

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 299—ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER

MARCH 14, 2023

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Creates the Nevada Medal of Distinction. (BDR 18-780)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No. Effect on the State: Yes.

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

AN ACT relating to State Government; creating the Nevada Medal of Distinction and the Nevada Awards and Honors Board; setting forth the process for awarding the Nevada Medal of Distinction; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

- 1 **Section 3** of this bill creates the Nevada Medal of Distinction, which must be
- 2 awarded each year to: (1) one person who is living and has made a significant and
- 3 lasting contribution to the State of Nevada; and (2) one person who is deceased and
- 4 during his or her lifetime made a significant and lasting contribution to the State of
- 5 Nevada.
- 6 **Section 4** of this bill creates the Nevada Awards and Honors Board, to be
- 7 composed of five members who are residents of this State and appointed by the
- 8 Governor. The Board is required to: (1) establish a suitable design for the Nevada
- 9 Medal of Distinction; (2) establish the requirements for determining whether a
- 10 person is a Nevada resident or otherwise has a sufficient connection to this State
- 11 and has made a significant and lasting contribution to the State; (3) procure the
- 12 manufacture of the Medal; and (4) take any other action necessary to carry out the
- 13 provisions of **sections 3-6** of this bill.
- 14 **Section 5** of this bill requires, on or before January 1 of each year, a selection
- 15 committee to be established, consisting, with certain exceptions, of nine members
- 16 as follows: (1) three members appointed by the Governor; (2) two members
- 17 appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate; (3) two members appointed by the
- 18 Speaker of the Assembly; and (4) two members appointed by the Chief Justice of
- 19 the Nevada Supreme Court. If the Governor, Majority Leader of the Senate and
- 20 Speaker of the Assembly are all members of the same political party, **section 5**
- 21 provides that the selection committee must consist of: (1) three members appointed
- 22 by the Governor; (2) one member appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate;
- 23 (3) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; (4) one member
- 24 appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly; (5) one member appointed by the



25 Minority Leader of the Assembly; and (6) two members appointed by the Chief
26 Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court. **Section 5** also requires each member of the
27 selection committee to submit to the Board the nomination of one person who is
28 living and one person who is deceased to receive the Nevada Medal of Distinction
29 for that year.

30 **Sections 5 and 7** of this bill exempt meetings of the selection committee from
31 the Open Meeting Law. (Chapter 241 of NRS)

32 **Section 6** of this bill requires the Board to hold a ceremony to announce the
33 recipients of the Nevada Medal of Distinction for that year, which must be held in:
34 (1) Carson City during each odd-numbered year on a date in which the Legislature
35 is in regular session; and (2) Clark County during each even-numbered year.

36 **Section 6** further requires the selection committee to meet and select the recipients
37 of the Nevada Medal of Distinction for that year not more than 7 calendar days
38 before the ceremony.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 223 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 6, inclusive, of this
3 act.

4 **Sec. 2.** *As used in sections 2 to 6, inclusive, of this act, unless*
5 *the context otherwise requires, "Board" means the Nevada*
6 *Awards and Honors Board created by section 4 of this act.*

7 **Sec. 3. 1.** *There is hereby created an award to be known as*
8 *the Nevada Medal of Distinction.*

9 **2.** *Each year the Nevada Medal of Distinction must be*
10 *awarded to:*

11 *(a) One person who is living and has made a significant and*
12 *lasting contribution to the State of Nevada; and*

13 *(b) One person who is deceased and during his or her lifetime*
14 *made a significant and lasting contribution to the State of Nevada.*

15 **3.** *The Nevada Medal of Distinction may not be awarded to a*
16 *person more than once or to an elected officer during his or her*
17 *term.*

18 **Sec. 4. 1.** *There is hereby created the Nevada Awards and*
19 *Honors Board.*

20 **2.** *The Board shall be composed of five members who are*
21 *residents of the State, appointed by the Governor. The members of*
22 *the Board serve for terms of 3 years and may be reappointed.*

23 **3.** *The Board shall:*

24 *(a) Establish a suitable design for the Nevada Medal of*
25 *Distinction such as a ribbon, badge or other insignia;*

26 *(b) Establish the requirements for determining whether a*
27 *person:*

28 *(1) Has made a significant and lasting contribution to the*
29 *State; and*



1 (2) *Is a Nevada resident or otherwise has a sufficient*
2 *connection to this State;*

3 (c) *Procure the manufacture of the Nevada Medal of*
4 *Distinction; and*

5 (d) *Take any other action necessary to carry out the*
6 *requirements of sections 2 to 6, inclusive, of this act.*

7 4. *The Office of the Governor shall provide administrative*
8 *support to the Board.*

9 5. *The Board may apply for and accept grants, gifts,*
10 *donations, bequests or devises on behalf of the Board which must*
11 *be used to carry out the functions of the Board.*

12 **Sec. 5. 1.** *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, on*
13 *or before January 1 of each year, there must be established a*
14 *selection committee of nine members as follows:*

15 (a) *Three members appointed by the Governor;*

16 (b) *Two members appointed by the Majority Leader of the*
17 *Senate;*

18 (c) *Two members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly;*
19 *and*

20 (d) *Two members appointed by the Chief Justice of the*
21 *Supreme Court of Nevada.*

22 2. *If the Governor, Majority Leader of the Senate and*
23 *Speaker of the Assembly are all members of the same political*
24 *party, the selection committee established pursuant to subsection 1*
25 *must be comprised of nine members as follows:*

26 (a) *Three members appointed by the Governor;*

27 (b) *One member appointed by the Majority Leader of the*
28 *Senate;*

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

31 (d) *One member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly;*

32 (e) *One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the*
33 *Assembly; and*

34 (f) *Two members appointed by the Chief Justice of the*
35 *Supreme Court of Nevada.*

36 3. *The membership of the selection committee must be posted*
37 *on the Internet website of the Office of the Governor.*

38 4. *On or before the deadline established by the Board, each*
39 *member of the selection committee shall submit to the Board the*
40 *nomination of one person who is living and one person who is*
41 *deceased to receive the Nevada Medal of Distinction for that year.*
42 *The Board must post the nominations that are received from each*
43 *member of the selection committee on the Internet website of the*
44 *Governor.*



1 **5. The selection committee may conduct a meeting in person,**
2 **by means of a remote technology system or any combination of**
3 **members attending in person or by means of a remote technology**
4 **system. The meetings of the selection committee are not subject to**
5 **chapter 241 of NRS.**

6 **6. As used in this section, "remote technology system" means**
7 **any system or other means of communication which uses any**
8 **electronic, digital or other similar technology to enable a person**
9 **from a remote location to attend, participate, vote or take any**
10 **other action in any meeting even though the person is not**
11 **physically present at the meeting. The term includes, without**
12 **limitation, teleconference and videoconference systems.**

13 **Sec. 6. 1. The Board shall hold a ceremony to announce**
14 **the recipients of the Nevada Medal of Distinction for that year.**
15 **The ceremony must be held:**

16 **(a) In Carson City during each odd-numbered year on a date**
17 **in which the Legislature is in regular session.**

18 **(b) In Clark County during each even-numbered year.**

19 **2. Not more than 7 calendar days before the date on which**
20 **the ceremony is held, the selection committee must meet and select**
21 **the recipients of the Nevada Medal of Distinction for that year,**
22 **one of whom must be living and one of whom must be deceased.**

23 **Sec. 7. NRS 241.016 is hereby amended to read as follows:**

24 241.016 1. The meetings of a public body that are quasi-
25 judicial in nature are subject to the provisions of this chapter.

26 2. The following are exempt from the requirements of this
27 chapter:

28 (a) The Legislature of the State of Nevada.

29 (b) Judicial proceedings, including, without limitation,
30 proceedings before the Commission on Judicial Selection and,
31 except as otherwise provided in NRS 1.4687, the Commission on
32 Judicial Discipline.

33 (c) Meetings of the State Board of Parole Commissioners when
34 acting to grant, deny, continue or revoke the parole of a prisoner or
35 to establish or modify the terms of the parole of a prisoner.

36 3. Any provision of law, including, without limitation, NRS
37 91.270, 219A.210, 228.495, 239C.140, 239C.420, 241.028,
38 281A.350, 281A.690, 281A.735, 281A.760, 284.3629, 286.150,
39 287.0415, 287.04345, 287.338, 288.220, 288.590, 289.387, 295.121,
40 315.98425, 360.247, 388.261, 388.385, 388A.495, 388C.150,
41 388D.355, 388G.710, 388G.730, 392.147, 392.466, 392.467,
42 392.4671, 394.1699, 396.1415, 396.3295, 414.270, 422.405,
43 433.534, 435.610, 442.774, 463.110, 480.545, 622.320, 622.340,
44 630.311, 630.336, 631.3635, 639.050, 642.518, 642.557, 686B.170,
45 696B.550, 703.196 and 706.1725, **and section 5 of this act,** which:



- 1 (a) Provides that any meeting, hearing or other proceeding is not
2 subject to the provisions of this chapter; or
3 (b) Otherwise authorizes or requires a closed meeting, hearing
4 or proceeding,
5 ↪ prevails over the general provisions of this chapter.
6 4. The exceptions provided to this chapter, and electronic
7 communication, must not be used to circumvent the spirit or letter of
8 this chapter to deliberate or act, outside of an open and public
9 meeting, upon a matter over which the public body has supervision,
10 control, jurisdiction or advisory powers.

