

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 236—ASSEMBLYMEN NEAL, SPIEGEL, THOMPSON, ELLIOT ANDERSON; ARAUJO, BENITEZ-THOMPSON, BUSTAMANTE ADAMS, CARLTON, CARRILLO, DIAZ, FLORES, JOINER, KIRKPATRICK, MUNFORD, OHRENSCHALL, SPRINKLE AND SWANK

MARCH 6, 2015

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JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS ATKINSON AND SPEARMAN

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Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

**SUMMARY**—Enacts provisions related to the promotion of public engagement by state agencies. (BDR 18-697)

**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.

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**AN ACT** relating to state agencies; providing for the promotion of public engagement by state agencies using the Internet and Internet tools; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 This bill provides that it is the policy of this State to promote public  
2 engagement in the activities of the State Government by adopting methods of  
3 public participation and public comment that include the use of the Internet and  
4 Internet tools. This bill encourages each state agency, to the extent practicable and  
5 within the limits of available money, to develop a policy to promote public  
6 engagement that includes the use of the Internet and Internet tools, including  
7 electronic mail, electronic mailing lists, online forums and social media. This bill  
8 further authorizes a state agency to designate a public engagement specialist to: (1)  
9 implement the agency’s policy on public engagement; and (2) to the extent feasible,  
10 provide training on public engagement to other employees of the agency.

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

1       **Section 1.** Chapter 232 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3       ***1. It is the policy of this State to promote broad, inclusive and***  
4 ***meaningful engagement by the general public and interested***  
5 ***stakeholders in the activities of the State Government by adopting***  
6 ***methods of public participation and public comment that***  
7 ***incorporate the use of the Internet and Internet tools. To assist in***  
8 ***carrying out this policy:***

9       ***(a) Each state agency is encouraged, to the extent practicable***  
10 ***and within the limits of available money, to develop a policy on***  
11 ***public engagement that incorporates the use of the Internet and***  
12 ***Internet tools for the purpose of encouraging public participation***  
13 ***and soliciting public comments on the activities of the state***  
14 ***agency, including, without limitation, the development or adoption***  
15 ***of regulations, policies and programs. The Internet tools used by***  
16 ***the state agency may include, without limitation, electronic mail,***  
17 ***electronic mailing lists, online forums and social media.***

18       ***(b) Each state agency may designate an employee as the public***  
19 ***engagement specialist. The public engagement specialist shall:***

20       ***(1) Implement the public engagement policy of the state***  
21 ***agency; and***

22       ***(2) To the extent feasible, provide training on public***  
23 ***engagement for other employees of the state agency.***

24       ***2. The decision by a state agency whether to adopt any***  
25 ***particular Internet tool in carrying out its policy on public***  
26 ***engagement is at the discretion of the state agency and not subject***  
27 ***to judicial review.***

28       ***3. The provisions of this section are intended to supplement***  
29 ***the existing laws of this State applicable to specific state agencies***  
30 ***and the existing requirements for such state agencies to provide***  
31 ***notice, solicit public comments and hold public hearings. This***  
32 ***section does not limit the applicability of any such provision.***

33       ***4. As used in this section:***

34       ***(a) "Social media" means any electronic service or account or***  
35 ***electronic content, including, without limitation, videos,***  
36 ***photographs, blogs, video blogs, podcasts, instant and text***  
37 ***messages, online services or Internet website profiles.***

38       ***(b) "State agency" means every public agency, bureau, board,***  
39 ***commission, department or division of the Executive Department***  
40 ***of the State Government.***



1     **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

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