

SENATE BILL NO. 150—SENATOR ATKINSON

FEBRUARY 12, 2015

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Provides for the creation of certain local improvement districts. (BDR 22-60)

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 local improvements; providing for the creation of certain local improvement districts that include an energy efficiency improvement project or a renewable energy project; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law sets forth the procedures for a governing body to acquire,
2 improve, equip, operate and maintain local improvement districts that include
3 various types of projects, including energy efficiency improvement projects and
4 renewable energy projects. (NRS 271.265-271.630) This bill provides for the
5 creation by a local government, without an election, of a local improvement district
6 that includes an energy efficiency improvement project or a renewable energy
7 project.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 271 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 *1. The governing body of a municipality, on behalf of the*
4 *municipality and in its name, without an election, may create a*
5 *district to finance one or more energy efficiency improvement*
6 *projects or renewable energy projects. The governing body may*
7 *create the district only if:*

8 *(a) The governing body has, pursuant to subsection 8, adopted*
9 *by resolution a procedure for the creation and administration of a*



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1 *district for the purposes of financing one or more energy*
2 *efficiency improvement projects or renewable energy projects.*

3 *(b) Each owner of each tract on which an energy efficiency*
4 *improvement project or renewable energy project will be located*
5 *consents in writing to the location of the project on the tract and*
6 *the levy of an assessment against the tract to pay all or a portion of*
7 *the cost thereof in an amount up to the estimated maximum*
8 *benefit to the tract from the installation or improvement. The*
9 *estimated maximum benefit may not exceed the market value of*
10 *the tract as determined by the governing body.*

11 *(c) Each consent provided pursuant to paragraph (b):*

12 *(1) Describes the tract to be assessed and the improvements*
13 *to be financed;*

14 *(2) States the estimated maximum benefit that the owner*
15 *agrees will be conferred on the tract by virtue of the installation or*
16 *improvement; and*

17 *(3) Is accompanied by:*

18 *(I) A signed copy of each contract between an owner of*
19 *the tract and each contractor described in subsection 5 pursuant to*
20 *which the contractor agrees to construct, acquire and install the*
21 *installation or improvement identified in the consent at a total*
22 *price which does not exceed the limitation set forth in subsection 5*
23 *and which contains any terms required by the resolution adopted*
24 *pursuant to subsection 8 and such other terms not inconsistent*
25 *with the provisions of this section or with the resolution, as may be*
26 *agreed upon by the owner of the tract and the contractor and is*
27 *acceptable to the governing body; and*

28 *(II) A deposit in an amount determined in the manner*
29 *specified in the resolution adopted pursuant to subsection 8, which*
30 *may be refunded if the project to which the consent relates is*
31 *completed and is financed with assessments levied pursuant to this*
32 *chapter within the period specified in the resolution.*

33 *(d) The outstanding amount owed on all recorded instruments*
34 *which are liens against any tract included in the district does not*
35 *exceed 90 percent of the fair market value of the property*
36 *assessed, as defined by the governing body, without taking into*
37 *account the imposition of the liens for assessments pursuant to*
38 *this section and the additional value added to the tract by a project*
39 *financed pursuant to this section.*

40 *2. Each consent provided pursuant to paragraph (b) of*
41 *subsection 1 and each amendment thereto must be recorded in the*
42 *office of the county recorder and, once recorded, is binding on the*
43 *owner who signed the consent and any other person who holds*
44 *any interest in the tract to which the consent relates and who*
45 *signed the consent.*



1 3. *A district created pursuant to subsection 1 may be created*
2 *at any time as designated by a governing body, but must only*
3 *include tracts for which a consent has been recorded pursuant to*
4 *subsection 2.*

5 4. *A resolution adopted pursuant to subsection 8 must*
6 *contain or incorporate by reference an exhibit describing each*
7 *tract to be assessed, the type of improvement or installation to be*
8 *financed for each tract and the estimated maximum benefit as*
9 *stated in the consent.*

10 5. *Construction within a district created pursuant to*
11 *subsection 1 must be completed through independent contracts*
12 *with contractors licensed in Nevada who are approved by the*
13 *governing body. The municipality is not responsible for the*
14 *construction, or any defects or delays thereof. The laws of this*
15 *State relating to public bidding, public works or public*
16 *procurement are not applicable to contracts for construction*
17 *executed pursuant to this subsection. The total contract price of*
18 *any improvement or installation must not exceed 80 percent of the*
19 *estimated maximum benefit for the tract as stated in the consent,*
20 *as it may be amended from time to time, unless the owner of the*
21 *property to be assessed:*

22 (a) *Agrees to pay and pays or causes another party to pay, the*
23 *difference between 80 percent of the estimated maximum benefit*
24 *and the total contract price from a source other than financing*
25 *provided pursuant to this chapter; and*

26 (b) *Agrees in writing that the improvement or installation will*
27 *in fact benefit the tract by an amount at least equal to the sum of*
28 *the estimated maximum benefit stated in the consent and the*
29 *amount to be paid from a source other than financing provided*
30 *pursuant to this chapter.*

31 6. *The improvements to or installations within a district*
32 *created pursuant to subsection 1 must not be owned by a*
33 *municipality but shall be deemed to be the property of the owner of*
34 *the tract upon which the improvement or installation is located.*

35 7. *A resolution adopted pursuant to subsection 8 may be*
36 *adopted as if an emergency exists by a vote of not less than two-*
37 *thirds of all the voting members of the governing body.*

38 8. *Before creating a district pursuant to subsection 1, a*
39 *governing body must adopt a resolution which specifies the*
40 *procedures for the creation and administration of such a district.*
41 *The resolution may provide for one or more of the following:*

42 (a) *Additional notices of the proposal to create the district,*
43 *notices of the opportunity to apply for inclusion in the district or*
44 *any other notices;*



1 (b) A reserve of money for bonds issued for the district, the
2 method of funding the reserve and the disposition of any interest
3 earned upon or the principal of the reserve that is not needed to
4 repay any bonds or interim warrants issued for the purposes of
5 financing an energy efficiency improvement project or renewable
6 energy project within the district;

7 (c) Any other security for those bonds or interim warrants, and
8 the method of determining the term of the bonds in compliance
9 with NRS 271.515;

10 (d) Any requirements for casualty insurance, liability
11 insurance or other types of insurance for any project within the
12 district;

13 (e) The method of determining the lien-to-value ratio of the
14 property for the purpose of complying with the limitation
15 prescribed by paragraph (d) of subsection 1;

16 (f) Any limitation on the lien-to-value ratio that would result in
17 a lower lien-to-value ratio than that prescribed by paragraph (d) of
18 subsection 1;

19 (g) Any limitation on the amount of the contract price, as a
20 percentage of the estimated maximum benefit, that is lower than
21 the limitation prescribed by subsection 5;

22 (h) Any sources, other than the proceeds of assessments, that
23 will be used to pay:

24 (1) The cost of construction and installation of
25 improvements financed pursuant to this section;

26 (2) The cost of any reserve of money or other security for
27 financing an energy efficiency improvement project or renewable
28 energy project pursuant to this section; or

29 (3) The cost of engineering work, the cost to issue any
30 bonds or provide other financing, or the cost of other incidentals
31 pursuant to this section;

32 (i) Any other security features, covenants required of property
33 owners, covenants required of other parties or any other
34 covenants, guarantees, insurance or other matters which the
35 governing body finds are necessary or desirable for the financing
36 of an energy efficiency improvement project or renewable energy
37 project pursuant to this section; and

38 (j) Any other matters, procedures or financing terms which the
39 governing body, in its sole discretion, determines are necessary or
40 desirable to carry out the purposes of this section.

41 9. A bond or interim warrant issued for a district created
42 pursuant to subsection 1 must not be secured by a pledge of the
43 general credit or taxing power of the municipality or by the
44 surplus and deficiency fund established pursuant to NRS 271.428.



1 **10. The provisions of:**

2 (a) *NRS 271.275 to 271.365, inclusive, do not apply to a*
3 *district which is created pursuant to subsection 1.*

4 (b) *NRS 271.495 and 271.500 do not apply to any bonds or*
5 *interim warrants issued to finance an energy efficiency*
6 *improvement project or renewable energy project within a district*
7 *created pursuant to subsection 1.*

8 **Sec. 2.** NRS 271.099 is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 271.099 “Energy efficiency improvement project” means the
10 *installation or* modification of ~~real property or the facilities or~~
11 ~~equipment on the real property that is designed to reduce the energy~~
12 ~~consumption of the real property.~~ *one or more energy efficiency*
13 *improvements and incidentals which are necessary, useful or*
14 *desirable for any such improvements and which installation or*
15 *modification has a useful life, as estimated by a governing body, of*
16 *not less than 10 years.*

17 **Sec. 3.** NRS 271.199 is hereby amended to read as follows:

18 271.199 “Renewable energy project” means *any improvement*
19 *to* real property, *and* facilities and equipment used to generate
20 electricity from renewable energy to offset customer load in whole
21 or in part on the ~~premises.~~ *real property on which the renewable*
22 *energy project is located,* and all appurtenances and incidentals
23 necessary, useful or desirable for any such ~~real property,~~
24 *improvements,* facilities and equipment ~~+~~ , *and which*
25 *improvement has a useful life, as estimated by a governing body,*
26 *of not less than 10 years.*

27 **Sec. 4.** NRS 271.385 is hereby amended to read as follows:

28 271.385 1. At the time and place designated pursuant to NRS
29 271.380, the governing body shall hear and determine any written
30 complaint, protest or objection filed as provided in that section and
31 any verbal views expressed in respect to the proposed assessments,
32 assessment roll or assessment procedure. The governing body may
33 adjourn the hearing from time to time.

34 2. The governing body, by resolution, may revise, correct,
35 confirm or set aside any assessment and order that the assessment be
36 made de novo.

37 3. Any complaint, protest or objection to:

38 (a) The assessment roll;

39 (b) The regularity, validity and correctness of each assessment;

40 (c) The amount of each assessment; or

41 (d) The regularity, validity and correctness of any other
42 proceedings occurring after the date of the hearing described in NRS
43 271.310 and before the date of the hearing governed by this section,

44 ➔ shall be deemed waived unless filed in writing within the time
45 and in the manner provided by NRS 271.380.



1 ***4. If any owner of a tract which is assessed for the purpose of***
2 ***creating a district pursuant to subsection 1 of section 1 of this act***
3 ***objects in writing within the time and in the manner provided by***
4 ***NRS 271.380, the tract must be removed from the assessment roll,***
5 ***and the municipality shall not finance the project located on the***
6 ***tract unless the objecting owner withdraws his or her objection in***
7 ***writing within the time specified by the governing body.***

8 **Sec. 5.** NRS 271.475 is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 271.475 1. The governing body shall likewise have power to
10 issue negotiable bonds in an amount not exceeding the total unpaid
11 assessments levied to pay the cost of any project, howsoever
12 acquired, as hereinafter provided.

13 2. Any ordinance pertaining to the sale, issuance or payment of
14 bonds or other securities of the municipality, or any combination
15 thereof, may:

16 (a) Be adopted as if an emergency existed. The declaration of
17 the governing body, if any, is conclusive in the absence of fraud or
18 gross abuse of discretion.

19 (b) Become effective at any time when an emergency ordinance
20 of the municipality may go into effect.

21 (c) Be adopted by not less than two-thirds of all of the voting
22 members of the governing body, excluding from any such
23 computation any vacancy on the governing body and any member
24 thereon who may vote only to break a tie vote.

25 ***3. The proceeds of bonds which are to be used to pay the costs***
26 ***of construction, acquisition or installation of an energy efficiency***
27 ***improvement project or renewable energy project within a district***
28 ***created pursuant to subsection 1 of section 1 of this act must be***
29 ***paid to the contractor as directed in writing by the property owner***
30 ***or, if the property owner has paid the contractor, must be paid to***
31 ***reimburse the property owner, but in either case, only upon receipt***
32 ***of:***

33 (a) ***Written evidence that the installation or improvement is***
34 ***complete, or verification through an inspection if so authorized in***
35 ***the resolution adopted pursuant to subsection 8 of section 1 of this***
36 ***act or if the municipality otherwise determines to make an***
37 ***inspection;***

38 (b) ***A waiver of any mechanic's or materialmen's liens if so***
39 ***authorized in the resolution adopted pursuant to subsection 8 of***
40 ***section 1 of this act; and***

41 (c) ***Written evidence that the total contract price has been paid***
42 ***unless the price is to be paid by the municipality to or at the***
43 ***direction of the contractor.***



1 ***↪ No such inspection or review or receipt of a waiver imposes any***
2 ***liability on the municipality for any constructed, acquired or***
3 ***installed energy efficiency improvement project or renewable***
4 ***energy project or any unconstructed, unacquired or uninstalled***
5 ***item, any defect in any such item, any failure of any party to pay***
6 ***for any item, or any lien, including, without limitation, any***
7 ***mechanic's or materialmen's lien.***

8 **Sec. 6.** NRS 271.485 is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 271.485 1. Any bonds issued pursuant to this chapter may be
10 sold in such a manner as may be approved by the governing body to
11 defray the cost of the project, including all proper incidental
12 expenses. The governing body may issue a single issue of bonds to
13 defray the costs of projects in two or more improvement districts if
14 the principal amount of those bonds does not exceed the total
15 uncollected assessments levied in each improvement district.

16 2. Bonds must be sold in the manner prescribed in NRS
17 350.105 to 350.195, inclusive:

18 (a) For not less than the principal amount thereof and accrued
19 interest thereon; or

20 (b) At the option of the governing body, below par at a discount
21 not exceeding 9 percent of the principal amount and except as
22 otherwise provided in ***this paragraph and in*** NRS 99.067, 271.487
23 and 271.730, at a price which will not result in an effective interest
24 rate which exceeds by more than 3 percent the Index of Twenty
25 Bonds which was most recently published before the bids are
26 received or a negotiated offer is accepted if the maximum or any
27 lesser amount of discount permitted by the governing body has been
28 capitalized as a cost of the project. ***If the bonds bear an amount of***
29 ***interest that is included in gross income for the purposes of***
30 ***calculating federal income tax pursuant to the provisions of Title***
31 ***26 of the United States Code, the net effective interest rate must***
32 ***not exceed twice the maximum interest rate as provided in this***
33 ***paragraph.***

34 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 and NRS
35 271.487 and 271.730, the rate of interest of the bonds must not at
36 any time exceed the rate of interest, or lower or lowest rate if more
37 than one, borne by the special assessments, but any rate of interest
38 of the bonds may be the same as or less than any rate of interest of
39 the assessment, subject to the limitation provided in subsection 2, as
40 the governing body may determine.

41 4. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 271.730, if a
42 governing body creates a district pursuant to the provisions of NRS
43 271.710, the governing body or chief financial officer of the
44 municipality shall, in consultation with a financial advisor or the
45 underwriter of the bonds, fix the rate of interest of the bonds at a



1 rate of interest such that the principal and interest due on the bonds
2 in each year, net of any interest capitalized from the proceeds of the
3 bonds, will not exceed the amount of principal and interest to be
4 collected on the special assessments during that year.

5 5. The governing body may employ legal, fiscal, engineering
6 and other expert services in connection with any project authorized
7 by this chapter and the authorization, issuance and sale of bonds.

8 6. Any accrued interest must be applied to the payment of the
9 interest on or the principal of the bonds, or both interest and
10 principal.

11 7. Any unexpended balance of the proceeds of the bond
12 remaining after the completion of the project for which the bonds
13 were issued must be paid immediately into the fund created for the
14 payment of the principal of the bonds and must be used therefor,
15 subject to the provisions as to the times and methods for their
16 payment as stated in the bonds and the proceedings authorizing their
17 issuance.

18 8. The validity of the bonds must not be dependent on nor
19 affected by the validity or regularity of any proceedings relating to
20 the acquisition or improvement of the project for which the bonds
21 are issued.

22 9. A purchaser of the bonds is not responsible for the
23 application of the proceeds of the bonds by the municipality or any
24 of its officers, agents and employees.

25 10. The governing body may enter into a contract to sell
26 special assessment bonds at any time but, if the governing body so
27 contracts before it awards a construction contract or otherwise
28 contracts for acquiring or improving the project, the governing body
29 may terminate the contract to sell the bonds, if:

30 (a) Before awarding the construction contract or otherwise
31 contracting for the acquisition or improvement of the project, it
32 determines not to acquire or improve the project; and

33 (b) It has not elected to proceed pursuant to subsection 2 or 3 of
34 NRS 271.330, but has elected to proceed pursuant to subsection 1 of
35 that section.

36 11. If the governing body ceases to have jurisdiction to
37 proceed, because the requisite proportion of owners of the frontage
38 to be assessed, or of the area, zone or other basis of assessment, file
39 written complaints, protests and objections to the project, as
40 provided in NRS 271.306, or for any other reason, any contract to
41 sell special assessment bonds is terminated and becomes
42 inoperative.

43 **Sec. 7.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

