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EXEMPT

S.B. 499

SENATE BILL NO. 499—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

(ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF FINANCE
IN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR)

APRIL 1, 2019

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Creates the Advisory Board on Water Resources Planning and Drought Resiliency. (BDR 48-1243)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Executive Budget.

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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 water; creating the Advisory Board on Water Resources Planning and Drought Resiliency within the Division of Water Resources of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Existing law creates the Division of Water Resources within the State
2 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. (NRS 232.090) Existing law
3 also creates the Water Planning Section of the Division. (NRS 540.031) This bill:
4 (1) creates the Advisory Board on Water Resources Planning and Drought
5 Resiliency within the Division consisting of eight voting members appointed by the
6 Governor and four nonvoting ex officio members; and (2) provides that the
7 Advisory Board shall advise the Chief of the Water Planning Section, the Governor
8 and the Legislature concerning policies for water resource planning and drought
9 resiliency.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 540 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 *1. The Advisory Board on Water Resources Planning and*
4 *Drought Resiliency is hereby created within the Division. The*
5 *Advisory Board consists of eight voting members appointed by the*



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1 Governor pursuant to subsection 2 and four ex officio members as
2 described in subsection 3.

3 2. The Governor, after giving consideration to any
4 recommendation of the State Engineer, shall appoint to the
5 Advisory Board:

6 (a) One member who is a representative of the county with the
7 largest population in the State;

8 (b) One member who is a representative of the largest water
9 utility in the county with the largest population in the State;

10 (c) One member who is a representative of the county with the
11 second largest population in the State;

12 (d) One member who is a representative of the largest water
13 utility in the county with the second largest population in the state;

14 (e) One member who is a representative of the governing body
15 of a county whose population is less than 100,000;

16 (f) One member who is a representative of the largest water
17 conservation district in the State;

18 (g) One member who is a representative of the Nevada System
19 of Higher Education and has expertise related to water planning
20 and drought resiliency; and

21 (h) One member with expertise in agriculture, mining or
22 wildlife.

23 3. The four nonvoting ex officio members of the Advisory
24 Board must consist of the following persons:

25 (a) The Administrator of the Division of Environmental
26 Protection of the Department, or his or her designee;

27 (b) The Director of the Department of Wildlife, or his or her
28 designee;

29 (c) The Director of the Department of Agriculture, or his or
30 her designee; and

31 (d) The Executive Director of the Nevada Indian Commission.

32 4. The voting members of the Advisory Board serve at the
33 pleasure of the Governor.

34 5. All vacancies on the Advisory Board must be filled in the
35 same manner of appointment as the member who created the
36 vacancy.

37 6. The Advisory Board shall meet at least once in each
38 calendar quarter and may meet at other times upon the call of the
39 Chair or a majority of the members.

40 7. The Advisory Board shall:

41 (a) At its first meeting and annually thereafter, elect a Chair
42 from among its voting members.

43 (b) Advise the Chief on matters relating to the planning and
44 development of water resources, drought resiliency, the policies of



1 *the Section and areas of emphasis for the planning of water*
2 *resources.*

3 *(c) Be informed on and interested in the administrative duties*
4 *of the Section and legislation recommended by the Section.*

5 *(d) Advise and make recommendations through the Section*
6 *and the Division to the Governor and the Legislature on the*
7 *policies of this State concerning policies for water planning and*
8 *drought resiliency.*

9 *8. A majority of the members of the Advisory Board*
10 *constitutes a quorum. A quorum may exercise all of the powers*
11 *and duties of the Advisory Board.*

12 *9. A member of the Advisory Board is entitled to receive a*
13 *salary of \$80 for each day he or she attends a meeting of the*
14 *Advisory Board and the per diem allowances and travel expenses*
15 *provided for state officers and employees generally.*

16 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2019.

