
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 80—COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

(ON BEHALF OF THE JOINT INTERIM STANDING
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES)

PREFILED DECEMBER 2, 2024

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Establishes provisions relating to soil health.
(BDR 49-387)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included
in Executive Budget.

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to conservation; establishing the Soil Health Advisory Board within the State Conservation Commission in the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; creating the Healthy Soils Initiative; setting forth the powers and duties of the State Conservation Commission relating to the Healthy Soils Initiative; establishing the Fund for Soil Health; declaring certain information obtained by the Commission to be confidential; requiring the Conservation Districts Program in the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to provide staff services relating to the Healthy Soils Initiative; making an appropriation to the Conservation Districts Program to provide staff services to the State Conservation Commission for administering the Healthy Soils Initiative; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law establishes the State Conservation Commission in the State
2 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and authorizes the
3 establishment of conservation districts to facilitate the conservation, protection and
4 controlled development of the renewable natural resources of this State, which
5 includes soil. (Chapter 548 of NRS) **Section 6** of this bill establishes the Soil
6 Health Advisory Board within the Commission to advise the Commission on the



7 Healthy Soils Initiative. The Advisory Board consists of: (1) nine voting members,
8 including six members who represent certain agricultural interests in this State; and
9 (2) any other nonvoting member appointed by the Commission to provide any
10 necessary assistance or technical or scientific expertise.

11 **Section 7** of this bill creates the Healthy Soils Initiative within the
12 Commission, which must: (1) encourage the adoption of soil health practices by
13 agricultural producers; (2) promote and advance the understanding of the
14 environmental and economic benefits of soil health practices; and (3) support and
15 advance scientific research into soil health.

16 **Section 8** of this bill authorizes the Commission to establish, as part of the
17 Healthy Soils Initiative: (1) a grant program for soil health activities and projects;
18 (2) a soil health monitoring and inventory platform; and (3) any other program the
19 Commission determines is appropriate. **Section 8** requires, with certain exceptions,
20 any program or platform established by the Commission to be voluntary and
21 incentive-based. **Section 8** also provides that, if the Commission establishes a grant
22 program, the Commission must adopt certain regulations relating to the grant
23 program.

24 **Section 9** of this bill establishes the Fund for Soil Health in the State Treasury
25 and requires the Commission to administer the Fund.

26 **Sections 10 and 58** of this bill provide that, with certain exceptions, any
27 information in the records and files of the Commission regarding the identity of an
28 agricultural producer or program participant and the practices of an agricultural
29 producer or program participant is confidential.

30 **Section 11** of this bill requires the Conservation Districts Program in the State
31 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to provide staff services to the
32 Commission to carry out the provisions of **sections 2-12** of this bill.

33 **Section 12** authorizes the Commission to adopt regulations to carry out the
34 provisions of **sections 2-12**.

35 **Sections 2-5** define certain terms relating to the provisions of **sections 2-12**.

36 Existing law provides that the provisions of chapter 548 of the Nevada Revised
37 Statutes may be known and cited as the Conservation Districts Law. (NRS 548.010)
38 **Sections 13-57 and 59** of this bill revise existing references to these provisions to
39 reflect the addition of **sections 2-12** to chapter 548 of the Nevada Revised Statutes.

40 **Section 60** of this bill makes an appropriation to the Conservation Districts
41 Program to provide staff services to the Commission for administering the Healthy
42 Soils Initiative and for the salary of an employee to assist the Commission in
43 administering the Healthy Soils Initiative.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 548 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 12, inclusive, of this
3 act.

4 **Sec. 2.** *As used in sections 2 to 12, inclusive, of this act,*
5 *unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined*
6 *in sections 3, 4 and 5 of this act have the meanings ascribed to*
7 *them in those sections.*

8 **Sec. 3.** *“Agricultural producer” means a person engaged in*
9 *the production of a product of agriculture.*



1 **Sec. 4.** *“Commission” has the meaning ascribed to it in*
2 *NRS 548.030.*

3 **Sec. 5.** *“Government” has the meaning ascribed to it in*
4 *NRS 548.045.*

5 **Sec. 6. 1.** *The Soil Health Advisory Board is hereby created*
6 *within the Commission. The Soil Health Advisory Board consists*
7 *of:*

8 (a) *Nine voting members as follows:*

9 (1) *One representative from the State Department of*
10 *Agriculture appointed by the Director of the State Department of*
11 *Agriculture;*

12 (2) *One representative from the Division of Environmental*
13 *Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural*
14 *Resources appointed by the Administrator of the Division of*
15 *Environmental Protection;*

16 (3) *One representative from the Division of Public and*
17 *Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human*
18 *Services appointed by the Administrator of the Division of Public*
19 *and Behavioral Health; and*

20 (4) *Six members appointed by the Commission who*
21 *represent the diverse agricultural interests of this State as follows:*

22 (I) *A dairy farmer;*

23 (II) *A rancher;*

24 (III) *A specialty crop or small farmer;*

25 (IV) *An irrigated crop producer;*

26 (V) *A tribal representative; and*

27 (VI) *A person engaged in research relating to*
28 *agricultural soil health; and*

29 (b) *Any other nonvoting member appointed by the Commission*
30 *to provide any necessary assistance or technical or scientific*
31 *expertise.*

32 **2.** *In appointing the members of the Soil Health Advisory*
33 *Board pursuant to subparagraph (4) of paragraph (a) of*
34 *subsection 1, the Commission shall ensure that:*

35 (a) *When practicable, the members of the Soil Health Advisory*
36 *Board represent the different geographic regions and*
37 *demographics of this State; and*

38 (b) *The terms of office are staggered as required pursuant to*
39 *subsection 3.*

40 **3.** *Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, each*
41 *member of the Soil Health Advisory Board serves a term of 2*
42 *years. The terms of office of the voting members must be staggered*
43 *to result in the appointment of four or five of the members*
44 *described in paragraph (a) of subsection 1 every year. In making*
45 *the initial appointments of the voting members, the appointing*



1 *authorities shall appoint the members to staggered terms of 1 or 2*
2 *years. A member may be reappointed.*

3 *4. A vacancy on the Soil Health Advisory Board must be*
4 *filled in the same manner as the original appointment.*

5 *5. Each member of the Soil Health Advisory Board who is not*
6 *servng on the Soil Health Advisory Board in the capacity of an*
7 *officer or employee of this State or a political subdivision of this*
8 *State is entitled to receive:*

9 *(a) A salary of not more than \$80, as fixed by the Commission,*
10 *for each day or portion thereof during which the member is in*
11 *attendance at a regularly called meeting of the Soil Health*
12 *Advisory Board; and*

13 *(b) The per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for*
14 *state officers and employees generally.*

15 *6. A majority of the voting members of the Soil Health*
16 *Advisory Board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of*
17 *business, and a majority of those members present at any meeting*
18 *is required for any official action taken by the Soil Health*
19 *Advisory Board.*

20 *7. The Soil Health Advisory Board shall advise the*
21 *Commission on the Healthy Soils Initiative created by section 7 of*
22 *this act.*

23 **Sec. 7. 1. The Healthy Soils Initiative is hereby created**
24 **within the Commission. The Healthy Soils Initiative must, without**
25 **limitation:**

26 *(a) Encourage the widespread adoption of soil health practices*
27 *by agricultural producers;*

28 *(b) Promote and advance the understanding of the*
29 *environmental and economic benefits of soil health practices by*
30 *agricultural producers, policymakers, consumers and the general*
31 *public; and*

32 *(c) Support and advance scientific research into soil health,*
33 *including, without limitation:*

34 *(1) The existing conditions of agricultural soils in this State*
35 *and the current carbon storage and carbon storage potential of*
36 *such soils;*

37 *(2) The environmental benefits of soil health practices; and*

38 *(3) The economic benefits of soil health practices.*

39 **2. In carrying out the requirements of subsection 1, the**
40 **Commission may:**

41 *(a) Provide incentives to encourage the implementation of soil*
42 *health practices;*

43 *(b) Conduct educational and outreach programs on the*
44 *benefits of soil health;*



1 (c) Evaluate and develop soil health sampling and testing
2 protocols that are appropriate for the agricultural systems in this
3 State;

4 (d) Facilitate stakeholder collaboration to advance the
5 understanding of the science of soil health and the
6 implementation of soil health practices, which may include,
7 without limitation, collaboration between the government, Indian
8 tribes, academic and research institutions, nonprofit organizations
9 and private entities;

10 (e) Collaborate with agricultural producers, groups of
11 agricultural producers, agricultural producer cooperatives,
12 conservation districts, water conservancy districts, academic and
13 research institutions, the government, Indian tribes and any other
14 entity; and

15 (f) Enter into agreements or contracts.

16 **Sec. 8. 1.** In addition to the requirements of section 7 of
17 this act, as part of the Healthy Soils Initiative, the Commission
18 may establish:

19 (a) A program to distribute, within the limits of legislative
20 appropriations and other available money, grants of money to
21 eligible entities to engage in soil health activities or projects,
22 including, without limitation, research, education or
23 demonstration projects. In developing such a grant program, the
24 Commission:

25 (1) Shall prioritize distributing such grants to conservation
26 districts that are working with agricultural producers, if
27 appropriate, as determined by the Commission; and

28 (2) May prioritize the needs of historically underserved
29 agricultural producers, emerging areas of scientific inquiry and
30 research, environmental benefits or any other consideration the
31 Commission determines is appropriate.

32 (b) A soil health monitoring and inventory platform.

33 (c) Any other program the Commission determines is
34 appropriate.

35 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, any program
36 or platform established by the Commission pursuant to subsection
37 1 must be voluntary and incentive-based. Such a program may
38 not:

39 (a) Require the participation of an agricultural producer or
40 other entity;

41 (b) Mandate the implementation of soil health practices by
42 agricultural producers or other entities who do not participate; or

43 (c) Bind a participant to execute specific practice standards in
44 adverse climate conditions or circumstances with limited or no



1 *chance of success or that would cause irreparable physical or*
2 *economic harm to the operations of the participant.*

3 3. *If a grant program is established pursuant to paragraph*
4 *(a) of subsection 1, the Commission shall adopt regulations to*
5 *carry out the grant program, which must, without limitation:*

6 (a) *Set forth the entities that are eligible to receive grants;*

7 (b) *Require any grant recipient who does not have sufficient*
8 *expertise in soil health practices or project management to work*
9 *with a technical assistance agency or organization;*

10 (c) *Require each grant recipient to:*

11 (1) *Conduct outreach and education activities regarding the*
12 *soil health activity or project; and*

13 (2) *Disclose information relating to the soil health activity*
14 *or project;*

15 (d) *Ensure that the most accurate and current scientific*
16 *evidence relating to soil health, soil health practices and the*
17 *economic and environmental benefits of soil health practices is*
18 *considered in awarding a grant by the program;*

19 (e) *Limit the grant money that may be used by a grant*
20 *recipient for costs not directly related to the purpose of the grant,*
21 *including, without limitation, administrative expenses and*
22 *overhead expenses;*

23 (f) *Establish monitoring requirements to ensure that any grant*
24 *money awarded is spent in accordance with state law; and*

25 (g) *Establish requirements to ensure the confidentiality of a*
26 *grant recipient, landowner and land information, as applicable.*

27 **Sec. 9.** 1. *There is hereby created in the State Treasury the*
28 *Fund for Soil Health. The Commission is responsible for the*
29 *administration of the Fund. All money received and held by*
30 *the State Treasurer for that purpose must be deposited in the*
31 *Fund.*

32 2. *The Commission may:*

33 (a) *Apply for and accept gifts, grants, services and donations*
34 *from any source for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of*
35 *sections 2 to 12, inclusive, of this act;*

36 (b) *Administer and expend money for the purpose of planning,*
37 *developing or establishing the Healthy Soils Initiative pursuant to*
38 *sections 7 and 8 of this act; and*

39 (c) *Use money received or appropriated as matching funds to*
40 *obtain or make grants for soil health activities.*

41 **Sec. 10.** *Except as otherwise provided in this section or*
42 *pursuant to a grant agreement executed in relation to a program*
43 *established pursuant to section 8 of this act, all information in the*
44 *records and files of the Commission regarding the identity of an*
45 *agricultural producer or participant in a program established by*



1 *the Commission pursuant to sections 2 to 12, inclusive, of this act*
2 *and the practices of the agricultural producer or program*
3 *participant are confidential unless the agricultural producer or*
4 *program participant provides express permission in writing to the*
5 *Commission to release such information.*

6 **Sec. 11.** *The Conservation Districts Program in the State*
7 *Department of Conservation and Natural Resources shall provide*
8 *staff services to the Commission for carrying out the provisions of*
9 *sections 2 to 12, inclusive, of this act.*

10 **Sec. 12.** *The Commission may adopt regulations to carry out*
11 *the provisions of sections 2 to 12, inclusive, of this act.*

12 **Sec. 13.** NRS 548.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 548.010 ~~[This chapter.]~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,*
14 *may be known and cited as the Conservation Districts Law.*

15 **Sec. 14.** NRS 548.015 is hereby amended to read as follows:

16 548.015 As used in ~~[this chapter.]~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550,*
17 *inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires, the [following]*
18 *words and terms [have the meanings attributed to them] defined in*
19 *NRS 548.020 to 548.090, inclusive, [unless the context otherwise*
20 *requires.] have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.*

21 **Sec. 15.** NRS 548.032 is hereby amended to read as follows:

22 548.032 “Conservation district” or “district” means a
23 governmental subdivision of this State, and a public body corporate
24 and politic, organized in accordance with the provisions of ~~[this~~
25 ~~chapter.]~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,* for the purposes, with
26 the powers, and subject to the restrictions set forth in ~~[this chapter.]~~
27 *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive.*

28 **Sec. 16.** NRS 548.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:

29 548.050 “Land occupier” or “occupier of land” means any
30 person, firm or corporation which holds title to, or is in legal
31 possession of, any lands lying within a district organized under the
32 provisions of ~~[this chapter,]~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,*
33 whether as owner or as lessee or tenant under a lease or rental
34 agreement for a term of 1 year or longer, but does not include
35 transient users.

36 **Sec. 17.** NRS 548.085 is hereby amended to read as follows:

37 548.085 “Supervisor” means one of the members of the
38 governing body of a district, elected or appointed in accordance with
39 the provisions of ~~[this chapter.]~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive.*

40 **Sec. 18.** NRS 548.157 is hereby amended to read as follows:

41 548.157 The Program shall perform staff services for the
42 Commission in carrying out its responsibilities under ~~[this chapter.]~~
43 *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive.*



1 **Sec. 19.** NRS 548.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 548.160 The Commission may adopt and promulgate such
3 rules and regulations as may be necessary for the execution of its
4 functions under ~~[this chapter.]~~ *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to*
5 *548.550, inclusive.*

6 **Sec. 20.** NRS 548.175 is hereby amended to read as follows:
7 548.175 The Commission has the following duties and powers:

8 1. To carry out the policies of this State in programs at the state
9 level for the conservation of the renewable natural resources of this
10 State and to represent the State in matters affecting such resources.

11 2. To offer such assistance as may be appropriate to the
12 supervisors of conservation districts in the carrying out of any of
13 their powers and programs, to propose programs and to assist and
14 guide districts in the preparation and carrying out of programs
15 authorized under ~~[this chapter.]~~ *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to*
16 *548.550, inclusive,* to review district programs, to coordinate the
17 programs of the districts and resolve any conflicts in such programs,
18 and to facilitate, promote, assist, harmonize, coordinate and guide
19 the programs and activities of districts as they relate to other special-
20 purpose districts, counties and other public agencies.

21 3. To keep the supervisors of each of the districts informed of
22 the activities and experience of all other districts organized pursuant
23 to ~~[this chapter.]~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,* and to
24 facilitate an interchange of advice and experience among those
25 districts and promote cooperation among them.

26 4. To secure the cooperation and assistance of the United
27 States, any of its agencies and of other agencies of this State in the
28 work of conservation districts.

29 5. To serve, along with conservation districts, as the official
30 state agency for cooperating with the Natural Resources
31 Conservation Service of the United States Department of
32 Agriculture in carrying on conservation operations within the
33 boundaries of conservation districts as created under ~~[this chapter.]~~
34 *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive.*

35 6. To enlist the cooperation and collaboration of state, federal,
36 interstate, local, public and private agencies with the conservation
37 districts and to facilitate arrangements under which the conservation
38 districts may serve county governing bodies and other agencies as
39 their local operating agencies in the administration of any activity
40 concerned with the conservation and use of renewable natural
41 resources.

42 7. To make available, with the assistance of the Program,
43 information concerning the needs and the work of the districts and
44 the Commission to the Director of the State Department of
45 Conservation and Natural Resources, the Legislature, executive



1 agencies and political subdivisions of this State, cooperating federal
2 agencies and the general public.

3 8. To cooperate with and give such assistance as may be
4 requested by cities, counties, irrigation districts, and other special-
5 purpose districts in the State of Nevada for the purpose of
6 cooperating with the United States through the Secretary of
7 Agriculture in the furtherance of conservation, pursuant to the
8 provisions of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act,
9 16 U.S.C. §§ 1001 et seq., and the requirements of other special
10 programs of the United States Department of Agriculture.

11 9. Pursuant to procedures developed mutually by the
12 Commission and federal, state and local agencies that are authorized
13 to plan or administer activities significantly affecting the
14 conservation and use of renewable natural resources, to receive from
15 those agencies, for review and comment, suitable descriptions of
16 their plans, programs and activities for purposes of coordination
17 with the conservation districts' programs and to arrange for and
18 participate in conferences necessary to avoid conflict among the
19 plans and programs, to call attention to omissions and to avoid
20 duplication of effort.

21 10. To submit, with the assistance of the Program, a report to
22 the Director of the State Department of Conservation and Natural
23 Resources whenever the Commission determines that there exists a
24 substantial conflict between the program of a district and the
25 proposed plans or activities directly affecting the conservation of
26 natural resources prepared by any other local governmental unit or
27 agency of this State.

28 11. By administrative order of the Commission, upon the
29 written request of the board of supervisors of the conservation
30 district or districts involved, with a showing that the request has
31 been approved by a majority vote of the members of each of the
32 boards involved:

33 (a) To transfer lands from one district established under the
34 provisions of ~~[this chapter.]~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*, to
35 another.

36 (b) To divide a single district into two or more districts, each of
37 which must, thereafter, operate as a separate district under the
38 provisions of ~~[this chapter.]~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*.

39 (c) To consolidate two or more districts established under the
40 provisions of ~~[this chapter.]~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*, into
41 a single district under the provisions of ~~[this chapter.]~~ *NRS 548.010*
42 *to 548.550, inclusive*.

43 (d) To inform the Program of any action taken pursuant to this
44 subsection for its approval of any new name and the appropriate
45 entry in the Program's records of the changes made.



1 12. To authorize the change of name of any district, upon
2 receipt by the Commission of a resolution by the board of
3 supervisors of the district for such a change and to present the
4 resolution to the Program for processing and recording in
5 accordance with the provisions of NRS 548.240.

6 13. To apply for any available grants and to accept and use any
7 grants, gifts or donations to make available grants of money to
8 qualified conservation districts to aid the districts in carrying out the
9 provisions of ~~[this chapter.]~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive.*

10 **Sec. 21.** NRS 548.178 is hereby amended to read as follows:

11 548.178 1. The Commission may establish programs for
12 distributing, within the limits of legislative appropriations and other
13 available money, grants of money to conservation districts.
14 Distribution of such grants must be made in the following manner:

15 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, the
16 Commission shall distribute grants of money provided by legislative
17 appropriation in equal amounts to each conservation district which
18 the Commission determines qualifies for a grant.

19 (b) The Commission may distribute grants of money provided
20 by sources other than legislative appropriation in such amounts and
21 subject to such conditions as the Commission determines
22 appropriate to any conservation district which the Commission
23 determines qualifies for a grant.

24 2. The Commission may determine that a conservation district
25 qualifies for a grant of money pursuant to this section if the district
26 demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Commission that the district:

27 (a) Has been established in accordance with the provisions of
28 ~~[this chapter.]~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive;* and

29 (b) Is in compliance with all of the requirements of ~~[this chapter.]~~
30 *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,* and the regulations of the
31 Commission adopted pursuant thereto.

32 3. Except as may otherwise be provided as a condition of a
33 grant of money distributed by the Commission pursuant to
34 paragraph (b) of subsection 1, a conservation district that is awarded
35 a grant of money pursuant to this section may use the money for
36 reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by the district in
37 carrying out its duties and authorities in accordance with ~~[this~~
38 ~~chapter.]~~ *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,* and
39 the annual district budget approved by the Commission.

40 4. With regard to money provided by legislative appropriation,
41 the Commission may distribute grants of money to conservation
42 districts in unequal amounts if:

43 (a) The grants of money are for a specific competitive grant
44 program for which the Legislature expressly appropriated money;
45 and



1 (b) The competitive grant program described in paragraph (a) is
2 governed by regulations specifically adopted to govern that
3 competitive grant program and those regulations expressly state that
4 the grants of money may be distributed in unequal amounts.

5 5. The Commission may adopt such regulations as it considers
6 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

7 **Sec. 22.** NRS 548.190 is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 548.190 1. Within 30 days after such a petition has been filed
9 with the Commission, it shall cause due notice to be given of a
10 proposed hearing upon:

11 (a) The question of the desirability and necessity, in the interest
12 of the public health, safety and welfare, of the creation of such
13 district.

14 (b) The question of the appropriate boundaries to be assigned to
15 such district.

16 (c) The propriety of the petition and other proceedings taken
17 under ~~[this chapter.]~~ *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550,*
18 *inclusive.*

19 (d) All questions relevant to such inquiries.

20 2. All occupiers of land within the limits of the territory
21 described in the petition, and of lands within any territory
22 considered for addition to such described territory, and all other
23 interested persons, shall have the right to attend such hearings and to
24 be heard.

25 3. If it shall appear upon the hearing that it may be desirable to
26 include, within the proposed district, territory outside of the area
27 within which due notice of the hearing has been given, the hearing
28 shall be adjourned and due notice of further hearing shall be given
29 throughout the entire area considered for inclusion in the district,
30 and such further hearing shall be held.

31 **Sec. 23.** NRS 548.195 is hereby amended to read as follows:

32 548.195 1. After such hearing, if the Commission
33 determines, upon the facts presented at such hearing and upon such
34 other relevant facts and information as may be available, that there
35 is need, in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare, for a
36 conservation district to function in the territory considered at the
37 hearing, the Commission shall make and record such determination,
38 and shall determine the township or townships to be included in the
39 district.

40 2. In making such determination, the Commission shall give
41 due weight and consideration to:

42 (a) The topography of the area considered and of the State.

43 (b) The composition of soils therein.

44 (c) The distribution of erosion.

45 (d) The prevailing land use practices.



1 (e) The desirability and necessity of including within the
2 boundaries the particular lands under consideration and the benefits
3 such lands may receive from being included within such boundaries.

4 (f) The relation of the proposed area to existing watersheds and
5 agricultural regions, and to other conservation districts already
6 organized or proposed for organization under the provisions of ~~{this~~
7 ~~chapter.}~~ **NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive.**

8 (g) Such other physical, geographical and economic factors as
9 are relevant, having due regard to the legislative determinations set
10 forth in NRS 548.095 to 548.113, inclusive.

11 3. After consideration of the petition and of any other evidence
12 of interest in the organization of a district, and of the relevant factors
13 regarding the need for a district to function in the territory being
14 considered, the Commission may make the determination of such
15 need without holding a hearing.

16 **Sec. 24.** NRS 548.205 is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 548.205 1. After the Commission has made and recorded a
18 determination that there is need, in the interest of the public health,
19 safety and welfare, for the organization of a district in a particular
20 territory and has determined the township or townships to be
21 included, the Commission shall consider the question whether the
22 operation of a district within such territory with the powers
23 conferred upon conservation districts in ~~{this chapter}~~ **NRS 548.010**
24 **to 548.550, inclusive**, is administratively practicable and feasible.

25 2. To assist the Commission in the determination of such
26 administrative practicability and feasibility, the Commission shall,
27 within a reasonable time after entry of the finding that there is need
28 for the organization of the proposed district and the determination of
29 its territory, hold a referendum within the proposed district upon the
30 proposition of the creation of the district, and shall cause due notice
31 of such referendum to be given.

32 3. The question shall be submitted by ballots upon which the
33 words "For creation of a conservation district consisting of the
34 township (or townships) of in the county (or
35 counties) of" and "Against creation of a
36 conservation district consisting of the township (or townships) of
37 in the county (or counties) of" shall
38 be printed, with a square before each proposition and a direction to
39 insert an X mark in the square before one or the other of the
40 propositions, as the voter may favor or oppose creation of such
41 district.

42 4. All persons determined by the county clerk or clerks to be
43 registered voters residing within the boundaries of the proposed
44 conservation district shall be eligible to vote in such referendum.



1 **Sec. 25.** NRS 548.210 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 548.210 1. The Commission shall:

3 (a) Pay all expenses for the issuance of such notices and the
4 conduct of such hearings and referendum.

5 (b) Supervise the conduct of such hearings and referendum.

6 (c) Issue appropriate regulations governing the conduct of such
7 hearings and referendum, and providing for the registration prior to
8 the date of the referendum of all eligible voters, or prescribing some
9 other appropriate procedure for the determination of those eligible
10 as voters in such referendum.

11 2. No informalities in the conduct of such referendum or in any
12 matters relating thereto shall invalidate the referendum or the result
13 thereof if notice thereof shall have been given substantially as
14 provided in ~~[this chapter]~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*, and
15 the referendum shall have been fairly conducted.

16 **Sec. 26.** NRS 548.215 is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 548.215 1. The Commission shall publish the result of the
18 referendum and shall thereafter consider and determine whether the
19 operation of the district is administratively practicable and feasible.

20 2. If the Commission determines that the operation of such
21 district is not administratively practicable and feasible, the
22 Commission shall record such determination and deny the petition.

23 3. If the Commission determines that the operation of the
24 district is administratively practicable and feasible, the Commission
25 shall record such determination and shall proceed with the
26 organization of the district in the manner provided in ~~[this chapter.]~~
27 *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*. The
28 Commission shall not determine that the operation of the proposed
29 district is administratively practicable and feasible unless at least a
30 majority of the votes cast in the referendum upon the creation of the
31 district are cast in favor of the creation of such district.

32 4. In making such determination, the Commission shall give
33 due regard and weight to:

34 (a) The attitudes of the occupiers of lands lying within the
35 defined boundaries.

36 (b) The number of eligible registered voters who voted in the
37 referendum.

38 (c) The proportion of the votes cast in such referendum in favor
39 of the creation of the district to the total number of votes cast.

40 (d) The approximate wealth and income of the land occupiers of
41 the proposed district.

42 (e) The probable expense of carrying on erosion-control
43 operations within such district.



1 (f) Such other economic and social factors as may be relevant to
2 such determination, having due regard to the legislative
3 determinations set forth in NRS 548.095 to 548.113, inclusive.

4 **Sec. 27.** NRS 548.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:

5 548.220 After 6 months shall have expired from the date of
6 entry of a determination by the Commission that operation of a
7 proposed district is not administratively practicable and feasible, and
8 denial of a petition pursuant to such determination, subsequent
9 petitions may be filed and action taken thereon in accordance with
10 the provisions of ~~[this chapter.]~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive.*

11 **Sec. 28.** NRS 548.235 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 548.235 1. The five appointed supervisors shall present to the
13 Program an application signed by them, which states:

14 (a) That a petition for the creation of the district was filed with
15 the Commission pursuant to the provisions of ~~[this chapter.]~~ *NRS*
16 *548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*, and that the proceedings specified in
17 ~~[this chapter.]~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*, were taken
18 pursuant to that petition.

19 (b) That the application is being filed in order to complete the
20 organization of the district as a governmental subdivision and a
21 public body, corporate and politic, under ~~[this chapter.]~~ *the*
22 *provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive.*

23 (c) That the Commission has appointed them as supervisors.

24 (d) The name and official residence of each of the supervisors,
25 together with a certified copy of the appointments evidencing their
26 right to office.

27 (e) The term of office of each of the supervisors.

28 (f) The name which is proposed for the district.

29 (g) The location of the principal office of the supervisors of the
30 district.

31 2. The application must be subscribed and sworn to by each of
32 the supervisors before a person authorized to take and certify oaths,
33 who shall certify upon the application that the person personally
34 knows the supervisors and knows them to be the officers as affirmed
35 in the application, and that each has subscribed thereto in the
36 officer's presence.

37 3. The application must be accompanied by a statement by the
38 Commission:

39 (a) That a petition was filed, notice issued and hearing held as
40 required by ~~[this chapter.]~~ *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to*
41 *548.550, inclusive.*

42 (b) That the Commission did determine that there is need, in the
43 interest of the public health, safety and welfare, for a conservation
44 district to function in the proposed territory and did define the
45 township or townships to be included.



1 (c) That notice was given and a referendum held on the question
2 of the creation of such a district, and that a majority of the votes cast
3 in such referendum were in favor of the creation of the district.

4 (d) That thereafter the Commission did determine that the
5 operation of the proposed district is administratively practicable and
6 feasible.

7 4. The statement must set forth the township or townships to be
8 included.

9 **Sec. 29.** NRS 548.240 is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 548.240 1. The Program shall examine the application and
11 statement, and if the Program finds that the name proposed for the
12 district is not identical with that of any other conservation district of
13 this State or so nearly similar as to lead to confusion or uncertainty,
14 the Program shall record them in an appropriate book of record.

15 2. If the Program finds that the name proposed for the district
16 is identical with that of any other conservation district of this State,
17 or so nearly similar as to lead to confusion and uncertainty, the
18 Program shall notify the Commission. The Commission shall
19 thereupon submit a new name for the district. Upon receipt of a new
20 name, free of such defects, the Program shall record the application
21 and statement, with the name so modified, in an appropriate book of
22 record.

23 3. When the application and statement have been recorded, the
24 district becomes a governmental subdivision of this State and a
25 public body corporate and politic.

26 4. The Program shall make and issue to the supervisors a
27 certificate, over the signature of a member of the staff of the
28 Program, of the organization of the district.

29 5. The boundaries of the district must include the territory
30 determined by the Commission, but must not include any area
31 included within the boundaries of another conservation district
32 organized under the provisions of ~~[this chapter.]~~ **NRS 548.010 to**
33 **548.550, inclusive.**

34 **Sec. 30.** NRS 548.245 is hereby amended to read as follows:

35 548.245 1. In any suit, action or proceeding involving the
36 validity or enforcement of, or relating to, any contract, proceeding
37 or action of the district, the district shall be deemed to have been
38 established in accordance with the provisions of ~~[this chapter.]~~ **NRS**
39 **548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,** upon proof of the issuance of the
40 certificate by the Program.

41 2. A copy of such a certificate issued by the Program is
42 admissible in evidence in any such suit, action or proceeding and is
43 proof of the contents thereof.



1 **Sec. 31.** NRS 548.280 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 548.280 Each district shall be governed by a board consisting
3 of five supervisors elected at large and one or more appointed
4 supervisors, as provided in ~~[this chapter.]~~ *the provisions of NRS*
5 *548.010 to 548.550, inclusive.*

6 **Sec. 32.** NRS 548.330 is hereby amended to read as follows:
7 548.330 The supervisors shall furnish to the Commission, upon
8 request:

9 1. Copies of such ordinances, rules, regulations, orders,
10 contracts, forms and other documents as they shall adopt or employ;
11 and

12 2. Such other information concerning their activities as the
13 Commission may require in the performance of its duties under ~~[this~~
14 ~~chapter.]~~ *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive.*

15 **Sec. 33.** NRS 548.340 is hereby amended to read as follows:
16 548.340 A conservation district organized under the provisions
17 of ~~[this chapter.]~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,* shall constitute
18 a governmental subdivision of this State and a public body corporate
19 and politic, exercising public powers.

20 **Sec. 34.** NRS 548.345 is hereby amended to read as follows:
21 548.345 In addition to other powers granted in ~~[this chapter,]~~
22 *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,* a district and
23 the supervisors thereof shall have the power to conduct surveys,
24 investigations and research relating to the conservation of renewable
25 natural resources and the preventive and control measures needed,
26 to publish the results of such surveys, investigations or research, and
27 to disseminate information concerning such preventive and control
28 measures; but in order to avoid duplication of research activities, no
29 district shall initiate any research program except in cooperation
30 with the government of this State or any of its agencies, or with the
31 United States or any of its agencies.

32 **Sec. 35.** NRS 548.350 is hereby amended to read as follows:
33 548.350 In addition to other powers granted in ~~[this chapter,]~~
34 *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,* a district and
35 the supervisors thereof shall have the power to conduct
36 demonstrational projects within the district on lands owned or
37 controlled by this State or any of its agencies, with the cooperation
38 of the agency administering and having jurisdiction thereof, and on
39 any other lands within the district, upon obtaining the consent of the
40 occupier of such lands or the necessary rights or interests in such
41 lands, in order to demonstrate by example the means, methods and
42 measures by which renewable natural resources may be conserved.



1 **Sec. 36.** NRS 548.355 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 548.355 In addition to other powers granted in ~~{this chapter,}~~
3 *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,* a district and
4 the supervisors thereof may:

5 1. Carry out preventive and control measures within the
6 district, including, but not limited to, engineering operations,
7 methods of cultivation, the growing of vegetation and changes in the
8 use of land; and

9 2. Repair and restore property within the district, including, but
10 not limited to, wetlands, stream corridors and other riparian
11 property,

12 ↳ on land owned or controlled by any government or municipal
13 corporation, with the cooperation of the agency administering and
14 having jurisdiction thereof, and on any other land within the district,
15 upon obtaining the consent of all persons holding any relevant rights
16 or interests in such land.

17 **Sec. 37.** NRS 548.360 is hereby amended to read as follows:

18 548.360 In addition to other powers granted in ~~{this chapter,}~~
19 *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,* a district and
20 the supervisors thereof may cooperate or enter into agreements with
21 and, within the limits of appropriations made available to it by law
22 and any money it acquires from any other source, furnish financial
23 or other aid to any governmental or other agency, or any occupier of
24 land within the district, in conserving renewable natural resources
25 within the district, subject to such conditions as the supervisors may
26 deem necessary to advance the purposes of ~~{this chapter.}~~ **NRS**
27 **548.010 to 548.550, inclusive.**

28 **Sec. 38.** NRS 548.365 is hereby amended to read as follows:

29 548.365 In addition to other powers granted in ~~{this chapter,}~~
30 *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,* a district and
31 the supervisors thereof shall have the power to make available, on
32 such terms as it shall prescribe, to land occupiers within the district,
33 agricultural and engineering machinery and equipment, fertilizer,
34 seeds and seedlings, and such other material or equipment as will
35 assist such land occupiers in carrying on operations upon their lands
36 for the conservation of renewable natural resources.

37 **Sec. 39.** NRS 548.370 is hereby amended to read as follows:

38 548.370 In addition to other powers granted in ~~{this chapter,}~~
39 *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,* a district and
40 the supervisors thereof shall have the power to construct, operate,
41 improve and maintain such facilities and structures as may be
42 necessary or convenient for the performance of any of the
43 operations authorized in ~~{this chapter.}~~ **NRS 548.010 to 548.550,**
44 ***inclusive.***



1 **Sec. 40.** NRS 548.375 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 548.375 In addition to other powers granted in ~~{this chapter,}~~
3 *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*, a district and
4 the supervisors thereof shall have the power:

5 1. To develop comprehensive plans for the conservation of
6 renewable natural resources within the district, which plans shall
7 specify in such detail as may be possible the acts, procedures,
8 performances, and avoidances which are necessary or desirable for
9 the effectuation of such plans, including the specification of
10 engineering operations, methods of cultivation, the growing of
11 vegetation, cropping programs, tillage practices, and changes in the
12 use of land; and

13 2. To publish such plans and information and bring them to the
14 attention of occupiers of lands within the district.

15 **Sec. 41.** NRS 548.380 is hereby amended to read as follows:
16 548.380 In addition to other powers granted in ~~{this chapter,}~~
17 *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*, a district and
18 the supervisors thereof may:

19 1. Manage or administer any project for the conservation of a
20 renewable natural resource located within its boundaries undertaken
21 by any person, municipal corporation or government.

22 2. Act as an agent of any person, municipal corporation or
23 government in connection with the acquisition, construction,
24 operation or administration of any project for the conservation of a
25 renewable natural resource within its boundaries.

26 3. Accept donations, gifts and contributions in money, services,
27 materials or any other form from any source, and use or expend such
28 money, services, materials or other contributions in carrying on its
29 operations.

30 4. Participate in cost-sharing on federally financed projects.

31 **Sec. 42.** NRS 548.385 is hereby amended to read as follows:
32 548.385 In addition to other powers granted in ~~{this chapter,}~~
33 *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*, a district and
34 the supervisors thereof shall have the power:

35 1. To sue and be sued in the name of the district.

36 2. To have a seal, which seal shall be judicially noticed.

37 3. To have perpetual succession, unless terminated as provided
38 in ~~{this chapter,}~~ *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550,*
39 *inclusive.*

40 4. To make and execute contracts and other instruments
41 necessary or convenient to the exercise of its powers.

42 5. To make, and from time to time amend and repeal, rules and
43 regulations not inconsistent with ~~{this chapter,}~~ *the provisions of*
44 *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*, to carry into effect its purposes
45 and powers.



1 **Sec. 43.** NRS 548.390 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 548.390 As a condition to the extending of any benefits under
3 ~~the provisions of~~ *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,*
4 to, or the performance of work upon, any lands not owned or
5 controlled by this State or any of its agencies, the supervisors may
6 require contributions in money, services, materials or otherwise to
7 any operations conferring such benefits, and may require land
8 occupiers to enter into and perform such agreements or covenants as
9 to the permanent use of such lands as will tend to prevent or control
10 erosion thereon.

11 **Sec. 44.** NRS 548.393 is hereby amended to read as follows:
12 548.393 In addition to other powers granted in ~~the provisions of~~
13 *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,* a district and
14 the supervisors thereof may, in furtherance of the purposes and
15 provisions of ~~the provisions of~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive:*

16 1. Obtain options upon and acquire, by purchase, exchange,
17 lease, gift, grant, bequest, devise or otherwise, except by adverse
18 possession, any property, real or personal, or rights or interests
19 therein;

20 2. Maintain, administer and improve any properties acquired;

21 3. Receive income from such properties and expend that
22 income; and

23 4. Sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any of its property or
24 interests therein.

25 **Sec. 45.** NRS 548.395 is hereby amended to read as follows:

26 548.395 No provisions with respect to the acquisition,
27 operation or disposition of property by other public bodies shall be
28 applicable to a district organized under ~~the provisions of~~ *the provisions*
29 *of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,* unless the Legislature shall
30 specifically so state.

31 **Sec. 46.** NRS 548.400 is hereby amended to read as follows:

32 548.400 1. The supervisors of any two or more districts
33 organized under the provisions of ~~the provisions of~~ *NRS 548.010 to*
34 *548.550, inclusive,* may cooperate with and enter into agreements
35 with one another in the exercise of any or all powers conferred in
36 ~~the provisions of~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive.*

37 2. Any district may enter into such agreements with a district
38 or districts in adjoining states to carry out such purposes if the law
39 in the other states permits the districts in the states to enter into the
40 agreements.

41 **Sec. 47.** NRS 548.405 is hereby amended to read as follows:

42 548.405 1. Agencies of this State which shall have
43 jurisdiction over, or be charged with the administration of, any state-
44 owned lands, and agencies of any county or other governmental
45 subdivision of the State which shall have jurisdiction over, or be



1 charged with the administration of, any county-owned or other
2 publicly owned lands, lying within the boundaries of any district
3 organized under ~~[this chapter.]~~ *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to*
4 *548.550, inclusive*, shall cooperate to the fullest extent with the
5 supervisors of such districts in the effectuation of programs and
6 operations undertaken by the supervisors under the provisions of
7 ~~[this chapter.]~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive.*

8 2. The supervisors of such districts shall be given free access to
9 enter and perform work upon such publicly owned lands.

10 3. The provisions of land use regulations adopted pursuant to
11 NRS 548.410 to 548.435, inclusive, shall have the force and effect
12 of law over all such publicly owned lands, and shall be in all
13 respects observed by the agencies administering such lands.

14 **Sec. 48.** NRS 548.4052 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 548.4052 1. Subject to the provisions of NRS 548.4053 and
16 548.4054, and only after receiving the approval of a majority of the
17 registered voters of the conservation district voting on the question
18 at a primary, general or special election held pursuant to NRS
19 548.4053 or at an election conducted by mail pursuant to
20 NRS 548.4054:

21 (a) If a conservation district includes land lying in only one
22 county, the board of county commissioners of the county shall
23 impose, on behalf of the conservation district, an annual fee of not
24 more than \$25 on each parcel in the conservation district; and

25 (b) If a conservation district includes land lying in more than
26 one county, the boards of county commissioners of the respective
27 counties shall impose, on behalf of the conservation district, an
28 annual fee of not more than \$25 on each parcel in the conservation
29 district.

30 2. A fee imposed pursuant to subsection 1 must be collected as
31 are other fees and taxes imposed by the board of county
32 commissioners are collected. A board of county commissioners that
33 imposes the fee shall establish a separate fund in the county treasury
34 for the receipt and expenditure of and accounting for the proceeds of
35 the fee.

36 3. Money collected pursuant to this section may be used only
37 for the purposes of ~~[this chapter.]~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550,*
38 *inclusive.*

39 **Sec. 49.** NRS 548.410 is hereby amended to read as follows:

40 548.410 1. The supervisors of any district may file petitions
41 with the Commission at any time to request it to formulate land use
42 regulations applicable to the district.

43 2. The Commission shall prescribe the form of the petition,
44 which shall be, as nearly as practicable, in the form prescribed in



1 ~~[this chapter]~~ *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive,*
2 for petitions to organize a district.

3 3. The Commission shall have authority to formulate
4 regulations, based upon the petition, governing the use of lands
5 within a district in the interest of conserving renewable natural
6 resources and preventing and controlling soil erosion and
7 sedimentation.

8 4. The Commission shall conduct, after due notice, public
9 meetings and public hearings within the district or districts
10 concerned upon such regulations as it deems necessary to assist it in
11 consideration thereof.

12 5. The Commission shall determine, on the basis of
13 information presented in the petition or brought out in public
14 hearings, and on the basis of the number of petitioners in relation to
15 the total number of occupiers of land lying within the district,
16 whether it can render a reasonable determination of approval or
17 denial of the petition without holding a referendum, or whether a
18 referendum shall be held.

19 **Sec. 50.** NRS 548.415 is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 548.415 If a referendum is to be held:

21 1. The proposed regulations shall be embodied in a proposed
22 ordinance.

23 2. Copies of such proposed ordinance shall be available for the
24 inspection of all eligible voters during the period between
25 publication of such notice and the date of the referendum.

26 3. The notices of the referendum shall recite the contents of
27 such proposed ordinance, or shall state where copies of such
28 proposed ordinance can be examined.

29 4. The question shall be submitted by ballots, upon which the
30 words "For approval of proposed ordinance No., prescribing
31 land use regulations for conservation of soil and prevention of
32 erosion" and "Against approval of proposed ordinance No.,
33 prescribing land use regulations for conservation of soil and
34 prevention of erosion" shall be printed, with a square before each
35 proposition and a direction to insert an X mark in the square before
36 one or the other of the propositions as the voter may favor or oppose
37 approval of such proposed ordinance.

38 5. The Commission shall supervise such referendum, shall
39 prescribe appropriate regulations governing the conduct thereof, and
40 shall publish the result thereof.

41 6. All persons determined by the county clerk or clerks to be
42 registered voters residing within the district are eligible to vote in
43 such referendum.

44 7. No informalities in the conduct of such referendum or in any
45 matters relating thereto invalidate the referendum or the result



1 thereof if notice thereof was given substantially as provided in ~~this~~
2 ~~chapter~~ *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*, and
3 the referendum was fairly conducted.

4 **Sec. 51.** NRS 548.495 is hereby amended to read as follows:

5 548.495 1. The board of adjustment shall adopt rules to
6 govern its procedures, which rules shall be in accordance with the
7 provisions of ~~this chapter~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*, and
8 with the provisions of any ordinance adopted pursuant to
9 NRS 548.460.

10 2. The board shall keep a full and accurate record of all
11 proceedings, of all documents filed with it, and of all orders entered,
12 which shall be filed in the office of the board and shall be a public
13 record.

14 **Sec. 52.** NRS 548.515 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 548.515 1. Petitions for including additional territory within
16 an existing district shall be filed with the Commission.

17 2. The proceedings provided for in ~~this chapter~~ *the provisions*
18 *of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*, in the case of petitions to
19 organize a district shall be observed in the case of petitions for
20 inclusion, except that the application for a certificate of inclusion
21 shall be signed by the chair and the secretary of the governing body
22 of the district into which the additional territory is to be included.

23 3. The Commission shall prescribe the form for the petitions,
24 which shall be, as nearly as practicable, in the form prescribed in
25 ~~this chapter~~ *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*,
26 for petitions to organize a district.

27 4. Where the total number of land occupiers in the area
28 proposed for inclusion shall be less than 25, the petition may be
29 filed when signed by a majority of the occupiers of such area, and in
30 such case no referendum need be held.

31 5. In referenda upon petitions for inclusion, all occupiers of
32 land lying within the proposed additional area shall be eligible to
33 vote.

34 6. The Commission shall determine whether or not such
35 inclusion shall be made.

36 **Sec. 53.** NRS 548.520 is hereby amended to read as follows:

37 548.520 1. Petitions to withdraw lands from a district may be
38 filed with the Commission at any time.

39 2. The Commission shall prescribe the form of the petition,
40 which shall be, as nearly as practicable, in the form prescribed in
41 ~~this chapter~~ *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*,
42 for petitions to organize a district.

43 3. Where the total number of land occupiers in the area
44 affected by a proposed withdrawal will be less than 25, the petition



1 may be filed when signed by a majority of the occupiers of such
2 area, and in such case no referendum need be held.

3 4. In referenda upon petitions for withdrawal, all occupiers of
4 land lying within the area affected by the proposed change in
5 boundary shall be eligible to vote.

6 5. The Commission shall determine whether or not such
7 withdrawal shall be made.

8 **Sec. 54.** NRS 548.525 is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 548.525 1. At any time after 5 years after the organization of
10 a district under the provisions of ~~{this chapter,}~~ *NRS 548.010 to*
11 *548.550, inclusive*, any 10 occupiers of land lying within the
12 boundaries of such district may file a petition with the Commission
13 praying that the operations of the district be terminated and the
14 existence of the district be discontinued.

15 2. The Commission may conduct such public meetings and
16 public hearings upon such petition as may be necessary to assist it in
17 the consideration thereof.

18 3. The Commission shall determine, on the basis of
19 information presented in the petition or brought out in public
20 hearings and on the basis of the number of petitioners in relation to
21 the total number of occupiers of land lying within the district,
22 whether it can render a reasonable determination of approval or
23 denial of the petition without holding a referendum, or whether a
24 referendum shall be held.

25 **Sec. 55.** NRS 548.530 is hereby amended to read as follows:

26 548.530 1. Within 60 days after a petition for discontinuance
27 has been received by the Commission, it shall give due notice of the
28 holding of the referendum if one is to be held.

29 2. The Commission shall supervise the referendum and issue
30 appropriate regulations governing the conduct thereof.

31 3. The question shall be submitted by ballots upon which the
32 words "For terminating the existence of the (name of the
33 conservation district to be here inserted)" and "Against terminating
34 the existence of the (name of the conservation district to
35 be here inserted)" shall be printed, with a square before each
36 proposition and a direction to insert an X mark in the square before
37 one or the other of the propositions, as the voter may favor or
38 oppose discontinuance of such district.

39 4. All persons determined by the county clerk or clerks to be
40 registered voters residing within the district are eligible to vote in
41 such referendum.

42 5. No informalities in the conduct of such referendum or in any
43 matters relating thereto invalidate the referendum or the result
44 thereof if notice thereof was given substantially as provided in ~~{this~~



1 ~~chapter~~ *the provisions of NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*, and
2 the referendum was fairly conducted.

3 6. The Commission shall publish the result of the referendum.

4 **Sec. 56.** NRS 548.540 is hereby amended to read as follows:

5 548.540 The Commission shall not entertain petitions for the
6 discontinuance of any district, nor conduct referenda upon such
7 petitions, nor make any determination pursuant to such petitions in
8 accordance with the provisions of ~~this chapter~~ *NRS 548.010 to*
9 *548.550, inclusive*, more often than once in 5 years.

10 **Sec. 57.** NRS 555.206 is hereby amended to read as follows:

11 555.206 1. If the area included in a weed control district is
12 entirely within the boundaries of one county and entirely within the
13 boundaries of one conservation district organized pursuant to
14 ~~chapter 548 of~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*, the board of
15 county commissioners of the county and the supervisors of the
16 conservation district may enter into an agreement for the supervisors
17 of the conservation district to serve, ex officio, as the board of
18 directors of the weed control district. If, as a result of a change in
19 boundaries, the area included in a weed control district is no longer
20 entirely within the boundaries of one county and entirely within the
21 boundaries of one conservation district organized pursuant to
22 ~~chapter 548 of~~ *NRS 548.010 to 548.550, inclusive*, the
23 supervisors of the conservation district may no longer serve, ex
24 officio, as the board of directors of the weed control district, and the
25 supervisors of the weed control district must be appointed pursuant
26 to NRS 555.205.

27 2. An agreement entered into pursuant to subsection 1 may be
28 terminated by mutual agreement of the board of county
29 commissioners and the supervisors of the conservation district. If an
30 agreement is terminated pursuant to this section, the board of
31 directors of the weed control district must be appointed pursuant to
32 NRS 555.205.

33 3. The supervisors of a conservation district serving ex officio
34 as the board of directors of a weed control district pursuant to this
35 section shall ensure that any money collected by the weed control
36 district pursuant to an assessment levied pursuant to NRS 555.215,
37 and any other money appropriated or granted to the weed control
38 district from any source, is expended only for the purposes of NRS
39 555.202 to 555.220, inclusive.

40 **Sec. 58.** NRS 239.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

41 239.010 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section and
42 NRS 1.4683, 1.4687, 1A.110, 3.2203, 41.0397, 41.071, 49.095,
43 49.293, 62D.420, 62D.440, 62E.516, 62E.620, 62H.025, 62H.030,
44 62H.170, 62H.220, 62H.320, 75A.100, 75A.150, 76.160, 78.152,
45 80.113, 81.850, 82.183, 86.246, 86.54615, 87.515, 87.5413,



1 87A.200, 87A.580, 87A.640, 88.3355, 88.5927, 88.6067, 88A.345,
2 88A.7345, 89.045, 89.251, 90.730, 91.160, 116.757, 116A.270,
3 116B.880, 118B.026, 119.260, 119.265, 119.267, 119.280,
4 119A.280, 119A.653, 119A.677, 119B.370, 119B.382, 120A.640,
5 120A.690, 125.130, 125B.140, 126.141, 126.161, 126.163, 126.730,
6 127.007, 127.057, 127.130, 127.140, 127.2817, 128.090, 130.312,
7 130.712, 136.050, 159.044, 159A.044, 164.041, 172.075, 172.245,
8 176.01334, 176.01385, 176.015, 176.0625, 176.09129, 176.156,
9 176A.630, 178.39801, 178.4715, 178.5691, 178.5717, 179.495,
10 179A.070, 179A.165, 179D.160, 180.600, 200.3771, 200.3772,
11 200.5095, 200.604, 202.3662, 205.4651, 209.392, 209.3923,
12 209.3925, 209.419, 209.429, 209.521, 211A.140, 213.010, 213.040,
13 213.095, 213.131, 217.105, 217.110, 217.464, 217.475, 218A.350,
14 218E.625, 218F.150, 218G.130, 218G.240, 218G.350, 218G.615,
15 224.240, 226.462, 226.796, 228.270, 228.450, 228.495, 228.570,
16 231.069, 231.1285, 231.1473, 232.1369, 233.190, 237.300,
17 239.0105, 239.0113, 239.014, 239B.026, 239B.030, 239B.040,
18 239B.050, 239C.140, 239C.210, 239C.230, 239C.250, 239C.270,
19 239C.420, 240.007, 241.020, 241.030, 241.039, 242.105, 244.264,
20 244.335, 247.540, 247.545, 247.550, 247.560, 250.087, 250.130,
21 250.140, 250.145, 250.150, 268.095, 268.0978, 268.490, 268.910,
22 269.174, 271A.105, 281.195, 281.805, 281A.350, 281A.680,
23 281A.685, 281A.750, 281A.755, 281A.780, 284.4068, 284.4086,
24 286.110, 286.118, 287.0438, 289.025, 289.080, 289.387, 289.830,
25 293.4855, 293.5002, 293.503, 293.504, 293.558, 293.5757, 293.870,
26 293.906, 293.908, 293.909, 293.910, 293B.135, 293D.510, 331.110,
27 332.061, 332.351, 333.333, 333.335, 338.070, 338.1379, 338.1593,
28 338.1725, 338.1727, 348.420, 349.597, 349.775, 353.205,
29 353A.049, 353A.085, 353A.100, 353C.240, 353D.250, 360.240,
30 360.247, 360.255, 360.755, 361.044, 361.2242, 361.610, 365.138,
31 366.160, 368A.180, 370.257, 370.327, 372A.080, 378.290, 378.300,
32 379.0075, 379.008, 379.1495, 385A.830, 385B.100, 387.626,
33 387.631, 388.1455, 388.259, 388.501, 388.503, 388.513, 388.750,
34 388A.247, 388A.249, 391.033, 391.035, 391.0365, 391.120,
35 391.925, 392.029, 392.147, 392.264, 392.271, 392.315, 392.317,
36 392.325, 392.327, 392.335, 392.850, 393.045, 394.167, 394.16975,
37 394.1698, 394.447, 394.460, 394.465, 396.1415, 396.1425, 396.143,
38 396.159, 396.3295, 396.405, 396.525, 396.535, 396.9685,
39 398A.115, 408.3885, 408.3886, 408.3888, 408.5484, 412.153,
40 414.280, 416.070, 422.2749, 422.305, 422A.342, 422A.350,
41 425.400, 427A.1236, 427A.872, 427A.940, 432.028, 432.205,
42 432B.175, 432B.280, 432B.290, 432B.4018, 432B.407, 432B.430,
43 432B.560, 432B.5902, 432C.140, 432C.150, 433.534, 433A.360,
44 439.4941, 439.4988, 439.5282, 439.840, 439.914, 439A.116,
45 439A.124, 439B.420, 439B.754, 439B.760, 439B.845, 440.170,



1 441A.195, 441A.220, 441A.230, 442.330, 442.395, 442.735,
2 442.774, 445A.665, 445B.570, 445B.7773, 449.209, 449.245,
3 449.4315, 449A.112, 450.140, 450B.188, 450B.805, 453.164,
4 453.720, 458.055, 458.280, 459.050, 459.3866, 459.555, 459.7056,
5 459.846, 463.120, 463.15993, 463.240, 463.3403, 463.3407,
6 463.790, 467.1005, 480.535, 480.545, 480.935, 480.940, 481.063,
7 481.091, 481.093, 482.170, 482.368, 482.5536, 483.340, 483.363,
8 483.575, 483.659, 483.800, 484A.469, 484B.830, 484B.833,
9 484E.070, 485.316, 501.344, 503.452, 522.040, 534A.031, 561.285,
10 571.160, 584.655, 587.877, 598.0964, 598.098, 598A.110,
11 598A.420, 599B.090, 603.070, 603A.210, 604A.303, 604A.710,
12 604D.500, 604D.600, 612.265, 616B.012, 616B.015, 616B.315,
13 616B.350, 618.341, 618.425, 622.238, 622.310, 623.131, 623A.137,
14 624.110, 624.265, 624.327, 625.425, 625A.185, 628.418, 628B.230,
15 628B.760, 629.043, 629.047, 629.069, 630.133, 630.2671,
16 630.2672, 630.2673, 630.2687, 630.30665, 630.336, 630A.327,
17 630A.555, 631.332, 631.368, 632.121, 632.125, 632.3415,
18 632.3423, 632.405, 633.283, 633.301, 633.427, 633.4715, 633.4716,
19 633.4717, 633.524, 634.055, 634.1303, 634.214, 634A.169,
20 634A.185, 634B.730, 635.111, 635.158, 636.262, 636.342, 637.085,
21 637.145, 637B.192, 637B.288, 638.087, 638.089, 639.183,
22 639.2485, 639.570, 640.075, 640.152, 640A.185, 640A.220,
23 640B.405, 640B.730, 640C.580, 640C.600, 640C.620, 640C.745,
24 640C.760, 640D.135, 640D.190, 640E.225, 640E.340, 641.090,
25 641.221, 641.2215, 641A.191, 641A.217, 641A.262, 641B.170,
26 641B.281, 641B.282, 641C.455, 641C.760, 641D.260, 641D.320,
27 642.524, 643.189, 644A.870, 645.180, 645.625, 645A.050,
28 645A.082, 645B.060, 645B.092, 645C.220, 645C.225, 645D.130,
29 645D.135, 645G.510, 645H.320, 645H.330, 647.0945, 647.0947,
30 648.033, 648.197, 649.065, 649.067, 652.126, 652.228, 653.900,
31 654.110, 656.105, 657A.510, 661.115, 665.130, 665.133, 669.275,
32 669.285, 669A.310, 670B.680, 671.365, 671.415, 673.450, 673.480,
33 675.380, 676A.340, 676A.370, 677.243, 678A.470, 678C.710,
34 678C.800, 679B.122, 679B.124, 679B.152, 679B.159, 679B.190,
35 679B.285, 679B.690, 680A.270, 681A.440, 681B.260, 681B.410,
36 681B.540, 683A.0873, 685A.077, 686A.289, 686B.170, 686C.306,
37 687A.060, 687A.115, 687B.404, 687C.010, 688C.230, 688C.480,
38 688C.490, 689A.696, 692A.117, 692C.190, 692C.3507, 692C.3536,
39 692C.3538, 692C.354, 692C.420, 693A.480, 693A.615, 696B.550,
40 696C.120, 703.196, 704B.325, 706.1725, 706A.230, 710.159,
41 711.600, *section 10 of this act*, sections 35, 38 and 41 of chapter
42 478, Statutes of Nevada 2011 and section 2 of chapter 391, Statutes
43 of Nevada 2013 and unless otherwise declared by law to be
44 confidential, all public books and public records of a governmental
45 entity must be open at all times during office hours to inspection by



1 any person, and may be fully copied or an abstract or memorandum
2 may be prepared from those public books and public records. Any
3 such copies, abstracts or memoranda may be used to supply the
4 general public with copies, abstracts or memoranda of the records or
5 may be used in any other way to the advantage of the governmental
6 entity or of the general public. This section does not supersede or in
7 any manner affect the federal laws governing copyrights or enlarge,
8 diminish or affect in any other manner the rights of a person in any
9 written book or record which is copyrighted pursuant to federal law.

10 2. A governmental entity may not reject a book or record
11 which is copyrighted solely because it is copyrighted.

12 3. A governmental entity that has legal custody or control of a
13 public book or record shall not deny a request made pursuant to
14 subsection 1 to inspect or copy or receive a copy of a public book or
15 record on the basis that the requested public book or record contains
16 information that is confidential if the governmental entity can
17 redact, delete, conceal or separate, including, without limitation,
18 electronically, the confidential information from the information
19 included in the public book or record that is not otherwise
20 confidential.

21 4. If requested, a governmental entity shall provide a copy of a
22 public record in an electronic format by means of an electronic
23 medium. Nothing in this subsection requires a governmental entity
24 to provide a copy of a public record in an electronic format or by
25 means of an electronic medium if:

26 (a) The public record:

27 (1) Was not created or prepared in an electronic format; and

28 (2) Is not available in an electronic format; or

29 (b) Providing the public record in an electronic format or by
30 means of an electronic medium would:

31 (1) Give access to proprietary software; or

32 (2) Require the production of information that is confidential
33 and that cannot be redacted, deleted, concealed or separated from
34 information that is not otherwise confidential.

35 5. An officer, employee or agent of a governmental entity who
36 has legal custody or control of a public record:

37 (a) Shall not refuse to provide a copy of that public record in the
38 medium that is requested because the officer, employee or agent has
39 already prepared or would prefer to provide the copy in a different
40 medium.

41 (b) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 239.030, shall, upon
42 request, prepare the copy of the public record and shall not require
43 the person who has requested the copy to prepare the copy himself
44 or herself.



1 **Sec. 59.** NRS 318A.280 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 318A.280 1. In any region of this State for which there has
3 been established by interstate compact a regional planning agency,
4 the powers of any district created pursuant to this chapter with
5 respect to the location and construction of all facilities,
6 improvements or projects are subordinate to the powers of such
7 regional planning agency.

8 2. If the boundaries of a district overlap with the boundaries of
9 a conservation district formed pursuant to ~~chapter 548 of~~ NRS ~~§~~
10 **548.010 to 548.550, inclusive**, the board of the district must
11 coordinate and consult with the board of supervisors of the
12 conservation district on matters that may impact the conservation
13 district.

14 **Sec. 60.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State
15 General Fund to the Conservation Districts Program in the State
16 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources the sum of
17 \$250,000 for providing staff services to the State Conservation
18 Commission in the State Department of Conservation and Natural
19 Resources in administering the Healthy Soils Initiative created by
20 section 7 of this act, and for the salary of an employee to assist the
21 Commission in carrying out the provisions of sections 2 to 12,
22 inclusive, of this act.

23 2. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by
24 subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30,
25 2027, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity
26 to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise
27 transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated
28 money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after
29 September 17, 2027, by either the entity to which the money was
30 appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently
31 granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General
32 Fund on or before September 17, 2027.

33 **Sec. 61.** 1. This section and section 60 of this act become
34 effective upon passage and approval.

35 2. Sections 1 to 59, inclusive, of this act become effective:

36 (a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any
37 regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative
38 tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

39 (b) On January 1, 2026, for all other purposes.

