
twelve members appointed by the Governor, is hereby created.
2. The Governor shall appoint to the Board:
(a) Five representatives of the general public who are
knowledgeable about museums [...], one of whom must be a person
with a disability, including, without limitation, a person who is
blind or visually impaired.
(b) Six members representing the fields of history, prehistoric
archaeology, historical archaeology, architectural history, and
architecture with qualifications as defined by the Secretary of
Interior’s standards for historic preservation in the following fields:
(1) One member who is qualified in history;
(2) One member who is qualified in prehistoric archaeology;
(3) One member who is qualified in historic archaeology;
(4) One member who is qualified in architectural history;
(5) One member who is qualified as an architect; and
(6) One additional member who is qualified, as defined by
the Secretary of Interior’s standards for historic preservation, in any
of the fields of expertise described in subparagraphs (1) to (5),
inclusive.
(c) One member, after giving consideration to any
recommendation of an enrolled member of a Nevada Indian tribe
which is submitted by the Nevada Indian Commission, after
consultation with the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc., or its
successor organization.
3. The Board shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair from among
its members at its first meeting of every even-numbered year. The
terms of the Chair and Vice Chair are 2 years or until their
successors are elected.
4. With respect to the functions of the Office of Historic
Preservation, the Board may develop, review and approve policy
for:
(a) Matters relating to the State Historic Preservation Plan;
(b) Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and
make a determination of eligibility for listing on the Register for
each property nominated; and
(c) Nominations to the State Register of Historic Places and
make determination of eligibility for listing on the Register for each
property nominated.
5. With respect to the functions of the Division, the Board shall
develop, review and make policy for investments, budgets,
expenditures and general control of the Division’s private and
endowed dedicated trust funds pursuant to NRS 381.003 to
381.0037, inclusive.

6. In all other matters pertaining to the Office of Historic
Preservation and the Division of Museums and History, the Board
serves in an advisory capacity.

7. The Board may adopt such regulations as it deems necessary
to carry out its powers and duties.

Sec. 3. NRS 381.006 is hereby amended to read as follows:

381.006 1. For the property and facilities of the Division, the
Administrator:

(a) Is responsible to the Director for the general
administration of the Division and its institutions and for the
submission of its budgets, which must include the combined budgets
of its institutions.

(b) Shall supervise the museum directors of its institutions
in matters pertaining to the general administration of the institutions.

(c) Shall coordinate the submission of requests by its
institutions for assistance from governmental sources.

(d) Shall oversee the public relations of its institutions.

(e) Shall superintend the planning and development of any
new facilities for the Division or its institutions.

(f) Shall assist the efforts of its institutions in improving
their services to the rural counties.

(g) Shall supervise the facilities for storage which are
jointly owned or used by any of its institutions.

(h) Shall trade, exchange and transfer exhibits and
equipment when the Administrator considers it proper and the
transactions are not sales.

(i) May contract with any person to provide concessions on
the grounds of the property and facilities of the Division, provided
that any contract permitting control of real property of the Division
by a nongovernmental entity must be executed as a lease pursuant to
NRS 321.003, 321.335, 322.050, 322.060 and 322.070.

(j) Shall oversee the supervision, control, management and
operation of any buildings or properties in this State that are under
the control of the Division.

(k) Shall supervise the furnishing, remodeling, repairing,
alteration and erection of premises and buildings of the Division or
premises and buildings that may be conveyed or made available to
the Division.

2. In addition to the duties set forth in subsection 1, the
Administrator shall:

(a) Develop and maintain an Internet website related to the
museums and historical societies established as institutions of the
Division pursuant to NRS 381.004 and ensure that the Internet website is accessible to persons who are blind or visually impaired.

(b) Consult with organizations that are dedicated to the welfare of persons who are blind or visually impaired, including, without limitation, the American Council of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind, regarding the accessibility of institutions of the Division that are established pursuant to NRS 381.004 to persons who are blind or visually impaired.

Sec. 4. NRS 381.0063 is hereby amended to read as follows:

381.0063 1. The Administrator shall, in accordance with any directive received from the Director pursuant to NRS 232.005, authorize or require each museum director to perform such duties set forth in subsections 2 and 3 as are necessary for the operation of the institution administered by the museum director, after giving consideration to:

(a) The size and complexity of the programs the museum director is required to administer;
(b) The number of personnel needed to carry out those programs;
(c) Requirements for accreditation; and
(d) Such other factors as are relevant to the needs of the institution and the Division.

2. The Administrator may authorize or require a museum director to:

(a) Oversee duties related to the auditing and approval of all bills, claims and accounts of the institution administered by the museum director.
(b) Receive, collect, exchange, preserve, house, care for, document, interpret, display and exhibit, particularly, but not exclusively, respecting the State of Nevada:

(1) Samples of the useful and fine arts, sciences and industries, relics, memorabilia, products, works, records, rare and valuable articles and objects, including, without limitation, drawings, etchings, lithographs, photographs, paintings, statuary, sculpture, fabrics, furniture, implements, machines, geological and mineral specimens, precious, semiprecious and commercial minerals, metals, earths, gems and stones.
(2) Books, papers, records and documents of historic, artistic, literary or industrial value or interest by reason of rarity, representative character or otherwise.
(c) Collect, gather and prepare the natural history of Nevada and the Great Basin.
(d) Establish such programs in history, archeology, anthropology, paleontology, mineralogy, ethnology, ornithology and such other programs as in the judgment of the Board and
Administrator may be proper and necessary to carry out the objects
and purposes appropriate to the institution administered by the
museum director.

(e) Receive and collect property from any appropriate agency of
the State of Nevada, or from accessions, gifts, exchanges, loans or
purchases from any other agencies, persons or sources.

(f) House and preserve, care for and display or exhibit property
received by an institution. This paragraph does not prevent the
permanent or temporary retention, placement, housing or exhibition
of a portion of the property in other places or locations in or outside
of the State at the sole discretion of the Board.

(g) Make and obtain plans and specifications and let and
supervise contracts for work or have the work done on force account
or day labor, supplying material or labor, or otherwise.

(h) Receive, accept and obtain by exchange in the name of the
State of Nevada all property loaned to the institution administered
by the museum director for preservation, care, display or exhibit, or
decline and reject the property in his or her discretion, and
undertake to be responsible for all property loaned to the institution
or make just payment of any reasonable costs or rentals therefor.

(i) Apply for and expend all gifts and grants that the institution
administered by the museum director is authorized to accept in
accordance with the terms and conditions of the gift or grant.

(j) Govern, manage and control the exhibit and display of all
property and things of the institution administered by the museum
director at other exhibits, expositions, world’s fairs and places of
public or private exhibition. Any property of the State of Nevada
that may be placed on display or on exhibition at any world’s fair or
exposition must be taken into custody by the Administrator at the
conclusion of the world’s fair or exposition and placed and kept in
the institution, subject to being removed and again exhibited at the
discretion of the Administrator or a person designated by the
Administrator.

(k) Negotiate and consult with and agree with other institutions,
departments, officers and persons or corporations of and in the State
of Nevada and elsewhere respecting quarters for and the
preservation, care, transportation, storage, custody, documentation,
interpretation, display and exhibit of articles and things controlled
by the institutions and respecting the terms and cost, the manner,
time, place and extent, and the return thereof.

(l) Trade, exchange and transfer exhibits and duplicates when
the Administrator deems it proper. Such transactions shall not be
deemed sales.
(m) Establish the qualifications for life, honorary, annual, sustaining and such other memberships as are established by the Board pursuant to NRS 381.0045.

(n) Adopt rules for the internal operations of the institution administered by the museum director, including, without limitation, the operation of equipment of the institution.

(o) Establish procedures that enable the accessibility of the exhibits in an institution administered by the museum director for persons who are blind or visually impaired, including, without limitation, by providing audio guides, audio descriptive displays, tactile displays and experiences, dedicated tours for persons who are blind or visually impaired, Braille signage and descriptions, temporary lighting and adapted educational classes.

3. The Administrator shall require a museum director to serve as, or to designate an employee to serve as, ex officio State Paleontologist. The State Paleontologist shall, within the limits of available time, money and staff:

(a) Systematically inventory the paleontological resources within the State of Nevada;

(b) Compile a database of fossil resources within this State;

(c) Coordinate and promote paleontological research activities within this State, including, without limitation, regulating and issuing permits to engage in such activities;

(d) Disseminate and assist other persons in disseminating information gained from research conducted by the State Paleontologist; and

(e) Display and promote, and assist other persons in displaying and promoting, the paleontological resources of this State to enhance education, culture and tourism within this State.

4. The enumeration of the powers and duties that may be assigned to a museum director pursuant to this section is not exclusive of other general objects and purposes appropriate to a public museum.

5. The provisions of this section do not prohibit the Administrator from making such administrative and organizational changes as are necessary for the efficient operation of the Division and its institutions and to ensure that an institution properly carries out the duties and responsibilities assigned to that institution.

Sec. 5. 1. The Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs created by NRS 218E.750 shall study during the 2023-2024 interim any issues that exist which limit the ability of persons with disabilities, including, without limitation, persons who are blind or visually impaired, to access the museums and historical societies established as institutions of the
Division of Museums and History of the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs pursuant to NRS 381.004.

2. In the report required pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 218E.760, the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs shall set forth any recommended legislation for improving the accessibility of the museums and historical societies established as institutions of the Division of Museums and History of the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs pursuant to NRS 381.004 to persons with disabilities, including, without limitation, persons who are blind or visually impaired.

Sec. 6. The provisions of NRS 381.002, as amended by section 2 of this act, do not apply to the existing terms of members of the Board of Museums and History who were appointed to the Board pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 2 of NRS 381.002, as that section existed on June 30, 2023.

Sec. 7. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2023.