



*Connecting People to Policy*

## OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

OCTOBER 31, 2023

SOUTHERN REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD

# OVERVIEW

- Legislative Structure
- The Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB)
- The Legislative Process (Session and Interim)
- Resources for tracking legislation and staying informed

# LEGISLATIVE STRUCTURE

Senate

21 Members, 4-Year Terms

Assembly

42 Members, 2-Year Terms

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## Regular Legislative Sessions–Biennial

- Regular sessions held in odd-numbered years
- Begin on the first Monday in February
- Limited to 120-calendar days
- The 82nd Legislative Session started February 6, 2023, and adjourned sine die on June 6, 2023

## Legislative Interim

- 20 months between sessions
- More time to delve into complex issues and consider policy options for future legislation



# INTERIM VERSUS SESSION

## OVERSIGHT AND STUDY DURING THE INTERIM

### **Legislative Commission**

- Provides guidance to staff of the LCB and addresses other interim matters.

### **Interim Finance Committee**

- Makes fiscal decisions for the Legislature during the period between regular sessions.

### **Interim Committees**

# THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU

- The LCB is the nonpartisan, central staff for the Nevada Legislature.
- No paid political staff is employed by the Bureau.
- Lobbying by LCB staff is prohibited:
  - No campaign or political activities; and
  - Cannot display items that advocate for a candidate or partisan activity.

## THE LCB: *Purpose of Design*

- In some states, each house (even each party within the houses) has its own staff. Nevada's LCB staff works for both houses and all members;
- To discourage interference and limit political pressure;
- To give staff independence that helps ensure lawmakers get unbiased information; and
- To ensure consistency in staffing from one session to the next.





# THE LCB: *Today*

- Approximately 300 permanent staff.
- Additional temporary staff is hired for sessions only.
- Consists of five divisions:
  - Administrative
  - Audit
  - Fiscal Analysis
  - Legal
  - Research

# LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

## HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

1. Initial Steps by the Author
  - Idea
  - Bill Draft Request (BDR)
2. Action in the House of Origin
  - Introduction / Refer to Committee (First reading)
  - Public Hearing and Committee Recommendation
  - Second Reading – may include adoption of amendments
  - Floor Debate and Final Vote (Third Reading)
3. Action in the Second House
  - Same as House of Origin
4. Resolution of Differences
  - Conference Committee
5. Role of the Governor
  - Sign
  - Not Sign
  - Veto



# LEGISLATIVE PROCESS – COMMITTEES IN EACH HOUSE DURING SESSION

## EIGHT POLICY COMMITTEES

- Commerce and Labor
- Education
- Government Affairs
- Growth and Infrastructure
- Health and Human Services
- Judiciary
- Legislative Operations and Elections
- Natural Resources

## TWO MONEY-RELATED COMMITTEES

- Revenue (Tax)
- Ways and Means (Assembly) and Finance (Senate)

# MORE OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

## COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND WORK SESSIONS

Bill Hearings	Work Sessions
<p>Presentation of the Bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider the intent</li><li>• Hear testimony: support, opposition, neutral</li></ul>	<p>Make Recommendations for the Floor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pass a bill without changes</li><li>• Amend a bill, and then pass it</li><li>• Pass a bill, as amended</li></ul>

# WAYS TO STAY INFORMED AND INVOLVED – BILL TRACKING

- [Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System](#) (NELIS)
  - Information always available:
    - Bills
    - Reports
    - Bill Actions and Status
- Personalized Legislative Tracking (PLT)
  - Subscription to BDRs, bills, and budgets—Up to 10 bills for free.
  - Notifications of Hearings and Status (*not a free option*).
  - Various Subscription Levels.

Email: [publications@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:publications@lcb.state.nv.us)

Phone: (775) 684-6835

# LEGISLATIVE INTERIM

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- Interim Finance
- Legislative Commission
- Joint Interim Standing Committees (8 Policy Committees and 1 Revenue Committee)
- Other Statutory Committees (Tahoe and Marlette Lake)
- Interim Studies
- Non-Legislative Committees (Southern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board)
- Role of LCB Staff during the interim





# 2023-2024 INTERIM COMMITTEES

## Tracking committees

- [Nevada Legislature Committee Tracking Information page](#)
- Reach out to the committee secretary

## BDR Information

- One BDR must be submitted to the Legislative Counsel on or before September 1, 2024
- Form to submit the BDR is available online:
  - 2023 Session: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/82nd2023/>

## OTHER WAYS TO STAY INFORMED AND INVOLVED

- Search the BDR list (limited information until bill is introduced).
- Listen to or watch current or past hearings online.
- Check website for updates: [www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us).
- Attend hearings or floor sessions.
- Sign up to be a presenter at a hearing.
- Submit comments to the committee in writing.
- Get to know and talk to legislators and legislative staff.

# RESEARCH DIVISION PUBLICATIONS

- [Interim Committees of the Nevada Legislature: A Citizen's Guide, 2023-2024](#)
- [Tips for Testifying Before a Legislative Committee](#)
- [Nevada's Legislative Process](#)
- [The Nevada Legislative Process: How a Bill Becomes a Law](#)

# CONTACT

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