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SENATE BILL NO. 219—SENATORS HORSFORD AND KIHUEN

MARCH 3, 2011

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JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYWOMEN KIRKPATRICK AND SMITH

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Referred to Select Committee on Economic  
Growth and Employment

**SUMMARY**—Requires certain assessments of unemployed and employed workers to determine the available workforce in Nevada and makes appropriations for performing skills assessments for unemployed persons. (BDR 18-936)

**FISCAL NOTE:** Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

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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 economic development; requiring certain organizations that receive grants of money for economic development to perform assessments of employed workers to determine the available workforce; providing for the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation and its Workforce Investment Act partners to implement skills assessments of unemployment applicants and report results; making appropriations to the College of Southern Nevada and the Truckee Meadows Community College for performing skills assessments for unemployed persons; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

- 1 **Section 1** of this bill requires certain organizations that receive grants of money
- 2 for economic development to perform a workforce inventory to determine whether
- 3 there is an adequate workforce for the businesses sought to be expanded, retained
- 4 and recruited in the community served by the organization.
- 5 **Section 2** of this bill provides for the Administrator of the Employment
- 6 Security Division of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation



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7 and the Department's Workforce Investment Act partners to implement skills  
8 assessments for persons who apply for unemployment benefits or become  
9 participants in a Workforce Investment Act program and report the statewide  
10 results of the assessments periodically to the Department.

11 **Sections 3 and 4** of this bill make appropriations from the State General Fund  
12 for the current biennium to the College of Southern Nevada and the Truckee  
13 Meadows Community College for performing skills assessments for unemployed  
14 persons to determine the training that might be appropriate to help such persons  
15 become employed in industries having the highest potential for growth in this State.  
16 The Colleges are required to perform the skills assessments for unemployed  
17 persons who are selected from a pool of applicants in such a manner as to ensure  
18 that each College tests a representative sampling of all unemployed persons in this  
19 State.

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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 231.067 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2 231.067 The Commission on Economic Development shall:

3 1. Develop a State Plan for Industrial Development and  
4 Diversification.

5 2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, promote,  
6 encourage and aid the development of commercial, industrial,  
7 agricultural, mining and other vital economic interests of this State,  
8 except for travel and tourism. In a county whose population is less  
9 than 50,000, the county may include community development and  
10 the development of the nongaming recreation and tourism industry  
11 in its economic development efforts.

12 3. Identify sources of financing to assist businesses and  
13 industries which wish to locate or expand in Nevada.

14 4. Provide and administer grants of money to political  
15 subdivisions of the State and to local or regional organizations for  
16 economic development to assist them in promoting the advantages  
17 of their communities, in expanding and retaining businesses in those  
18 communities and in recruiting businesses to those communities.  
19 Each recipient must provide an amount of money, at least equal to  
20 the grant, for the same purpose, except in a county whose population  
21 is less than 50,000, the Commission may, if convinced that the  
22 recipient is financially unable to do so, provide such a grant with  
23 less than equal matching money provided by the recipient. *Each*  
24 *recipient shall conduct a survey of the skills of the employed*  
25 *workers in the community served by the recipient and compare*  
26 *those skills to the skills needed by the businesses sought to be*  
27 *expanded, retained or recruited in that community to determine*  
28 *whether an adequate workforce is available for those businesses*  
29 *and whether training and education are necessary to address any*  
30 *gaps in skills to ensure an adequate workforce.*



1 5. Encourage and assist state, county and city agencies in  
2 planning and preparing projects for community, economic and  
3 industrial development and financing those projects with revenue  
4 bonds or community development block grants.

5 6. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, coordinate  
6 and assist the activities of counties, cities, local and regional  
7 organizations for economic development in the State which affect  
8 economic and industrial development, except for travel and tourism.  
9 In a county whose population is less than 50,000, the county may  
10 include community development and the development of the  
11 nongaming recreation and tourism industry in its economic  
12 development efforts.

13 7. Arrange by cooperative agreements with local governments  
14 to serve as the single agency in the State where relocating or  
15 expanding businesses may obtain all required permits.

16 8. Promote close cooperation between public agencies and  
17 private persons who have an interest in industrial development and  
18 diversification in Nevada.

19 9. Organize and coordinate the activities of a group of  
20 volunteers which will aggressively select and recruit businesses and  
21 industries, especially small industries, to locate their offices and  
22 facilities in Nevada.

23 10. As used in this section, "community development block  
24 grant" means a grant administered or made available by the United  
25 States Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to  
26 24 C.F.R. Part 570.

27 **Sec. 2.** NRS 612.607 is hereby amended to read as follows:

28 612.607 1. All payments collected pursuant to NRS 612.606  
29 must be deposited in the Unemployment Compensation  
30 Administration Fund. At the end of each fiscal year, the State  
31 Controller shall transfer to the Clearing Account in the  
32 Unemployment Compensation Fund the amount by which  
33 the unencumbered balance of the money deposited in the  
34 Unemployment Compensation Administration Fund pursuant to this  
35 subsection exceeds the amount of that money which the Legislature  
36 has authorized for expenditure during the first 90 days of the  
37 succeeding fiscal year.

38 2. Except for money transferred from the Unemployment  
39 Compensation Administration Fund pursuant to subsection 1, the  
40 Administrator may only expend the money collected for the  
41 employment and training of unemployed persons and persons  
42 employed in this State to:

43 (a) Establish and administer an employment training program  
44 which must foster job creation, minimize unemployment costs of



1 employers and meet the needs of employers for skilled workers by  
2 providing training to unemployed persons.

3 (b) Establish or provide support for job training programs in the  
4 public and private sectors for training, retraining or improving the  
5 skills of persons employed in this State.

6 (c) Establish a program to provide grants of money to a  
7 nonprofit private entity to be used to make loans of money to  
8 veterans and senior citizens to start small businesses. The  
9 Administrator shall adopt regulations establishing criteria and  
10 standards relating to the eligibility for and use of any grants made  
11 pursuant to this paragraph.

12 (d) Pay the costs of the collection of payments required pursuant  
13 to NRS 612.606.

14 3. The money used for the program for the employment and  
15 training of unemployed persons and persons employed in this State  
16 must supplement and not displace money available through existing  
17 employment training programs conducted by any employer or  
18 public agency and must not replace, parallel, supplant, compete with  
19 or duplicate in any way existing apprenticeship programs approved  
20 by the State Apprenticeship Council.

21 4. *The Administrator shall, to the extent practicable within*  
22 *available resources, provide for skills assessments of persons at*  
23 *the time of application for unemployment benefits and, in*  
24 *cooperation with the state's Workforce Investment Act partners,*  
25 *upon initial participation in a Workforce Investment Act program.*  
26 *A compilation of the results of the assessments must be provided to*  
27 *the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation twice*  
28 *each year.*

29 5. As used in this section:

30 (a) "Senior citizen" has the meaning ascribed to it in  
31 NRS 439.650.

32 (b) "Small business" means a business conducted for profit  
33 which:

34 (1) Employs 50 or fewer full-time employees; and

35 (2) Has gross annual sales of less than \$5,000,000.

36 **Sec. 3.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State  
37 General Fund to the College of Southern Nevada the sum of  
38 \$350,000 for performing skills assessments for unemployed persons  
39 to determine the training that might be appropriate to help the  
40 person become employed in one of the industries having the highest  
41 potential for growth in this State. The unemployed persons for  
42 whom the skills assessments are performed must be selected from a  
43 pool of applicants in such a manner as to ensure that the College of  
44 Southern Nevada performs skills assessments for a representative  
45 sampling of all unemployed persons in this State, including, without



1 limitation, a representative sampling based upon geographical areas,  
2 occupational fields and minority status.

3 2. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by  
4 subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30,  
5 2011, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity  
6 to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise  
7 transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated  
8 money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after  
9 September 20, 2011, by either the entity to which the money was  
10 appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently  
11 granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General  
12 Fund on or before September 20, 2011.

13 **Sec. 4.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State  
14 General Fund to the Truckee Meadows Community College the sum  
15 of \$60,000 for performing skills assessments for unemployed  
16 persons to determine the training that might be appropriate to help  
17 the person become employed in one of the industries having the  
18 highest potential for growth in this State. The unemployed persons  
19 for whom the skills assessments are performed must be selected  
20 from a pool of applicants in such a manner as to ensure that the  
21 Truckee Meadows Community College performs skills assessments  
22 for a representative sampling of all unemployed persons in this  
23 State, including, without limitation, a representative sampling based  
24 upon geographical areas, occupational fields and minority status.

25 2. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by  
26 subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30,  
27 2011, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity  
28 to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise  
29 transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated  
30 money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after  
31 September 20, 2011, by either the entity to which the money was  
32 appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently  
33 granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General  
34 Fund on or before September 20, 2011.

35 **Sec. 5.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.







