# ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 217—COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

### (ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL)

## FEBRUARY 28, 2003

## Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Makes various changes regarding State Personnel System. (BDR 23-495)

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 State Government; authorizing state offices to establish an alternative schedule of operation; transferring the power or duty to adopt certain regulations from the Department of Personnel and the Director of the Department to the Personnel Commission; authorizing an employee to offset an overpayment of salary with annual leave; allowing the State Board of Examiners to delegate to its Clerk the authority to designate certain overpayments of salary as bad debts; repealing a duplicative provision regarding certain reports by appointing authorities; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

Section 1. NRS 281.110 is hereby amended to read as follows: 281.110 1. [The] Unless required for the efficient transaction of business and the convenience of the persons with whom business is transacted, the offices of all state officers, departments, boards, commissions and agencies [shall:] must:

(a) Maintain not less than a 40-hour workweek.



- (b) Be open for the transaction of business at least from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. every day of the year, with the exception of Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays.
- 2. Variable workweek scheduling may be required in those agencies where coverage is needed on Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays [-
  - -2.1 or on other days or during other hours, as necessary.

- 3. The offices of all state officers, departments, boards, commissions and agencies [shall] that are open on the days and during the hours set forth in paragraph (b) of subsection 1 must remain open during the noon hour of each [regular] working day if any such office has more than one person on its staff.
- **Sec. 2.** NRS 284.065 is hereby amended to read as follows: 284.065 1. The Commission has only such powers and duties as are authorized by law.
- 2. In addition to the powers and duties set forth elsewhere in this chapter, the Commission shall:
- (a) Advise the Director concerning the organization and administration of the Department.
- (b) Report to the Governor biennially on all matters which the Commission may deem pertinent to the Department and concerning any specific matters previously requested by the Governor.
- (c) Advise and make recommendations to the Governor or the Legislature relative to the personnel policy of the State.
- (d) [Advise the Director with respect to the preparation and adoption of] Adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this chapter.
- (e) Foster the interest of institutions of learning and of civic, professional and employee organizations in the improvement of personnel standards in the state service.
- (f) Review decisions of the Director in contested cases involving the classification or allocation of particular positions.
- (g) Exercise any other advisory powers necessary or reasonably implied within the provisions and purposes of this chapter.
  - **Sec. 3.** NRS 284.105 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 284.105 1. The Director shall direct and supervise all administrative and technical activities of the Department.
- 2. In addition to the duties imposed upon him elsewhere in this chapter, the Director shall:
- (a) Apply and carry out the provisions of this chapter and the regulations adopted [under] pursuant to it.
- (b) Establish objectives for the Department in terms which are specific, measurable and conducive to reliable evaluation, and develop a plan for accomplishing those objectives.



- (c) Establish a system of appropriate policies for each function within the Department.
  - (d) Attend all meetings of the Commission.
- (e) Advise the Commission with respect to the preparation and adoption of regulations to carry out the provisions of this chapter.
- (f) Report to the Governor and the Commission upon all matters concerning the administration of his office [,] and request the advice of the Commission on matters concerning the policies of the Department, [;] but the Director is responsible for the conduct of the Department and its administrative functions unless otherwise provided by law.
- [(f)] (g) Establish and maintain a roster of all employees in the public service. The roster must set forth, as to each employee:
  - (1) The class title of the position held.
  - (2) The salary or pay.

- (3) Any change in class title, pay or status.
- (4) Other pertinent data.
- [(g)] (h) In cooperation with appointing authorities and others, foster and develop programs for improving the effectiveness and morale of employees, including training and procedures for hearing and adjusting grievances.
- [(h)] (i) Encourage and exercise leadership in the development of effective personnel administration within the several departments in the public service, and make available the facilities and services of the Department and its employees to this end.
- [(i)] (j) Make to the Commission and to the Governor a biennial report regarding the work of the Department and such special reports as he may consider desirable.
- [(j)] (k) Maintain a continuous program of recruiting for the [public] classified service.
- [(k)] (1) Perform any other lawful acts which he may consider necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes and provisions of this chapter.
  - **Sec. 4.** NRS 284.121 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 284.121 Each appointing authority shall report to the Director in writing, from time to time, [upon the date of the official action in, or knowledge of, any] any appointment, transfer, separation, suspension [or reinstatement of a person in the public service,], reinstatement or any reduction or other change to a position in the public service. The report must contain:
  - 1. The name of the appointee or employee.
  - 2. The title and status of his employment.
- 3. The date of commencement of the action.
- 4. The salary or compensation of the appointee or employee.



- **Sec. 5.** NRS 284.135 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 284.135 1. Subject to regulations [prescribed] adopted by the [Director,] Commission, the services and facilities of the Department and its employees are available upon request to political subdivisions of the State.
- 2. In making the services and facilities of the Department and its employees available, it must be understood that:
- (a) Requirements for the enforcement and administration of the provisions of this chapter must be given precedence; and
- (b) The political subdivisions shall reimburse the Department for the reasonable cost of those services and facilities.
  - **Sec. 6.** NRS 284.150 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 284.150 1. The classified service of the State of Nevada is comprised of all positions in the public service now existing or hereafter created which are [not included in the unclassified service, and which provide services for any office, department, board, commission, bureau, agency or institution in the Executive Department of the State Government operating by authority of the Constitution or law and supported in whole or in part by any public money, whether the money is received from the Government of the United States or any branch or agency thereof, or from private or any other sources.
  - 2. Appointments]:

- (a) Lawfully designated as being in the classified service [must be made]; and
- (b) Filled according to merit and fitness from eligible lists prepared upon the basis of examination, which must be open and competitive, except as otherwise provided in this chapter and NRS 209.161.
- [3.] 2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 193.105, 209.161 and 416.070, a person must not be appointed, transferred, promoted, demoted or discharged [as an officer, clerk, employee or laborer] in the classified service in any manner or by any means other than those prescribed in this chapter and the regulations adopted in accordance therewith.
- [4.] 3. A person must not be discriminated against on account of his religious opinions or affiliations, race, sex, age or disability.
  - **Sec. 7.** NRS 284.155 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 284.155 1. The [Director] Commission shall adopt a code of regulations for the classified service. [which must be approved by the Commission.]
- 42 2. The code must include regulations concerning certifications and appointments for:



(a) Positions in classes having a maximum salary of \$12,500 or less as of December 31, 1980, where the regular procedures for examination and certification are impracticable; and

(b) Classes where applicants for promotion are not normally available.

These regulations may be different from the regulations concerning certifications and appointments for other positions in the classified service.

- **Sec. 8.** NRS 284.175 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 284.175 1. After consultation with appointing authorities and state fiscal officers, [and after a public hearing and approval by the Commission,] the Director shall [prescribe regulations for] prepare a pay plan for all employees in the classified service.
- 2. The pay plan and its amendments become effective only after approval by [the Commission and] the Governor.
- 3. The [Director shall prepare a] pay plan [and] must include, without limitation, ranges for each class, grade or group of positions in the classified service. Each employee in the classified service must be paid at one of the rates set forth in the pay plan for the class of position in which he is employed and at such time as necessary money is made available for the payment.
- 4. The [Director shall prescribe regulations that provide for progression through the rate ranges based on merit and fitness alone. The regulations become effective upon the approval of the Commission.
- 5. In making Commission shall adopt regulations to carry out the pay plan.
- 5. The Director may make recommendations to the Legislature during regular legislative sessions concerning salaries for the classified service of the State. [,] In making such recommendations, the Director shall consider factors such as:
- (a) Surveys of salaries of comparable jobs in government and private industry within the State of Nevada and western states, where appropriate;
  - (b) Changes in the cost of living;
- (c) The rate of turnover and difficulty of recruitment for particular positions; and
  - (d) Maintaining an equitable relationship among classifications.
  - **Sec. 9.** NRS 284.180 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 284.180 1. The Legislature declares that since uniform salary and wage rates and classifications are necessary for an effective and efficient personnel system, the pay plan must set the official rates applicable to all positions in the classified service, but the establishment of the pay plan in no way limits the authority of the



Legislature relative to budgeted appropriations for salary and wage expenditures.

- 2. Credit for overtime work directed or approved by the head of an agency or his representative must be earned at the rate of time and one-half, except for those employees described in NRS 284.148.
- 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 4, 6, 7 and 9, overtime is considered time worked in excess of:
  - (a) Eight hours in 1 calendar day;
  - (b) Eight hours in any 16-hour period; or
  - (c) A 40-hour week.

- 4. Firemen who choose and are approved for a 24-hour shift shall be deemed to work an average of 56 hours per week and 2,912 hours per year, regardless of the actual number of hours worked or on paid leave during any biweekly pay period. A fireman so assigned is entitled to receive 1/26 of his annual salary for each biweekly pay period. In addition, overtime must be considered time worked in excess of:
  - (a) Twenty-four hours in one scheduled shift; or
- (b) Fifty-three hours average per week during one work period for those hours worked or on paid leave.

The appointing authority shall designate annually the length of the work period to be used in determining the work schedules for such firemen. In addition to the regular amount paid such a fireman for the deemed average of 56 hours per week, he is entitled to payment for the hours which comprise the difference between the 56-hour average and the overtime threshold of 53 hours average at a rate which will result in the equivalent of overtime payment for those hours.

- 5. The [Director, with the approval of the Commission,] *Commission* shall adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of subsection 4.
- 6. For employees who choose and are approved for a variable workday, overtime will be considered only after working 40 hours in 1 week.
- 7. Employees who are eligible under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201 et seq., to work a variable 80-hour work schedule within a biweekly pay period and who choose and are approved for such a work schedule will be considered eligible for overtime only after working 80 hours biweekly, except those eligible employees who are approved for overtime in excess of one scheduled shift of 8 or more hours per day.
- 8. An agency may experiment with innovative workweeks upon the approval of the head of the agency and after majority consent of the affected employees. The affected employees are eligible for overtime only after working 40 hours in a workweek.



- 9. This section does not supersede or conflict with existing contracts of employment for employees hired to work 24 hours a day in a home setting. Any future classification in which an employee will be required to work 24 hours a day in a home setting must be approved in advance by the Commission.
- 10. All overtime must be approved in advance by the appointing authority or his designee. No officer or employee, other than a director of a department or the chairman of a board, commission or similar body, may authorize overtime for himself. The chairman of a board, commission or similar body must approve in advance all overtime worked by members of the board, commission or similar body.
- 11. The Budget Division of the Department of Administration shall review all overtime worked by employees of the Executive Department to ensure that overtime is held to a minimum. The Budget Division shall report quarterly to the State Board of Examiners the amount of overtime worked in the quarter within the various agencies of the State.

**Sec. 10.** NRS 284.205 is hereby amended to read as follows: 284.205 The [Director shall prescribe] Commission shall adopt regulations for open competitive examinations to test the relative fitness of applicants for the respective positions.

**Sec. 11.** NRS 284.210 is hereby amended to read as follows: 284.210 1. All competitive examinations for positions in the classified service must:

- (a) Relate to those matters which fairly test the capacity and fitness of the persons examined to perform in an efficient manner the duties of the class in which employment is sought.
- (b) Be open to all applicants who meet the reasonable standards or requirements fixed by the Director with regard to experience, character, age, education, physical condition and any other factors relating to the ability of the applicants to perform the duties of the position with reasonable efficiency.
  - 2. An examination may consist of:
  - (a) An evaluation of the applicant's training and experience;
  - (b) A written examination;
  - (c) An oral examination;

- (d) An evaluation of the applicant's performance, such as the ability to operate successfully certain equipment; or
  - (e) Any combination of paragraphs (a) to (d), inclusive.
- 3. An examination may be conducted by using a center for assessment as defined by regulations adopted by the [Director.] Commission. An employee of the department for which an examination is being held may not serve on the panel or score the examination.



- 4. An oral examination given pursuant to this section must be:
- (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, conducted by a panel of which no more than one-third of the members are employed by the department in which a vacancy exists for the position for which the examination is given.
  - (b) Recorded and maintained by the department for:

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- (1) Not less than 2 years after the date of the examination; or
- (2) Until the final disposition of a charge discrimination,
- whichever is longer, and must be available to an affected person upon request.
- 5. Employees of the department in which a vacancy exists may comprise more than one-third of the members of the panel if:
- (a) A member who is not such an employee is unable to serve on the panel because of illness or an emergency;
  - (b) The department has more than 1,000 employees; and
- (c) The department has two or more divisions that administer separate and diverse programs and the employees of the department on the panel are not employed by the same division.
  - NRS 284.240 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 284.240 The Director may refuse to examine an applicant or, after examination, may refuse to certify an eligible person who: [comes under any of the following categories:]
- 1. Lacks any of the preliminary requirements established for the examination for the position or employment for which he applies.
  - 2. [Is addicted to the use of habit-forming drugs.
  - 3. Is an habitual user of intoxicating liquors to excess.
- 4. Submitted to a screening test administered pursuant to NRS 284.4066, the results of which indicated the presence of a controlled substance or any other drug, and the person did not provide the proof required by NRS 284.4066.
- 3. Has been guilty of any crime involving moral turpitude or of infamous or notoriously disgraceful conduct.
- [5.] 4. Has been dismissed from the public service for delinquency or misconduct.
- [6.] 5. Has made a false statement of any material fact.
  [7.] 6. Has, directly or indirectly, given, rendered or paid, or promised to give, render or pay, any money, service or other valuable thing to any person for, or on account of [,] or in connection with, his examination  $\Box$  appointment or proposed appointment.
- 43 <del>[8.]</del> 7. Has practiced, or attempted to practice, any deception 44 or fraud in his application, in his certificate, in his examination, or in securing his eligibility or appointment. 45



**Sec. 13.** NRS 284.250 is hereby amended to read as follows: 284.250 1. The [Director shall prescribe] Commission shall adopt regulations for the establishment of eligible lists for appointment and promotion which must contain the names of successful applicants in the order of their relative excellence in the respective examinations.

2. The term of eligibility of applicants on such lists is 1 year, but the term may be extended by the Director to a maximum of 3 years.

**Sec. 14.** NRS 284.290 is hereby amended to read as follows:

284.290 1. All original competitive appointments to and promotions within the classified service must be for a fixed probationary period of 6 months, except that a longer period not exceeding 1 year may be established for classes of positions in which the nature of the work requires a longer period for proper evaluation of performance.

- 2. Dismissals or demotions may be made at any time during the probationary period in accordance with regulations [established] adopted by the [Director.] Commission.
- 3. Before the end of the probationary period and in accordance with regulations [established] adopted by the [Director,] Commission, the appointing authority shall notify the Director in writing whether or not the probationer is a satisfactory employee and should receive the status of a permanent appointee.

**Sec. 15.** NRS 284.295 is hereby amended to read as follows:

284.295 1. Vacancies in positions must be filled, so far as practicable, by promotion within a department or agency from among persons holding positions in the classified service. Promotions must be based upon merit and fitness, to be ascertained in accordance with regulations [established] adopted by the [Director.] Commission. In such regulations, the employee's efficiency, character, conduct and length of service must all constitute factors. For the purposes of this subsection, a person employed by the Legislative Branch of Government pursuant to subsection 5 of NRS 284.3775 shall be deemed to hold the position he held before the legislative session.

- 2. Eligibility for promotion must be determined on recommendation of the appointing authority and certification by the Director that the employee meets the minimum requirements and demonstrates his qualifications in accordance with regulations [established] adopted by the [Director.] Commission.
- 3. The Director may provide, in specific cases, for competitive promotional examinations among employees of departments other than that in which a particular vacancy in a higher classification may exist.



- 4. An advancement in rank or grade or an increase in salary beyond the maximum fixed for the class constitutes a promotion.
  - **Sec. 16.** NRS 284.305 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 284.305 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, positions in the classified service may be filled without competition only as provided in NRS 284.155, 284.307, 284.309, 284.310, 284.315, 284.320, 284.325, 284.327, 284.330, 284.375 and 284.3775.
- 2. The [Director] Commission may adopt regulations which provide for filling positions in the classified service without competition in cases involving:
  - (a) The demotion of a current employee;

- (b) The reemployment of a current or former employee who was or will be adversely affected by layoff, military service, reclassification or a permanent partial disability arising out of and in the course of his employment; or
  - (c) The reappointment of a current employee.
  - **Sec. 17.** NRS 284.317 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 284.317 [In order to further the efforts of the State of Nevada toward alleviating the problems of persons with disabilities, full] Full consideration must be given to the employment of a person with a disability for a position if he is capable of [meeting the necessary performance requirements] performing the essential functions of the position with or without reasonable accommodations.
- **Sec. 18.** NRS 284.325 is hereby amended to read as follows: 284.325 1. The **[Director]** *Commission* shall adopt regulations not inconsistent with this section for the certification of

29 qualified persons for temporary service.

- 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, temporary positions which occur, terminate or recur periodically must be filled by certification in accordance with the regulations [established] adopted by the [Director.] Commission.
- 3. An agency may appoint persons temporarily for less than 160 cumulative hours during any calendar year without regard to the regulations adopted by the [Director] Commission pursuant to subsection 1.
- 4. The limitation on hours set forth in subsection 3 does not apply to temporary or part-time service by:
  - (a) A pupil attending his last 2 years of high school;
  - (b) A student employed by the college or university he attends;
- 42 (c) A person certified for temporary service in accordance with 43 NRS 284.327;
- 44 (d) An employee of an events center, museum or research center 45 of the University and Community College System of Nevada;



(e) A person employed by the University and Community College System of Nevada in a temporary position which recurs periodically for the registration of students; or

- (f) A person employed by the University and Community College System of Nevada to provide such assistance to a student with a disability or to a student with an identified academic disadvantage as it determines is necessary for the academic success of the student, including, without limitation, a person employed as a tutor, note taker, reader, sign interpreter or test proctor.
- 5. The acceptance or refusal by an eligible person of a temporary appointment does not affect his standing on the register for permanent employment, nor may the period of temporary service be counted as part of the probationary period in case of subsequent appointment to a permanent position.
- 6. Successive temporary appointments to the same position must not be made under this section.
- 7. As used in this section, "student with an identified academic disadvantage" includes, without limitation, a student who the University and Community College System of Nevada has determined requires the services of a tutor for success in a course of study.
  - **Sec. 19.** NRS 284.327 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 284.327 1. To assist persons with disabilities certified by the Rehabilitation Division of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, appointing authorities are encouraged and authorized to make temporary limited appointments of certified persons with disabilities for a period not to exceed 700 hours notwithstanding that the positions so filled are continuing positions. A person with a disability who is certified by the Rehabilitation Division must be placed on the appropriate list for which he is eligible. Each such person must possess the training and experience necessary for the position for which he is certified. The Rehabilitation Division must be notified of an appointing authority's request for a list of eligibility on which the names of one or more certified persons with disabilities appear. A temporary limited appointment of a certified person with a disability pursuant to this section constitutes the person's examination as required by NRS 284.215.
- 2. The **[Director]** *Commission* shall adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of subsection 1.
- 3. This section does not deter or prevent appointing authorities from employing:
- (a) A person with a disability if he is available and eligible for permanent employment.



- (b) A person with a disability who is employed pursuant to the provisions of subsection 1 in permanent employment if he qualifies for permanent employment before the termination of his temporary limited appointment.
- 4. If a person appointed pursuant to this section is subsequently appointed to a permanent position during or after the 700-hour period, the 700 hours or portion thereof counts toward the employee's probationary period.

**Sec. 20.** NRS 284.335 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 284.335 1. The appointing authorities and other supervising officers of the various state departments, agencies and institutions, after consultation with the Director, shall establish standards of work performance for each class of positions. Each appointing authority shall provide each of its employees with a copy of the standards for his position.
  - 2. The Director shall :
- (a) Maintain] maintain service records of performance efficiency, character and conduct by a system of service ratings based upon those standards.

(b) Establish

3. The Commission shall adopt regulations with respect to service ratings, and prescribe the extent to which service ratings must be considered in determining the advisability of transfers, the promotion of an employee to a higher class, the question of demotion or dismissal of any employee, increases and decreases in salary of an employee within the salary range established under this chapter, and in all other decisions relating to the status of employees.

#### [3. The Director]

- **4. The Commission** may, by regulation, further prescribe the extent to which the service ratings, and the reports upon which they are based, are open to inspection.
  - **Sec. 21.** NRS 284.340 is hereby amended to read as follows: 284.340 Each appointing authority shall:
- 1. Report to the Director, in writing, the efficiency of his subordinates and employees, and other information, in such manner as the [Director] Commission may prescribe by regulation.
- 2. File reports with the Director on the performance, during the probationary period, of each of his employees who holds a position in the classified service. A report must be filed at the end of the 2nd and 5th months of employment if the probationary period is 6 months, or at the end of the 3rd, 7th and 11th months of employment if the probationary period is 12 months.
- 3. File a report annually with the Director on the performance of each of his employees who holds a position in the classified



service and has attained permanent status. The report must be filed at the end of the 12th month next following the attainment of permanent status, and at the end of every 12th month thereafter. If the report is not filed on or before the required date, the performance of the employee shall be deemed to be standard.

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- 4. If any report he files with the Director on the performance of an employee who holds a position in the classified service includes a rating of substandard, file with the Director an additional report on the performance of the employee at least every 90 days until the performance improves to standard or until any disciplinary action is taken.
  - 5. Provide the employee with a copy of each report filed.

Sec. 22. NRS 284.343 is hereby amended to read as follows: 284.343 1. [After] Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, after consultation with appointing authorities, and in cooperation with the State Board of Examiners, the [Director shall prescribe] Commission shall adopt regulations for all training of employees in the state service. Professional employees of the teaching staff, Agricultural Extension Service and Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station staffs of the University and Community College System of Nevada, or any other state institution of learning and student employees of such an institution are exempt from the provisions of this section.

- 2. The regulations [so prescribed] adopted pursuant to subsection 1 must set forth the conditions under which educational leave stipends may be paid to any officer or employee of the State. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 612.230 and with the exception of intermittent course work not leading to the awarding of a degree, no person may be granted educational leave stipends until he has entered into a contract with his employing agency whereby he agrees to pursue only those courses required for a degree related to his employment with the State and to return to the employ of his employing agency on the basis of 1 year for each 9 months of educational leave taken or to refund the total amount of the stipends regardless of the balance at the time of separation.
- 3. This section does not prevent the granting of sabbatical leaves by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada.
- 4. Where practicable, all training for state employees must be presented through established educational institutions within the State.
- 5. The Department shall coordinate all training activities related to remedial programs and programs for career development designed to correct educational and training deficiencies of state employees and create employment opportunities for the disadvantaged. In connection with these activities, the Department,



with the approval of the Governor, is designated to enter into contractual arrangements with the Federal Government and others that provide grants or other money for educational and training activities.

**Sec. 23.** NRS 284.345 is hereby amended to read as follows:

284.345 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the **Director shall prescribe** *Commission shall adopt* regulations for attendance and **[leaves]** *leave* with or without pay or reduced pay in the various classes of positions in the public service.

2. The Board of Regents of the University of Nevada shall [prescribe] adopt regulations for attendance and for leave with or without pay or with reduced pay, sabbatical leave, sick leave, emergency leave, annual leave, terminal leave, military leave and such other leave as the Board of Regents determines to be necessary or desirable for officers and members of the faculty of the University and Community College System of Nevada. Sabbatical leave with pay may not be granted to more than 2 percent of the teaching personnel of a branch or facility of the System the rank of instructor or higher in any 1 year. No sabbatical leave with pay may be granted unless the person requesting the leave agrees in writing with the branch or facility to return to the branch or facility after the leave for a period not less than that required by his most recent contract of employment if the University and Community College System of Nevada desires his continued service.

**Sec. 24.** NRS 284.350 is hereby amended to read as follows:

284.350 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2, 3 and 4, an employee in the public service, whether in the classified or unclassified service, is entitled to annual leave with pay of 1 1/4 working days for each month of continuous public service. The annual leave may be cumulative from year to year not to exceed 30 working days. The [Department] Commission may by regulation provide for additional annual leave for long-term employees and for prorated annual leave for part-time employees.

- 2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any annual leave in excess of 30 working days must be used before January 1 of the year following the year in which the annual leave in excess of 30 working days is accumulated or the amount of annual leave in excess of 30 working days is forfeited on that date. If an employee:
- (a) On or before October 15, requests permission to take annual leave; and
- (b) His request for leave is denied in writing for any reason.

he is entitled to payment for any annual leave in excess of 30 working days which he requested to take and which he would otherwise forfeit as the result of the denial of his request, unless the



employee has final authority to approve use of his own accrued leave and he received payment pursuant to this subsection for any unused annual leave in excess of 30 working days accumulated during the immediately preceding calendar year. The payment for the employee's unused annual leave must be made to him not later than January 31.

- 3. Officers and members of the faculty of the University and Community College System of Nevada are entitled to annual leave as provided by the regulations [prescribed] adopted pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 284.345.
- 4. The **Director** *Commission* shall establish by regulation a schedule for the accrual of annual leave for employees who regularly work more than 40 hours per week or 80 hours biweekly. The schedule must provide for the accrual of annual leave at the same rate proportionately as employees who work a 40-hour week accrue annual leave.
- 5. No elected state officer may be paid for accumulated annual leave upon termination of his service.
- 6. During the first 6 months of employment of any employee in the public service, annual leave accrues as provided in subsection 1, but no annual leave may be taken during that period.
- 7. No employee in the public service may be paid for accumulated annual leave upon termination of employment unless he has been employed for 6 months or more.
- 8. Upon the request of an employee, the appointing authority of the employee may approve the reduction or satisfaction of an overpayment of the salary of the employee that was not obtained by the fraud or willful misrepresentation of the employee with a corresponding amount of the accrued annual leave of the employee.

**Sec. 25.** NRS 284.355 is hereby amended to read as follows:

284.355 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, all employees in the public service, whether in the classified or unclassified service, are entitled to sick and disability leave with pay of 1 1/4 working days for each month of service, which may be cumulative from year to year. After an employee has accumulated 90 working days of sick leave, the amount of additional unused sick leave which he is entitled to carry forward from 1 year to the next is limited to one-half of the unused sick leave accrued during that year, but the [Department] Commission may by regulation provide for subsequent use of unused sick leave accrued but not carried forward because of this limitation in cases where the employee is suffering from a long-term or chronic illness and has used all sick leave otherwise available to him.



- 2. Upon the retirement of an employee, his termination through no fault of his own or his death while in public employment, the employee or his beneficiaries are entitled to payment:
- (a) For his unused sick leave in excess of 30 days, exclusive of any unused sick leave accrued but not carried forward, according to his number of years of public service, except service with a political subdivision of the State, as follows:
- (1) For 10 years of service or more but less than 15 years, not more than \$2,500.
- (2) For 15 years of service or more but less than 20 years, not more than \$4,000.
- (3) For 20 years of service or more but less than 25 years, not more than \$6,000.
  - (4) For 25 years of service, not more than \$8,000.
- (b) For his unused sick leave accrued but not carried forward, an amount equal to one-half of the sum of:
- (1) His hours of unused sick leave accrued but not carried forward; and
  - (2) An additional 120 hours.
- 3. The [Department] *Commission* may by regulation provide for additional sick and disability leave for long-term employees and for prorated sick and disability leave for part-time employees.
- 4. An employee entitled to payment for unused sick leave pursuant to subsection 2 may elect to receive the payment in any one or more of the following forms:
  - (a) A lump-sum payment.

- (b) An advanced payment of the premiums or contributions for insurance coverage for which he is otherwise eligible pursuant to chapter 287 of NRS. If the insurance coverage is terminated and the money advanced for premiums or contributions pursuant to this subsection exceeds the amount which is payable for premiums or contributions for the period for which the former employee was actually covered, the unused portion of the advanced payment must be paid promptly to the former employee or, if he is deceased, to his beneficiary.
- (c) The purchase of additional retirement credit, if he is otherwise eligible pursuant to chapter 286 of NRS.
- 5. Officers and members of the faculty of the University and Community College System of Nevada are entitled to sick and disability leave as provided by the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 284.345.
- 6. The [Department] Commission may by regulation provide policies concerning employees with mental or emotional disorders which:



(a) Use a liberal approach to the granting of sick leave or leave without pay to such an employee if it is necessary for him to be absent for treatment or temporary hospitalization.

- (b) Provide for the retention of the job of such an employee for a reasonable period of absence, and if an extended absence necessitates separation or retirement, provide for the reemployment of such an employee if at all possible after recovery.
- (c) Protect employee benefits, including, without limitation, retirement, life insurance and health benefits.
- 7. The [Director] Commission shall establish by regulation a schedule for the accrual of sick leave for employees who regularly work more than 40 hours per week or 80 hours biweekly. The schedule must provide for the accrual of sick leave at the same rate proportionately as employees who work a 40-hour week accrue sick leave.
- 8. The Department may investigate any instance in which it believes that an employee has taken sick or disability leave to which he was not entitled. If, after notice to the employee and a hearing, the Commission determines that he has taken sick or disability leave to which he was not entitled, the Commission may order the forfeiture of all or part of his accrued sick leave.

**Sec. 26.** NRS 284.359 is hereby amended to read as follows:

284.359 A permanent or probationary employee who performs active military service under the provisions of any national military service or training act, or who voluntarily serves in the Armed Forces of the United States in time of war, or in such types of service as the [Director] Commission by regulation may prescribe, is, upon application, entitled to leave of absence without pay for the period of such service plus a period not to exceed 90 days. If within that period he applies for reinstatement, he must be reinstated to his former class of position, or to a class of position having like seniority, status and pay, or, if those positions have been abolished, to the nearest approximation thereof consistent with the circumstances.

**Sec. 27.** NRS 284.375 is hereby amended to read as follows:

284.375 In accordance with regulations established by the [Director,] Commission, transfers in the classified service may be made from [a position in one grade or class to a position in another grade or class] one position to another position within the same grade when the duties [and compensation] are similar and when such action is specifically approved by the Director.

**Sec. 28.** NRS 284.379 is hereby amended to read as follows:

284.379 In the employment [and utilization] of a person with a disability in the state service, continued efforts must be made to retain the person by making reasonable accommodations that enable



him to [meet the necessary performance requirements] perform the essential functions of the position and to enjoy the benefits and privileges of his position. [Separation] An appointing authority shall consider separation or disability retirement [is in order only after it becomes apparent that a condition does not respond to treatment.] if an employee can no longer perform the essential functions of the position with or without reasonable accommodations.

**Sec. 29.** NRS 284.384 is hereby amended to read as follows:

284.384 1. The [Director shall propose, and the] Commission shall adopt [,] regulations which provide for the adjustment of grievances for which a hearing is not provided by NRS 284.165, 284.245, 284.3629, 284.376 or 284.390. Any grievance for which a hearing is not provided by NRS 284.165, 284.245, 284.3629, 284.376 or 284.390 is subject to adjustment pursuant to this section.

- 2. The regulations must provide procedures for:
- (a) Consideration and adjustment of the grievance within the agency in which it arose.
- (b) Submission to the Employee-Management Committee for a final decision if the employee is still dissatisfied with the resolution of the dispute.
  - 3. The regulations must include provisions for:
- (a) Submitting each proposed resolution of a dispute which has a fiscal effect to the Budget Division of the Department of Administration for a determination by that Division whether the resolution is feasible on the basis of its fiscal effects; and
  - (b) Making the resolution binding.

- 4. Any grievance which is subject to adjustment pursuant to this section may be appealed to the Employee-Management Committee for a final decision.
- 5. The employee may represent himself at any hearing regarding a grievance which is subject to adjustment pursuant to this section or be represented by an attorney or other person of the employee's own choosing.
- 6. As used in this section, "grievance" means an act, omission or occurrence which an employee who has attained permanent status feels constitutes an injustice relating to any condition arising out of the relationship between an employer and an employee, including, but not limited to, compensation, working hours, working conditions, membership in an organization of employees or the interpretation of any law, regulation or disagreement.
  - Sec. 30. NRS 284.4064 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 284.4064 1. If an employee informs his appointing authority that he has consumed any drug which could interfere with the safe and efficient performance of his duties, the appointing authority



may require the employee to obtain clearance from his physician before he continues to work.

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- 2. If an appointing authority reasonably believes, based upon objective facts, that an employee's ability to perform his duties safely and efficiently:
- (a) May be impaired by the consumption of alcohol or other drugs, it may ask the employee whether he has consumed any alcohol or other drugs and, if so:
- (1) The amount and types of alcohol or other drugs consumed and the time of consumption; and
- (2) If a controlled substance was consumed, the name of the person who prescribed its use.
- (b) Is impaired by the consumption of alcohol or other drugs, it shall prevent the employee from continuing work and transport him or cause him to be transported safely away from his place of employment in accordance with regulations adopted by the [Director.] Commission.
  - **Sec. 31.** NRS 284.4065 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 284.4065 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, an appointing authority may request an employee to submit to a screening test only if the appointing authority:
- (a) Reasonably believes, based upon objective facts, that the employee is under the influence of alcohol or drugs which are impairing his ability to perform his duties safely and efficiently;
- (b) Informs the employee of the specific facts supporting its belief pursuant to paragraph (a), and prepares a written record of those facts; and
  - (c) Informs the employee in writing:
    - (1) Of whether the test will be for alcohol or drugs, or both;
- (2) That the results of the test are not admissible in any criminal proceeding against him; and
- (3) That he may refuse the test, but that his refusal may result in his dismissal or in other disciplinary action being taken against him.
- 2. An appointing authority may request an employee to submit to a screening test if the employee:
- (a) Is a law enforcement officer and, during the performance of his duties, he discharges a firearm, other than by accident; or
- (b) During the performance of his duties, drives a motor vehicle in such a manner as to cause bodily injury to himself or another person or substantial damage to property.
- For the purposes of this subsection, the [Director] Commission shall, by regulation, define the term "substantial damage to property."



- 3. An appointing authority may place an employee who submits to a screening test on administrative leave with pay until the appointing authority receives the results of the test.
  - 4. An appointing authority shall:

- (a) Within a reasonable time after an employee submits to a screening test to detect the general presence of a controlled substance or any other drug, allow the employee to obtain at his expense an independent test of his urine or blood from a laboratory of his choice which is certified by the Department of Health and Human Services.
- (b) Within a reasonable time after an employee submits to a screening test to detect the general presence of alcohol, allow the employee to obtain at his expense an independent test of his blood from a laboratory of his choice.
- (c) Provide the employee with the written results of his screening test within 3 working days after it receives those results.
- 5. An employee is not subject to disciplinary action for testing positive in a screening test or refusing to submit to a screening test if the appointing authority fails to comply with the provisions of this section.
- 6. An appointing authority shall not use a screening test to harass an employee.
  - **Sec. 32.** NRS 284.4066 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 284.4066 1. Each appointing authority shall, subject to the approval of the Commission, determine whether each of its positions of employment [affect] affects the public safety. The appointing authority shall not hire an applicant for such a position unless he submits to a screening test to detect the general presence of a controlled substance or any other drug. Notice of the provisions of this section must be given to each applicant for such a position at or before the time of application.
- 2. An appointing authority may consider the results of a screening test in determining whether to employ an applicant. If those results indicate the presence of a controlled substance [,] or other drug, the appointing authority shall not hire the applicant unless he provides, within 72 hours after being requested by the appointing authority [, proof]:
- (a) **Proof** that he had taken the controlled substance as directed pursuant to a current and lawful prescription issued in his name [.]; or
- (b) Certification by a physician that he is taking the drug for a medicinal or other legitimate purpose only.
- 3. An appointing authority shall, at the request of an applicant, provide him with the results of his screening test.



**Sec. 33.** NRS 284.407 is hereby amended to read as follows: 284.407 The **[Director]** *Commission* shall adopt such regulations as are necessary to carry out the purposes of NRS 284.406 to 284.4069, inclusive.

**Sec. 34.** NRS 227.150 is hereby amended to read as follows: 227.150 1. The State Controller shall:

- (a) Open and keep an account with each county, charging the counties with the revenue collected, as shown by the auditor's statements, and also with their proportions of the salaries of the district judges, and crediting them with the amounts paid to the State Treasurer.
- (b) Keep and state all accounts between the State of Nevada and the United States, or any state or territory, or any person or public officer of this state, indebted to the State or entrusted with the collection, disbursement or management of any money, funds or interests arising therefrom, belonging to the State, of every character and description, if the accounts are derivable from or payable into the State Treasury.
- (c) Settle the accounts of all county treasurers, and other collectors and receivers of all state revenues, taxes, tolls and incomes, levied or collected by any act of the Legislature and payable into the State Treasury.
- (d) Keep fair, clear, distinct and separate accounts of all the revenues and incomes of the State, and [also] of all the expenditures, disbursements and investments thereof, showing the particulars of every expenditure, disbursement and investment.
  - 2. The State Controller may:

- (a) Direct the collection of all accounts or money due the State, except as otherwise provided in chapter 353C of NRS, and if there is no time fixed or stipulated by law for the payment of any such accounts or money, they are payable at the time set by the State Controller.
- (b) Upon approval of the Attorney General, direct the cancelation of any accounts or money due the State.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, withhold from the compensation of an employee of the State any amount due the State for the overpayment of the salary of the employee [.] that has not been satisfied pursuant to subsection 8 of NRS 284.350 or in any other manner.
- 3. Before any amounts may be withheld from the compensation of an employee pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 2, the State Controller shall:
- 43 (a) Give written notice to the employee of the State Controller's 44 intent to withhold such amounts from the compensation of the 45 employee; and



(b) If requested by the employee within 10 working days after receipt of the notice, conduct a hearing and allow the employee the opportunity to contest the State Controller's determination to withhold such amounts from the compensation of the employee.

If the overpayment was not obtained by the employee's fraud or willful misrepresentation, any withholding from the compensation of the employee must be made in a reasonable manner so as not to create an undue hardship to the employee.

4. The State Controller may adopt such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

**Sec. 35.** NRS 321.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

321.030 The State Land Registrar shall keep his office at the seat of government, which office **[shall]** *must* be open for the transaction of business **[during]** *on* the days and *during the* hours **[specified in]** *established pursuant to* NRS 281.110.

Sec. 36. NRS 353C.220 is hereby amended to read as follows: 353C.220 1. If an agency determines that it is impossible or impractical to collect a debt, the agency may request the State Board of Examiners to designate the debt as a bad debt. The State Board of Examiners, by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members of the Board, may designate the debt as a bad debt if the Board is satisfied that the collection of the debt is impossible or impractical. The State Board of Examiners may delegate to its Clerk the authority to designate an overpayment of salary to a current or former state employee of not more than \$50 as a bad debt. An agency that is aggrieved by a denial of a request to designate such an overpayment as a bad debt by the Clerk may appeal that denial to the State Board of Examiners.

- 2. Upon the designation of a debt as a bad debt pursuant to this section, the State Board of Examiners *or its Clerk* shall immediately notify the State Controller thereof. Upon receiving the notification, the State Controller shall direct the removal of the debt from the books of account of the State of Nevada. A bad debt that is removed pursuant to this section remains a legal and binding obligation owed by the debtor to the State of Nevada.
- 3. If resources are available, the State Controller shall keep a master file of all debts that are designated as bad debts pursuant to this section. If such a file is established and maintained, for each such debt, the State Controller shall record the name of the debtor, the amount of the debt, the date on which the debt was incurred and the date on which it was removed from the records and books of account of the agency or the State of Nevada, and any other information concerning the debt that the State Controller determines is necessary.



- **Sec. 37.** NRS 532.070 is hereby amended to read as follows: 532.070 1. The State Engineer shall keep his office at the State Capital.
- 2. The State Engineer shall keep his office open to the public on the days and during the hours [provided in] established pursuant to NRS 281.110.
- **Sec. 38.** NRS 607.040 is hereby amended to read as follows: 607.040 1. The Labor Commissioner [shall] must be provided with properly furnished offices at the capital in Carson City, Nevada.
- 2. The offices of the Labor Commissioner [shall] *must* be open for business during the hours and on the days [as provided in] established pursuant to NRS 281.110.

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- Sec. 39. NRS 284.285 is hereby repealed.
  Sec. 40. A regulation adopted by the Department of Personnel 15 or the Director of the Department pursuant to chapter 284 of NRS 16 remains in effect as a regulation of the Personnel Commission until 17 amended or repealed by the Personnel Commission.
  - **Sec. 41.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2003.

#### TEXT OF REPEALED SECTION

284.285 Report of appointing authority. Each appointing authority shall report to the Director forthwith in writing upon any appointment or employment in the public service, which report must contain:

- The name of the appointee or employee. 1.
- The title and character of his office or employment.
- The date of commencement of service.
- The salary or compensation.



