

## Incline Village General Improvement District legislative report #1

The 81st Legislative Session began on February 1, 2021 amid protections and protocols to combat the potential transmission of COVID-19. Legislators are largely sequestered, gathering for floor sessions only. Committee meetings are held virtually.

This year's session is expected to be focused on the state's finances, redistricting, taxes, election processes, environment policy, and criminal justice.

### Highlights thus far:

- Two new lawmakers were appointed and sworn-in to fill vacant legislator seats. In the Senate, Fabian Donate replaced Yvanna Cancela, who left to join the Biden administration. In the Assembly, Tracy Brown-May replaced Alexander Assefa, who resigned.
- The legislature passed a \$50 million measure to help small businesses and nonprofits hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The state accepted approximately \$633 million in federal grant dollars from the federal CRRSA bill to go toward emergency rental assistance and education spending.
- Approximately 200 bills have been introduced as of March 3, with 1,137 bill draft requests in the queue
- The legislature may open the building to the public in April as vaccinations increase.

### Bills to be aware of:

**BDR R-199:** Calls for an **interim study** of general improvement districts (GID) and recommending legislation.

**Status:** Currently with the Legislative Counsel Bureau

**Notes:** Previous studies included the creation, financing, and governance of GID. A 1975 study ([Legislative Counsel Bureau Bulletin No. 77-11](#)) resulted in several pieces of legislation designed to ensure the financial soundness and stability of GID. A 1995 committee study examined revenue from taxes under [Senate Concurrent Resolution 40](#). The committee's initial recommendations included stopping all sales tax to GID and making them self-sufficient. However, the legislature passed 10 laws regarding regulations of room

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taxes pledged to GID, financing underground utilities and bonds, charging fees for snow removal, and others ([Citation link, page 255](#)).

**AB154:** Authorizes a public utility to provide required **notices by electronic transmission** to customers, such as rate adjustments.

**Bill link:** <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL//81st2021/Bill/7498/Overview>

**Status:** Hearing on 3/4

**Notes:** *A customer must request electronic transmission and the utility has the ability to provide electronic transmission of notices.*

**SB39:** Authorizing the State Treasurer and governmental entities to **accept digital tokens**, such as stablecoins. Digital tokens received by a governmental entity must be converted to United States dollars.

**Bill link:** <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL//81st2021/Bill/7215/Overview>

**Status:** Heard on 2/17

**Notes:** *A stablecoin is a type of cryptocurrency whose value is tied to an outside asset, such as the U.S. dollar or gold, to stabilize the price.*

**SB77:** exempting certain predecisional and deliberative meetings of public bodies from the requirements of the **Open Meeting Law**.

**Bill link:** <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/Bill/7340/Overview>

**Status:** Heard on 2/10

**Notes:** *The issue centers around the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of proposed actions prior to making decisions. NEPA allows for public bodies such as state or local municipalities to be involved in the process as "cooperating agencies." But involved parties are required to keep confidential discussions and information until the publication of an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. This bill would align the state's open meeting law with the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).*

**AB63:** Existing law authorizes the governing body of a local government to establish a fund to stabilize the operation of the local government or mitigate the effects of a natural disaster (NRS 354.6115). This bill expands the use of such a fund to include mitigating the effects of an emergency which is declared by the local government.

**Bill link:** <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/Bill/7316/Overview>

**Status:** Heard on 2/12 & 2/24

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**SB11:** Authorizes Washoe County to impose a **supplemental governmental services tax** of \$0.01 per \$1.00 of valuation of a vehicle. Proceeds from the tax are to be used for road construction, maintenance, homelessness and welfare programs.

**Bill link:** <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/Bill/7186/Overview>

**Status:** Heard on 2/23 & 3/4

**Notes:**

**SB109:** Requires governmental agencies to request **information related to sexual orientation and gender identity** and reporting the information to the LCB annually.

**Bill link:** <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL//81st2021/Bill/7414/Overview>

**Status:** Heard on 3/3

**Notes:** *The bill would result in an unfunded mandate.*

**AB39:** Clarifying the records of a governmental entity that are required to be made available to the public by **defining “public book or record”** as all recorded information, excluding notes or personal materials that do not have an official purpose.

**Bill link:** <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL//81st2021/Bill/7290/Overview>

**Status:** Bill was introduced and referred to the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs on 2/4

**SB43:** Increases the membership of the **Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation** by adding the Executive Director of the Nevada Association of Counties, DOI and USDA.

**Bill link:** <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL//81st2021/Bill/7219/Overview>

**Status:** Heard on 2/11

**Note:** *This board advises the State government on any matters concerning outdoor recreation.*

## Dates to be aware of:

- Legislator bill Introductions due by March 15, 2021
- Bill must pass out of its first committee by April 9, 2021
- Bill must pass out of its house of origin by April 20, 2021
- Final Economic Forum report on May 4, 2021
- Bill must pass out of its second house committee by May 14, 2021
- Bill must pass out of its second house by May 21, 2021
- Sine Die on May 31, 2021

## Legislative programs to note:

**Nevada Main Street Program:** This program provides financial resources to main street revitalization that involves aesthetics, business creation/retention, and housing.

### **1532 – Nevada Main Street Program**

#### **Cost allocation:**

*The program uses a national accredited approach that advocates a return to community self-reliance, local empowerment, and the rebuilding of central business districts based on their assets, unique architecture, personal service, local ownership and entrepreneurship, and a sense of community.*

#### **Budget Highlights:**

- B000** Continuation of base year operations.
- E350** This decision unit provides program funding of \$391,484 over the 2021-23 biennium and allows the program to be established in The Executive Budget.
- E686** Reduces Main Street funding by \$216,484 over the 2021-23 biennium, for a total recommended funding of \$175,000, compared to \$350,000 over the 2019-21 biennium.

#### **Program Activities (FY20):**

- 7 grants awarded to 5 communities totaling \$149,750 in funding and leveraging \$358,873 in total project costs
- 10 rural programs and 2 urban programs:
  - Exploring: Boulder City, Fallon, Henderson, Lander County, Lovelock, Winnemucca
  - Affiliate: Ely, Mesquite, Reno, Tonopah, Wells
  - Designated: Gardnerville (Nationally Accredited)
- Partners include **Travel Nevada, Outdoor Recreation, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, Small Business Development Center, USDA, Gulnn Center, Nevada Preservation Foundation**

Nevada Governor's Office of  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**Thank you.**

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