
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 52—COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

(ON BEHALF OF THE DIVISION OF STATE LANDS
OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Makes various changes related to the Land Use Planning Advisory Council. (BDR 26-342)

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 public lands; revising the membership and duties of the Land Use Planning Advisory Council; authorizing the removal of certain voting members before the expiration of their term under certain circumstances; requiring the election of a vice chair of the Advisory Council; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law creates the Land Use Planning Advisory Council, which advises
2 the Administrator of the Division of State Lands of the State Department of
3 Conservation and Natural Resources and the State Land Use Planning Agency on
4 issues relating to land use planning. (NRS 321.740, 321.750) The Advisory Council
5 consists of 17 voting members appointed by the Governor, with 1 voting member
6 representing each county of the State, and 1 nonvoting member appointed by the
7 Nevada Association of Counties. (NRS 321.740) **Section 1** of this bill adds to the
8 Advisory Council: (1) one voting member appointed by the Governor to represent
9 the Nevada Indian Commission; and (2) one nonvoting member appointed by the
10 Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities.

11 Existing law provides that if a board of county commissioners fails to submit
12 the name of its nominee or nominees for membership on the Advisory Council, the
13 Governor may appoint any resident of that county to represent that county. (NRS
14 321.740) **Section 1** provides that if the Nevada Indian Commission fails to submit
15 the name of its nominee or nominees for membership on the Advisory Council, the
16 Governor may appoint any resident of the State who has experience working with
17 tribal governments in this State and who has knowledge of natural resource issues



18 pertaining to tribal lands in this State as the representative of the Nevada Indian
19 Commission.

20 Existing law provides that the term of a voting member of the Advisory
21 Council is 3 years. (NRS 321.740) **Section 1** provides an exception to the 3-year
22 term if a voting member appointed by the Governor is an elected official of the
23 county that he or she represents on the Advisory Council and does not become a
24 candidate for reelection or is defeated for reelection. In such a circumstance,
25 **section 1** authorizes the board of county commissioners to end the person's
26 membership on the Advisory Council before the expiration of the person's 3-year
27 term. If the board of county commissioners ends the person's membership on the
28 Advisory Council: (1) that person's membership on the Advisory Council ends on
29 the date on which his or her term of office as an elected official of the county ends;
30 and (2) a vacancy exists on the Advisory Council that must be filled for the
31 remainder of the unexpired term.

32 Existing law requires the Advisory Council to elect a Chair. (NRS 321.740)
33 **Section 1** also requires the election of a Vice Chair.

34 Existing law sets forth the duties of the Advisory Council. (NRS 321.750)
35 **Section 2** of this bill requires the Advisory Council to also: (1) advise any federal
36 or state agency or local government on land use planning and policy; (2) assist and
37 advise in the resolution of inconsistencies in land use plans, if requested; and (3)
38 make recommendations related to areas of critical environmental concern.

39 **Section 3** of this bill changes the minimum period required to be given in
40 existing law for notice of certain public hearings of the Advisory Council by
41 publication in newspapers from 20 days to 10 days before the hearing.
42 (NRS 321.770)

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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 321.740 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 321.740 1. The Land Use Planning Advisory Council ~~is~~
3 ~~consisting of 17~~ *is hereby created. The Advisory Council consists*
4 *of:*

5 (a) *Eighteen* voting members appointed by the Governor ~~and~~
6 ~~as follows:~~

7 (1) *One member from each county in this State who*
8 *represents that county; and*

9 (2) *One member who represents the Nevada Indian*
10 *Commission.*

11 (b) *One* nonvoting member appointed by the Nevada
12 Association of Counties, or its successor organization . ~~is hereby~~
13 ~~created.~~

14 (c) *One nonvoting member appointed by the Nevada League of*
15 *Cities and Municipalities, or its successor organization.*

16 2. The provisions of subsection 6 of NRS 232A.020 do not
17 apply to members of the Advisory Council who also serve as county
18 commissioners, and the Governor may appoint any such member of
19 the Advisory Council to one other board, commission or similar
20 body.



~~1 [2.— One voting member must be appointed to the Advisory
2 Council to represent each county. At]~~

3 **3. Each board of county commissioners and the Nevada
4 Indian Commission shall, at least 30 days before the beginning of
5 any term of the representative of [a] the county [;] or the Nevada
6 Indian Commission, or within 30 days after the position of that
7 representative becomes vacant, [the board of county commissioners
8 of that county shall] submit to the Governor the name of its nominee
9 or a list of the names of not more than three nominees who are
10 elected officials or other representatives of the county *or of the
11 Nevada Indian Commission, as applicable*, for the position to be
12 filled. If a board of county commissioners *or the Nevada Indian
13 Commission* submits the names of two or more nominees, the board
14 *or the Nevada Indian Commission, as applicable*, shall number its
15 nominees in order of preference. That order of preference is not
16 binding upon the Governor. The Governor shall appoint the person
17 so nominated or, if more than one person is nominated, one of the
18 persons from the list of nominees.**

19 ~~[3.] 4. If [a]:~~

20 (a) A board of county commissioners fails to submit the name of
21 its nominee or a list of nominees within the time required by this
22 subsection or subsection ~~[2.] 3~~, the Governor may appoint to the
23 Advisory Council any resident of that county as the representative
24 of the county. ~~[f-a]~~

25 (b) *The Nevada Indian Commission fails to submit the name
26 of its nominee or a list of nominees within the time required by
27 subsection 3, the Governor may appoint any resident of the State
28 who has experience working with tribal governments in this State
29 and who has knowledge of natural resource issues pertaining to
30 tribal lands in this State as the representative of the Nevada
31 Indian Commission.*

32 (c) A board *of county commissioners or the Nevada Indian
33 Commission* has timely submitted the name of its nominee or a list
34 of nominees *pursuant to subsection 3* and the Governor fails to
35 appoint a person so nominated:

36 ~~[(a)] (1)~~ If one person has been nominated, that person; or

37 ~~[(b)] (2)~~ If two or more persons have been nominated, the
38 person listed by the board *or the Nevada Indian Commission, as
39 applicable*, first in order of preference,

40 ↪ shall be deemed to be a voting member of the Advisory Council
41 as of the beginning of the new term or, in the case of an appointment
42 to fill a vacancy, the first meeting of the Advisory Council that is
43 held not less than 30 days after the submission of the nomination
44 unless, before that date, the Governor notifies the board *or the
45 Nevada Indian Commission, as applicable*, in writing that none of



1 its nominees will be appointed to the Advisory Council. Within 30
2 days after the date of any such notice, the board *or the Nevada*
3 *Indian Commission, as applicable*, shall submit to the Governor the
4 name of a new nominee or a list of new nominees.

5 ~~[4.—After the initial terms,]~~

6 *5. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, each*
7 *voting member serves a term of 3 years . If a voting member*
8 *appointed pursuant to subparagraph (1) of paragraph (a) of*
9 *subsection 1 is an elected official of the county that he or she*
10 *represents on the Advisory Council and he or she does not become*
11 *a candidate for reelection or is defeated for reelection, the board*
12 *of county commissioners of that county may end the person's*
13 *membership on the Advisory Council before the expiration of his*
14 *or her 3-year term. If the board of county commissioners ends the*
15 *person's membership on the Advisory Council pursuant to this*
16 *subsection:*

17 *(a) That person's membership on the Advisory Council ends*
18 *on the date on which his or her term of office as an elected official*
19 *of the county ends; and*

20 *(b) A vacancy exists in the membership of the Advisory*
21 *Council that must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired*
22 *term pursuant to subsection 3 or 4, as applicable.*

23 *6. Any voting member* is eligible for reappointment to the
24 Advisory Council.

25 ~~[5.] 7. The nonvoting ~~[member]~~ members~~ of the Advisory
26 Council ~~[serves]~~ *serve* at the pleasure of the ~~[Nevada Association of~~
27 ~~Counties, or its successor organization.~~
28 ~~—6.] appointing authority.~~

29 *8. At its first meeting each year, the Advisory Council shall*
30 *elect a Chair and Vice Chair* from among its *voting* members.

31 ~~[7.] 9.~~ A majority of the voting members of the Advisory
32 Council constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, and a
33 majority of a quorum present at any meeting is sufficient for any
34 official action taken by the Advisory Council.

35 ~~[8.] 10.~~ A board of county commissioners may provide that,
36 while engaged in the business of the Advisory Council, a voting
37 member of the Advisory Council is entitled to receive from the
38 county he or she represents the per diem allowance and travel
39 expenses provided by law for state officers and employees
40 generally.

41 **Sec. 2.** NRS 321.750 is hereby amended to read as follows:

42 321.750 The Land Use Planning Advisory Council shall:

43 1. Advise the Administrator on the development and
44 distribution to cities and counties of information useful to land use
45 planning.



1 2. Advise the State Land Use Planning Agency regarding the
2 development of plans and statements of policy pursuant to
3 subsection 1 of NRS 321.7355.

4 3. Work cooperatively with the Attorney General and the
5 Nevada Association of Counties as required pursuant to subsection 3
6 of NRS 405.204.

7 *4. Advise any federal or state agency or local government on*
8 *land use planning and policy, including, without limitation,*
9 *developing a statement of policy, drafting a resolution or providing*
10 *formal comment on land use planning policies and land*
11 *management projects of any federal or state agency or local*
12 *government.*

13 *5. Assist and advise in the resolution of inconsistencies in*
14 *land use plans, if requested.*

15 *6. Make recommendations related to areas of critical*
16 *environmental concern pursuant to NRS 321.770.*

17 **Sec. 3.** NRS 321.770 is hereby amended to read as follows:

18 321.770 1. The State Land Use Planning Agency shall
19 provide assistance in land use planning for areas of critical
20 environmental concern:

21 (a) When the Governor directs that the Agency review and assist
22 in land use planning for an area the Governor finds to be of critical
23 environmental concern.

24 (b) When one or more local government entities request that the
25 Agency advise and assist in land use planning for an area which
26 affects them and which they consider to be of critical environmental
27 concern.

28 2. Upon receipt of a directive or a request pursuant to
29 subsection 1, the Administrator shall study the problems of the area
30 described and meet with the affected local government entities to
31 receive their initial comments and recommendations. The
32 Administrator shall then submit the matter of planning for the area
33 of critical environmental concern to the Land Use Planning
34 Advisory Council for consideration and recommendation.

35 3. The Land Use Planning Advisory Council shall include in its
36 procedures one or more public hearings upon notice given by at
37 least one publication at least ~~20~~ 10 days before the hearing in a
38 newspaper or combination of newspapers having general circulation
39 throughout the area affected and each city and county any portion of
40 whose territory lies within such area. The notice shall state with
41 particularity the subject of the hearing.

42 4. Following completion of the hearings and consideration of
43 other information, the Land Use Planning Advisory Council shall
44 make its final recommendations for land use planning policies in the



1 area of critical environmental concern. The recommendations may
2 include proposed land use regulations to carry out such policies.

3 5. No land use regulation adopted by the Land Use Planning
4 Advisory Council pursuant to this section may become effective
5 without the approval of the Governor.

6 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2021.

