

SENATE BILL NO. 21—COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

(ON BEHALF OF THE DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 6, 2024

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to outdoor recreation. (BDR 35-266)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No. Effect on the State: Yes.

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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 outdoor recreation; revising provisions relating to the membership of the Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation; revising provisions governing the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Existing law creates the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program for  
2 the purpose of awarding grants to public and private entities to conduct outdoor  
3 education and recreation programs for pupils in this State. (NRS 407A.605) Money  
4 in the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program Account is required to be  
5 used to carry out the Grant Program. (NRS 407A.615) Under existing law, the  
6 Administrator of the Division of Outdoor Recreation of the State Department of  
7 Conservation and Natural Resources is required to develop and administer the  
8 Grant Program with the assistance and advice of the Advisory Board on Outdoor  
9 Recreation. (NRS 407A.575, 407A.605, 407A.610) The Advisory Board is  
10 composed of: (1) twelve voting members, including several state officers or their  
11 designees and the Administrator of the Division of State Parks of the State  
12 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and (2) two nonvoting  
13 members. (NRS 407A.575) **Section 1** of this bill authorizes the Administrator to  
14 designate a person to serve on the Advisory Board in the place of the  
15 Administrator.

16 **Section 2** of this bill expands the purposes for which grants are authorized to be  
17 awarded from the Grant Program to include: (1) outdoor recreational infrastructure  
18 projects for pupils; and (2) programs, activities and infrastructure projects that offer



19 or include education regarding, or support or improve access to, outdoor recreation  
20 for the public.

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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 407A.575 is hereby amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 407A.575 1. There is hereby created the Advisory Board on  
4 Outdoor Recreation composed of:

5 (a) The following 12 voting members:

6 (1) The Lieutenant Governor or his or her designee;

7 (2) The Director or his or her designee;

8 (3) The Director of the Department of Tourism and Cultural  
9 Affairs or his or her designee;

10 (4) The Executive Director of the Office of Economic  
11 Development or his or her designee;

12 (5) The Director of the Department of Wildlife or his or her  
13 designee;

14 (6) The Administrator of the Division of State Parks of the  
15 Department ~~or his or her designee;~~

16 (7) The Executive Director of the Department of Native  
17 American Affairs or his or her designee;

18 (8) One member appointed by the Governor from a list of  
19 nominees submitted by the Board of Directors of the Nevada  
20 Association of Counties, or its successor organization, who:

21 (I) Resides in a county whose population is less than  
22 100,000; and

23 (II) Has professional expertise or possesses demonstrated  
24 knowledge in outdoor recreation, natural resources management and  
25 economic development in this State; and

26 (9) Four members appointed by the Governor from a list of  
27 nominees submitted by the Lieutenant Governor and the Director as  
28 follows:

29 (I) A representative of the outdoor recreation industry;

30 (II) A representative of conservation interests;

31 (III) A person with experience in and knowledge of  
32 education; and

33 (IV) A person with experience in and knowledge of  
34 public health.

35 (b) The following two nonvoting members, who must be  
36 appointed by the Administrator of the Division of Outdoor  
37 Recreation or his or her designee, subject to the approval of the  
38 Director:



1 (1) A representative of the United States Department of the  
2 Interior from the Bureau of Land Management, National Park  
3 Service or United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

4 (2) A representative of the United States Department of  
5 Agriculture from the United States Forest Service or Rural  
6 Development.

7 2. The Lieutenant Governor or his or her designee shall:

8 (a) Serve as Chair of the Advisory Board; and

9 (b) Appoint a member of the Advisory Board to serve as Vice  
10 Chair of the Advisory Board.

11 3. The Advisory Board shall meet at such times and places as  
12 are specified by a call of the Chair but not less than once a year. A  
13 majority of the voting members of the Advisory Board constitutes a  
14 quorum. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of a majority of  
15 the voting members of the Advisory Board present is sufficient for  
16 any official action taken by the Advisory Board.

17 4. The Advisory Board shall:

18 (a) Advise the Administrator on any matter concerning outdoor  
19 recreation in this State; and

20 (b) Assist and advise the Administrator in the development and  
21 administration of the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant  
22 Program pursuant to NRS 407A.610.

23 **Sec. 2.** NRS 407A.605 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 407A.605 1. The Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant  
25 Program is hereby created for the purpose of awarding grants to  
26 eligible public agencies, private nonprofit organizations and other  
27 community-based entities to ~~conduct~~ :

28 (a) *Provide* outdoor education and recreation programs *or*  
29 *outdoor recreational infrastructure projects* for pupils in this State  
30 ~~Such~~, *which must*:

31 (I) *For* an outdoor education and recreation program : ~~must~~  
32 ~~(a)~~ (I) Provide the pupils with high-quality opportunities to  
33 directly experience the natural world;

34 ~~(b)~~ (II) Integrate that experience with exposure to matters  
35 concerning the environment, agriculture, natural resources or other  
36 related matters; *and*

37 ~~(c)~~ (III) Be designed to improve the overall academic  
38 performance, self-esteem, personal responsibility, community  
39 involvement, personal health or understanding of nature of pupils;  
40 ~~and~~

41 ~~(d)~~ (2) *For an outdoor recreational infrastructure project, be*  
42 *designed to support or improve access to outdoor recreation for*  
43 *pupils; and*

44 (3) Be primarily focused on pupils who are:



1 ~~[(1)]~~ **(I)** From economically disadvantaged backgrounds, as  
2 measured by their eligibility for free or reduced-price meals  
3 pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751 et seq. or an alternative measure  
4 prescribed by the State Board of Education;

5 ~~[(2)]~~ **(II)** Most likely to fail academically; or

6 ~~[(3)]~~ **(III)** Appear to have the greatest potential to drop out  
7 of school.

8 ***(b) Provide a program, activity or infrastructure project that***  
9 ***offers or includes education regarding, or supports or improves***  
10 ***access to, outdoor recreation for the public, which must:***

11 ***(1) Promote the health and wellness of the public;***

12 ***(2) Enhance stewardship of cultural or natural resources;***

13 ***or***

14 ***(3) Support the growth of the outdoor recreation economy***  
15 ***in this State in a manner that fosters economic development and***  
16 ***conservation of natural resources.***

17 2. The Administrator shall, within the limits of available  
18 resources, develop and administer the Grant Program and adopt  
19 regulations for its governance. The regulations must prescribe,  
20 without limitation:

21 (a) The criteria for eligibility to receive money from the Grant  
22 Program;

23 (b) Procedures for the submission and review of applications to  
24 receive money from the Grant Program;

25 (c) Priorities for ~~[program]~~ selection ***of a program or***  
26 ***infrastructure project pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1***  
27 ***that take into account, without limitation, the extent to which [a] :***

28 ***(1) A program:***

29 ~~[(1)]~~ **(I)** Contributes to the reduction of academic failure and  
30 dropout rates;

31 ~~[(2)]~~ **(II)** Uses a curriculum that is research-based and  
32 effective;

33 ~~[(3)]~~ **(III)** Contributes to the healthy lifestyles of pupils  
34 through outdoor recreation and sound nutrition;

35 ~~[(4)]~~ **(IV)** Makes use of state parks as venues and the  
36 personnel of the Department as expert resources;

37 ~~[(5)]~~ **(V)** Maximizes the number of pupils that can  
38 participate;

39 ~~[(6) Commits to providing matching funds and in kind~~  
40 ~~resources;~~

41 ~~— (7) Creates partnerships with other public or private entities;~~

42 ~~— (8) (VI) Provides participating pupils with opportunities to~~  
43 ~~directly experience and understand nature and the natural world; and~~

44 ~~[(9)]~~ **(VII)** Includes ongoing evaluation, assessment, and  
45 reporting of the effectiveness of the program ~~[ ]~~; ***and***



1           (2) *A program or infrastructure project:*

2            (I) *Demonstrates a commitment to providing matching*  
3 *funds and in-kind resources; and*

4            (II) *Creates partnerships with other public or private*  
5 *entities; and*

6           (d) *Priorities for selection of a program, activity or*  
7 *infrastructure project pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1*  
8 *that take into account, without limitation, the extent to which a*  
9 *program, activity or project:*

10          (1) *Aligns with, advances the objectives or needs of or*  
11 *otherwise carries out state, regional or local plans concerning:*

12            (I) *Outdoor recreation, including, without limitation, the*  
13 *comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan prepared*  
14 *pursuant to NRS 407A.120; or*

15            (II) *Economic development relating to the outdoor*  
16 *recreation economy;*

17          (2) *Demonstrates a commitment to providing matching*  
18 *funds and in-kind resources; and*

19          (3) *Creates partnerships with other public or private*  
20 *entities.*

21          3. As used in this section, “public agency” has the meaning  
22 ascribed to it in NRS 277.100.

23          **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2025.







