
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 32—COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND OPERATIONS

APRIL 30, 2003

Referred to Committee on Legislative Affairs and Operations

SUMMARY—Directs Legislative Commission to conduct interim study of criminal justice system in rural Nevada. (BDR R-1215)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study of the criminal justice system in rural Nevada.

- 1 WHEREAS, The present budget crisis in Nevada is being keenly
2 felt in the rural counties of this state; and
3 WHEREAS, The relatively sparse populations and the great
4 distances between population centers increase the difficulties faced
5 by the judicial system in this state’s rural areas; and
6 WHEREAS, The State has mandated programs in areas where
7 there are no providers of such programs within several hundred
8 miles; and
9 WHEREAS, It has become necessary that steps be taken to ensure
10 equal justice for all residents of Nevada; and
11 WHEREAS, The Judicial Council of the State of Nevada
12 empaneled the Commission on Rural Courts which has worked
13 diligently to identify and propose solutions for the problems within
14 the criminal justice system in rural Nevada; now, therefore, be it
15 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
16 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislative Commission is
17 hereby directed to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study
18 of the criminal justice system and associated services and agencies
19 in the rural areas of Nevada, to be composed of six Legislators as
20 follows:
21 1. Two members appointed by the Majority Leader of the
22 Senate from the membership of the Senate Standing Committee on



1 Judiciary during the immediately preceding session of the
2 Legislature;

3 2. One member appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate
4 from the membership of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance
5 during the immediately preceding session of the Legislature;

6 3. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly
7 from the membership of the Assembly Standing Committee on
8 Judiciary during the immediately preceding session of the
9 Legislature; and

10 4. One member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly
11 from the membership of the Assembly Standing Committee on
12 Ways and Means during the immediately preceding session of the
13 Legislature;

14 And be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the members of the committee shall elect a
16 Chairman from one house of the Legislature and a Vice Chairman
17 from the other house; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission shall appoint an
19 advisory group of 13 nonvoting members to assist the committee
20 consisting of the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts
21 and the following persons serving in rural counties in this state:

22 1. Two district court judges;

23 2. One justice of the peace and one municipal court judge;

24 3. Two persons who serve in the capacity of court clerk to
25 courts;

26 4. Two district attorneys;

27 5. Two persons representing local law enforcement; and

28 6. Two county commissioners;

29 And be it further

30 RESOLVED, That at least one-half of the members of the
31 advisory group must be appointed from the current membership of
32 the Commission on Rural Courts; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the members of the committee and advisory
34 group shall comply with the provisions of chapter 241 of NRS; and
35 be it further

36 RESOLVED, That the interim study must include, without
37 limitation, a comprehensive review and evaluation of the following
38 areas relating to the criminal justice system and judicial operations
39 in the rural counties of this state:

40 1. The adequacy of present judicial facilities, including,
41 without limitation, courthouses, courtrooms, jails and juvenile
42 detention facilities, with respect to size, age, security, overcrowding
43 and number of facilities available;



1 2. The shortage of staff, including, without limitation, circuit
2 court clerks and justices of the peace, and the need for additional
3 education and training for existing judicial staff;

4 3. The shortage or lack of service providers, including, without
5 limitation, alcohol and drug abuse counselors, mental health
6 counselors and other professionals who provide specialized
7 treatment to persons with certain physical and mental disorders;

8 4. The lack of attorneys and the lack of assistance for residents
9 who represent themselves in court, and the limited number of
10 available and eligible jurors because of sparse populations;

11 5. Geographical constraints because of great distances between
12 population centers and adverse weather conditions at certain times;

13 6. Inadequate technology, including, without limitation, state-
14 of-the-art telecommunications services and a user-friendly case
15 management system;

16 7. The availability of interpreters, consular corps and other
17 persons or groups who can provide legal assistance to racial or
18 ethnic minorities; and

19 8. The effect of unfunded mandates on rural courts;
20 And be it further

21 RESOLVED, That, on or before February 1, 2004, the committee
22 shall submit a report of its progress on the study to the Legislative
23 Commission; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the
25 committee must be approved by a majority of the members of the
26 Senate and a majority of the members of the Assembly appointed to
27 the committee; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That, on or before September 1, 2004, the
29 committee shall submit a final report of the study to the Legislative
30 Commission; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission shall submit a
32 report of the results of the study and any recommendations for
33 legislation to the 73rd Session of the Nevada Legislature.

