

Senate Bill No. 126–Senator Neal

CHAPTER.....

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 and the Vegas Chamber.

Existing law provides that the institutions of the Nevada System of Higher Education located in Clark County and the Nevada Small Business Development Center in Clark County shall cooperate with the geographic information system specialist to mentor and track businesses participating in the Program in Clark County. (Section 2 of chapter 459, Statutes of Nevada 2015, as last amended by chapter 570, Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 3666) **Section 1** removes the requirement for the Nevada Small Business Development Center in Clark County to participate in the tracking and mentoring of businesses participating in the Program in Clark County. **Section 1** also provides that the Nevada Small Business Development Center located in Clark County and the Division will assist in identifying skilled labor in this State and focus on the utilization of existing resources as part of the Program.

**Section 2** of this bill appropriates \$950,000 for each fiscal year to the College of Southern Nevada for certain allocations and to assist and carry out the NV Grow Program.



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

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

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

2. Under the auspices of the program:

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

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

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

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

(b) The employment *and training* of a geographic information specialist at the College of Southern Nevada who provides data to clients of the stakeholders group . ~~{}~~ *To the*



*extent practicable, the geographic information specialist must receive training in geographic information systems at the Nevada Small Business Development Center located in Washoe County.*

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

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

(e) Identification by the ~~(Centers)~~ *Nevada Small Business Development Center located in Clark County* and the Division of the skilled labor that exists in this State and its potential for growth . ~~(f)~~

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

(g) A focus by the ~~(Centers)~~ *Nevada Small Business Development Center located in Clark County* and the Division on the utilization of existing resources . ~~(f)~~

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

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

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

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

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

4. The program shall, insofar as is possible, use the resources and expertise of the Centers and make available



those resources and that expertise to businesses in this State for the purposes of:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Have a business plan.

7. As used in this section:

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

(b) “Centers” means all institutions of the Nevada System of Higher Education, including, without limitation, the College of Southern Nevada and the University of Nevada, Reno.

(c) “Geographic information system” means a computerized database management system for the capture, storage, retrieval, analysis and display of spatial or locationally defined data.

(d) “Stakeholders group” means a group of persons interested in economic development in this State selected by the Division, including, without limitation, a representative of the College of Southern Nevada, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the Urban Chamber of Commerce of Las Vegas, the Las Vegas Latin Chamber of Commerce, *the African*



*Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, the Vegas Chamber, the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, the Asian Community Development Council, the Valley Center Opportunity Zone, the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension in Clark County, Clark County and incorporated cities in Clark County and various entities affiliated with the Small Business Administration.*

**Sec. 2.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the College of Southern Nevada the following sums:

For the Fiscal Year 2023-2024.....	\$950,000
For the Fiscal Year 2024-2025.....	\$950,000

2. Of the sums appropriated by subsection 1:

(a) An allocation of \$100,000 must be disbursed each fiscal year to the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension in Clark County to provide counseling, training in geographic information systems and data scrubbing services for the Program.

(b) An allocation of \$30,000 must be disbursed each fiscal year to the stakeholders group, as defined in subsection 7 of section 2 of the NV Grow Act, to employ or contract with a marketing professional on a part-time basis to provide marketing services for the Program.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the College of Southern Nevada shall use the money appropriated pursuant to subsection 1 to:

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

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

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

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



4. Any remaining balance of the sums appropriated by subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30 of the respective fiscal years by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September 20, 2024, and September 19, 2025, respectively, by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 20, 2024, and September 19, 2025, respectively.

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

**Secs. 3 and 3.5.** (Deleted by amendment.)

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

**Sec. 5.** Upon acceptance of the money appropriated by section 2 of this act, the College of Southern Nevada agrees to:

1. Prepare and transmit quarterly reports to the Interim Finance Committee that describe each expenditure made from the money appropriated by section 2 of this act, other than the money allocated pursuant to subsection 2 of section 2 of this act, from the date on which the money was received by the College of Southern Nevada through December 1, 2024;

2. Prepare and transmit a final report to the Interim Finance Committee on or before September 19, 2025, that describes each expenditure made from the money appropriated by section 2 of this act, other than the money allocated pursuant to subsection 2 of section 2 of this act, from the date on which the money was received by the College of Southern Nevada through June 30, 2025; and

3. Upon request of the Legislative Commission, make available to the Legislative Auditor any of the books, accounts, claims,



reports, vouchers or other records of information, confidential or otherwise, of the College of Southern Nevada, regardless of their form or location, that the Legislative Auditor deems necessary to conduct an audit of the use of the money appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act, other than the money allocated pursuant to subsection 2 of section 2 of this act.

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

