
SENATE BILL NO. 254—SENATORS BROOKS, CANCELA,
CANNIZZARO, SPEARMAN, PARKS; DENIS, DONDERO LOOP,
HARRIS, OHRENSCHALL, RATTI, SCHEIBLE AND
WOODHOUSE

MARCH 7, 2019

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN PETERS, MCCURDY, ASSEFA,
NGUYEN, TORRES; BILBRAY-AXELROD, FUMO, WATTS AND
YEAGER

Referred to Committee on Growth and Infrastructure

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to carbon reduction.
(BDR 40-907)

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 greenhouse gas emissions; requiring the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to issue an annual report concerning greenhouse gas emissions in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law requires the State Department of Conservation and Natural
2 Resources to issue, at least every 4 years, a statewide inventory of greenhouse gases
3 released in this State, including the origins, types and amounts of the greenhouse
4 gases, together with the Department's analysis of that information. The
5 Department’s inventory is required to be supported with documentation.
6 (NRS 445B.380)

7 This bill requires the Department to submit an annual report that includes a
8 statewide inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and a projection of annual
9 greenhouse gas emissions in this State for the 20 years immediately following the
10 date of the report. For each year of the inventory and projection, this bill requires a
11 statement of the sources and amounts of greenhouse gas emissions in this State and
12 the sources and amounts of reductions of greenhouse gas emissions in this State
13 from the following sectors: (1) electricity production; (2) transportation; (3)
14 industry; (4) commercial and residential; (5) agriculture; and (6) land use and



15 forestry. This bill also requires the report to identify policies that could achieve
16 reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and a qualitative assessment of whether
17 such policies support long-term reductions of greenhouse gas emissions in this
18 State to zero or near-zero by the year 2050. In preparing the report, this bill requires
19 the Department to consult with certain state agencies.

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. Human activities, including the burning of fossil fuels for
3 electricity, transportation and heat in buildings, cause the release of
4 greenhouse gases that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere, and these
5 human activities have been and continue to be the primary driver of
6 global climate change.

7 2. Climate change is already affecting Nevada and it threatens
8 the health, lives and safety of Nevada's residents, as well as
9 Nevada's diverse ecosystems, wildlands and wildlife. Rising
10 temperatures have increased the severity and length of droughts and
11 the frequency and intensity of wildfires.

12 3. Climate change threatens Nevada's economy. Rising
13 temperatures, compounded by the urban heat island effect, will
14 likely make summers in southern Nevada dangerously hot,
15 potentially deterring visitors and reducing the hours where it is safe
16 to engage in outdoor activities, like construction. In northern
17 Nevada, rising temperatures have been shrinking the snowpack
18 since the 1950's, which shortens the season for skiing and other
19 winter sports and recreation.

20 4. Throughout the State, rising temperatures will impact public
21 health by increasing heat stress on vulnerable populations and
22 increasing air pollution from more frequent wildfires.

23 5. The State of Nevada would benefit from the diversification
24 and economic growth driven by a transition to a low-carbon
25 emission and clean-energy economy.

26 6. Greenhouse gas emissions need to be decreased globally to
27 reduce the harm caused by global warming to Nevadans, and to
28 keep the average increase of near-surface air temperatures to well
29 below 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, or 2 degrees Celsius.

30 7. The State of Nevada must act now to ensure that Nevada's
31 greenhouse gas emissions decrease on a trajectory consistent with
32 emissions reduction commitments made by the United States to
33 implement the Paris Agreement adopted in 2015 at the 21st
34 Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework
35 Convention on Climate Change.



1 **Sec. 2.** NRS 445B.380 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 445B.380 1. The Department shall, not later than
3 December 31, ~~[2008,]~~ 2019, and ~~[at least every 4 years]~~ *each year*
4 thereafter, issue a *report that includes a statewide inventory of*
5 greenhouse ~~[gases released]~~ *gas emissions* in this State ~~[]~~ *and a*
6 *projection of annual greenhouse gas emissions in this State for the*
7 *20 years immediately following the date of the report.*

8 2. The ~~[inventory]~~ *report* must include, without limitation:

9 (a) *For each year of the inventory and projection required by*
10 *subsection 1:*

11 (1) The ~~[origins, types]~~ *sources* and amounts of ~~[those]~~
12 greenhouse ~~[gases;]~~ *gas emissions in this State from each of the*
13 *following sectors:*

- 14 (I) *Electricity production;*
15 (II) *Transportation;*
16 (III) *Industry;*
17 (IV) *Commercial and residential;*
18 (V) *Agriculture; and*
19 (VI) *Land use and forestry.*

20 (2) *The sources and amounts of reductions in greenhouse*
21 *gas emissions in this State from each of the sectors set forth in*
22 *subparagraph (1).*

23 (b) *A statement of policies, including, without limitation,*
24 *regulations, identified by the Department that could achieve*
25 *reductions in projected greenhouse gas emissions by the sectors*
26 *set forth in subparagraph (1) of paragraph (a), and:*

27 (1) *For each report due on or before December 31, 2024, a*
28 *quantification of the reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in*
29 *this State that would be required to achieve a statewide reduction*
30 *of net greenhouse gas emissions of 28 percent by the year 2025, as*
31 *compared to the level of greenhouse gas emissions in this State in*
32 *2005.*

33 (2) *For each report due on or before December 31, 2029, a*
34 *quantification of the reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in*
35 *this State that would be required to achieve a statewide reduction*
36 *in net greenhouse gas emissions of 45 percent by the year 2030, as*
37 *compared to the level of greenhouse gas emissions in this State in*
38 *2005.*

39 (c) *A qualitative assessment of whether the policies identified*
40 *in the statement of policies required by paragraph (c) support*
41 *long-term reductions of greenhouse gas emissions to zero or near-*
42 *zero by the year 2050.*

43 (d) The Department's analysis of the information set forth in
44 ~~[paragraph (a); and~~
45 ~~—(e)]~~ *paragraphs (a), (b) and (c).*



- 1 (e) Documentation for the information set forth in paragraphs
2 ~~[(a) and (b).]~~ (a) to (d), inclusive.
3 3. *In preparing the report required by this section, the*
4 *Department shall consult with the Public Utilities Commission of*
5 *Nevada, the Office of Energy, the Department of Transportation*
6 *and the Department of Motor Vehicles.*

