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SENATE BILL NO. 344—SENATORS SMITH, WOODHOUSE, DENIS,  
KIHUEN, PARKS; ATKINSON, FORD, MANENDO AND SPEARMAN

MARCH 16, 2015

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JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN ARAUJO, CARRILLO,  
JOINER, MUNFORD, SPIEGEL AND SPRINKLE

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Referred to Committee on Revenue and  
Economic Development

SUMMARY—Establishes an entrepreneur-in-residence program.  
(BDR 18-142)

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.

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AN ACT relating to economic development; establishing a pilot  
entrepreneur-in-residence program within the Office of  
Economic Development; and providing other matters  
properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

1 **Section 5** of this bill creates a pilot entrepreneur-in-residence program within  
2 the Office of Economic Development. **Section 6** of this bill authorizes the  
3 Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development to appoint up to 10  
4 entrepreneurs-in-residence to be placed within various state agencies and prescribes  
5 the qualifications of the entrepreneurs-in-residence. In addition, **section 6** provides  
6 that an entrepreneur-in-residence must be a full-time, unclassified employee of the  
7 agency to which he or she is assigned and serve in that capacity for not more than 2  
8 years. **Section 7** of this bill establishes the duties of an entrepreneur-in-residence.  
9 **Section 9** of this bill provides that the pilot program expires on June 30, 2017.



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 the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this  
3 act.

4       **Sec. 2.** *As used in sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act, unless*  
5 *the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in*  
6 *sections 3 and 4 of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in*  
7 *those sections.*

8       **Sec. 3.** *“Agency” means an agency, bureau, board,*  
9 *commission, department, division or any other unit of the*  
10 *Executive Department of the State Government.*

11       **Sec. 4.** *“Entrepreneur-in-residence” means a natural person*  
12 *appointed pursuant to section 6 of this act.*

13       **Sec. 5.** 1. *There is hereby created an entrepreneur-in-*  
14 *residence program within the Office of Economic Development.*

15       2. *The purposes of the entrepreneur-in-residence program*  
16 *are to:*

17       (a) *Provide for better communication and understanding*  
18 *between the State Government and private sector enterprises*  
19 *within this State.*

20       (b) *Strengthen coordination and interaction between State*  
21 *Government and private sector enterprises on issues relevant to*  
22 *small business entities and entrepreneurs in this State.*

23       (c) *Make state government programs simpler, easier to access,*  
24 *more efficient and more responsive to the needs of small business*  
25 *entities and entrepreneurs in this State.*

26       3. *The Executive Director may establish an informal working*  
27 *group of entrepreneurs-in-residence to discuss best practices,*  
28 *experiences, obstacles, opportunities and recommendations.*

29       **Sec. 6.** 1. *The Executive Director shall appoint at least 1,*  
30 *but not more than 10, entrepreneurs-in-residence in accordance*  
31 *with the provisions of this section during each fiscal year.*

32       2. *To qualify as an entrepreneur-in-residence, a person must*  
33 *have:*

34       (a) *Demonstrated success in his or her field of expertise;*

35       (b) *Demonstrated success in working with small business*  
36 *entities and entrepreneurs; and*

37       (c) *Successfully developed, invented or created a new product*  
38 *and brought the product to the marketplace.*

39       3. *In appointing entrepreneurs-in-residence, the Executive*  
40 *Director shall:*

41       (a) *Give priority to placing entrepreneurs-in-residence in*  
42 *multiple agencies; and*



1 (b) *To the extent possible, not appoint more than two*  
2 *entrepreneurs-in-residence to positions within the same agency*  
3 *during the same fiscal year.*

4 **4. An entrepreneur-in-residence:**

5 (a) *Must be a full-time, unclassified employee of the agency to*  
6 *which he or she is appointed;*

7 (b) *May not serve as an entrepreneur-in-residence for a period*  
8 *of more than 2 years; and*

9 (c) *Is entitled to compensation at a rate to be fixed by the*  
10 *Executive Director, which must be, insofar as is practicable, a rate*  
11 *that is comparable to the rate paid to state employees performing*  
12 *similar tasks with similar experience, and may be increased on the*  
13 *basis of merit after 1 year of appointed service.*

14 **Sec. 7. An entrepreneur-in-residence shall:**

15 1. *Report directly to the administrative head of the agency to*  
16 *which he or she is appointed;*

17 2. *Assist the Office and the agency to which he or she is*  
18 *appointed in improving outreach to small business entities and*  
19 *entrepreneurs;*

20 3. *Provide recommendations to the Office and the agency to*  
21 *which he or she is appointed, regarding:*

22 (a) *Inefficient or duplicative programs;*

23 (b) *Methods to improve efficiency; and*

24 (c) *New programs or initiatives to assist small business entities*  
25 *and entrepreneurs;*

26 **4. Facilitate:**

27 (a) *Meetings and forums to educate small business entities and*  
28 *entrepreneurs on programs and initiatives of the Office and the*  
29 *agency to which he or she is appointed; and*

30 (b) *The education and training of employees of the Office and*  
31 *the agency to which he or she is appointed on issues of concern to*  
32 *small business entities and entrepreneurs relevant to the work of*  
33 *the Office or agency; and*

34 5. *Provide technical assistance or mentorship to small*  
35 *business entities and entrepreneurs in accessing programs of the*  
36 *Office and the agency to which he or she is appointed.*

37 **Sec. 8.** 1. *A person may not be appointed as an entrepreneur-*  
38 *in-residence pursuant to section 6 of this act after September 30,*  
39 *2016.*

40 2. *The term of service of any person appointed as an*  
41 *entrepreneur-in-residence pursuant to section 6 of this act expires on*  
42 *June 30, 2017.*

43 3. *As used in this section, “entrepreneur-in-residence” has the*  
44 *meaning ascribed to it in section 4 of this act.*



1     **Sec. 9.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015, and expires  
2 by limitation on June 30, 2017.

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