SENATE BILL NO. 138-SENATORS LANGE, PICKARD; AND DONDERO LOOP

FEBRUARY 22, 2021

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to planned development. (BDR 22-566)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State: No.

EXPLANATION - Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets formitted material is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to land use planning; revising requirements for an ordinance for planned unit development; revising requirements for minimum site areas and parking for a planned unit development; eliminating the requirement that a planned unit development obtain tentative approval; making various other changes relating to provisions relating to planned unit development; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law gives certain powers to a city or county that enacts an ordinance for planned unit development. (NRS 278A.080) Section 2 of this bill provides that a city or county is not prohibited from enacting an ordinance for planned development that is consistent with the general statutory requirements relating to planning and zoning.

Existing law requires an ordinance for planned unit development to set forth standards and conditions by which a proposed planned unit development is evaluated. (NRS 278.090) Section 3 of this bill requires the ordinance also to: (1) require the plan to be set forth in written and graphic materials, as specified in the ordinance; (2) set forth certain procedures for reviewing an application for a plan; and (3) set forth procedures for reviewing an application to modify, remove or release any provision of a plan. Section 1 of this bill makes a conforming change to the definition of "plan."

Section 5 of this bill provides that the ordinance may require that any common open space resulting from the application of standards for density or intensity of land use be set aside for the use and benefit of the residents or owners of the development.





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Section 6 of this bill provides that the ordinance may authorize a city or county to accept the dedication of land or interest in the land for public use and maintenance.

Existing law requires an ordinance to set forth all standards and criteria for any feature of a planned unit development with sufficient certainty to provide work criteria by which specific proposals for the development may be evaluated. (NRS 278A.220) **Section 7** of this bill provides, instead, that the ordinance must set forth all standards and criteria for any feature of a planned unit development with sufficient certainty to provide criteria by which specific proposals for the development may be evaluated.

Existing law requires the minimum site area for a planned unit development to be 5 acres but authorizes the governing body of the city or county to waive the minimum site area when a proper planning justification is shown. (NRS 278A.250) **Section 8** of this bill provides, instead, that the minimum site area is 5 acres unless the governing body of the city or county provides otherwise in the ordinance.

Existing law requires that a minimum of one parking space be provided for each dwelling unit in a planned unit development. (NRS 278A.320) **Section 9** of this bill provides, instead, that a minimum of one parking space must be provided for each dwelling unit unless the governing body of the city or county provides otherwise in the ordinance.

Section 10 of this bill removes the requirement in existing law that the enforcement and modification of an approved plan must be to further the interests of the residents and owners of the planned unit development and the public and provides, instead, that the enforcement and modification of an approved plan are subject to the provisions adopted by the governing body in the ordinance. (NRS 278A.380)

Existing law authorizes the city or county to enforce certain provisions of a plan pursuant to its powers of regulation. (NRS 278A.390) **Section 11** of this bill provides that any other provision of a plan may be enforced by a city or county only as set forth in the ordinance.

Section 13 of this bill revises the existing prohibition on a city or county approving the modification, removal or release of a provision of a plan without first holding a public hearing to provide, instead, that a provision of a plan may be modified, removed or released without a public hearing if the city or county determines that the modification, removal or release substantially complies with the plan. (NRS 278A.410)

Existing law requires that a person who proposes a planned unit development must submit an application for tentative approval and an application for final approval. (NRS 278A.440, 278A.530) **Section 14** of this bill provides, instead, that unless otherwise required by the ordinance, tentative approval of a plan for a planned unit development is not required. Consistent with this change, **section 4** of this bill removes the requirement in existing law that a reservation of common space in a planned development that will take place over a number of years must defer the location of the common space until an application for final approval is filed. (NRS 278A.110) **Section 24** of this bill repeals the provisions relating to the process for obtaining final approval. **Sections 12, 15-17, 22 and 23** of this bill make conforming changes to eliminate references that distinguish between tentative and final approval.

Sections 18 and 19 of this bill eliminate the requirement in existing law that a grant or denial of an application for a plan be by minute action. (NRS 278A.490, 278A.500) Section 19 requires that the grant or denial of approval of a plan must be in writing and include a detailed explanation of the reasons that the plan would or would not be in the public interest.

Section 20 of this bill provides that approval of a plan may be revoked under certain circumstances.



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Section 21 of this bill removes an existing provision providing that an approved plan may not be modified or impaired by an act of the city or county unless the landowner consents. (NRS 278A.570)

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

Section 1. NRS 278A.060 is hereby amended to read as follows:

278A.060 "Plan" means the provisions for development of a planned unit development, including , *without limitation*, a plat of subdivision, all covenants relating to use, location and bulk of buildings and other structures, intensity of use or density of development, private streets, ways and parking facilities, common open space and public facilities. [The phrase "provisions of the plan" means the written and graphic materials referred to in this section.]

- **Sec. 2.** NRS 278A.080 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 278A.080 *1*. The powers granted under the provisions of this chapter may be exercised by any city or county which enacts an ordinance conforming to the provisions of this chapter.
- 2. Nothing in this chapter prohibits a city or county from enacting an ordinance that sets forth procedures for planned development that are consistent with the provisions of chapter 278 of NRS.
- **Sec. 3.** NRS 278A.090 is hereby amended to read as follows: 278A.090 Each ordinance enacted pursuant to the provisions of this chapter must [set]:
- 1. Require the plan to be set forth in written and graphic materials, as specified in the ordinance;
- 2. Set forth procedures by which the city or county will review an application for a plan, which must include, without limitation, procedures by which the city or county will review an application for a plan which calls for development over a period of years;
- 3. Set forth procedures by which the city or county will review and process an application to modify, remove or release any provision of the plan; and
- 4. *Set* forth the standards and conditions by which a proposed planned unit development is evaluated.
 - **Sec. 4.** NRS 278A.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 278A.110 1. An ordinance enacted pursuant to the provisions of this chapter must establish standards governing the density or intensity of land use in a planned unit development.
 - 2. The standards must take into account the possibility that the density or intensity of land use otherwise allowable on the site under





the provisions of a zoning ordinance previously enacted may not be appropriate for a planned unit development. The standards may vary the density or intensity of land use otherwise applicable to the land within the planned unit development in consideration of:

- (a) The amount, location and proposed use of common open space.
- (b) The location and physical characteristics of the site of the proposed planned development.
 - (c) The location, design and type of dwelling units.
- (d) The criteria for approval of a tentative map of a subdivision pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 278.349.
- In the case of a planned unit development which is proposed to be developed over a period of years, the standards may, to encourage the flexibility of density, design and type intended by the provisions of this chapter, authorize a departure from the density or intensity of use established for the entire planned unit development in the case of each section to be developed. The ordinance may authorize the city or county to allow for a greater concentration of density or intensity of land use within a section of development whether it is earlier or later in the development than the other sections. The ordinance may require that the approval by the city or county of a greater concentration of density or intensity of land use for any section to be developed be offset by a smaller concentration in any completed prior stage or by an appropriate reservation of common open space on the remaining land by a grant of easement or by covenant in favor of the city or county. , but the reservation must, as far as practicable, defer the precise location of the common open space until an application for final approval is filed so that flexibility of development, which is a prime objective of this chapter, can be maintained.]

Sec. 5. NRS 278A.120 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 278A.120 The standards for a planned unit development established by an ordinance enacted pursuant to the provisions of this chapter [must]:
- 1. May require that any common open space resulting from the application of standards for density or intensity of land use be set aside for the use and benefit of the residents or owners of the development; and [must include]
- 2. If the ordinance includes provisions to set aside common open space, must include provisions by which the amount and location of any common open space is determined and its improvement and maintenance secured.

Sec. 6. NRS 278A.130 is hereby amended to read as follows:

278A.130 *1*. The ordinance [must] may provide that the city or county may accept the dedication of land or any interest therein



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for public use and maintenance, but the ordinance must not require, as a condition of the approval of a planned unit development, that land proposed to be set aside for common open space be dedicated or made available to public use.

- 2. If any land is set aside for common open space [, the]:
- (a) The planned unit development must be organized as a common-interest community in one of the forms permitted by chapter 116 of NRS.
- (b) The ordinance may require that the association for the common-interest community may not be dissolved or dispose of any common open space by sale or otherwise, without first offering to dedicate the common open space to the city or county. That offer to dedicate the common open space must be accepted or rejected within 120 days.
 - **Sec. 7.** NRS 278A.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 278A.220 1. An ordinance enacted pursuant to this chapter must set forth the standards and criteria by which the design, bulk and location of buildings is evaluated, and all standards and all criteria for any feature of a planned unit development must be set forth in that ordinance with sufficient certainty to provide [work] criteria by which specific proposals for a planned unit development can be evaluated.
- 2. Standards in the ordinance must not unreasonably restrict the ability of the landowner to relate the plan to the particular site and to the particular demand for housing existing at the time of development.
- **Sec. 8.** NRS 278A.250 is hereby amended to read as follows: 278A.250 The minimum site area is 5 acres [, except that] unless the governing body [may waive this minimum when proper planning justification is shown.] provides otherwise in the ordinance.
- **Sec. 9.** NRS 278A.320 is hereby amended to read as follows: 278A.320 A minimum of one parking space shall be provided for each dwelling unit [...]
- unless the governing body provides otherwise in the ordinance.
- **Sec. 10.** NRS 278A.380 is hereby amended to read as follows: 278A.380 1. The enforcement and modification of the **[provisions of the]** plan as **[finally]** approved, whether or not **[these are]** *the plan is* recorded by plat, covenant, easement or otherwise, are subject to *the ordinance adopted pursuant to this chapter and* the provisions contained in NRS 278A.390, 278A.400 and 278A.410.
- 2. [The enforcement and modification of the provisions of the plan must be to further the mutual interest of the residents and owners of the planned unit development and of the public in the





preservation of the integrity of the plan as finally approved.] The enforcement and modification of [provisions] the plan must [be drawn also to insure that modifications, if any, in the plan will] not impair the reasonable reliance of the residents and owners upon the [provisions of the] plan or result in changes that would adversely affect the public interest.

Sec. 11. NRS 278A.390 is hereby amended to read as follows: 278A.390 *I*. The provisions of the plan relating to:

[1.] (a) The use of land and the use, bulk and location of buildings and structures;

(b) The quantity and location of common open space;

[3.] (c) The intensity of use or the density of residential units; and

[4.] (d) The ratio of residential to nonresidential uses,

must run in favor of the city or county and are enforceable in law by the city or county, without limitation on any powers of regulation of the city or county.

2. Any other provision of the plan not set forth in subsection 1 may be enforced by the city or county only as provided in the ordinance enacted pursuant to this chapter.

Sec. 12. NRS 278A.400 is hereby amended to read as follows:

278A.400 1. All provisions of the plan shall run in favor of the residents of the planned unit residential development, but only to the extent expressly provided in the plan and in accordance with the terms of the plan and to that extent such provisions, whether recorded by plat, covenant, easement or otherwise, may be enforced at law or equity by the residents acting individually, jointly or through an organization designated in the plan to act on their behalf.

2. No provision of the plan exists in favor of residents on the planned unit residential development except as to those portions of the plan which have been **[finally]** approved and have been recorded.

Sec. 13. NRS 278A.410 is hereby amended to read as follows:

278A.410 All provisions of the plan authorized to be enforced by the city or county may be modified, removed or released by the city or county, except grants or easements relating to the service or equipment of a public utility unless expressly consented to by the public utility, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. No such modification, removal or release of the provisions of the plan by the city or county may affect the rights of the residents of the planned unit residential development to maintain and enforce those provisions.
- 2. [No] Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, no modification, removal or release of the provisions of the plan by the city or county is permitted except upon a finding by the city or





county, following a public hearing, that [it:] the modification, removal or release:

- (a) [Is consistent with the efficient development and preservation of the entire planned unit development;
- (b)] Does not adversely affect either the enjoyment of land abutting upon or across a street from the planned unit development or the public interest; and
- **[(e)]** (b) Is not granted solely to confer a private benefit upon any person.
- 3. A city or county may approve a modification, removal or release of the provisions of a plan without a public hearing if the city or county determines that such modification, removal or release substantially complies with the approved plan.
 - **Sec. 14.** NRS 278A.430 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 278A.430 *I*. In order to provide an expeditious method for processing a plan for a planned unit development under the terms of an ordinance enacted pursuant to the powers granted under this chapter, and to avoid the delay and uncertainty which would arise if it were necessary to secure approval by a multiplicity of local procedures of a plat or subdivision or resubdivision, as well as approval of a change in the zoning regulations otherwise applicable to the property, it is hereby declared to be in the public interest that all procedures with respect to the approval or disapproval of a planned unit development and its continuing administration must be consistent with the provisions set out in *this section and* NRS 278A.440 to 278A.590, inclusive.
- 2. Unless otherwise provided in the ordinance, a tentative approval of the plan for a planned unit development is not required. The ordinance may include a procedure for granting tentative approval that is subject to compliance with further procedures in order to obtain final administrative approval of the plan.
- **Sec. 15.** NRS 278A.440 is hereby amended to read as follows: 278A.440 An application for **[tentative]** approval of the plan for a planned unit development must be filed by or on behalf of the landowner.
 - **Sec. 16.** NRS 278A.450 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 278A.450 1. The [ordinance enacted pursuant to this chapter must designate the] form of the application for [tentative] approval [, the fee for filing the application] and the official of the city or county with whom the application is to be filed [.] must be:
- (a) Set forth in the ordinance enacted pursuant to this chapter; or
- (b) Published and made publicly available by the city or county.





- 2. The fee for filing the application must be set forth in the ordinance enacted pursuant to this chapter.
- **3.** The application for **[tentative]** approval may include a tentative map. If a tentative map is included, **[tentative]** approval may not be granted pursuant to NRS 278A.490 until the tentative map has been submitted for review and comment by the agencies specified in NRS 278.335.
- **Sec. 17.** NRS 278A.470 is hereby amended to read as follows: 278A.470 The ordinance may require such information in the application as is reasonably necessary to disclose to the city or
- 1. The location and size of the site and the nature of the landowner's interest in the land proposed to be developed.
- 2. The density of land use to be allocated to parts of the site to be developed.
- 3. The location and size of any common open space and the form of organization proposed to own and maintain any common open space.
- 4. The use and the approximate height, bulk and location of buildings and other structures.
 - 5. The ratio of residential to nonresidential use.
- 6. The feasibility of proposals for disposition of sanitary waste and storm water.
- 7. The substance of covenants, grants or easements or other restrictions proposed to be imposed upon the use of the land, buildings and structures, including proposed easements or grants for public utilities.
- 8. The provisions for parking of vehicles and the location and width of proposed streets and public ways.
- 9. The required modifications in the municipal land use regulations otherwise applicable to the subject property.
- 10. In the case of plans which call for development over a period of years, a schedule showing the proposed times within which *additional* applications for **[final]** approval of all sections of the planned unit development are intended to be filed.
- **Sec. 18.** NRS 278A.490 is hereby amended to read as follows: 278A.490 The city or county shall, following the conclusion of the public hearing provided for in NRS 278A.480 [, by minute action:]:
 - 1. Grant [tentative] approval of the plan as submitted;
- 2. Grant [tentative] approval subject to specified conditions not included in the plan as submitted; or
 - 3. Deny [tentative] approval to the plan.
- → If [tentative] approval is granted, with regard to the plan as submitted or with regard to the plan with conditions, the city or





county [shall,] may, as part of its action, specify the drawings, specifications and form of performance bond that shall [accompany an application for final approval.] be included in the approved plan.

Sec. 19. NRS 278A.500 is hereby amended to read as follows: 278A.500 The grant or denial of **[tentative]** approval **[by minute action]** must **[set]**:

1. Be in writing;

- **2. Set** forth the reasons for the grant, with or without conditions, or for the denial [, and the minutes must set forth with particularity in what respects]; and
- 3. Include a detailed explanation of the reasons that the plan would or would not be in the public interest, [including but not limited to] which may include, without limitation, findings on the following:
- [1.] (a) In what respects the plan is or is not consistent with the statement of objectives of a planned unit development.
- [2.] (b) The extent to which the plan departs from zoning and subdivision regulations otherwise applicable to the property, including but not limited to density, bulk and use, and the reasons why these departures are or are not deemed to be in the public interest.
- [3.] (c) The ratio of residential to nonresidential use in the planned unit development.
- [4.] (d) The purpose, location and amount of the common open space in the planned unit development, the reliability of the proposals for maintenance and conservation of the common open space, and the adequacy or inadequacy of the amount and purpose of the common open space as related to the proposed density and type of residential development.
- [5.] (e) The physical design of the plan and the manner in which the design does or does not make adequate provision for public services, provide adequate control over vehicular traffic, and further the amenities of light and air, recreation and visual enjoyment.
- [6.] (f) The relationship, beneficial or adverse, of the proposed planned unit development to the neighborhood in which it is proposed to be established.
- [7.] (g) In the case of a plan which proposes development over a period of years, the sufficiency of the terms and conditions intended to protect the interests of the public, residents and owners of the planned unit development in the integrity of the plan.
 - **Sec. 20.** NRS 278A.520 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 278A.520 1. A copy of the [minutes] grant or denial of approval that is prepared pursuant to NRS 278.500 must be mailed to the landowner.





- 2. [Tentative approval of a plan does not qualify a plat of the planned unit development for recording or authorize development or the issuance of any building permits. A plan which has been given tentative approval as submitted, or which has been given tentative approval with conditions which have been accepted by the landowner, may not be modified, revoked or otherwise impaired by action of the city or county pending an application for final approval, without the consent of the landowner. Impairment by action of the city or county is not stayed if an application for final approval has not been filed, or in the case of development over a period of years applications for approval of the several parts have not been filed, within the time specified in the minutes granting tentative approval.
- 3. The tentative approval must] Approval of a plan may be revoked and [the portion of] the area included in the plan [for which final approval has not been given] is subject to local ordinances if:
- (a) The landowner elects to abandon the plan or any part thereof, and so notifies the city or county in writing; or
- (b) The landowner fails to [file application for the final approval] record the plan within the [required] time [.] required by the ordinance enacted by the city or county.
- **Sec. 21.** NRS 278A.570 is hereby amended to read as follows: 278A.570 1. A plan which has been [given final approval] approved by the city or county [,] must be certified without delay by the city or county and filed of record in the office of the appropriate county recorder before any development occurs in accordance with that plan. A county recorder shall not file for record any [final] plan unless it includes:
- (a) A final map of the entire [final] plan or an identifiable phase of the [final] plan if required by the provisions of NRS 278.010 to 278.630, inclusive;
 - (b) The certifications required pursuant to NRS 116.2109; and
- (c) The same certificates of approval as are required under NRS 278.377 or evidence that:
- (1) The approvals were requested more than 30 days before the date on which the request for filing is made; and
 - (2) The agency has not refused its approval.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, after the plan is recorded, the zoning and subdivision regulations otherwise applicable to the land included in the plan cease to apply. If the development is completed in identifiable phases, then each phase can be recorded. The zoning and subdivision regulations cease to apply after the recordation of each phase to the extent necessary to allow development of that phase.





- 3. [Pending completion of the planned unit development, or of the part that has been finally approved, no modification of the provisions of the plan, or any part finally approved, may be made, nor may it be impaired by any act of the city or county except with the consent of the landowner.
- —4.] For the recording or filing of any final map, plat or plan, the county recorder shall collect a fee of \$50 for the first sheet of the map, plat or plan plus \$10 for each additional sheet. The fee must be deposited in the general fund of the county where it is collected.
- **Sec. 22.** NRS 278A.580 is hereby amended to read as follows: 278A.580 No further development may take place on the property included in the plan until the property is resubdivided and is reclassified by an enactment of an amendment to the zoning ordinance if:
- 1. The plan, or a section thereof, is given approval and, thereafter, the landowner abandons the plan or the section thereof as **[finally]** approved and gives written notification thereof to the city or county; or
- 2. The landowner fails to carry out the planned unit development within the specified period of time after [the final] approval has been granted.
 - **Sec. 23.** NRS 278A.590 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 278A.590 1. Any decision of the city or county under this chapter granting or denying [tentative or final] approval of the plan or authorizing or refusing to authorize a modification in a plan is a final administrative decision and is subject to judicial review in properly presented cases.
- 2. No action or proceeding may be commenced for the purpose of seeking judicial relief or review from or with respect to any final action, decision or order of any city, county or other governing body authorized by this chapter unless the action or proceeding is commenced within 25 days after the date of filing of notice of the final action, decision or order with the clerk or secretary of the governing body.
- **Sec. 24.** NRS 278A.510, 278A.530, 278A.540, 278A.550 and 278A.560 are hereby repealed.
 - **Sec. 25.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2021.

LEADLINES OF REPEALED SECTIONS

278A.510 Minute order: Specification of time for filing application for final approval.





278A.530 Application for final approval; public hearing not required if substantial compliance with plan tentatively approved.

278A.540 What constitutes substantial compliance with

plan tentatively approved.

278A.550 Plan not in substantial compliance: Alternative procedures; public hearing; final action.

278A.560 Action brought upon failure of city or county to grant or deny final approval.





