

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 232—ASSEMBLYMEN BLACK, MATTHEWS,
DICKMAN, WHEELER, ELLISON; AND MCARTHUR

MARCH 11, 2021

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Creates the Legislative Committee on the Reduction
of Nonessential State Expenditures. (BDR 17-593)

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 legislative affairs; creating the Legislative
Committee on the Reduction of Nonessential State
Expenditures; prescribing the powers and duties of the
Committee; and providing other matters properly relating
thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law creates various committees consisting of Legislators to study
2 specified issues and perform other activities during the interim between legislative
3 sessions. (*See, e.g.,* NRS 218E.150-218E.815) **Section 5** of this bill creates the
4 Legislative Committee on the Reduction of Nonessential State Expenditures as a
5 statutory interim committee and provides for its membership. **Section 6** of this bill
6 provides for the meetings of the Committee, prescribes the manner in which
7 meetings must be conducted and provides for the compensation of the members of
8 the Committee.

9 **Section 7** of this bill prescribes the duties of the Committee, including the
10 review and evaluation of issues relating to state governmental spending and
11 efficiency. Specifically, **section 7** requires the Committee to: (1) identify areas in
12 which state expenditures may be eliminated or avoided; (2) identify areas in which
13 state expenditures may be reduced; (3) investigate alleged instances within state
14 agencies of abuse, fraud or waste with respect to public money; and (4) make
15 recommendations for corrective action by such an agency relating to such an
16 investigation. **Section 7** also requires a state agency to collaborate with the
17 Committee in carrying out its duties and provide the Committee with certain
18 information upon request.

19 **Section 8** of this bill authorizes the Committee to: (1) conduct investigations
20 and hold hearings; and (2) propose legislation concerning state governmental
21 spending and efficiency. **Section 8** also requires the Committee to submit to the
22 Legislature a report describing its activities. **Section 8** also authorizes the



23 Committee to submit such additional reports to the Interim Finance Committee or
24 the Legislature as it deems appropriate.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 218E of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 8, inclusive, of this
3 act.

4 **Sec. 2.** *As used in sections 2 to 8, inclusive, of this act, unless*
5 *the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in*
6 *sections 3 and 4 of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in*
7 *those sections.*

8 **Sec. 3.** *“Agency” means an agency, bureau, board,*
9 *commission, department, division or any other unit of the State*
10 *Government.*

11 **Sec. 4.** *“Committee” means the Legislative Committee on the*
12 *Reduction of Nonessential State Expenditures created by section 5*
13 *of this act.*

14 **Sec. 5.** *1. The Legislative Committee on the Reduction of*
15 *Nonessential State Expenditures is hereby created. The*
16 *membership of the Committee consists of:*

17 *(a) Two members of the Senate appointed by the Majority*
18 *Leader of the Senate;*

19 *(b) Two members of the Assembly appointed by the Speaker of*
20 *the Assembly;*

21 *(c) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority*
22 *Leader of the Senate; and*

23 *(d) One member of the Assembly appointed by the Minority*
24 *Leader of the Assembly.*

25 *2. The Legislative Commission shall review and approve the*
26 *budget and work program for the Committee and any changes to*
27 *the budget or work program.*

28 *3. The Legislative Commission shall select a Chair and Vice*
29 *Chair of the Committee from among the members of the*
30 *Committee. After the initial selection, each Chair and Vice Chair*
31 *holds office for a term of 2 years commencing on July 1 of each*
32 *odd-numbered year. The office of Chair of the Committee must*
33 *alternate each biennium between the Houses. If a vacancy occurs*
34 *in the office of the Chair or Vice Chair, the vacancy must be filled*
35 *in the same manner as the original selection for the remainder of*
36 *the unexpired term.*

37 *4. A member of the Committee who is not a candidate for*
38 *reelection or who is defeated for reelection continues to serve after*



1 *the general election until the next regular or special session of the*
2 *Legislature convenes.*

3 5. *A vacancy on the Committee must be filled in the same*
4 *manner as the original appointment for the remainder of the*
5 *unexpired term.*

6 **Sec. 6.** 1. *Except as otherwise ordered by the Legislative*
7 *Commission, the members of the Committee shall meet not earlier*
8 *than September 1 of each odd-numbered year and not later than*
9 *August 31 of the following even-numbered year at the times and*
10 *places specified by a call of the Chair or a majority of the*
11 *Committee.*

12 2. *The Director or the Director's designee shall act as the*
13 *nonvoting recording Secretary of the Committee.*

14 3. *Four members of the Committee constitute a quorum, and*
15 *a quorum may exercise all the power and authority conferred on*
16 *the Committee.*

17 4. *Except during a regular or special session of the*
18 *Legislature, for each day or portion of a day during which a*
19 *member of the Committee attends a meeting of the Committee or is*
20 *otherwise engaged in the business of the Committee, the member*
21 *is entitled to receive the:*

22 (a) *Compensation provided for a majority of the members of*
23 *the Legislature during the first 60 days of the preceding regular*
24 *session;*

25 (b) *Per diem allowance provided for state officers and*
26 *employees generally; and*

27 (c) *Travel expenses provided pursuant to NRS 218A.655.*

28 5. *All such compensation, per diem allowances and travel*
29 *expenses must be paid from the Legislative Fund.*

30 **Sec. 7.** 1. *The Committee shall review and evaluate issues*
31 *relating to state governmental spending and efficiency. The*
32 *Committee shall:*

33 (a) *Identify areas in which state expenditures may be*
34 *eliminated or avoided, including, without limitation, by identifying*
35 *programs or services provided by agencies that the Committee*
36 *determines are duplicative of other programs or services,*
37 *ineffective or nonessential for the operation of the State*
38 *Government.*

39 (b) *Identify areas in which the costs to an agency of providing*
40 *services that the Committee determines are essential for the*
41 *operation of the State Government may be reduced, including,*
42 *without limitation, areas in which increased efficiencies may be*
43 *found.*

44 (c) *Upon concluding that an agency:*



1 (1) *May be engaging in abuse, fraud or waste with respect*
2 *to public money, investigate the agency.*

3 (2) *Is engaged in abuse, fraud or waste with respect to*
4 *public money, provide written notice to the agency of this*
5 *determination. Such notice must include, without limitation, any*
6 *recommendations for corrective action by the agency.*

7 2. *Each agency shall:*

8 (a) *Collaborate with the Committee in carrying out the duties*
9 *prescribed in this section; and*

10 (b) *Provide the Committee with any information requested by*
11 *the Committee as soon as is reasonably practicable after receiving*
12 *the request.*

13 3. *An agency that receives notice of a determination by the*
14 *Committee that the agency is engaged in abuse, fraud or waste*
15 *pursuant to subparagraph (2) of paragraph (c) of subsection 1*
16 *shall, upon the request of the Committee, provide the Committee*
17 *with a written report regarding any corrective actions taken by the*
18 *agency to implement the recommendations made by the Committee*
19 *pursuant to that subparagraph.*

20 **Sec. 8. 1. The Committee may:**

21 (a) *Conduct investigations and hold hearings in connection*
22 *with its duties pursuant to section 7 of this act and exercise any of*
23 *the investigative powers set forth in NRS 218E.105 to 218E.140,*
24 *inclusive.*

25 (b) *Request that the Legislative Counsel Bureau assist in the*
26 *research, investigations, hearings and reviews of the Committee.*

27 (c) *Recommend to the Legislature, as a result of its review and*
28 *evaluation, any appropriate legislation concerning state*
29 *governmental spending and efficiency.*

30 2. *On or before October 1 of each even-numbered year, the*
31 *Committee shall:*

32 (a) *Compile a report describing the activities of the Committee*
33 *during the legislative interim. The report must include, without*
34 *limitation:*

35 (1) *Any recommendations for legislation considered by the*
36 *Committee. The report must indicate, for each such*
37 *recommendation, whether the recommendation was approved by a*
38 *majority vote of all of the members of the Committee.*

39 (2) *A summary of the areas identified by the Committee in*
40 *which state expenditures may be eliminated or avoided pursuant to*
41 *paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of section 7 of this act.*

42 (3) *A summary of the areas identified by the Committee in*
43 *which state expenditures may be reduced pursuant to paragraph*
44 *(b) of subsection 1 of section 7 of this act.*



1 (4) *A summary of any investigation conducted pursuant to*
2 *paragraph (c) of subsection 1 of section 7 of this act and any*
3 *recommendations for corrective action made by the Committee.*

4 (5) *A summary of any corrective action taken by an agency*
5 *to implement any recommendations made by the Committee of*
6 *which the Committee is aware.*

7 (b) *Submit the report to the Director for transmittal to the*
8 *Legislature.*

9 3. *The Committee may submit to the Director for transmittal*
10 *to the Interim Finance Committee or the Legislature any such*
11 *additional reports as it deems appropriate.*

12 **Sec. 9.** The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do
13 not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a
14 requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

15 **Sec. 10.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2021.

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