



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 23, 2024

DATE: Thursday, April 18, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Cadence Matijevich, Government Affairs Liaison
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THROUGH: Eric P. Brown, Manager, Washoe County

SUBJECT: Discussion and initial direction to staff regarding potential Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) for the 83rd (2025) Session of the Nevada Legislature. The subject(s) of potential BDRs to be considered include changes to NRS Chapter 244 to eliminate the requirement for counties to publish certain financial information in a newspaper each quarter, changes to NRS Chapters 239 and 259 to clarify that certain records of a Medical Examiner/Coroner are public records and to clarify that certain records of a Medical Examiner/Coroner are confidential and are not public records, changes to NRS Chapters 239 and 293 to establish that records of voter signatures held by a County Clerk or Registrar of Voters for purposes of establishing or validating voter registration are not public records, to add to NRS Chapter 482 the requirement for the Department of Motor Vehicles, in cooperation with Washoe County to design, prepare and issue a special license plate for the support of programs benefiting the Truckee River, and to change Chapter 268 of NRS to amend the provisions governing annexations by cities located in a county whose population is less than 700,000. The Board may direct staff to pursue BDRs on these subjects or to bring back other possible BDR concepts that the Board identifies as being in the best interests of the county for approval at a future meeting. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 218D.205 authorizes Washoe County to submit to up to two (2) requests for the drafting of legislative measures for consideration by the Nevada Legislature during each regular session of the Legislature. Such requests are commonly referred to as Bill Draft Requests (BDRs). Should the Board choose to exercise its authority to submit one or more BDRs for the 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature, which is scheduled to begin February 3, 2025, the requests must be submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau on or before September 1, 2024.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

NRS Chapter 218D also grants authority to Legislators, the chairs of standing legislative committees, the Governor, the Judicial Department, the Nevada Association of Counties, and to various other persons and entities to submit BDRs for consideration during the regular sessions of the Nevada Legislature. Washoe County may solicit one or more of these persons or entities to sponsor a BDR on behalf of the County.

Section 17 of Article 4 of the Constitution of the State of Nevada requires that each law enacted by the Legislature embrace only one subject.

The Board is requested to provide initial direction to staff on the subjects of up to two (2) BDRs to be submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau by Washoe County and/or to provide direction to staff to seek outside sponsorship of one or more BDRs. Staff intends to return to the Board to provide an update and receive further direction regarding BDRs in July 2024.

Washoe County Strategic Objectives supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability, Innovative Services

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action related to this item.

BACKGROUND

In December 2023, Washoe County departments were solicited to submit subjects for potential BDRs for the 83rd Legislative Session to the Office of the County Manager. Submissions were requested to be provided on or before February 29, 2024. The following three subjects were submitted by the Comptroller, the Medical Examiner, and the Registrar of Voters, respectively:

- Amend NRS 244.225 to eliminate the requirement to publish in a newspaper quarterly a statement of the total amounts of receipts and expenditures of the prior 3, and the total amounts allowed. The elimination of this requirement is estimated to result in an annual expense reduction of \$100,000.
- Revise NRS Chapter 259 to clarify that certain records of a Medical Examiner/Coroner **are** public records, to include:
 - Upon completion of the Coroner's death investigation, final autopsy and examination reports, investigative and scene narrative reports, toxicology reports, and other laboratory and medical consultation reports created by or at the direction of the Coroner.
 - A Coroner may redact, delete, conceal, or separate information contained in the public record that is confidential or unrelated to the cause and manner of death.
 - Materials and documents relating to homicides or deaths where the manner of death is undetermined, shall not be released to the public

while a case investigation regarding the death is in progress by a law enforcement agency or Coroner, or a criminal court case relating to the death is open.

Revise NRS Chapters 239 and 259 to clarify that certain records of a Medical Examiner/Coroner **are not** public records, to include:

- Photographs, audio and video recordings, radiographs, third party medical records, chain of custody documents, fingerprints, identification documents, biological specimens, histology slides, incomplete or draft reports, dictations, diagrams, third party materials obtained by subpoena pursuant to NRS 259.050(4), materials for which the coroner is not the custodian of record, and any other materials or documents included in the coroner's death investigation.
 - The above listed materials may be released:
 1. Pursuant to a valid subpoena or court order requiring production of the materials; or
 2. For scientific research, educational research, or governmental purposes at the discretion of the Coroner.
- Amend NRS Chapters 239 and 293 to establish that records of voter signatures held by a County Clerk or Registrar of Voters for purposes of establishing or validating voter registration are not public records. The Board may wish to consider if such amendment should allow for inspection of voter signatures at the office of a County Clerk or Registrar of Voters but prohibit providing copies of such signatures as public records.

In addition to the three subjects submitted by Departments, the following subjects were identified by Board Chair Hill and Vice Chair Herman, respectively:

- Add to NRS Chapter 482 the requirement for the Department of Motor Vehicles, in cooperation with Washoe County to design, prepare and issue a special license plate for the support of programs benefiting the Truckee River.
- Revise Chapter 268 of NRS to amend the provisions governing annexations by cities located in a county whose population is less than 700,000.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board of County Commissioners provide direction to staff regarding the preparation of up to two (2) BDRs for submission to the Legislative Counsel Bureau and/or to seek sponsorship of one or more BDRs by other persons or

entities authorized to submit BDRs.

POSSIBLE MOTION

I move to direct staff to prepare BDRs for submission to the Legislative Counsel Bureau on the following subject(s):

<<Board to identify subject(s), if any>>

And/Or I move to direct staff to solicit sponsorship of BDRs on the following subject(s):

<<Board to identify subject(s), if any>>

And/Or I move to direct staff to return to the Board to consider BDRs on the following subject(s):

<<Board to identify subjects(s), if any>>

Attachments: Washoe County BDR Development Process Timeline