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ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 455—COMMITTEE ON  
LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE  
ON PUBLIC LANDS)

MARCH 23, 2015

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Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Directs the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study regarding the present and future supplies of water and allocation levels in this State. (BDR S-481)

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.

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AN ACT relating to water; directing the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study regarding the present and future supplies of water and allocation levels in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Under existing law, the Legislative Committee on Public Lands is authorized to  
2 review and comment on the laws, regulations and policies relating to the use,  
3 allocation and management of water in this State. (NRS 218E.525) **Section 2** of this  
4 bill directs the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an  
5 interim study to focus specifically on the present and future supplies of water and  
6 allocation levels in this State. **Section 3** of this bill requires the Legislative Counsel  
7 Bureau to provide administrative and technical assistance to the committee at the  
8 request of the Chair of the committee.

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

1       **Section 1.** The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

2       1. The waters of the State of Nevada are among its most  
3 precious and vital resources;

4       2. The State of Nevada is one of the most arid states in the  
5 United States and its limited surface water and groundwater  
6 resources have been depleted by recent drought conditions in the  
7 Colorado River Basin and the Great Basin;

8       3. Adequate, long-term supplies of water are essential to  
9 Nevada's economic future, valued quality of life and natural  
10 environment;

11       4. The creation of a long-term statewide water plan and water  
12 supply program may better enable the State of Nevada to address the  
13 issues necessary to ensure adequate, long-term supplies of water in  
14 this State; and

15       5. Compiling and analyzing data which quantifies the existing  
16 water resources in this State and analyzes the present and future  
17 water needs and requirements of the residents of Nevada is an  
18 essential step in creating a long-term statewide water plan and water  
19 supply program.

20       **Sec. 2.** 1. The Legislative Commission shall appoint a  
21 committee consisting of seven members to conduct a study during  
22 the 2015-2016 interim of issues relating to water resources in this  
23 State, including, without limitation, a review of:

24       (a) The present and future supplies of water and allocation levels  
25 in this State, including, without limitation:

26           (1) The annual groundwater levels in this State;

27           (2) The need to measure the annual amounts of groundwater  
28 pumpage;

29           (3) The water-budget estimates and the relationship of those  
30 estimates to the allocation of available water resources in this State;  
31 and

32           (4) The capability of the State to meet the projected demands  
33 for water in this State, including any projected shortfall in water  
34 resources; and

35       (b) Sufficient data relating to the water resources and projected  
36 demands for water in this State to enable the creation of a long-term  
37 statewide water plan and water supply program.

38       2. The Legislative Commission shall appoint to the committee:

39       (a) A member of the Senate or Assembly, who serves as the  
40 Chair of the committee;

41       (b) The State Engineer who serves as an ex officio member of  
42 the committee;



- 1 (c) A representative of the Southern Nevada Water Authority;  
2 (d) A representative of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority;  
3 (e) A representative of the Humboldt River Basin Water  
4 Authority;  
5 (f) A member who is a Commissioner of the Colorado River  
6 Commission of Nevada; and  
7 (g) A representative of a public or private entity with which any  
8 county in the State has an agreement regarding the planning,  
9 development or distribution of water resources, or any combination  
10 thereof.
- 11 3. An ex officio member of the committee may designate an  
12 alternate within his or her office to attend any meeting of the  
13 committee in his or her place. Any vacancy in the committee may be  
14 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
- 15 4. The committee shall submit a report of its findings,  
16 including, without limitation, any recommendations for legislation,  
17 to the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature.
- 18 **Sec. 3.** The Legislative Counsel Bureau shall provide  
19 administrative and technical assistance to the committee appointed  
20 pursuant to section 2 of this act as requested by the Chair of the  
21 committee.
- 22 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.



