

SENATE BILL NO. 110—SENATOR SPEARMAN

FEBRUARY 9, 2021

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to businesses engaged in the development of emerging technologies. (BDR 18-447)

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 technology; creating the Emerging Technologies Task Force within the Department of Business and Industry; prescribing the membership, powers and duties of the Task Force; authorizing the Director of the Department to create an Opportunity Center for Emerging Technology Businesses as part of the Office of Business Finance and Planning of the Department; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 **Sections 2-8** of this bill provide for an Emerging Technologies Task Force  
2 within the Department of Business and Industry. **Section 6** of this bill creates the  
3 Task Force and prescribes its membership. **Section 7** of this bill designates the  
4 Chair of the Task Force and prescribes the minimum frequency of its meetings and  
5 the number of members required to constitute a quorum. **Section 8** of this bill  
6 requires the Task Force to develop certain strategies and make certain  
7 recommendations with regard to: (1) attracting to this State businesses that are  
8 engaged in the development of emerging technologies; and (2) encouraging the  
9 growth of such businesses. **Section 8** also requires the Task Force to submit a  
10 report of its findings and recommendations annually to the Governor, the Director  
11 of the Department and the Legislature. **Section 9** of this bill makes a conforming  
12 change to indicate the proper placement of **sections 2-8** in the Nevada Revised  
13 Statutes.

14 Existing law authorizes the Director of the Department of Business and  
15 Industry to create an Office of Business Finance and Planning within the  
16 Department for administering, coordinating and improving access to programs to  
17 assist in the growth and retention of business and industry in this State and to  
18 provide certain information to the public. (NRS 232.522) **Section 10** of this bill



19 authorizes the Director to create an Opportunity Center for Emerging Technology  
20 Businesses as part of the Office of Business Finance and Planning, if that office is  
21 created, to advocate for, assist and support the growth of businesses engaged in the  
22 development of emerging technologies.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 232 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 8, inclusive, of this  
3 act.

4 **Sec. 2.** *As used in sections 2 to 8, inclusive, of this act, unless*  
5 *the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in*  
6 *sections 3, 4 and 5 of this act have the meanings ascribed to them*  
7 *in those sections.*

8 **Sec. 3.** *“Blockchain” has the meaning ascribed to it in*  
9 *NRS 719.045.*

10 **Sec. 4.** *“Emerging technologies” means any technologies*  
11 *that are of a unique type or that have a unique scope of*  
12 *application and would provide a benefit to the economy of this*  
13 *State if developed, used or produced by businesses in this State.*  
14 *The term includes, without limitation, blockchain technology,*  
15 *autonomous technology, the Internet of things, robotics and*  
16 *artificial intelligence.*

17 **Sec. 5.** *“Task Force” means the Emerging Technologies*  
18 *Task Force created by section 6 of this act.*

19 **Sec. 6. 1.** *The Emerging Technologies Task Force is*  
20 *hereby created within the Department.*

21 **2.** *The Task Force consists of:*

22 *(a) The Director;*

23 *(b) The Commissioner of Financial Institutions or his or her*  
24 *designee;*

25 *(c) The Director of the Department of Employment, Training*  
26 *and Rehabilitation or his or her designee;*

27 *(d) One member who is a representative of the Office of the*  
28 *Attorney General, appointed by the Attorney General;*

29 *(e) One member who is a representative of the Office of*  
30 *Economic Development, appointed by the Executive Director of*  
31 *the Office of Economic Development; and*

32 *(f) At least one member who has knowledge, skill and*  
33 *experience in emerging technologies, appointed by the Director.*

34 **3.** *The Director may appoint as many additional members to*  
35 *the Task Force who have knowledge, skill and experience in*  
36 *emerging technologies as the Director deems necessary to carry*  
37 *out the duties of the Task Force.*



1       4. *The term of each appointed member of the Task Force is 3*  
2 *years. Such a member may be reappointed to the Task Force and*  
3 *any vacancy must be filled in the same manner as the original*  
4 *appointment.*

5       5. *The members of the Task Force serve without*  
6 *compensation, except that each member is entitled, while engaged*  
7 *in the business of the Task Force and within the limits of available*  
8 *money, to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses*  
9 *provided for state officers and employees generally.*

10       6. *A member of the Task Force who is an officer or employee*  
11 *of this State or a political subdivision of this State must be relieved*  
12 *from his or her duties without loss of regular compensation so that*  
13 *the member may prepare for and attend meetings of the Task*  
14 *Force and perform any work necessary to carry out the duties of*  
15 *the Task Force in the most timely manner practicable. A state*  
16 *agency or political subdivision of this State shall not require an*  
17 *officer or employee who is a member of the Task Force to make*  
18 *up the time he or she is absent from work to carry out his or her*  
19 *duties as a member of the Task Force or use annual vacation or*  
20 *compensatory time for the absence.*

21       7. *The Director shall provide the personnel, facilities,*  
22 *equipment and supplies required by the Task Force to carry out*  
23 *the provisions of sections 2 to 8, inclusive, of this act.*

24       **Sec. 7. 1. The Director is the Chair of the Task Force.**

25       2. *The members of the Task Force shall meet at least once*  
26 *each quarter at the call of the Chair. The Task Force shall*  
27 *prescribe procedures for its own management and government.*

28       3. *A majority of the members of the Task Force constitutes a*  
29 *quorum, and a quorum may exercise all the powers conferred on*  
30 *the Task Force.*

31       **Sec. 8. 1. The Task Force shall:**

32       (a) *Develop concrete strategies to ensure that this State*  
33 *remains a leader in technological innovation by attracting*  
34 *businesses engaged in the development of emerging technologies.*

35       (b) *Make recommendations for streamlining process,*  
36 *regulatory, structural and other barriers a business engaged in the*  
37 *development of emerging technologies may face in relocating to or*  
38 *expanding operations in this State.*

39       (c) *Identify opportunities to develop leading practices and*  
40 *standards that will support the growth of businesses engaged in*  
41 *the development of emerging technologies.*

42       (d) *Address methods to comprehensively incorporate*  
43 *blockchain technology into all levels of government.*

44       (e) *Recommend concrete steps to develop a workforce with*  
45 *technical expertise in emerging technologies, including, without*



1 *limitation, prioritizing the employment of persons who are*  
2 *unemployed as a result of a pandemic, a natural disaster or an act*  
3 *of terrorism and persons who are 40 years of age or older.*

4 *(f) Solicit input from persons and organizations with expertise*  
5 *in emerging technologies.*

6 *(g) On or before February 1 of each year, prepare and submit*  
7 *a report to the Governor, the Director of the Department and the*  
8 *Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the*  
9 *Legislature concerning its findings and recommendations.*

10 *2. The Task Force may apply for any available grants and*  
11 *accept any gifts, grants or donations to assist the Task Force in*  
12 *carrying out its duties pursuant to this section.*

13 *3. As used in this section, "act of terrorism" has the meaning*  
14 *ascribed to it in NRS 202.4415.*

15 **Sec. 9.** NRS 232.505 is hereby amended to read as follows:

16 232.505 As used in NRS 232.505 to 232.866, inclusive, *and*  
17 *sections 2 to 8, inclusive, of this act*, unless the context requires  
18 otherwise:

19 1. "Department" means the Department of Business and  
20 Industry.

21 2. "Director" means the Director of the Department.

22 **Sec. 10.** NRS 232.522 is hereby amended to read as follows:

23 232.522 The Director may:

24 1. Create within the Department, as part of the Office of the  
25 Director, an Office of Business Finance and Planning to:

26 (a) Administer and coordinate programs related to financing for  
27 the assistance of entities engaged in business and industry in this  
28 state;

29 (b) Provide information to the public concerning the regulatory  
30 programs, assistance programs, and other services and activities of  
31 the Department; and

32 (c) Interact with other public or private entities to coordinate and  
33 improve access to the Department's programs related to the growth  
34 and retention of business and industry in this state.

35 2. Create within the Department, as part of the Office of  
36 Business Finance and Planning, *if that office is created*, a Center for  
37 Business Advocacy and Services:

38 (a) To assist small businesses in obtaining information about  
39 financing and other basic resources which are necessary for success;

40 (b) In cooperation with the Executive Director of the Office of  
41 Economic Development, to increase public awareness of the  
42 importance of developing manufacturing as an industry and to assist  
43 in identifying and encouraging public support of businesses and  
44 industries that manufacture goods in this state;



1 (c) To serve as an advocate for small businesses, subject to the  
2 supervision of the Director or the Director's representative, both  
3 within and outside the Department;

4 (d) To assist the Office of Business Finance and Planning in  
5 establishing an information and referral service within the  
6 Department that is responsive to the inquiries of business and  
7 industry which are directed to the Department or any entity within  
8 the Department; and

9 (e) In cooperation with the Executive Director of the Office of  
10 Economic Development, to advise the Director and the Office of  
11 Business Finance and Planning in developing and improving  
12 programs of the Department to serve more effectively and support  
13 the growth, development and diversification of business and  
14 industry in this state.

15 3. *Create within the Department, as part of the Office of*  
16 *Business Finance and Planning, if that office is created, an*  
17 *Opportunity Center for Emerging Technology Businesses:*

18 (a) *To assist businesses engaged in the development of*  
19 *emerging technologies in obtaining information about financing*  
20 *and other basic resources which are necessary for success;*

21 (b) *In cooperation with the Executive Director of the Office of*  
22 *Economic Development, to increase public awareness of the*  
23 *importance of developing emerging technologies and to assist in*  
24 *identifying and encouraging public support for businesses that are*  
25 *engaged in the development of emerging technologies;*

26 (c) *To serve as an advocate for businesses engaged in the*  
27 *development of emerging technologies, subject to the supervision*  
28 *of the Director or the Director's representative, both within and*  
29 *outside the Department;*

30 (d) *To assist the Office of Business Finance and Planning in*  
31 *establishing an information and referral service within the*  
32 *Department that is responsive to the inquiries of businesses*  
33 *engaged in the development of emerging technologies which are*  
34 *directed to the Department or any entity within the Department.*

35 (e) *To collaborate with businesses engaged in the development*  
36 *of emerging technologies, persons and organizations with*  
37 *expertise in emerging technologies, public and private entities and*  
38 *other interested stakeholders to promote:*

39 (1) *The integration of emerging technologies in the private*  
40 *sector and at all levels of government; and*

41 (2) *The employment of persons who are unemployed as a*  
42 *result of a pandemic, a natural disaster or an act of terrorism and*  
43 *persons who are 40 years of age or older; and*

44 (f) *In cooperation with the Executive Director of the Office of*  
45 *Economic Development, to advise the Director and the Office of*



1 *Business Finance and Planning in developing and improving*  
2 *programs of the Department to serve more effectively and support*  
3 *the growth, development and diversification of businesses engaged*  
4 *in the development of emerging technologies in this state.*

5 4. Require divisions, offices, commissions, boards, agencies or  
6 other entities of the Department to work together to carry out their  
7 statutory duties, to resolve or address particular issues or projects or  
8 otherwise to increase the efficiency of the operation of the  
9 Department as a whole and the level of communication and  
10 cooperation among the various entities within the Department.

11 5. *As used in this section:*

12 (a) *“Act of terrorism” has the meaning ascribed to it in*  
13 *NRS 202.4415.*

14 (b) *“Emerging technologies” has the meaning ascribed to it in*  
15 *section 4 of this act.*

16 **Sec. 11.** The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do  
17 not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a  
18 requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

19 **Sec. 12.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2021.

