
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 236—ASSEMBLYMEN NEAL, SPIEGEL,
THOMPSON, ELLIOT ANDERSON; ARAUJO, BENITEZ-
THOMPSON, BUSTAMANTE ADAMS, CARLTON, CARRILLO,
DIAZ, FLORES, JOINER, KIRKPATRICK, MUNFORD,
OHRENSCHALL, SPRINKLE AND SWANK

MARCH 6, 2015

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS ATKINSON AND SPEARMAN

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Enacts provisions related to the promotion of public
engagement by state agencies. (BDR 18-697)

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

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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 agencies; providing for the promotion of
public engagement by state agencies using the Internet
and Internet tools; and providing other matters properly
relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 This bill provides that it is the policy of this State to promote public
2 engagement in the activities of the State Government by adopting methods of
3 public participation and public comment that include the use of the Internet and
4 Internet tools. This bill encourages each state agency, to the extent practicable and
5 within the limits of available money, to develop a policy to promote public
6 engagement that includes the use of the Internet and Internet tools, including
7 electronic mail, electronic mailing lists, online forums and social media. This bill
8 further authorizes a state agency to designate a public engagement specialist to: (1)
9 implement the agency's policy on public engagement; and (2) to the extent feasible,
10 provide training on public engagement to other employees of the agency.



* A B 2 3 6 *

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 232 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 1. *It is the policy of this State to promote broad, inclusive and*
4 *meaningful engagement by the general public and interested*
5 *stakeholders in the activities of the State Government by adopting*
6 *methods of public participation and public comment that*
7 *incorporate the use of the Internet and Internet tools. To assist in*
8 *carrying out this policy:*

9 (a) *Each state agency is encouraged, to the extent practicable*
10 *and within the limits of available money, to develop a policy on*
11 *public engagement that incorporates the use of the Internet and*
12 *Internet tools for the purpose of encouraging public participation*
13 *and soliciting public comments on the activities of the state*
14 *agency, including, without limitation, the development or adoption*
15 *of regulations, policies and programs. The Internet tools used by*
16 *the state agency may include, without limitation, electronic mail,*
17 *electronic mailing lists, online forums and social media.*

18 (b) *Each state agency may designate an employee as the public*
19 *engagement specialist. The public engagement specialist shall:*

20 (1) *Implement the public engagement policy of the state*
21 *agency; and*

22 (2) *To the extent feasible, provide training on public*
23 *engagement for other employees of the state agency.*

24 2. *The decision by a state agency whether to adopt any*
25 *particular Internet tool in carrying out its policy on public*
26 *engagement is at the discretion of the state agency and not subject*
27 *to judicial review.*

28 3. *The provisions of this section are intended to supplement*
29 *the existing laws of this State applicable to specific state agencies*
30 *and the existing requirements for such state agencies to provide*
31 *notice, solicit public comments and hold public hearings. This*
32 *section does not limit the applicability of any such provision.*

33 4. *As used in this section:*

34 (a) *“Social media” means any electronic service or account or*
35 *electronic content, including, without limitation, videos,*
36 *photographs, blogs, video blogs, podcasts, instant and text*
37 *messages, online services or Internet website profiles.*

38 (b) *“State agency” means every public agency, bureau, board,*
39 *commission, department or division of the Executive Department*
40 *of the State Government.*



1 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

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