

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 224—ASSEMBLYWOMAN NEAL

FEBRUARY 21, 2019

Referred to Committee on Taxation

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing the NV Grow Program. (BDR S-28)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

~

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

AN ACT relating to economic development; revising provisions governing the NV Grow Program; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Existing law directs the Office of Economic Development within the Office of  
2 the Governor to develop, create and oversee the NV Grow Program to provide  
3 certain informational and technical assistance to existing small businesses in this  
4 State that are expanding or ready to expand. (Section 2 of chapter 459, Statutes of  
5 Nevada 2015, p. 2681, as amended by Chapter 430, Statutes of Nevada 2017, at  
6 page 2880) **Section 2** of this bill transfers those responsibilities to the Division of  
7 Workforce and Economic Development of the College of Southern Nevada.  
8 **Section 2** also provides that the lead counselor for the NV Grow Program will also  
9 serve as its coordinator and must be an employee of the College of Southern  
10 Nevada. **Sections 3-5** of this bill make conforming changes.  
11 **Section 6** of this bill appropriates \$425,000 to the Nevada System of Higher  
12 Education to enable the College of Southern Nevada to assist and carry out the NV  
13 Grow Program.

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

1 **Section 1.** The NV Grow Act, being chapter 459, Statutes of  
2 Nevada 2015, as amended by chapter 430 Statutes of Nevada 2017  
3 at page 2880, is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to



1 be designated section 1.7, immediately following section 1.5, to read  
2 as follows:

3 *Sec. 1.7 As used in this act, unless the context*  
4 *otherwise requires, "Division" means the Division of*  
5 *Workforce and Economic Development of the College of*  
6 *Southern Nevada.*

7 **Sec. 2.** Section 2 of the NV Grow Act, being chapter 459,  
8 Statutes of Nevada 2015, as amended by chapter 430, Statutes of  
9 Nevada 2017, at page 2880, is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 Sec. 2. 1. The ~~{Office,}~~ ***Division***, in consultation with  
11 the stakeholders group, shall develop, create and oversee the  
12 NV Grow Program to stimulate Nevada's economy with a  
13 view toward providing assistance to businesses that are  
14 already located and operating in this State rather than  
15 recruiting businesses from other states to relocate in Nevada.

16 2. Under the auspices of the program:

17 (a) Institutions of the Nevada System of Higher Education  
18 located in Clark County and the Nevada Small Business  
19 Development Center in Clark County shall, in cooperation  
20 with the geographic information system specialist employed  
21 at the College of Southern Nevada, mentor and track  
22 businesses participating in the program in Clark County. The  
23 Clark County Department of Business License will  
24 coordinate with the College to provide such data as may be  
25 necessary for the operation of the program in Clark County.

26 (b) The Nevada Small Business Development Centers  
27 located in Clark County and Washoe County shall each  
28 cooperate with the geographic information system specialist  
29 employed to assist businesses in Clark County that are  
30 participating in the program with marketing and other efforts.

31 3. The Centers, jointly, shall select the lead counselor  
32 and manage the NV Grow Program, which must include,  
33 without limitation:

34 (a) ***The employment of the lead counselor at the College***  
35 ***of Southern Nevada who, in addition to his or her other***  
36 ***duties, serves as the coordinator of the program;***

37 (b) The employment of a geographic information  
38 specialist at the College of Southern Nevada who provides  
39 data to clients of the stakeholders group;

40 ~~{(b)}~~ (c) The appointment of the College of Southern  
41 Nevada as administrator of the geographic information  
42 system ~~{~~

43 ~~—(e)}~~ ***and fiscal agent for the program;***

44 (d) An analysis and identification by the Centers of  
45 businesses and business sectors in this State that are ready to



1 expand and a determination of which of these businesses and  
2 business sectors will participate in the program;

3 ~~[(e)]~~ (e) Identification by the Centers of the skilled labor  
4 that exists in this State and its potential for growth;

5 ~~[(f)]~~ (f) Targeting by the Centers of business sectors and  
6 occupations in this State that have demonstrated the ability to  
7 grow and stimulate the economy of the State;

8 ~~[(g)]~~ (g) A focus by the Centers on the utilization of  
9 existing resources;

10 ~~[(h)]~~ (h) The harnessing of the academic expertise of the  
11 College of Southern Nevada and the Centers to provide  
12 economic and market data to contribute to the diversification  
13 and growth of the economy of this State;

14 ~~[(i)]~~ (i) The use of geographic information systems by  
15 the College of Southern Nevada and the Centers to map areas  
16 of this State to determine locations in which retail sales and  
17 other commerce are flourishing and locations in which retail  
18 sales and commerce demonstrate the capacity for further  
19 growth;

20 ~~[(j)]~~ (j) The elements described in subsection 2;

21 ~~[(k)]~~ (k) The provision of informational and other  
22 assistance by the College of Southern Nevada to businesses  
23 and business sectors in this State, including, without  
24 limitation, business training, nontraditional marketing  
25 techniques and business mentoring; and

26 ~~[(l)]~~ (l) Such other components as the ~~[Office,]~~ **Division**,  
27 in consultation with the stakeholders group, determines are  
28 likely to be necessary, advisable or advantageous for the  
29 growth and development of businesses located in this State.

30 4. The program shall, insofar as is possible, use the  
31 resources and expertise of the Centers and make available  
32 those resources and that expertise to businesses in this State  
33 for the purposes of:

34 (a) Developing business connections and business  
35 mentorships within the program;

36 (b) Exchanging data and other information with and  
37 between businesses and trade associations;

38 (c) Creating and facilitating peer-to-peer mentoring  
39 sessions for participants in the NV Grow Program; and

40 (d) Providing to businesses and business sectors data and  
41 other information that is calculated or otherwise generated  
42 through the use of geographic information systems.

43 5. To the extent possible, the program must be  
44 conducted with the goal of selecting 15 businesses in Clark  
45 County to participate in the program every year.



1           6. To qualify to participate in the program, a business  
2 must:

3           (a) Have its principal place of business within the State of  
4 Nevada and have had its principal place of business in this  
5 State for at least 2 years;

6           (b) Generate at least \$50,000 but not more than \$700,000  
7 in revenue; and

8           (c) Have a business plan.

9           7. As used in this section:

10          (a) "Business plan" means a written statement of a set of  
11 business goals, the reasons those goals are believed to be  
12 attainable and the plan for reaching those goals.

13          (b) "Centers" means all institutions of the Nevada System  
14 of Higher Education, including, without limitation, the  
15 College of Southern Nevada and the University of Nevada,  
16 Reno.

17          (c) "Geographic information system" means a  
18 computerized database management system for the capture,  
19 storage, retrieval, analysis and display of spatial or  
20 locationally defined data.

21          (d) ~~["Office" means the Office of Economic Development~~  
22 ~~within the Office of the Governor.~~

23          ~~(e)~~ "Stakeholders group" means a group of persons  
24 interested in economic development in this State selected by  
25 the ~~{Office.}~~ *Division*, including, without limitation, a  
26 representative of the College of Southern Nevada, the  
27 University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the Urban Chamber of  
28 Commerce of Las Vegas, the Las Vegas Latin Chamber of  
29 Commerce, the Valley Center Opportunity Zone, the  
30 University of Nevada Cooperative Extension in Clark  
31 County, Clark County and incorporated cities in Clark  
32 County ~~{}~~ *and various entities affiliated with the Small*  
33 *Business Administration.*

34          **Sec. 3.** Section 3 of the NV Grow Act, being chapter 459,  
35 Statutes of Nevada 2015, as amended by chapter 430, Statutes of  
36 Nevada 2017, at page 2882, is hereby amended to read as follows:

37          Sec. 3. In assisting and carrying out the program  
38 described in section 2 of this act, the Centers, as defined in  
39 section 2 of this act, shall, without limitation, perform the  
40 following services:

41           1. Analyze data;

42           2. Ensure that businesses participating in the program  
43 understand the manner in which the data so analyzed will be  
44 applied to those businesses so that the businesses may make



1 better business decisions and understand the current business  
2 market in which they exist;

3 3. Mentor the businesses as to the optimum use of data  
4 received under the program relative to the making of business  
5 decisions; and

6 4. With respect to the businesses participating in the  
7 program:

8 (a) Track the business decisions and growth of each  
9 business over the entire period of the program; and

10 (b) Report the data tracked pursuant to paragraph (a), at  
11 least once each 6 months, to the ~~{Office of Economic  
12 Development within the Office of the Governor.}~~ **Division.**

13 **Sec. 4.** Section 4 of the NV Grow Act, being chapter 459,  
14 Statutes of Nevada 2015, at page 2683, is hereby amended to read as  
15 follows:

16 Sec. 4. The ~~{Office of Economic Development within  
17 the Office of the Governor.}~~ **Division** shall serve as a  
18 consultant to the stakeholders group described in subsection 2  
19 of section 2 of this act, including, without limitation,  
20 collecting and analyzing data to ensure that the data used by  
21 the Centers is uniform.

22 **Sec. 5.** Section 4.5 of the NV Grow Act, being chapter 459,  
23 Statutes of Nevada 2015, as amended by chapter 430, Statutes of  
24 Nevada 2017, at page 2883, is hereby amended to read as follows:

25 Sec. 4.5. The ~~{Office of Economic Development within  
26 the Office of the Governor.}~~ **Division** may apply for any  
27 available grants, accept any gifts, grants or donations and use  
28 any such gifts, grants or donations to aid the ~~{Office.}~~ **Division**  
29 in carrying out the program described in section 2 of this act.

30 **Sec. 6.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State  
31 General Fund to the Nevada System of Higher Education, the sum  
32 of \$425,000 to allow the College of Southern Nevada to:

33 (a) Provide or obtain such services as may be necessary to assist  
34 and carry out the Program;

35 (b) Employ a geographic information specialist to assist small  
36 businesses who participate in the Program;

37 (c) Employ the lead counselor selected pursuant to section 2 of  
38 the NV Grow Act;

39 (d) Provide stipends for counselors and members of the faculty  
40 of the Nevada System of Higher Education who provide services in  
41 connection with the Program; and

42 (e) Make direct program expenditures to assist and carry out the  
43 Program, including, without limitation, marketing tools, field trips  
44 and grants to members of the stakeholders group to assist and carry  
45 out the Program.



1 2. All money appropriated by the provisions of this section  
2 must be used only for the purposes specified in those paragraphs and  
3 no portion of the money may be set aside, distributed or otherwise  
4 committed or used for any other purpose, including any indirect  
5 costs incurred by any institution of the Nevada System of Higher  
6 Education, including, without limitation, the College of Southern  
7 Nevada.

8 3. As used in this section, "Program" means the NV Grow  
9 Program established pursuant to the NV Grow Act.

10 **Sec. 7.** Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by  
11 section 6 of this act must not be committed for expenditure after  
12 June 30, 2021, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or  
13 any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or  
14 otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the  
15 appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose  
16 after September 17, 2021, by either the entity to which the money  
17 was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently  
18 granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General  
19 Fund on or before September 17, 2021.

20 **Sec. 8.** Any remaining balance of money received by the  
21 Office of Economic Development within the Office of the Governor  
22 from any gifts, grants or donations accepted by the Office pursuant  
23 to section 4.5 of the NV Grow Act, as that section exists on June 30,  
24 2019, that has not been committed for expenditure before July 1,  
25 2019, must be transferred to an account in the State General Fund  
26 administered by the College of Southern Nevada for the purposes of  
27 carrying out the provisions of the NV Grow Act.

28 **Sec. 9.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2019.

