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FIRST REPRINT

A.B. 219

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 219—ASSEMBLYMEN SHERER, ANGLE,
CARPENTER, CHRISTENSEN, COLLINS, CONKLIN, GEDDES,
GOICOECHEA, GRIFFIN, GUSTAVSON, HETTRICK, KNECHT,
KOIVISTO AND OCEGUERA (BY REQUEST)

FEBRUARY 28, 2003

JOINT SPONSOR: SENATOR MCGINNESS

Referred to Concurrent Committees on Government
Affairs and Ways and Means

SUMMARY—Requires Department of Administration to conduct
study concerning feasibility and desirability of
relocating certain state agencies to rural communities
under certain circumstances. (BDR S-1088)

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 the economic development of rural
communities; requiring the Department of Administration
to conduct a study concerning the feasibility and
desirability of relocating certain state agencies to rural
communities under certain circumstances; requiring the
Department to recommend, if feasible, the relocation of at
least one such agency; authorizing the Director of the
Department to receive and expend money to conduct the
study; and providing other matters properly relating
thereto.

- 1 WHEREAS, Rural America is home to one-fifth of the total
- 2 population of the United States, is keeper of natural amenities and
- 3 national treasures, and is the safeguard of a unique part of American
- 4 culture, tradition and history; and



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1 WHEREAS, Today, rural America comprises over 2,300 counties,
2 contains 83 percent of the land in the United States, and includes 56
3 million people; and

4 WHEREAS, It has been said often that a strong rural economy
5 plays an important role in maintaining a strong economy for an
6 entire state; and

7 WHEREAS, It is a well-known fact that economic development in
8 rural communities is vital to the financial prosperity and survival of
9 these communities; and

10 WHEREAS, According to figures obtained from the 2000 census,
11 approximately 14 percent of the residents of the State of Nevada live
12 in rural communities and the remaining 86 percent reside in the
13 urban areas of this state; and

14 WHEREAS, Rural communities provide a high quality of life
15 with such services and amenities that may be attractive to residents
16 now living in urban areas; and

17 WHEREAS, Efforts are under way by many organizations and
18 public and private entities to promote economic growth and
19 development in this state; and

20 WHEREAS, One proposal that will serve to enhance the economy
21 in the rural areas of this state is to relocate certain state agencies, or
22 portions thereof, to rural communities; and

23 WHEREAS, Today's modern methods of communication and
24 technological advances in telecommunications would serve to
25 increase the feasibility of such a proposal by ensuring that
26 information systems currently in use by state agencies in urban areas
27 would operate effectively and efficiently in rural areas; and

28 WHEREAS, Rural communities in this state would welcome the
29 increase in population and economy that would result from such a
30 relocation of one or more state agencies, or portions thereof; now,
31 therefore,

32
33 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
34 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
35

36 **Section 1.** 1. If the Director of the Department of
37 Administration determines that there is sufficient money in the
38 account established pursuant to section 2 of this act, the Department
39 of Administration shall conduct a study of the feasibility and
40 desirability of relocating certain state agencies, or portions thereof,
41 to rural communities.

42 2. The Director of the Department shall appoint a committee of
43 such persons as he deems appropriate to conduct the study,
44 including, without limitation:



1 (a) Persons who are familiar with the operation of State
2 Government and the work performed by state employees; and
3 (b) Persons who are familiar with the services and amenities that
4 rural communities could offer to state employees, including, without
5 limitation:
6 (1) Lower costs of living;
7 (2) The aesthetics of rural life;
8 (3) Decreased commuting time;
9 (4) An environment free from pollution, traffic congestion
10 and high crime; and
11 (5) Methods of communication which are equivalent to those
12 that are available in urban areas.
13 3. In conducting the study to determine the feasibility of
14 relocating a particular state agency, or portion thereof, the
15 committee shall first consider the mission and programs of the
16 agency to ensure that they do not require the employees of
17 the agency to perform their duties or provide customer service at a
18 specific location.
19 4. In conducting the study, the Department shall conduct a
20 written survey of state employees who work in urban areas to
21 determine the number of employees who would be willing to
22 relocate to a rural community if the office in which they are
23 currently working were to be relocated. A copy of the survey must
24 be distributed to each such employee with the employee's payroll
25 check, or copy thereof, and may be returned to the Director of the
26 Department through interoffice state mail.
27 5. The Department shall submit a report of the results of
28 the study on or before September 1, 2004, to the Director of the
29 Legislative Counsel Bureau.
30 6. The Chief of the Budget Division of the Department shall
31 consider the results of the study during the preparation of the
32 proposed state budget that will be presented by the Governor in
33 January 2005. As a result of the study, the Department shall, if
34 feasible, recommend the relocation of at least one state agency, or
35 portion thereof, to a rural community and include that relocation as
36 part of the proposed state budget for fiscal year 2006-2007.
37 **Sec. 2.** 1. The Director of the Department of Administration
38 may apply for and accept any grant, gift, donation, bequest or other
39 source of money to conduct the study described in section 1 of this
40 act.
41 2. Any money received by the Director pursuant to subsection
42 1 must be deposited in a separate account in the State General Fund.
43 3. The account must be administered by the Director, who may
44 expend the money in the account only for the purpose of conducting
45 the study described in section 1 of this act.



1 4. The interest earned on the money in the account, after
2 deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the account.

3 5. If the Director determines that there is insufficient money in
4 the account to conduct the study described in section 1 of this act,
5 all money in the account must be returned to the persons who
6 donated or otherwise provided the money.

7 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2003.

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