

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 328—ASSEMBLYMEMBERS
D’SILVA AND JACKSON

MARCH 3, 2025

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Establishes the Commission on Racial Equity and Social Justice. (BDR S-619)

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 education; establishing the Commission on Racial Equity and Social Justice; prescribing the membership and duties of the Commission; requiring the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to provide certain support to the Commission; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Article 11 of the Nevada Constitution requires the Nevada Legislature to provide for the establishment of a State University that is controlled by a Board of Regents whose duties are prescribed by law. (Nev. Const. Art. 11, § 4) Existing law establishes the Nevada System of Higher Education, which consists of the State University and certain other educational institutions, programs and operations. (NRS 396.020)

This bill creates the Commission on Racial Equity and Social Justice for the purposes of studying issues and making recommendations to the 84th Session of the Nevada Legislature relating to certain matters of racial discrimination in this State. **Section 2** of this bill creates the Commission and prescribes the membership of the Commission, consisting of nine members appointed on or before August 1, 2025, as follows: (1) three members appointed by the President of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; (2) three members appointed by the President of the University of Nevada, Reno; (3) one member appointed by the Governor; (4) one member appointed by the Senate Majority Leader; and (5) one member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

Section 2 of this bill establishes the duties of the Commission and, among other duties, requires the Commission to: (1) study certain matters relating to historical discrimination in this State and the related economic effects of the discrimination to present day society in this State; and (2) make recommendations relating to its findings to the 84th Session of the Nevada Legislature for methods to educate the general public about the findings and recommendations of the Commission,



23 advancement of racial healing, understanding and transformation and the form and
24 scope of rehabilitation or restitution to the descendants of formerly enslaved
25 Africans, if warranted, based on the findings of the Commission. **Section 2** also
26 authorizes the Commission to collaborate and consult with and invite participation
27 by historians, scholars and other interested parties and requires state agencies to
28 provide any information requested by the Commission relating to its duties. **Section**
29 **2** also authorizes the Commission to request assistance from the Division of State
30 Library, Archives and Public Records of the Department of Administration, which
31 is required to provide assistance to the extent that resources are available.

32 **Section 3** of this bill requires the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada
33 to provide certain administrative support to the Commission and be prepared to
34 provide the support not later than August 1, 2025. **Section 3** also authorizes the
35 Board of Regents to accept certain funds for the Commission in carrying out its
36 duties.

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

1 **Section 1.** 1. The Commission on Racial Equity and Social
2 Justice is hereby created for the purposes of studying issues and
3 making recommendations to the 84th Session of the Nevada
4 Legislature relating to racial discrimination in this State.

5 2. The Commission consists of the following nine members:

6 (a) Three members appointed by the President of the University
7 of Nevada, Las Vegas, or his or her designee;

8 (b) Three members appointed by the President of the University
9 of Nevada, Reno, or his or her designee;

10 (c) One member appointed by the Governor;

11 (d) One member appointed by the Senate Majority Leader; and

12 (e) One member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

13 ➔ In making appointments to the Commission, the appointing
14 authorities shall appoint members of the Commission on the basis of
15 their education, training and experience in the fields of African
16 American studies and reparatory justice. The appointing authorities
17 shall appoint members of the Commission on or before August 1,
18 2025.

19 3. An elected official of any governmental entity is not eligible
20 to be appointed to the Commission.

21 4. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the
22 Commission shall not affect the powers and duties of the
23 Commission and shall be filled in the same manner as the original
24 appointment.

25 5. The compensation each member of the Commission is
26 entitled to receive, if any, shall be established by the Board of
27 Regents.

28 6. The President of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and
29 the President of the University of Nevada, Reno, shall jointly



1 appoint a Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission, who serve in
2 such positions until the Commission expires by limitation.

3 7. The Commission shall:

4 (a) Hold its first meeting not later than 30 days after all the
5 appointments are made pursuant to subsection 2;

6 (b) Meet as a whole at least four times before the Commission
7 expires by limitation and may meet at such further times and places
8 specified by a call of the Chair.

9 8. The Chair of the Commission may establish subcommittees
10 to assist the Commission in the performance of its duties. The
11 subcommittees shall meet at the times and places specified by a call
12 of the Chair.

13 **Sec. 2.** 1. The Commission shall study:

14 (a) The economic, political, social, educational and historical
15 impacts of slavery, Jim Crow laws, de jure and de facto racial
16 segregation and other forms of racial discrimination in the State of
17 Nevada, as well as the prior organized and unorganized territories
18 that constitute a part of the current state boundaries of the State;

19 (b) Discriminatory habits or practices, including, without
20 limitation, forced slavery, chattel slavery, indentured servitude,
21 redlining, segregated school systems and segregated public goods
22 and spaces, that may have caused significant economic or societal
23 disparities of formerly enslaved Africans or their descendants; and

24 (c) The related economic effects to present day society in the
25 State of Nevada as a result of the matters studied pursuant to this
26 subsection.

27 2. The Commission shall present its findings and make
28 recommendations relating to its findings to the 84th Session of the
29 Nevada Legislature for:

30 (a) Methods to educate the general public of the State of Nevada
31 of the Commission's findings and recommendations;

32 (b) Advancement of racial healing, understanding and
33 transformation;

34 (c) Forms of rehabilitation or restitution to the descendants of
35 formerly enslaved Africans, if warranted, based on the findings
36 of the Commission. If the Commission finds that any form of
37 rehabilitation or restitution is warranted, then the form and scope of
38 such measures.

39 3. The Commission may collaborate and consult with and
40 invite participation by historians, scholars and any other interested
41 parties.

42 4. Each state agency, as defined in NRS 277.186, shall
43 cooperate with the Commission and timely provide any information
44 that may be requested by the Commission relating to its duties.



1 5. The Commission may request assistance from the Division
2 of State Library, Archives and Public Records of the Department of
3 Administration. Upon such a request, the Division shall provide to
4 the Commission such assistance to the extent that resources are
5 available.

6 **Sec. 3.** 1. The Board of Regents shall provide administrative
7 support to the Commission, including, without limitation, providing
8 meeting spaces, technical assistance, organizational support,
9 assistance with public communications and media relations and any
10 other necessary tasks required by the Commission in the furtherance
11 of its duties. The Board of Regents must be prepared to provide such
12 support not later than August 1, 2025.

13 2. The Board of Regents may accept gifts, grants and donations
14 to fund the Commission in carrying out its duties.

15 **Sec. 4.** 1. On or before January 31, 2027, the Commission on
16 Racial Equity and Social Justice created by section 2 of this act shall
17 prepare and submit a report to the Director of the Legislative
18 Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 84th Session of the Nevada
19 Legislature on the work of the Commission relating to the duties of
20 the Commission set forth in section 2 of this act.

21 2. On or before the adjournment of the 84th Legislative
22 Session sine die, the Commission shall present in person its findings
23 and recommendations to the Legislature.

24 **Sec. 5.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

