

SENATE BILL NO. 198—SENATOR ROBERSON

FEBRUARY 24, 2011

Referred to Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy

SUMMARY—Revises certain provisions governing financial institutions. (BDR 55-822)

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 financial institutions; removing provisions requiring a bank annually to charge off a certain percentage of the value of real property held by the bank and acquired as a result of a debt owed to the bank; revising provisions governing the review of certain applications for licensure by the Commissioner of Financial Institutions; revising provisions relating to the control of a retail trust company; revising provisions governing the assets which certain trust companies are required to maintain; revising provisions governing applications for a license to operate a retail trust company; authorizing certain persons to appeal certain decisions of the Commissioner; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law regulates the activities of and establishes the licensure
2 requirements for various financial institutions, including banks and trust companies,
3 that operate in this State. (Title 55 of NRS) Existing law authorizes a bank to hold
4 real property that the bank acquires through the collection of debts owed to it for
5 not more than 10 years, and **section 1** of this bill reduces that period to 5 years,
6 except that a bank may request an extension of that period from the Commissioner
7 of Financial Institutions of not more than 5 years. Existing law also requires a bank
8 to charge off the real property on a schedule of not less than 10 percent per year, or
9 at a greater percentage if so required by the Commissioner. **Section 1** additionally
10 removes the requirement that a bank annually charge off a certain percentage of the
11 value of such real property. (NRS 662.015)

12 Existing law also charges the Commissioner of Financial Institutions with
13 certain duties and responsibilities related to retail trust companies, including



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14 investigating companies that apply for licensure as a retail trust company, issuing
15 licenses to qualified companies to operate as a retail trust company and removing
16 from office an officer, director, manager or employee of a retail trust company for
17 certain conduct. (NRS 657.180, 669.085, 669.090, 669.130, 669.150, 669.160,
18 669.281) **Section 3** of this bill requires the Commissioner to consider certain
19 criteria related to the potential long-term success of a trust company before
20 approving the company's application for licensure to operate as a retail trust
21 company. **Section 4** of this bill requires a person who intends to obtain control of a
22 retail trust company to submit an application for licensure to the Commissioner.
23 **Section 7** of this bill requires the Commissioner to provide to an applicant for
24 licensure as a retail trust company written notice of any grounds for denial of an
25 application and authorizes the applicant to cure any defect or deficiency in the
26 application and resubmit the application within a certain period. **Section 8** of this
27 bill provides that a person who is removed from office by the Commissioner may
28 appeal his or her removal from office within a certain period.

29 Existing law requires a retail trust company to maintain at least 50 percent of its
30 required stockholders' equity in cash, unless the Commissioner approves a different
31 amount, with the remaining amount to be held in the form of readily marketable
32 securities or certain other assets that may be approved by the Commissioner.
33 Existing law also requires a noncustodial trust company to maintain 50 percent of
34 its required minimum capital in cash. (NRS 669.100) **Section 6** of this bill requires
35 a retail trust company to maintain a certain amount of its required stockholders'
36 equity in the form of cash or certain cash equivalents and authorizes a retail trust
37 company to hold the remaining amount of the required stockholders' equity in the
38 form of readily marketable securities or certain other assets upon the approval of
39 the Commissioner. **Section 6** further requires that bonds or other evidence of
40 indebtedness held by a retail trust company as part of its required stockholders'
41 equity meet certain investment standards. **Section 6** also requires a noncustodial
42 trust company to maintain 25 percent of its required minimum capital in the form of
43 cash.

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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 662.015 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 662.015 1. In addition to the powers conferred by law upon
3 private corporations and limited-liability companies, a bank may:

4 (a) Exercise by its board of directors, managers or authorized
5 officers and agents, subject to law, all powers necessary to carry on
6 the business of banking by:

7 (1) Discounting and negotiating promissory notes, drafts,
8 bills of exchange and other evidences of indebtedness;

9 (2) Receiving deposits;

10 (3) Buying and selling exchange, coin and bullion; and

11 (4) Loaning money on personal security or real and personal
12 property.

13 ↪ At the time of making loans, banks may take and receive interest
14 or discounts in advance.

15 (b) Adopt regulations for its own government not inconsistent
16 with the Constitution and laws of this State.



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1 (c) Issue, advise and confirm letters of credit authorizing the
2 beneficiaries to draw upon the bank or its correspondents.

3 (d) Receive money for transmission.

4 (e) Establish and become a member of a clearinghouse
5 association and pledge assets required for its qualification.

6 (f) Exercise any authority and perform all acts that a national
7 bank may exercise or perform, with the consent and written
8 approval of the Commissioner. The Commissioner may, by
9 regulation, waive or modify a requirement of Nevada law if the
10 corresponding requirement for national banks is eliminated or
11 modified.

12 (g) Provide for the performance of the services of a bank service
13 corporation, such as data processing and bookkeeping, subject to
14 any regulations adopted by the Commissioner.

15 (h) Unless otherwise specifically prohibited by federal law, sell
16 annuities if licensed by the Commissioner of Insurance.

17 2. A bank may purchase, hold and convey real property:

18 (a) As is necessary for the convenient transaction of its business,
19 including furniture and fixtures, with its banking offices and for
20 future site expansion. This investment must not exceed, except as
21 otherwise provided in this section, 60 percent of its stockholders' or
22 members' equity, plus subordinated capital notes and debentures.
23 The Commissioner may authorize any bank located in a city whose
24 population is more than 10,000 to invest more than 60 percent of its
25 stockholders' or members' equity, plus subordinated capital notes
26 and debentures, in its banking offices, furniture and fixtures.

27 (b) As is mortgaged to it in good faith by way of security for
28 loans made or money due to the bank.

29 (c) As is permitted by NRS 662.103.

30 3. This section does not prohibit any bank from holding,
31 developing or disposing of any real property it may acquire through
32 the collection of debts due it. ~~{Any}~~ *Except as otherwise provided*
33 *in subsection 4*, real property acquired through the collection of
34 debts due it may not be held for longer than ~~{10}~~ *5* years. It must be
35 sold at private or public sale within 30 days thereafter. ~~{During the~~
36 ~~time that the bank holds the real property, the bank shall charge off~~
37 ~~the real property on a schedule of not less than 10 percent per year,~~
38 ~~or at a greater percentage per year as the Commissioner may~~
39 ~~require.}~~

40 *4. A bank may request and the Commissioner may grant an*
41 *extension of the period described in subsection 3 of not more than*
42 *5 years. The Commissioner shall not grant a bank more than one*
43 *extension of the period prescribed in subsection 3 for any real*
44 *property held by the bank.*



1 **Sec. 2.** NRS 669.083 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 669.083 1. A retail trust company licensed in this State shall
3 maintain its principal office in this State.

4 2. The conditions for a retail trust company to fulfill the
5 requirements of subsection 1 include, but are not limited to:

6 (a) A verifiable physical office in this State that conducts such
7 business operations in this State as are necessary to administer trusts
8 in this State;

9 (b) The presence of an employee that is a resident of Nevada in
10 the principal office who has experience that is satisfactory to the
11 Commissioner in accepting and administering trusts;

12 (c) Maintenance of originals or true copies of all material
13 business records and accounts of the retail trust company which may
14 be accessed and are readily available for examination by the
15 Division of Financial Institutions;

16 (d) Maintenance of *any cash as a portion of* the required ~~least~~
17 ~~portion of the~~ stockholders' equity pursuant to NRS 669.100 in
18 accounts with one or more banks or other financial institutions
19 located in this State;

20 (e) The provision of services to residents of this State consistent
21 with the business plan provided by the trust company with its
22 license application; and

23 (f) Such other conditions that the Commissioner may
24 *reasonably* require to protect the public interest.

25 **Sec. 3.** NRS 669.085 is hereby amended to read as follows:

26 669.085 1. ~~[The Commissioner may conduct a pre-opening~~
27 ~~examination of a retail trust company and, in] In~~ rendering a
28 decision on an application for a license as a retail trust company, *the*
29 *Commissioner shall* consider:

30 (a) The proposed market or markets to be served and, if they
31 extend outside of this State, any exceptional risk, examination or
32 supervision concerns associated with such markets;

33 (b) Whether the proposed organizational and capital structure
34 and the amount of initial capital appear adequate in relation to the
35 proposed business and market or markets, including, without
36 limitation, the average level of assets under management and
37 administration projected for each of the first 3 years of operation;

38 (c) ~~[Whether the anticipated volume and nature of business~~
39 ~~indicate a reasonable probability of success and profitability based~~
40 ~~on the market or markets proposed to be served;~~

41 ~~—(d)]~~ Whether the proposed officers and directors or managers of
42 the proposed retail trust company, as a group, have sufficient
43 experience, ability, standing and competence and whether each
44 individually has sufficient trustworthiness and integrity to justify a
45 belief that the proposed retail trust company will be free from



1 improper or unlawful influence and otherwise will operate in
2 compliance with the law and applicable fiduciary duties and that
3 success of the proposed retail trust company is reasonably probable;

4 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) Whether any investment services to trusts, estates,
5 charities, employee benefit plans and other fiduciary accounts or to
6 natural persons, partnerships, limited-liability companies and other
7 entities, including, without limitation, providing investment advice
8 with or without discretion or selling investments in or investment
9 products of affiliated or nonaffiliated persons, will be conducted in
10 compliance with all applicable fiduciary standards, including,
11 without limitation, NRS 164.700 to 164.775, inclusive, the duty of
12 loyalty and disclosure of material information;

13 ~~[(f)]~~ (e) Whether the proposed retail trust company will be
14 exempt from registration under the Investment Advisers Act of
15 1940, 15 U.S.C. § 80b-1 et seq., and any similar state laws in each
16 state where it would otherwise be required to register and, if not,
17 whether it will comply with such registration requirements before
18 commencing business and thereafter will comply with all federal
19 and state laws and regulations applicable to it, its employees and
20 representatives as a registrant under such laws;

21 ~~[(g)]~~ (f) Whether the proposed retail trust company will obtain
22 suitable annual audits by qualified outside auditors of its books and
23 records and its fiduciary activities under applicable account rules
24 and standards as well as suitable internal audits; and

25 ~~[(h)]~~ (g) Any other factors that the Commissioner may
26 *reasonably* require.

27 2. The Commissioner may require a retail trust company to
28 maintain capital in excess of the minimum required either initially
29 or at any subsequent time based on the Commissioner's assessment
30 of the risks associated with the retail trust company's business plan
31 or any other circumstances revealed in the application, the
32 Commissioner's investigation of the application or any examination
33 of or filing by the retail trust company thereafter, including any
34 examination before the opening of the retail trust company for
35 business. In making such a determination, the Commissioner may
36 consider:

37 (a) The nature and type of business proposed to be conducted by
38 the retail trust company;

39 (b) The nature and liquidity of assets proposed to be held in its
40 own account;

41 (c) The amount of fiduciary assets projected to be under
42 management or under administration of the retail trust company;

43 (d) The type of fiduciary assets proposed to be held and any
44 proposed depository of such assets;



1 (e) The complexity of fiduciary duties and degree of discretion
2 proposed to be undertaken by the retail trust company;

3 (f) The competence and experience of proposed management of
4 the retail trust company;

5 (g) The extent and adequacy of proposed internal controls;

6 (h) The proposed presence or absence of annual audits by an
7 independent certified public accountant, and the scope and
8 frequency of such audits, whether they result in an opinion of the
9 accountant and any qualifications to the opinion;

10 (i) The reasonableness of business plans for retaining or
11 acquiring additional equity capital;

12 (j) The existence and adequacy of insurance proposed to be
13 obtained by the retail trust company for the purpose of protecting its
14 fiduciary assets;

15 (k) The success of the retail trust company in achieving the
16 financial projections submitted with its licensing application;

17 (l) The fulfillment by the retail trust company of its
18 representations and its descriptions of its business structures and
19 methods and management set forth in its licensing application; and

20 (m) Any other factor that the Commissioner may require.

21 **Sec. 4.** NRS 669.087 is hereby amended to read as follows:

22 669.087 1. A license issued pursuant to this chapter is not
23 transferable or assignable [~~Upon~~], *but upon* approval of the
24 Commissioner, a licensee may merge or consolidate with, or transfer
25 its assets and control to, another entity that has been issued a license
26 under this chapter. In making a determination regarding whether to
27 grant such approval, the Commissioner may consider the factors set
28 forth in paragraphs (a) to (m), inclusive, of subsection 2 of
29 NRS 669.085.

30 2. If there is a change in control of any retail trust company, the
31 chief executive officer or managing member of the retail trust
32 company shall report the fact and the person obtaining control to the
33 Commissioner within 5 business days after obtaining knowledge of
34 the change.

35 3. A retail trust company shall, within 5 business days after
36 there is a change in the chief executive officer, managing member or
37 a majority of the directors or managing directors of the retail trust
38 company, report the change to the Commissioner. The retail trust
39 company shall include in its report a statement of the past and
40 current business and professional affiliations of each new chief
41 executive officer, managing member, director or managing director.
42 A new chief executive officer, managing member, director or
43 managing director shall furnish to the Commissioner a complete
44 financial statement on a form prescribed by the Commissioner.



1 4. A person who ~~[acquires]~~ *intends to acquire* control ~~[as a~~
2 ~~result of a change of control]~~ of a retail trust company shall submit
3 an application to the Commissioner. The application must be
4 submitted on a form prescribed by the Commissioner. The
5 Commissioner shall conduct an investigation *pursuant to NRS*
6 *669.160* to determine whether the person has a good reputation for
7 honesty, trustworthiness and integrity and is competent to ~~[transact~~
8 ~~the business of a]~~ *control the* trust company in a manner which
9 protects the interests of the general public.

10 5. The retail trust company with which the applicant described
11 in subsection 4 is affiliated shall pay the nonrefundable cost of the
12 investigation as the Commissioner requires. If the Commissioner
13 denies the application, the Commissioner may forbid or limit the
14 applicant's participation in the business of the trust company.

15 6. As used in this section, "control" means the possession,
16 directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of
17 the management and policy of a retail trust company, or a change in
18 the ownership of at least 25 percent of the outstanding voting stock
19 of, or participating members' interest in, a retail trust company.

20 **Sec. 5.** NRS 669.092 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21 669.092 1. It is unlawful for any retail trust company
22 licensed in this State to engage in trust company business at any
23 office outside this State without the prior approval of the
24 Commissioner.

25 2. Before the Commissioner will approve a branch to be
26 located in another state, the retail trust company must ~~[-~~

27 ~~—(a) Obtain from that state a license as a trust company; or~~

28 ~~—(b) Meet]~~ *provide proof satisfactory to the Commissioner that*
29 *the retail trust company has met* all the requirements to do business
30 as a trust company at an office in that state ~~[-]~~, *including, without*
31 *limitation, written documentation from the appropriate state*
32 *agency that the retail trust company is authorized to do business in*
33 *that state.*

34 **Sec. 6.** NRS 669.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

35 669.100 1. No retail trust company may be organized or
36 operated with a stockholders' equity of less than \$1,000,000, or in
37 such greater amount as may be required by the Commissioner. The
38 full amount of the initial stockholders' equity must be paid in cash,
39 exclusive of all organization expenses, before the trust company is
40 authorized to commence business.

41 2. A retail trust company shall maintain at least ~~[50]~~ *25* percent
42 of its required stockholders' equity in cash ~~[unless the~~
43 ~~Commissioner approves a smaller amount.]~~ *and at least an*
44 *additional 25 percent of its required stockholders' equity in cash*
45 *or cash equivalents comprising certificates of deposit, money*



1 *market funds or other insured deposits. Cash equivalents held by a*
2 *retail trust company pursuant to this subsection may, upon prior*
3 *approval by the Commissioner, comprise investments in treasury*
4 *bills, government obligations or commercial paper which, if*
5 *acquired after October 1, 2011, must mature not later than 3*
6 *months after the date of acquisition by the retail trust company.*
7 *Any certificate of deposit, money market fund, insured deposit,*
8 *commercial paper, treasury bill or government obligation, other*
9 *than an obligation of the United States or an obligation*
10 *guaranteed by the United States, that is held as a cash equivalent*
11 *by a retail trust company pursuant to this subsection must not*
12 *exceed 10 percent of the total required stockholders' equity at the*
13 *time the cash equivalent is purchased. The remaining ~~[50 percent]~~*
14 *amount of ~~[its]~~ the retail trust company's required stockholders'*
15 *equity may be a different form of readily marketable securities , or*
16 *with prior approval by the Commissioner , other liquid, secure asset,*
17 *bond, surety or insurance, or some combination of the foregoing.*
18 *Any bond or other evidence of indebtedness held by a retail trust*
19 *company pursuant to this subsection must have an investment*
20 *grade credit rating and must have received a rating within one of*
21 *the top three rating categories of Moody's Investors Service, Inc.*
22 *or Standard and Poor's Ratings Services.*

23 3. Any grandfathered trust company other than a noncustodial
24 trust company that does not have the minimum capital required by
25 this section as of October 1, 2009, shall:

26 (a) Except as otherwise determined by the Commissioner,
27 increase its capital to a minimum of:

- 28 (1) By October 1, 2010, \$500,000;
29 (2) By October 1, 2011, \$750,000; and
30 (3) By October 1, 2012, \$1,000,000; and

31 (b) Maintain ~~[\$500,000]~~ *25 percent* of such minimum capital in
32 cash on and after October 1, 2010.

33 4. Any noncustodial trust company that does not have the
34 minimum capital required by this section as of October 1, 2009,
35 shall:

36 (a) Except as otherwise determined by the Commissioner,
37 increase its capital to a minimum of:

- 38 (1) By October 1, 2010, \$350,000;
39 (2) By October 1, 2011, \$400,000; and
40 (3) By October 1, 2012, \$500,000; and

41 (b) Maintain ~~[50]~~ *25 percent* of such minimum capital in cash on
42 and after October 1, 2010.

43 5. As used in this section, "in cash" means in depository
44 accounts with one or more banks in this State.



1 **Sec. 7.** NRS 669.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 669.160 1. Within 90 days after the application for a license
3 is filed, the Commissioner shall investigate the facts of the
4 application and the other requirements of this chapter to determine:

5 (a) That the persons who will serve as directors or officers of the
6 corporation, or the managers or members acting in a managerial
7 capacity of the limited-liability company, as applicable:

8 (1) Have a good reputation for honesty, trustworthiness and
9 integrity and display competence to transact the business of a trust
10 company in a manner which safeguards the interests of the general
11 public. The applicant must submit satisfactory proof of these
12 qualifications to the Commissioner.

13 (2) Have not been convicted of, or entered a plea of nolo
14 contendere to, a felony or any crime involving fraud,
15 misrepresentation or moral turpitude.

16 (3) Have not made a false statement of material fact on the
17 application.

18 (4) Have not been an officer or member of the board of
19 directors for an entity which had a license issued pursuant to the
20 provisions of this chapter that was suspended or revoked within the
21 10 years immediately preceding the date of the application, and in
22 the reasonable judgment of the Commissioner, there is evidence that
23 the officer or member of the board of directors materially
24 contributed to the actions resulting in the license suspension or
25 revocation.

26 (5) Have not been an officer or member of the board of
27 directors for a company which had a license as a trust company
28 which was issued in any other state, district or territory of the United
29 States or any foreign country suspended or revoked within the 10
30 years immediately preceding the date of the application, and in the
31 reasonable judgment of the Commissioner, there is evidence that the
32 officer or member of the board of directors materially contributed to
33 the actions resulting in the license suspension or revocation.

34 (6) Have not violated any of the provisions of this chapter or
35 any regulation adopted pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

36 (b) That the financial status of the directors and officers of the
37 corporation or the managers or members acting in a managerial
38 capacity of the limited-liability company is consistent with their
39 responsibilities and duties.

40 (c) That the name of the proposed company complies with the
41 provisions of NRS 657.200.

42 (d) That the initial stockholders' equity is not less than the
43 required minimum.

44 (e) That the applicant has retained the employee required by
45 paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of NRS 669.083.



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1 2. ~~[Notice]~~ *After an investigation by the Commissioner*
2 *pursuant to subsection 1, if the Commissioner finds any defect or*
3 *deficiency in an application for licensure which would constitute*
4 *grounds for denial of the application, written notice of such*
5 *grounds for denial must be served personally or sent by certified*
6 *mail to the applicant. The Commissioner shall allow the applicant*
7 *an opportunity to cure any defect or deficiency in the application*
8 *and, not later than 30 days after receipt of the notice of denial, to*
9 *resubmit the application for approval.*

10 3. *If a defect or deficiency in an application is not cured*
11 *pursuant to subsection 2, written notice* of the entry of an order
12 refusing a license to a trust company must be ~~[given in writing,]~~
13 served personally or sent by certified mail to the company affected.
14 The company, upon application, is entitled to a hearing before the
15 Commissioner, but if no such application is made within 30 days
16 after the entry of an order refusing a license to any company, the
17 Commissioner shall enter a final order.

18 ~~[3.]~~ 4. The order of the Commissioner is final for the purposes
19 of judicial review.

20 **Sec. 8.** NRS 669.281 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21 669.281 1. The Commissioner may require the immediate
22 removal from office of any officer, director, manager or employee
23 of any retail trust company doing business under this chapter who is
24 found to be dishonest, incompetent or reckless in the management of
25 the affairs of the retail trust company, or who persistently violates
26 the laws of this State or the lawful orders, instructions and
27 regulations issued by the Commissioner.

28 2. *An officer, director, manager or employee of a retail trust*
29 *company who is removed from office pursuant to subsection 1 may*
30 *appeal his or her removal by filing a written request for a hearing*
31 *with the Commissioner within 10 days after the effective date of*
32 *his or her removal. The Commissioner shall conduct the hearing*
33 *after providing at least 5 days' written notice to the retail trust*
34 *company and the officer, director, manager or employee who is*
35 *removed from office. Within 5 days after the hearing, the*
36 *Commissioner shall enter an order affirming or disaffirming the*
37 *removal of the person from office. An order of the Commissioner*
38 *entered pursuant to this subsection is final for the purposes of*
39 *judicial review.*

40 **Sec. 9.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.



