

SENATE BILL NO. 360—SENATORS SPEARMAN, FORD, WOODHOUSE,
KIHUEN, PARKS; DENIS, MANENDO AND SEGERBLOM

MARCH 16, 2015

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Provides for an interim study to investigate the viability of establishing entities to help finance the use and harnessing of clean energy in this State. (BDR S-41)

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 energy efficiency; directing the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the viability of establishing green banks and similar entities to help finance the use and harnessing of clean energy in this State, for both commercial and residential properties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 **Section 1** of this bill directs the Legislative Commission to appoint a
2 committee to conduct an interim study concerning the viability of establishing
3 green banks and similar entities to help finance the use and harnessing of clean
4 energy projects in this State, for both commercial and residential properties. The
5 committee will consist of seven members from various backgrounds including
6 government, public utilities, real estate development and finance. **Section 2** of this
7 bill directs the Governor’s Office of Energy (the Office of Energy created within
8 the Office of the Governor) to provide administrative and technical assistance to the
9 committee. **Section 3** of this bill defines the terms “clean energy,” “green bank”
10 and “Office of Energy.”

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

1 **Section 1.** 1. The Legislative Commission shall appoint a
2 committee to conduct an interim study concerning the viability of



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1 establishing green banks and similar entities to help finance the use
2 and harnessing of clean energy projects in this State, for both
3 commercial and residential properties.

4 2. The committee must be composed of seven voting members
5 as follows:

6 (a) One member who is a member of the Public Utilities
7 Commission of Nevada;

8 (b) One member who is employed by a utility company
9 regulated by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada;

10 (c) One member who represents the Office of Energy;

11 (d) One member who is employed by a financial institution in
12 this State and who has expertise in the financing of clean energy
13 projects;

14 (e) One member who represents the Office of the State
15 Treasurer;

16 (f) One member who is employed by a residential or commercial
17 builder in this State and who has expertise in the installation and
18 integration of clean energy products and techniques in residential or
19 commercial building projects; and

20 (g) One member who represents an association of residential or
21 commercial real estate developers.

22 3. The Legislative Commission shall appoint a Chair and Vice
23 Chair committee.

24 4. The committee shall study, without limitation:

25 (a) The existing clean energy programs and financial activities
26 occurring within this State including, without limitation, programs
27 and activities of state governmental agencies, the Public Utilities
28 Commission of Nevada, local governmental entities within this
29 State, public and private utilities serving customers in this State and
30 other private entities and organizations within this State.

31 (b) The methods of capitalization, structure, organization and
32 financing of green banks and similar entities that assist in financing
33 the production and harnessing of clean energy in the United States
34 and outside the United States.

35 (c) The sources, types and amounts of private capital leveraged
36 or invested in connection with green banks and similar entities for
37 financing clean energy.

38 (d) The current and potential size, in this State, of existing and
39 potential markets for clean energy.

40 (e) The need to provide reasonably priced financing or establish
41 related market structures to increase clean energy market
42 penetration and fill any existing market gaps.

43 (f) Potential financial instruments or services to be used by a
44 green bank or a similar entity for helping to finance and harness



1 projects in this State, including, without limitation, loans, leases,
2 credit enhancements, warehouses and securitization.

3 (g) The need for a green bank or similar entity to finance clean
4 energy in this State.

5 5. If the committee determines that a green bank or similar
6 entity is needed to help finance or harness projects of clean energy
7 in this State, the committee shall provide recommendations
8 regarding:

9 (a) The legal steps required to create such an entity;

10 (b) Capital resources that can be used to pay for the entity;

11 (c) The structure and organization of the entity;

12 (d) The markets in this State that such an entity should serve;
13 and

14 (e) The types of financing activities the entity should undertake.

15 6. On or before January 1, 2017, the committee shall submit a
16 report of its findings, including, without limitation, any
17 recommendations for legislation, to the Director of the Legislative
18 Counsel Bureau for distribution to the 79th Session of the Nevada
19 Legislature.

20 **Sec. 2.** The Office of Energy, in consultation with the Public
21 Utilities Commission of Nevada and with the encouraged
22 cooperation of various public and private utilities in this State, shall
23 provide administrative and technical assistance to the committee
24 appointed pursuant to section 1 of this act.

25 **Sec. 3.** As used in sections 1 and 2 of this act:

26 1. "Clean energy" includes:

27 (a) Energy produced from renewable resources, including,
28 without limitation, biomass, fuel cells, geothermal, solar,
29 waterpower, wind or any other source of energy that occurs
30 naturally or is regenerated naturally; and

31 (b) Energy saved as a result of the installation and use of
32 products or technologies that are energy efficient.

33 2. "Green bank" means an institution that exists or is created to
34 help harness or use clean energy and includes features or properties
35 such as, without limitation:

36 (a) The institution is public or quasi-public.

37 (b) The institution provides or helps to provide financing that is
38 low-cost, or long-term, or both, for projects that generate clean
39 energy.

40 (c) The leveraging of private investment by way of the
41 stimulating investment of public money.

42 (d) The reduction of market inefficiencies.

43 (e) Greater deployment of the use of clean energy.

44 (f) Recycling of public capital, so that investment in clean
45 energy may increase without affecting taxpayers.



1 3. "Office of Energy" means the Office of Energy created
2 within the Office of the Governor by NRS 701.150.

3 **Sec. 4.** The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do
4 not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a
5 requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

6 **Sec. 5.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

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