

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:

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

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

18 Existing law provides that the institutions of the Nevada System of Higher
19 Education located in Clark County and the Nevada Small Business Development
20 Center in Clark County shall cooperate with the geographic information system
21 specialist to mentor and track businesses participating in the Program in Clark
22 County. (**Section 2** of chapter 459, Statutes of Nevada 2015, as last amended by
23 chapter 570, Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 3666) **Section 1** removes the



24 requirement for the Nevada Small Business Development Center in Clark County
 25 to participate in the tracking and mentoring of businesses participating in the
 26 Program in Clark County. **Section 1** also provides that the Nevada Small Business
 27 Development Center located in Clark County and the Division will assist in
 28 identifying skilled labor in this State and focus on the utilization of existing
 29 resources as part of the Program.
 30 **Section 2** of this bill appropriates \$950,000 for each fiscal year to the College
 31 of Southern Nevada for certain allocations and to assist and carry out the NV Grow
 32 Program.

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*



1 *supervised by at least two employees of the Division or an*
2 *advisory team appointed by the Division.*

3 (b) The employment *and training* of a geographic
4 information specialist at the College of Southern Nevada who
5 provides data to clients of the stakeholders group . [§] *To the*
6 *extent practicable, the geographic information specialist*
7 *must receive training in geographic information systems at*
8 *the Nevada Small Business Development Center located in*
9 *Washoe County.*

10 (c) The appointment of the College of Southern Nevada
11 as administrator of the geographic information system and
12 fiscal agent for the program . [§]

13 (d) An analysis and identification by the Division of
14 businesses and business sectors in this State that are ready to
15 expand and a determination of which of these businesses and
16 business sectors will participate in the program . [§]

17 (e) Identification by the [Centers] *Nevada Small*
18 *Business Development Center located in Clark County* and
19 the Division of the skilled labor that exists in this State and its
20 potential for growth . [§]

21 (f) Targeting by the Centers and the Division of business
22 sectors and occupations in this State that have demonstrated
23 the ability to grow and stimulate the economy of the State . [§]

24 (g) A focus by the [Centers] *Nevada Small Business*
25 *Development Center located in Clark County* and the
26 Division on the utilization of existing resources . [§]

27 (h) The harnessing of the academic expertise of the
28 College of Southern Nevada and the Centers to provide
29 economic and market data to contribute to the diversification
30 and growth of the economy of this State . [§]

31 (i) The use of geographic information systems by the
32 College of Southern Nevada and the Centers to map areas of
33 this State to determine locations in which retail sales and
34 other commerce are flourishing and locations in which retail
35 sales and commerce demonstrate the capacity for further
36 growth . [§]

37 (j) The elements described in subsection 2 . [§]

38 (k) The provision of informational and other assistance by
39 the College of Southern Nevada to businesses and business
40 sectors in this State, including, without limitation,
41 business training, nontraditional marketing techniques and
42 business mentoring . [§; and]

43 (l) Such other components as the Division, in consultation
44 with the stakeholders group, determines are likely to be



1 necessary, advisable or advantageous for the growth and
2 development of businesses located in this State.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (c) Have a business plan.

30 7. As used in this section:

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

34 (b) "Centers" means all institutions of the Nevada System
35 of Higher Education, including, without limitation, the
36 College of Southern Nevada and the University of Nevada,
37 Reno.

38 (c) "Geographic information system" means a
39 computerized database management system for the capture,
40 storage, retrieval, analysis and display of spatial or
41 locationally defined data.

42 (d) "Stakeholders group" means a group of persons
43 interested in economic development in this State selected by
44 the Division, including, without limitation, a representative of
45 the College of Southern Nevada, the University of Nevada,



1 Las Vegas, the Urban Chamber of Commerce of Las Vegas,
2 the Las Vegas Latin Chamber of Commerce, *the African*
3 *Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, the Vegas Chamber,*
4 the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, the Asian Community
5 Development Council, the Valley Center Opportunity Zone,
6 the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension in Clark
7 County, Clark County and incorporated cities in Clark
8 County and various entities affiliated with the Small Business
9 Administration.

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

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

15 2. Of the sums appropriated by subsection 1:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

13 5. As used in this section, "Program" means the NV Grow
14 Program created pursuant to section 2 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 3666.

17 **Sec. 3.** (Deleted by amendment.)

18 **Sec. 3.5.** (Deleted by amendment.)

19 **Sec. 4.** Any remaining balance of the money received by the
20 Division of Workforce and Economic Development of the College
21 of Southern Nevada from any gifts, grants or donations accepted by
22 the Division pursuant to section 4.5 of the NV Grow Act, chapter
23 459, Statutes of Nevada 2015, as last amended by chapter 570,
24 Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 3669, that has not been committed
25 for expenditure before July 1, 2023, must be transferred to an
26 account in the State General Fund administered by the College of
27 Southern Nevada for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of
28 the NV Grow Act.

29 **Sec. 5.** Upon acceptance of the money appropriated by section
30 2 of this act, the College of Southern Nevada agrees to:

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

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

43 3. Upon request of the Legislative Commission, make available
44 to the Legislative Auditor any of the books, accounts, claims,
45 reports, vouchers or other records of information, confidential or



1 otherwise, of the College of Southern Nevada, regardless of their
2 form or location, that the Legislative Auditor deems necessary to
3 conduct an audit of the use of the money appropriated pursuant to
4 section 2 of this act, other than the money allocated pursuant
5 to subsection 2 of section 2 of this act.

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

