SENATE BILL NO. 370-SENATOR KIECKHEFER

MARCH 18, 2013

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Makes various changes regarding administrative regulations. (BDR 18-194)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State: Yes.

EXPLANATION - Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets formitted material is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to administrative regulations; establishing the Central Repository for Administrative Regulations; requiring the Legislative Counsel to maintain the Central Repository; revising provisions governing the posting of certain notices concerning regulations by agencies; requiring certain agencies to provide certain information to the Legislative Counsel for posting in the Central Repository; and providing other matters properly relating thereto

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires the Legislative Counsel to prepare and publish or cause to be prepared and published the Register of Administrative Regulations which contains certain information regarding each permanent regulation adopted by a state agency subject to the provisions of the Nevada Administrative Procedure Act. (NRS 233B.0653) Section 11 of this bill replaces the Register of Administrative Regulations with the Central Repository for Administrative Regulations to be established and maintained by the Legislative Counsel on the official Internet website of the Legislative Counsel Bureau. Section 11 requires the Central Repository to include certain information regarding permanent, temporary and emergency regulations and further requires the Legislative Counsel to make available the required information as soon as practicable after receiving such information from an agency. Section 11 further requires the Legislative Counsel to return a regulation to the state agency if the information that is required to be included in the Central Repository is not submitted by the agency. The state agency is then required to resubmit the regulation to the Legislative Counsel with the required information and the regulation is deemed submitted on the date of resubmission. Until then, the Legislative Counsel is prohibited from taking any further action with respect to the regulation.



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Section 6 of this bill requires an agency to submit to the Legislative Counsel an electronic copy of the statement concerning the economic impact that a proposed regulation is likely to have on small business that is prepared by a state agency for inclusion in the Central Repository.

Section 8 of this bill requires a state agency to submit to the Legislative Counsel an electronic copy of any emergency regulation or proposed emergency regulation of the agency for inclusion in the Central Repository.

Section 1 of this bill requires an agency to submit the notice and agenda of any workshop or public hearing relating to the adoption of a regulation for posting in the Central Repository by the Legislative Counsel at the same time that the agency posts the notice and agenda of the workshop or public hearing. **Section 1** also requires the Legislative Counsel to post the notice and agenda received from the agency in the Central Repository as soon as practicable.

Existing law requires the Secretary of State to establish the state business portal. (NRS 75A.100) **Section 11** of this bill requires the Central Repository of Administrative Regulations to include a link to the state business portal. **Section 15** of this bill similarly requires the state business portal to include a link to the Central Repository.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- **Section 1.** Chapter 233B of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.
- Sec. 2. "Central Repository" means the Central Repository for Administrative Regulations established pursuant to NRS 233B.0653.
- Sec. 3. At the same time that an agency provides notice and the agenda of any workshop or public hearing relating to the adoption of any proposed emergency, temporary or permanent regulation pursuant to this chapter or NRS 241.020, the agency shall submit an electronic copy of the notice and agenda to the Legislative Counsel. The Legislative Counsel shall cause the notice and agenda to be posted in the Central Repository as soon as practicable.
- **Sec. 4.** NRS 233B.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 233B.030 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 233B.031 to 233B.0385, inclusive, *and section 2 of this act* have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.
 - Sec. 5. NRS 233B.0603 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 233B.0603 1. The notice of intent to act upon a regulation required pursuant to NRS 233B.060 must:
 - (a) Include:
 - (1) A statement of the need for and purpose of the proposed regulation.





- (2) If the proposed regulation is a temporary regulation, either the terms or substance of the proposed regulation or a description of the subjects and issues involved.
- (3) If the proposed regulation is a permanent regulation, a statement explaining thou to obtain that the approved or revised text of the proposed regulation prepared by the Legislative Counsel pursuant to NRS 233B.063 [.] is available in the Central Repository.
- (4) A statement of the estimated economic effect of the regulation on the business which it is to regulate and on the public. These must be stated separately and in each case must include:
 - (I) Both adverse and beneficial effects; and
 - (II) Both immediate and long-term effects.
- (5) A statement identifying the methods used by the agency in determining the impact on a small business prepared pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 233B.0608.
- (6) The estimated cost to the agency for enforcement of the proposed regulation.
- (7) A description of any regulations of other state or local governmental agencies which the proposed regulation overlaps or duplicates and a statement explaining why the duplication or overlapping is necessary. If the regulation overlaps or duplicates a federal regulation, the notice must include the name of the regulating federal agency.
- (8) If the regulation is required pursuant to federal law, a citation and description of the federal law.
- (9) If the regulation includes provisions which are more stringent than a federal regulation that regulates the same activity, a summary of such provisions.
- (10) The time when, the place where and the manner in which interested persons may present their views regarding the proposed regulation.
- (b) If the proposed regulation is a temporary regulation, state each address at which the text of the proposed regulation may be inspected and copied.
- (c) Include an exact copy of the provisions of subsection 2 of NRS 233B.064.
- (d) Include a statement indicating whether the regulation establishes a new fee or increases an existing fee.
- (e) Be mailed to all persons who have requested in writing that they be placed upon a mailing list, which must be kept by the agency for that purpose.
- (f) Be submitted to the Legislative Counsel [Bureau] for inclusion in the [Register of Administrative Regulations created pursuant to NRS 233B.0653.] Central Repository. The publication





of a notice of intent to act upon a regulation in the **Register** Central Repository does not satisfy the requirements for notice set forth in paragraph (e).

- 2. The Attorney General may by regulation prescribe the form of notice to be used.
- 3. In addition to distributing the notice to each recipient of the agency's regulations, the agency shall also solicit comment generally from the public and from businesses to be affected by the proposed regulation.
 - **Sec. 6.** NRS 233B.0608 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 233B.0608 1. Before conducting a workshop for a proposed regulation pursuant to NRS 233B.061, an agency shall determine whether the proposed regulation is likely to:
- (a) Impose a direct and significant economic burden upon a small business; or
- (b) Directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a small business.
- 2. If an agency determines pursuant to subsection 1 that a proposed regulation is likely to impose a direct and significant economic burden upon a small business or directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a small business, the agency shall:
- (a) Insofar as practicable, consult with owners and officers of small businesses that are likely to be affected by the proposed regulation.
- (b) Consider methods to reduce the impact of the proposed regulation on small businesses, including, without limitation:
 - (1) Simplifying the proposed regulation;
- (2) Establishing different standards of compliance for a small business; and
- (3) Modifying a fee or fine set forth in the regulation so that a small business is authorized to pay a lower fee or fine.
 - (c) Prepare a small business impact statement and [make]:
- (1) Make copies of the statement available to the public at the workshop conducted and the public hearing held pursuant to NRS 233B.061 ; and
 - (2) Submit an electronic copy of the statement to the Legislative Counsel for inclusion in the Central Repository.
 - 3. The agency shall prepare a statement identifying the methods used by the agency in determining the impact of a proposed regulation on a small business.
 - **Sec. 7.** NRS 233B.061 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 233B.061 1. All interested persons must be afforded a reasonable opportunity to submit data, views or arguments upon a proposed regulation, orally or in writing.





- 2. Before holding the public hearing required pursuant to subsection 3, an agency shall conduct at least one workshop to solicit comments from interested persons on one or more general topics to be addressed in a proposed regulation. Not less than 15 days before the workshop, the agency shall provide notice of the time and place set for the workshop:
- (a) In writing to each person who has requested to be placed on a mailing list; [and]
- (b) To the Legislative Counsel for inclusion in the Central Repository; and
- (c) In any other manner reasonably calculated to provide such notice to the general public and any business that may be affected by a proposed regulation which addresses the general topics to be considered at the workshop.
- 3. With respect to substantive regulations, the agency shall set a time and place for an oral public hearing, but if no one appears who will be directly affected by the proposed regulation and requests an oral hearing, the agency may proceed immediately to act upon any written submissions. The agency shall consider fully all written and oral submissions respecting the proposed regulation.
- 4. An agency shall not hold the public hearing required pursuant to subsection 3 on the same day that the agency holds the workshop required pursuant to subsection 2.
- 5. Each workshop and public hearing required pursuant to subsections 2 and 3 must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 241 of NRS.
 - **Sec. 8.** NRS 233B.0613 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 233B.0613 1. If an agency determines that an emergency exists, it shall submit to the Governor a written statement of the emergency which sets forth the reasons for the determination. If the Governor endorses the statement of the emergency by written endorsement at the end of the full text of the statement of emergency on the original copy of a proposed regulation, the regulation may be adopted and become effective immediately upon its being filed in the Office of the Secretary of State pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 233B.070. The statement of the emergency endorsed by the Governor must be included as a part of the regulation for all purposes.
- 2. If practicable, the agency shall, not later than 9 a.m. on the first working day before the date on which the emergency regulation is filed in the Office of the Secretary of State pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 233B.070, make the emergency regulation available to the public by:
- (a) Providing a copy of the emergency regulation to a member of the public upon request; {and}





- (b) Making a copy of the emergency regulation available on its website on the Internet, if any : and
- (c) Submitting an electronic copy of the emergency regulation to the Legislative Counsel for inclusion in the Central Repository.
- 3. If practicable, the agency shall, not later than 9 a.m. on the first working day before the date of any hearing at which the agency considers the emergency regulation, make the version of the proposed emergency regulation that will be considered at the hearing available to the public by:
- (a) Providing a copy of the proposed emergency regulation to a member of the public upon request; [and]
- (b) Making a copy of the proposed emergency regulation available on its website on the Internet, if any : and
- (c) Submitting an electronic copy of the proposed emergency regulation to the Legislative Counsel for inclusion in the Central Repository.
- 4. A regulation adopted pursuant to this section may be effective for a period of not longer than 120 days. A regulation may be adopted by this emergency procedure only once.
- 5. If an agency adopts, after providing notice and the opportunity for a hearing as required in this chapter, a permanent or temporary regulation which becomes effective and is substantially identical to its effective emergency regulation, the emergency regulation expires automatically on the effective date of the temporary or permanent regulation.
 - **Sec. 9.** NRS 233B.063 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 233B.063 1. An agency that intends to adopt, amend or repeal a permanent regulation must deliver to the Legislative Counsel a copy of the proposed regulation. The Legislative Counsel shall examine and if appropriate revise the language submitted so that it is clear, concise and suitable for incorporation in the Nevada Administrative Code, but shall not alter the meaning or effect without the consent of the agency.
- 2. [Unless] Except as otherwise provided in NRS 233B.0653, unless the proposed regulation is submitted to the Legislative Counsel between July 1 of an even-numbered year and July 1 of the succeeding odd-numbered year, the Legislative Counsel shall deliver the approved or revised text of the regulation within 30 days after it is submitted to the Legislative Counsel. If the proposed or revised text of a regulation is changed before adoption, the agency shall submit the changed text to the Legislative Counsel, who shall examine and revise it if appropriate pursuant to the standards of subsection 1. Unless it is submitted between July 1 of an even-numbered year and July 1 of the succeeding odd-numbered year, the Legislative Counsel shall return it with any appropriate revisions





within 30 days. If the agency is a licensing board as defined in NRS 439B.225 and the proposed regulation relates to standards for the issuance or renewal of licenses, permits or certificates of registration issued to a person or facility regulated by the agency, the Legislative Counsel shall also deliver one copy of the approved or revised text of the regulation to the Legislative Committee on Health Care.

- 3. An agency may adopt a temporary regulation between August 1 of an even-numbered year and July 1 of the succeeding odd-numbered year without following the procedure required by this section and NRS 233B.064, but any such regulation expires by limitation on November 1 of the odd-numbered year. A substantively identical permanent regulation may be subsequently adopted.
- 4. An agency may amend or suspend a permanent regulation between August 1 of an even-numbered year and July 1 of the succeeding odd-numbered year by adopting a temporary regulation in the same manner and subject to the same provisions as prescribed in subsection 3.
- **Sec. 10.** NRS 233B.0635 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 233B.0635 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, each agency which submits a regulation for examination and revision pursuant to subsection 1 or 2 of NRS 233B.063 shall reimburse the Legislative Counsel Bureau for the cost of the examination and revision. The Legislative Commission shall establish the amount of reimbursement required pursuant to this subsection.
 - 2. The reimbursement required pursuant to subsection 1:
- (a) Must be an hourly fee for each hour spent by employees of the Legal Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau in examining and revising the regulation. The hourly fee must not exceed the average hourly salary of the persons whose salaries are reimbursed pursuant to this section.
- (b) Must be established at a rate calculated to generate the amount approved in the budget of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for such reimbursement.
 - (c) Must not be charged to agencies whose budgets are supported entirely from the State General Fund.
 - 3. Each agency which proposes or adopts a permanent, temporary or emergency regulation shall reimburse the Legislative Counsel Bureau for the cost of administering the Central Repository.
 - 4. The reimbursement required pursuant to subsection 3:
 - (a) Must be collected for each permanent, temporary or emergency regulation proposed or adopted by an agency.





- (b) Must be established at an amount calculated to generate the amount approved in the budget of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for such reimbursement.
- (c) Must not be charged to agencies whose budgets are supported entirely from the State General Fund.
- **Sec. 11.** NRS 233B.0653 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 233B.0653 1. The Legislative Counsel shall [prepare] establish and [publish] maintain, or cause to be [prepared] established and [published] maintained, in a prominent location on the official Internet website of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, a [Register of] Central Repository for Administrative Regulations. The [Register] Central Repository must be available and accessible to the public without charge and must include the following information regarding each permanent, temporary and emergency regulation adopted by an agency [:], as applicable:
- (a) The notice and agenda of any workshop or hearing relating to the adoption of a proposed regulation as required pursuant to section 1 of this act;
- **(b)** The proposed and adopted text of the regulation and any revised version of the regulation;
- (c) The notice of intent to act upon the regulation set forth in NRS 233B.0603;
- **(e)** (d) The written notice of adoption of the regulation required pursuant to NRS 233B.064;
 - [(d)] (e) The informational statement required pursuant to NRS 233B.066; and
 - [(e)] (f) The effective date of the regulation, as determined pursuant to NRS 233B.070.
- 30 Fig. In carrying out the duties set forth in this subsection, the Legislative Counsel may use the services of the State Printing Office.]
 - 2. The Legislative Counsel may determine the manner in which the information listed in subsection 1 is compiled and shall [publish] cause this information to be made available in the [Register not less than 10 times per year but not more than once every 2 weeks.
- 38 3. The Register must be provided to and maintained by:
- 39 (a) The Secretary of State;
- 40 (b) The Attorney General;
- 41 (c) The Supreme Court Law Library;
- 42 (d) The State Library and Archives;
- 43 (e) Each county clerk;
- 44 (f) Each county library; and
- 45 (g) The Legislative Counsel Bureau.



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4. The Legislative Counsel may sell an additional copy of the Register to any person or governmental entity that requests a copy, at a price which does not exceed the cost of publishing the additional copy.

5. Central Repository as soon as practicable upon receipt.

- 3. If an agency fails to provide the Legislative Counsel with any of the information required to be included in the Central Repository, the Legislative Counsel shall return the regulation to the agency with a notice detailing the information that is missing and instructing the agency to resubmit the regulation with all the required information. The Legislative Counsel shall not take any further action with respect to the regulation until the regulation is resubmitted. When the agency resubmits the regulation with all the required information to the Legislative Counsel, the regulation shall be deemed to be submitted on that date.
- The Central Repository must include a link to the state business portal established pursuant to NRS 75A.100.
- This section must not be construed to require the Legislative Counsel to provide any equipment or service that would enable a person to access the Internet.
- The Legislative Counsel is immune from civil liability which may result from failure to include any information in the 23 [Register.] Central Repository.
 - Sec. 12. NRS 233B.0658 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 233B.0658 An agency that takes an emergency action as described in paragraph (1) of subsection 2 of NRS 233B.038 shall file with the Legislative Counsel within 5 working days after taking the action a statement that describes the action taken and the reason for the action. If the agency is prohibited by federal law, regulation, interpretation or instruction from describing the action taken or the reason for the action, the statement must cite the federal law, regulation, interpretation or instruction that prohibits such disclosure. The Legislative Counsel shall include a statement filed pursuant to this section in the Register of Administrative Regulations published pursuant to NRS 233B.0653.] Central Repository.
 - Sec. 13. NRS 233B.0677 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - Before holding a meeting to review temporary 233B.0677 1. regulations pursuant to NRS 233B.0633 or adopted regulations pursuant to NRS 233B.067 or 233B.0675, the Legislative Commission or the Subcommittee to Review Regulations appointed pursuant to subsection 6 of NRS 233B.067, as applicable, shall



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provide written notice of the meeting at least 3 working days before the meeting. The notice must include, without limitation:

- (a) A list of the regulations that the Legislative Commission or the Subcommittee to Review Regulations will review at the meeting; and
- (b) An explanation of the manner in which a person may obtain a copy of a regulation that the Legislative Commission or Subcommittee to Review Regulations will review at the meeting.
- 2. [If the Legislative Counsel Bureau maintains a website on the Internet or its successor, the] The Legislative Counsel Bureau shall, at least 3 working days before the Legislative Commission or the Subcommittee to Review Regulations holds a meeting to review temporary regulations pursuant to NRS 233B.0633 or adopted regulations pursuant to NRS 233B.0675, post [on its website] in the Central Repository a list of the regulations that the Legislative Commission or the Subcommittee to Review Regulations will review at the meeting, unless the Legislative Counsel Bureau is unable to do so because of technical problems relating to the operation or maintenance of its website.
- **Sec. 14.** NRS 233B.0681 is hereby amended to read as follows:

233B.0681 The Legislative Commission may provide for:

- 1. Its early review of a proposed permanent regulation after the agency has given notice of a hearing on the regulation but before the hearing is held. [If] Except as otherwise provided in NRS 233B.0653, if the permanent regulation adopted after the hearing is identical to the regulation submitted for early review, the Legislative Counsel shall promptly file the regulation with the Secretary of State and notify the agency of the filing.
- 2. A waiver of its review of a permanent regulation in a case of administrative convenience or necessity.
 - **Sec. 15.** NRS 75A.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 75A.100 1. The Secretary of State shall provide for the establishment of a state business portal to facilitate interaction among businesses and governmental agencies in this State by allowing businesses to conduct necessary transactions with governmental agencies in this State through use of the state business portal.
- 2. The state business portal must include a link to the Central Repository.
 - **3.** The Secretary of State shall:
- (a) Establish, through cooperative efforts, the standards and requirements necessary to design, build and implement the state business portal;





- (b) Establish the standards and requirements necessary for a state or local agency to participate in the state business portal;
- (c) Authorize a state or local agency to participate in the state business portal if the Secretary of State determines that the agency meets the standards and requirements necessary for such participation;
- (d) Determine the appropriate requirements to be used by businesses and governmental agencies conducting transactions through use of the state business portal;
- (e) In carrying out the provisions of this section, consult with the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development to ensure that the activities of the Secretary of State are consistent with the State Plan for Economic Development developed by the Executive Director pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 231.053; and
- (f) Adopt such regulations and take any appropriate action as necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.
 - **Sec. 16.** NRS 590.830 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 590.830 1. The Fund for Cleaning Up Discharges of Petroleum is hereby created as a special revenue fund in the State Treasury. The Division shall administer the Fund for the purposes prescribed in NRS 590.700 to 590.920, inclusive, and the Board shall adopt appropriate regulations for the investigation and payment of claims against the Fund. The Board shall review each claim presented and authorize payment to the extent warranted by the facts of the case.
- 2. The expenses incurred by the Division in performing its duties pursuant to NRS 590.700 to 590.920, inclusive, are a charge against the Fund. The interest earned on money in the Fund must be credited to the Fund.
- 3. The Board shall transmit a copy of any resolution that the Board has adopted in carrying out its duties pursuant to this section to the Legislative Counsel within 5 working days after the adoption of the resolution for inclusion in the [register of administrative regulations published pursuant to NRS 233B.0653.] Central Repository for Administrative Regulations established pursuant to NRS 233B.0653.
 - **Sec. 17.** NRS 618.347 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 618.347 The Division shall submit a written report quarterly to the Advisory Council of the Division which lists each citation issued by the Division for a violation of NRS 618.375 during that quarter and the circumstances for which the citation was issued. Within 5 working days after submission of such a report to the Advisory Council, the Division shall transmit the report to the Legislative Counsel for inclusion in the [register of administrative regulations published pursuant to NRS 233B.0653.] Central Repository for





1 Administrative Regulations established pursuant to 2 NRS 233B.0653.

Sec. 18. NRS 233B.0656 and 233B.0665 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 19. The provisions of this act apply to any regulations proposed or adopted after July 1, 2013.

Sec. 20. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2013.

TEXT OF REPEALED SECTIONS

233B.0656 Register of Administrative Regulations: Access via Internet.

- 1. The Legislative Counsel shall, without charge, make available for access on the Internet or its successor, if any, the information contained in the Register of Administrative Regulations created pursuant to NRS 233B.0653. The Legislative Counsel may determine the manner in which this information is compiled and must revise the information at least as often as the Register is published pursuant to NRS 233B.0653.
- 2. This section must not be construed to require the Legislative Counsel to provide any equipment or service that would enable a person to access the Internet.

233B.0665 Failure to submit informational statement concerning permanent regulation. If a regulation submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau pursuant to NRS 233B.067 is not accompanied by an informational statement which complies with the requirements of NRS 233B.066, the Legislative Counsel shall return the regulation to the agency with a note that the statement is missing. Unless the statement is supplied, the Legislative Counsel shall not submit the regulation to the Legislative Commission or the Subcommittee to Review Regulations, as applicable, and the regulation never becomes effective.





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