

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

JOINT SPECIAL COMMITTEE RE: INNOVATION ZONES

(SCR 11)

SUMMARY

The Governor proposed legislation for consideration in the 2021 Legislative Session (81st Session of the Legislature) to authorize the establishment of "Innovation Zones," a unique form of local government on private land, for the purpose of creating favorable conditions for the advancement of innovative technologies and accelerating the State's growing economic diversification and ability to attract advanced technology industries prepared to invest in the State's success.

As the State of Nevada and the Nevada Legislature necessarily continue to direct their energies to the impact of and critical response to COVID-19 and the global pandemic, as well as budgetary and other issues raised during the 2021 Session, fully analyzing the potential benefits and impacts of legislation authorizing Innovation Zones remains challenging during the current legislative session. To ensure the Governor's Innovation Zones proposal receives the vetting and review it warrants and needs, Governor Sisolak has worked with legislative leadership on an alternative approach in the form of [Senate Concurrent Resolution 11](#) (SCR 11) that will allow the necessary analysis and exploration of Innovation Zone issues through the appointment of a **Joint Special Committee** to conduct a full review of the proposal.

SCR 11 requires appointment of a **Joint Special Committee** by Legislative Leadership. The Joint Special Committee must be composed of at least three members of the Assembly, two of whom must be appointed by the Speaker and one by the Minority Leader, and three members of the Senate, two of whom must be appointed by the Majority Leader and one by the Minority Leader. The Joint Special Committee shall elect a chair and a vice chair and may meet to do so during the current legislative session.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

The Joint Special Committee will meet at least once a month and shall submit a report of the results of its work and any recommendations to the Governor by December 31, 2021. The Joint Special Committee will assess the potential community and economic benefits of Innovation Zones and the impact of Innovation Zones on:

- *Economic development and job creation*
- *Workforce development*
- *Affordable housing*
- *Empowerment centers*
- *Regional water supplies*
- *Natural Resources and the environment*
- *Counties and other forms of local government*
- *State & local revenues and distribution of taxes*

The Joint Special Committee will solicit the input of interested stakeholders, including local governments, tribal governments, environmental groups, labor organizations, economic

development authorities, water authorities, advanced technology industries and global interests. With this expanded timeline, proponents of the legislation will have additional time to finalize master planning documents/presentation, financial models, and related information that is important for consideration by the Joint Special Committee and the Legislature.

The final report from the Joint Special Committee will include the results of the committee hearings and recommendations to the Governor. Recommendations to the Governor could include: (1) no further legislative action to be taken on Innovation Zones; or (2) legislation on Innovation Zones should be proposed during a regular or special session. SCR 11 explicitly authorizes the Joint Special Committee to submit a bill draft request for the 82nd Legislative Session (2023) should that be its recommendation.

A previous example of a joint special committee is [SCR 9ⁱ](#) from the 59th (1977) Legislative Session with the unique purpose of reviewing public lands and which also authorized the committee to start and meet during the legislative session for the purpose of selecting its chair.

ⁱ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Publications/InterimReports/1979/Bulletin79-19.pdf>

