

SENATE BILL NO. 126—SENATOR NEAL

FEBRUARY 8, 2023

Referred to Committee on Revenue and Economic Development

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to the NV Grow Program. (BDR S-791)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No. Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in 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 economic development; revising provisions governing the NV Grow Program; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law directs the Division of Workforce and Economic Development of the College of Southern Nevada to develop, create, oversee and manage the NV Grow Program to provide certain informational and technical assistance to existing small businesses in this State that are expanding or ready to expand. Existing law further directs the Division to: (1) select the lead counselor who serves as coordinator of the Program; (2) employ a geographic information specialist; and (3) consult with a stakeholder group in identifying additional components that are necessary, advisable or advantageous for the growth and development of businesses located in this State. (Section 2 of chapter 459, Statutes of Nevada 2015, as last amended by chapter 570, Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 3666)

Section 1 of this bill requires the Division to establish requirements for: (1) the supervision of the lead counselor by at least two employees of the Division or by an advisory team appointed by the Division; and (2) the training of the geographic information specialist. Section 1 also requires the Program to provide to participants in the Program classes and resources on business development and business financing. Section 1 further revises the stakeholder group to include the African Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

Section 2 of this bill appropriates \$2,100,000 to the Nevada System of Higher Education to: (1) enable the College of Southern Nevada to assist and carry out the NV Grow Program; and (2) study the feasibility of establishing a center to provide services and training in geographic information systems and assist in carrying out the geographic information services provided by the Program. Section 2 requires



23 the Nevada System of Higher Education to prepare a report on the results of the
24 study.

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

1 **Section 1.** Section 2 of the NV Grow Act, being chapter 459,
2 Statutes of Nevada 2015, as last amended by chapter 570, Statutes
3 of Nevada 2019, at page 3666, is hereby amended to read as
4 follows:

5 Sec. 2. 1. The Division, in consultation with the
6 stakeholders group, shall develop, create and oversee the NV
7 Grow Program to stimulate Nevada's economy with a view
8 toward providing assistance to businesses that are already
9 located and operating in this State rather than recruiting
10 businesses from other states to relocate in Nevada.

11 2. Under the auspices of the program:

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

21 (b) The Nevada Small Business Development Centers
22 located in Clark County and Washoe County shall each
23 cooperate with the geographic information system specialist
24 employed to assist businesses in Clark County that are
25 participating in the program with marketing and other efforts.

26 3. The Division shall select the lead counselor and
27 manage the NV Grow Program, which must include, without
28 limitation:

29 (a) The employment *and supervision* of the lead
30 counselor at the College of Southern Nevada who, in addition
31 to his or her other duties, serves as the coordinator of the
32 program . *✚ The Division shall, to the extent practicable,*
33 *ensure that the work of the lead counselor of the program is*
34 *supervised by at least two employees of the Division or an*
35 *advisory team appointed by the Division.*

36 (b) The employment *and training* of a geographic
37 information specialist at the College of Southern Nevada who
38 provides data to clients of the stakeholders group . *✚ To the*
39 *extent practicable, the geographic information specialist*



1 *must receive training in geographic information systems at*
2 *the Nevada Small Business Development Center in Washoe*
3 *County.*

4 (c) The appointment of the College of Southern Nevada
5 as administrator of the geographic information system and
6 fiscal agent for the program. ~~(c)~~

7 (d) An analysis and identification by the Division of
8 businesses and business sectors in this State that are ready to
9 expand and a determination of which of these businesses and
10 business sectors will participate in the program. ~~(d)~~

11 (e) Identification by the Centers and the Division of the
12 skilled labor that exists in this State and its potential for
13 growth. ~~(e)~~

14 (f) Targeting by the Centers and the Division of business
15 sectors and occupations in this State that have demonstrated
16 the ability to grow and stimulate the economy of the State. ~~(f)~~

17 (g) A focus by the Centers and the Division on the
18 utilization of existing resources. ~~(g)~~

19 (h) The harnessing of the academic expertise of the
20 College of Southern Nevada and the Centers to provide
21 economic and market data to contribute to the diversification
22 and growth of the economy of this State. ~~(h)~~

23 (i) The use of geographic information systems by the
24 College of Southern Nevada and the Centers to map areas of
25 this State to determine locations in which retail sales and
26 other commerce are flourishing and locations in which retail
27 sales and commerce demonstrate the capacity for further
28 growth. ~~(i)~~

29 (j) The elements described in subsection 2. ~~(j)~~

30 (k) The provision of informational and other assistance by
31 the College of Southern Nevada to businesses and business
32 sectors in this State, including, without limitation,
33 business training, nontraditional marketing techniques and
34 business mentoring. ~~(k) and~~

35 (l) Such other components as the Division, in consultation
36 with the stakeholders group, determines are likely to be
37 necessary, advisable or advantageous for the growth and
38 development of businesses located in this State.

39 4. The program shall, insofar as is possible, use the
40 resources and expertise of the Centers and make available
41 those resources and that expertise to businesses in this State
42 for the purposes of:

43 (a) Developing business connections and business
44 mentorships within the program;



1 (b) Exchanging data and other information with and
2 between businesses and trade associations;

3 (c) Creating and facilitating peer-to-peer mentoring
4 sessions for participants in the NV Grow Program; ~~[and]~~

5 (d) Providing to businesses and business sectors data and
6 other information that is calculated or otherwise generated
7 through the use of geographic information systems ~~[and]~~; and

8 *(e) Providing to participants in the NV Grow Program*
9 *classes and resources on business development and business*
10 *financing.*

11 5. To the extent possible, the program must be
12 conducted with the goal of selecting at least 30 businesses in
13 Clark County to participate in the program every year.

14 6. To qualify to participate in the program, a business
15 must:

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

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

21 (c) Have a business plan.

22 7. As used in this section:

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

26 (b) "Centers" means all institutions of the Nevada System
27 of Higher Education, including, without limitation, the
28 College of Southern Nevada and the University of Nevada,
29 Reno.

30 (c) "Geographic information system" means a
31 computerized database management system for the capture,
32 storage, retrieval, analysis and display of spatial or
33 locationally defined data.

34 (d) "Stakeholders group" means a group of persons
35 interested in economic development in this State selected by
36 the Division, including, without limitation, a representative of
37 the College of Southern Nevada, the University of Nevada,
38 Las Vegas, the Urban Chamber of Commerce of Las Vegas,
39 the Las Vegas Latin Chamber of Commerce, *the African*
40 *Chamber of Commerce and Tourism*, the Henderson
41 Chamber of Commerce, the Asian Community Development
42 Council, the Valley Center Opportunity Zone, the University
43 of Nevada Cooperative Extension in Clark County, Clark
44 County and incorporated cities in Clark County and various
45 entities affiliated with the Small Business Administration.



1 **Sec. 2.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State
2 General Fund to the Nevada System of Higher Education the sum of
3 \$2,100,000 to:

4 (a) Enable the College of Southern Nevada to:

5 (1) Provide or obtain such services as may be necessary to
6 assist and carry out the Program;

7 (2) Provide training to the geographic information specialist
8 employed pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 3 of section 2 of
9 the NV Grow Act to assist small businesses who participate in the
10 Program, including, without limitation, travel expenses to receive
11 training from a geographic information specialist at the Nevada
12 Small Business Development Center in Washoe County at least
13 once every 3 months for not less than 1 year;

14 (3) Provide stipends for the counselors and members of the
15 faculty of the Nevada System of Higher Education who provide
16 services in connection with the Program; and

17 (4) Make direct program expenditures to assist and carry out
18 the Program, including, without limitation, expenditures for data
19 software, marketing tools, interns, field trips and grants to members
20 of the stakeholders group, as defined in subsection 7 of section 2 of
21 the NV Grow Act to assist and carry out the Program; and

22 (b) Study the feasibility of establishing a center to provide
23 services and training in geographic information systems and assist in
24 carrying out the geographic information services provided by the
25 Program.

26 2. All money appropriated by the provisions of this section
27 must be used only for the purposes specified in subsection 1 and no
28 portion of the money may be set aside, distributed or otherwise
29 committed or used for any other purpose, including, without
30 limitation, any indirect costs incurred by any institution of the
31 Nevada System of Higher Education, including, without limitation,
32 the College of Southern Nevada.

33 3. On or before September 1, 2024, the Nevada System of
34 Higher Education shall:

35 (a) Prepare a report on the results of the study of the feasibility
36 of establishing a center to provide services and training in
37 geographic information systems and assist in carrying out the
38 geographic information services provided by the Program; and

39 (b) Submit the report to the Governor and to the Director of the
40 Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 83rd Session of the
41 Nevada Legislature.

42 4. As used in this section, "Program" means the NV Grow
43 Program created pursuant to section 2 of the NV Grow Act, chapter
44 459, Statutes of Nevada 2015, as last amended by chapter 570,
45 Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 3666.



1 **Sec. 3.** Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by
2 section 2 of this act must not be committed for expenditure after
3 June 30, 2025, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or
4 any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or
5 otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the
6 appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose
7 after September 19, 2025, by either the entity to which the money
8 was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently
9 granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General
10 Fund on or before September 19, 2025.

11 **Sec. 4.** Any remaining balance of the money received by the
12 Division of Workforce and Economic Development of the College
13 of Southern Nevada from any gifts, grants or donations accepted by
14 the Division pursuant to section 4.5 of the NV Grow Act, chapter
15 459, Statutes of Nevada 2015, as last amended by chapter 570,
16 Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 3669, that has not been committed
17 for expenditure before July 1, 2023, must be transferred to an
18 account in the State General Fund administered by the College of
19 Southern Nevada for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of
20 the NV Grow Act.

21 **Sec. 5.** Upon acceptance of the money appropriated by section
22 2 of this act, the Nevada System of Higher Education agrees to:

23 1. Prepare and transmit quarterly reports to the Interim Finance
24 Committee that describe each expenditure made from the money
25 appropriated by section 2 of this act from the date on which the
26 money was received by the Nevada System of Higher Education
27 through December 1, 2024;

28 2. Prepare and transmit a final report to the Interim Finance
29 Committee on or before September 19, 2025, that describes each
30 expenditure made from the money appropriated by section 2 of this
31 act from the date on which the money was received by the Nevada
32 System of Higher Education through June 30, 2025; and

33 3. Upon request of the Legislative Commission, make available
34 to the Legislative Auditor any of the books, accounts, claims,
35 reports, vouchers or other records of information, confidential or
36 otherwise, of the Nevada System of Higher Education, regardless of
37 their form or location, that the Legislative Auditor deems necessary
38 to conduct an audit of the use of the money appropriated pursuant to
39 section 2 of this act.

40 **Sec. 6.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

