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ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 342—ASSEMBLYWOMEN  
NEAL; BUSTAMANTE ADAMS AND DIAZ

MARCH 16, 2015

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Referred to Committee on Taxation

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to employment and economic development. (BDR 18-16)

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.

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AN ACT relating to economic development; requiring the Office of Economic Development to create, develop and operate a system to track and predict the education and skills needed by employers in this State and to inventory and project the supply of the needed education and skills; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Existing law creates the Office of Economic Development and requires the  
2 Executive Director of the Office to perform various duties in support of the  
3 economic development of this State. (NRS 231.043, 231.053) **Section 1** of this bill  
4 requires the Office to: (1) create, develop and operate a system to track and predict  
5 the education and skills needed by employers in this State and to inventory and  
6 project the education and skills that exist in the workforce of this State; and (2)  
7 share the information gathered from the system with the Nevada System of Higher  
8 Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to coordinate the education  
9 and skills of the students within those systems with the needs of employers in this  
10 State. **Sections 2-4** of this bill require the Office, the Director of the Department of  
11 Employment, Training and Rehabilitation and the Governor’s Workforce  
12 Investment Board to identify and secure any federal grants which are available for  
13 the support of the system created in **section 1**. **Section 1** requires the Office to  
14 collaborate with the Department and the Governor’s Workforce Investment Board  
15 to create, develop and operate the system. **Section 5** of this bill makes an  
16 appropriation to the Office for the creation and development of the system.

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

1       **Section 1.** Chapter 231 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3       1. *The Office shall create, develop and operate a system to*  
4 *track and predict the education and skills that may be needed by*  
5 *employers in this State and to inventory and project the education*  
6 *and skills that exist or will exist in the workforce of this State.*

7       2. *The Office shall collaborate with the Department of*  
8 *Employment, Training and Rehabilitation and the Governor's*  
9 *Workforce Investment Board to create, develop and operate the*  
10 *system described in subsection 1.*

11       3. *The Office shall, upon request by the Nevada System of*  
12 *Higher Education or the Superintendent of Public Instruction,*  
13 *share such information gathered by the system described in*  
14 *subsection 1 with the Nevada System of Higher Education and the*  
15 *Superintendent of Public Instruction as the Office determines is*  
16 *appropriate to coordinate the education and skills taught by the*  
17 *system of K-12 public education in this State and the Nevada*  
18 *System of Higher Education with the needs of employers in this*  
19 *State.*

20       4. *The Office may adopt regulations to carry out the*  
21 *provisions of this section.*

22       **Sec. 2.** NRS 231.053 is hereby amended to read as follows:

23       231.053 After considering any pertinent advice and  
24 recommendations of the Board, the Executive Director:

25       1. Shall direct and supervise the administrative and technical  
26 activities of the Office.

27       2. Shall develop and may periodically revise a State Plan for  
28 Economic Development, which must include a statement of:

29       (a) New industries which have the potential to be developed in  
30 this State;

31       (b) The strengths and weaknesses of this State for business  
32 incubation;

33       (c) The competitive advantages and weaknesses of this State;

34       (d) The manner in which this State can leverage its competitive  
35 advantages and address its competitive weaknesses;

36       (e) A strategy to encourage the creation and expansion of  
37 businesses in this State and the relocation of businesses to this State;  
38 and

39       (f) Potential partners for the implementation of the strategy,  
40 including, without limitation, the Federal Government, local  
41 governments, local and regional organizations for economic



1 development, chambers of commerce, and private businesses,  
2 investors and nonprofit entities.

3 3. Shall develop criteria for the designation of regional  
4 development authorities pursuant to subsection 4.

5 4. Shall designate as many regional development authorities  
6 for each region of this State as the Executive Director determines to  
7 be appropriate to implement the State Plan for Economic  
8 Development. In designating regional development authorities, the  
9 Executive Director must consult with local governmental entities  
10 affected by the designation. The Executive Director may, if he or  
11 she determines that such action would aid in the implementation of  
12 the State Plan for Economic Development, remove the designation  
13 of any regional development authority previously designated  
14 pursuant to this section and declare void any contract between the  
15 Office and that regional development authority.

16 5. Shall establish procedures for entering into contracts with  
17 regional development authorities to provide services to aid, promote  
18 and encourage the economic development of this State.

19 6. May apply for and accept any gift, donation, bequest, grant  
20 or other source of money to carry out the provisions of NRS  
21 231.020 to 231.139, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act* and  
22 231.1573 to 231.1597, inclusive.

23 7. *Shall research, identify, apply for and accept any federal*  
24 *grant which may be available to subsidize the costs of the system*  
25 *created, developed and operated pursuant to section 1 of this act.*

26 8. May adopt such regulations as may be necessary to carry out  
27 the provisions of NRS 231.020 to 231.139, inclusive, *and section 1*  
28 *of this act* and 231.1573 to 231.1597, inclusive.

29 ~~8.~~ 9. In a manner consistent with the laws of this State, may  
30 reorganize the programs of economic development in this State to  
31 further the State Plan for Economic Development. If, in the opinion  
32 of the Executive Director, changes to the laws of this State are  
33 necessary to implement the economic development strategy for this  
34 State, the Executive Director must recommend the changes to the  
35 Governor and the Legislature.

36 **Sec. 3.** NRS 232.920 is hereby amended to read as follows:

37 232.920 The Director:

38 1. Shall:

39 (a) Organize the Department into divisions and other operating  
40 units as needed to achieve the purposes of the Department;

41 (b) Upon request, provide the Director of the Department of  
42 Administration with a list of organizations and agencies in this State  
43 whose primary purpose is the training and employment of persons  
44 with disabilities;



1 (c) Except as otherwise provided by a specific statute, direct the  
2 divisions to share information in their records with agencies of local  
3 governments which are responsible for the collection of debts or  
4 obligations if the confidentiality of the information is otherwise  
5 maintained under the terms and conditions required by law; ~~and~~

6 (d) Provide the employment and wage information to the Board  
7 of Regents of the University of Nevada for purposes of the reporting  
8 required of the Board of Regents by subsection 4 of NRS 396.531  
9 ~~and~~; and

10 (e) *Direct the appropriate division or other operating unit of*  
11 *the Department to research, identify, apply for and accept any*  
12 *federal grant which may be available to subsidize the costs of the*  
13 *system created pursuant to section 1 of this act and to provide*  
14 *support for the development and operation of the system created*  
15 *pursuant to section 1 of this act.*

16 2. Is responsible for the administration, through the divisions  
17 of the Department, of the provisions of NRS 426.010 to 426.720,  
18 inclusive, 426.740, 426.790 and 426.800, and chapters 612 and 615  
19 of NRS, and all other provisions of law relating to the functions of  
20 the Department and its divisions, but is not responsible for the  
21 professional line activities of the divisions or other operating units  
22 except as otherwise provided by specific statute.

23 3. May employ, within the limits of legislative appropriations,  
24 such staff as is necessary for the performance of the duties of the  
25 Department.

26 **Sec. 4.** NRS 232.935 is hereby amended to read as follows:

27 232.935 1. In appointing members of the Governor's  
28 Workforce Investment Board, the Governor shall ensure that the  
29 membership as a whole represents:

30 (a) Industry sectors which are essential to this State and which  
31 are driven primarily by demand;

32 (b) Communities and areas of economic development which are  
33 essential to this State; and

34 (c) The diversity of the workforce of this State, including,  
35 without limitation, geographic diversity and the diversity within  
36 regions of this State.

37 2. The Governor's Workforce Investment Board shall:

38 (a) Identify:

39 (1) Industry sectors which are essential to this State; and

40 (2) The region or regions of this State where the majority of  
41 the operations of each of those industry sectors is conducted.

42 (b) Establish:

43 (1) Regional goals for economic development for each of the  
44 industry sectors identified pursuant to paragraph (a); and

45 (2) A council for each industry sector.



- 1 (c) Consider and develop programs to promote:  
2 (1) Strategies to improve labor markets for industries and  
3 regions of this State, including, without limitation, improving the  
4 availability of relevant information;  
5 (2) Coordination of the efforts of relevant public and private  
6 agencies and organizations;  
7 (3) Strategies for providing funding as needed by various  
8 industry sectors;  
9 (4) Increased production capacities for various industry  
10 sectors;  
11 (5) The development of useful measurements of performance  
12 and outcomes in various industry sectors;  
13 (6) Participation by and assistance from state and local  
14 government agencies;  
15 (7) Expanded market penetration, including, without  
16 limitation, by providing assistance to employers with small numbers  
17 of employees;  
18 (8) Partnerships between labor and management;  
19 (9) Business associations;  
20 (10) The development of improved instructional and  
21 educational resources for employers and employees; and  
22 (11) The development of improved economies of scale, as  
23 applicable, in industry sectors.  
24 3. Each industry sector council established pursuant to  
25 subparagraph (2) of paragraph (b) of subsection 2:  
26 (a) Must be composed of representatives from:  
27 (1) Employers within that industry;  
28 (2) Organized labor within that industry;  
29 (3) Universities and community colleges; and  
30 (4) Any other relevant group of persons deemed to be  
31 appropriate by the Board.  
32 (b) Shall, within the parameters set forth in the American  
33 Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 or the parameters of any  
34 other program for which the federal funding is available, identify  
35 job training and education programs which the industry sector  
36 council determines to have the greatest likelihood of meeting the  
37 regional goals for economic development established for that  
38 industry sector pursuant to subparagraph (1) of paragraph (b) of  
39 subsection 2.  
40 4. The Board shall:  
41 (a) Identify and apply for federal funding available for the job  
42 training and education programs identified pursuant to paragraph (b)  
43 of subsection 3;  
44 (b) Consider and approve or disapprove applications for money;



1 (c) Provide and administer grants of money to industry sector  
2 councils for the purpose of establishing job training and education  
3 programs in industry sectors for which regional goals for economic  
4 development have been established pursuant to subparagraph (1) of  
5 paragraph (b) of subsection 2; ~~and~~

6 (d) *Research, identify, apply for and accept any federal grant*  
7 *which may be available to subsidize the costs of the system created*  
8 *pursuant to section 1 of this act and to provide support for the*  
9 *development and operation of the system created pursuant to*  
10 *section 1 of this act; and*

11 (e) Adopt regulations establishing:

12 (1) Guidelines for the submission and review of applications  
13 to receive grants of money from the Department; and

14 (2) Criteria and standards for the eligibility for and use of  
15 any grants made pursuant to paragraph (c).

16 ➤ Except as otherwise required as a condition for federal funding,  
17 the regulations required by this subsection must give priority to job  
18 training and education programs that are consistent with the State  
19 Plan for Economic Development developed by the Executive  
20 Director of the Office of Economic Development pursuant to  
21 subsection 2 of NRS 231.053.

22 5. In carrying out its powers and duties pursuant to this section,  
23 the Board shall consult with the Executive Director of the Office of  
24 Economic Development and shall cooperate with the Executive  
25 Director in implementing the State Plan for Economic Development  
26 developed by the Executive Director pursuant to subsection 2 of  
27 NRS 231.053.

28 6. As used in this section, "industry sector" means a group of  
29 employers closely linked by common products or services,  
30 workforce needs, similar technologies, supply chains or other  
31 economic links.

32 **Sec. 5.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State  
33 General Fund to the Office of Economic Development the sum of  
34 \$300,000 for the creation and development of the system created  
35 pursuant to section 1 of this act.

36 2. Of the amount appropriated in subsection 1, the sum of  
37 \$300,000 may be distributed by the Office of Economic  
38 Development to the Department of Employment, Training and  
39 Rehabilitation and the Governor's Workforce Investment Board to  
40 assist in the creation and development of the system created  
41 pursuant to section 1 of this act.

42 **Sec. 6.** Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by  
43 section 5 of this act must not be committed for expenditure after  
44 June 30, 2017, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or  
45 any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or



1 otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the  
2 appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose  
3 after September 15, 2017, by either the entity to which the money  
4 was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently  
5 granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General  
6 Fund on or before September 15, 2017.  
7 **Sec. 7.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval  
8 for the purpose of adopting regulations and performing any other  
9 preparatory administrative tasks necessary to carry out the  
10 provisions of this act, and on July 1, 2015, for all other purposes.

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