

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to the Commission on Ethics; requiring certain local governments to pay periodic assessments for a portion of the costs of operating the Commission; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

Section 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

1. A significant percentage of the workload of the Commission on Ethics relates to public officers and employees of the larger cities and counties in this state; and

2. The proportion of the workload of the Commission that relates to each larger city or county correlates approximately to the proportion that the population of that city or county bears to the population of all the larger cities and counties in this state.

Sec. 2. Chapter 281 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. Each county whose population is more than 10,000 and each city whose population is more than 10,000 and that is located within such a county shall pay an assessment for the costs incurred by the Commission each biennium in carrying out its functions pursuant to NRS 281.411 to 281.581, inclusive. The total amount of money to be derived from assessments paid pursuant to this subsection for a biennium must be determined by the Legislature in the legislatively approved budget of the Commission for that biennium. The assessments must be apportioned among each such city and county based on the proportion that the total population of the city or the total population of the unincorporated area of the county bears to the total population of all such cities and the unincorporated areas of all such counties in this state.

2. On or before July 1 of each odd-numbered year, the Executive Director shall, in consultation with the Budget Division of the Department of Administration and the Fiscal Analysis Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, determine for the next ensuing biennium the amount of the assessments due for each city and county that is required to pay an assessment pursuant to subsection 1. The assessments must be paid to the Commission in semi-annual installments that are due on or before August 1 and February 1 of each year of the biennium. The Executive Director shall send out a billing statement to each such city or county which states the amount of the semi-annual installment payment due from the city or county.

3. *Any money that the Commission receives pursuant to subsection 2:*

(a) Must be deposited in the State Treasury, accounted for separately in the State General Fund and credited to the budget account for the Commission;

(b) May only be used to carry out NRS 281.411 to 281.581, inclusive, and only to the extent authorized for expenditure by the Legislature; and

(c) Does not revert to the State General Fund at the end of any fiscal year.

4. *If any installment payment is not paid on or before the date on which it is due, the Executive Director shall make reasonable efforts to collect the delinquent payment. If the Executive Director is not able to collect the arrearage, he shall submit a claim for the amount of the unpaid installment payment to the Department of Taxation. If the Department of Taxation receives such a claim, the Department shall deduct the amount of the claim from money that would otherwise be allocated from the Local Government Tax Distribution Account to the city or county that owes the installment payment and shall transfer that amount to the Commission.*

5. *As used in this section, "population" means the current population estimate for that city or county as determined and published by the Department of Taxation and the demographer employed pursuant to NRS 360.283.*

Sec. 3. NRS 281.411 is hereby amended to read as follows:

281.411 NRS 281.411 to 281.581, inclusive, *and section 2 of this act* may be cited as the Nevada Ethics in Government Law.

Sec. 4. The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any additional expenses of a local government that are related to the provisions of this act.

Sec. 5. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2003.