

SENATE BILL NO. 118—SENATOR FORD

PREFILED FEBRUARY 13, 2017

JOINT SPONSOR: ASSEMBLYWOMAN BUSTAMANTE ADAMS

Referred to Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy

SUMMARY—Creates the interim Nevada Task Force on Financial Security. (BDR S-23)

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 security; creating the Nevada Task Force on Financial Security to conduct a comprehensive examination during the 2017-2018 legislative interim of the financial security of individuals and families in Nevada; prescribing the powers and duties of the Task Force; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 This bill creates the Nevada Task Force on Financial Security, consisting of
2 seven voting members, to conduct a comprehensive examination during the 2017-
3 2018 legislative interim of the financial security of individuals and families in
4 Nevada, including, without limitation, their opportunities to build assets and reduce
5 debt. The costs of the Task Force will be paid only from gifts, grants and donations
6 received by the Task Force. The Task Force is required to submit a report of its
7 findings and recommendations to the Legislative Counsel Bureau on or before
8 September 1, 2018.

1 WHEREAS, The financial crisis and Great Recession of 2008,
2 which was followed by a record number of home foreclosures and
3 soaring unemployment rates, have created an environment in the
4 United States where many families struggle with reduced liquid
5 assets and overall household wealth; and



1 WHEREAS, Many individuals and families in Nevada continue to
2 face financial insecurity as a result of persisting high unemployment
3 and stagnant wages; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the *2016 Assets & Opportunity*
5 *Scorecard* published by the Corporation for Enterprise
6 Development, 55.6 percent of Nevada households are without
7 sufficient liquid assets to subsist at or above the poverty level for 3
8 months in the absence of income; and

9 WHEREAS, Statistics from the Bureau of the Census of the
10 United States Department of Commerce reveal that the median
11 household income in Nevada has declined approximately 17 percent
12 between 2007 and 2013, the largest such decline in any state; and

13 WHEREAS, The national recession and subsequent recovery has
14 highlighted the need to assist individuals and families in Nevada
15 achieve greater financial security through increased access to
16 opportunities to build financial and tangible assets such as savings, a
17 home or a business, strategies for reducing debt and financial
18 education; and

19 WHEREAS, Identifying pathways for more Nevadans to obtain
20 the resources they need to become more financially secure will
21 facilitate a more educated, resilient and employable workforce to
22 further ensure an economically prosperous Nevada; and

23 WHEREAS, Financial insecurity negatively impacts children and
24 their prospects for lifelong economic opportunity, with children in
25 families experiencing financial insecurity being more likely to
26 experience material hardship and less likely to perform well in
27 school; and

28 WHEREAS, Based on recent estimates, 14.7 percent of Nevadans
29 live below the poverty threshold, including 20 percent of Hispanics,
30 25 percent of African-Americans and 20.7 percent of Native
31 Americans; and

32 WHEREAS, Efforts to increase the financial security and
33 opportunities for Nevadans have been limited and fragmented across
34 financial institutions, business foundations, governmental agencies,
35 community development organizations and religious and nonprofit
36 institutions; and

37 WHEREAS, Because of the effect that financial best practices
38 have on all Nevadans and the economy of Nevada as a whole, a
39 comprehensive examination by the State of Nevada of ways to
40 educate and empower Nevadans to improve their financial resources
41 and economic security would create a better future for all Nevadans;
42 now, therefore,



1 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
2 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
3

4 **Section 1.** 1. The Nevada Task Force on Financial Security
5 is hereby created. The Task Force consists of the following voting
6 members:

7 (a) Two members of the Senate appointed by the Majority
8 Leader of the Senate;

9 (b) Two members of the Assembly appointed by the Speaker of
10 the Assembly;

11 (c) Two members appointed by the Majority Leader of the
12 Senate as follows:

13 (1) A representative of a statewide organization that is
14 currently engaged in activities concerning the financial security and
15 financial education of individuals and families; and

16 (2) A representative of an organization which is exempt from
17 taxation pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) who has expertise in
18 policies for building financial assets; and

19 (d) One member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly who
20 is a representative of a statewide organization approved by the
21 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as a
22 housing counseling agency.

23 2. A vacancy occurring in the appointed voting membership of
24 the Task Force must be filled in the same manner as the original
25 appointment.

26 3. At its first meeting, the voting members of the Task Force
27 shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair from among the voting
28 members who are Legislators.

29 4. A majority of the voting members of the Task Force may
30 appoint nonvoting advisory members to the Task Force.

31 5. The members of the Task Force serve without compensation
32 or per diem allowance. A member may receive reimbursement for
33 travel expenses if sufficient money collected pursuant to subsection
34 8 or 9 for the Task Force to carry out its duties is available.

35 6. The Task Force shall hold its first meeting by not later than
36 September 1, 2017, and shall meet at least four times.

37 7. The Task Force shall consult with and solicit input from
38 persons and entities with expertise in matters relevant to the Task
39 Force in carrying out its duties pursuant to this section.

40 8. The Task Force may apply for any available grants and
41 accept any gifts, grants or donations, including, without limitation,
42 administrative support, to assist the Task Force in carrying out its
43 duties pursuant to this section.

44 9. The Task Force shall select an organization which is exempt
45 from taxation pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) to serve as the fiscal



1 agent of the Task Force. As fiscal agent, that organization may
2 accept money from private persons and entities and expend such
3 money for the expenses incurred by the Task Force in carrying out
4 its duties pursuant to this section.

5 10. The Task Force shall conduct an examination of the
6 financial security of the residents of this State, including, without
7 limitation, the causes, extent and consequences of financial
8 insecurity in this State, with the goal of identifying concrete
9 strategies and recommendations for improving the financial
10 condition of Nevadans. The study must include, without limitation:

11 (a) An identification and review of programs that are currently
12 available to further the economic advancement of residents of this
13 State and the manner in which the impact of those programs is
14 measured;

15 (b) A review of best practices implemented around the United
16 States to increase the financial education of individuals and families,
17 their access to banking and other resources to assist in building
18 assets and strategies for reducing their debt and recommendations
19 for implementation for such practices in this State;

20 (c) Recommendations of methods to increase the economic
21 mobility of residents of this State to strengthen and support a
22 resilient and growing middle class;

23 (d) Recommendations of concrete strategies and measurable
24 goals to increase economic opportunities and reduce financial
25 insecurity of residents of this State, particularly low-income families
26 and communities of color; and

27 (e) Recommendations of concrete steps to develop a competitive
28 workforce in this State that can meet the demands of the globally
29 competitive market of the 21st century.

30 11. On or before September 1, 2018, the Task Force shall
31 submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Director
32 of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 80th Session
33 of the Legislature.

34 12. The Task Force shall carry out the duties of this section
35 only to the extent that money is available to do so from private
36 persons and entities, including, without limitation, gifts, grants and
37 donations.

38 **Sec. 2.** As soon as practicable after the effective date of this
39 act but not later than July 1, 2017, the Majority Leader of the Senate
40 and the Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint the voting members
41 of the Nevada Task Force on Financial Security as prescribed by
42 section 1 of this act.

43 **Sec. 3.** 1. This act becomes effective upon passage and
44 approval for the purpose of appointing the voting members to the



- 1 Nevada Task Force on Financial Security created by section 1 of
- 2 this act, and on July 1, 2017, for all other purposes.
- 3 2. This act expires by limitation on June 30, 2019.

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