

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 306—ASSEMBLYMAN ELLISON

MARCH 16, 2021

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to the SafeVoice Program. (BDR 34-19)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Increases or Newly Provides for Term of Imprisonment in County or City Jail or Detention Facility. Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; prohibiting the reporting of false information to the SafeVoice Program; providing, in certain circumstances, for technical assistance and support to appropriate persons when the Program is misused; requiring, in certain circumstances, a support center to include in a statistical compilation certain information relating to misuse of the Program; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law requires the Director of the Office for a Safe and Respectful
2 Learning Environment to establish the SafeVoice Program within the Office. The
3 SafeVoice Program enables any person to report to the Program any dangerous,
4 violent or unlawful activity being conducted, or threatened to be conducted, on
5 school property, at an activity sponsored by a public school, on a school bus or by a
6 pupil enrolled at a public school. Existing law also requires the Director to establish
7 and operate a support center to receive reports on behalf of the SafeVoice Program.
8 (NRS 388.1455) Under existing law, a support center must, without limitation,
9 compile statistics to make determinations relating to the submission of reports to
10 the support center. (NRS 388.14557) Section 2 of this bill requires, to the extent
11 money is available, the SafeVoice Program to include methods and procedures for
12 providing technical assistance and support to appropriate entities and school
13 officials when the Program is misused. Section 3 of this bill requires, to the extent
14 money is available, the support center to include in its statistical determinations: (1)
15 the frequency with which reports are submitted to the Program by persons who
16 misuse the Program; and (2) the frequency with which the Program is used by a
17 person submitting a report to make a threat against or otherwise harm another
18 person. Section 1 of this bill prohibits a person from knowingly reporting false



19 information to the SafeVoice Program and makes a violation of that provision a
20 misdemeanor.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 388 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 ***1. A person shall not knowingly report false information to***
4 ***the SafeVoice Program pursuant to NRS 388.1455.***

5 ***2. A person who violates the provisions of this section is***
6 ***guilty of a misdemeanor.***

7 **Sec. 2.** NRS 388.1455 is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 388.1455 1. The Director shall establish the SafeVoice
9 Program within the Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning
10 Environment. The Program must enable any person to report to the
11 Program any dangerous, violent or unlawful activity which is being
12 conducted, or is threatened to be conducted, on school property, at
13 an activity sponsored by a public school, on a school bus of a public
14 school or by a pupil enrolled at a public school. Any information
15 relating to any such dangerous, violent or unlawful activity, or threat
16 thereof, received by the Program is confidential and, except as
17 otherwise authorized pursuant to subsection 2 and NRS 388.1458,
18 must not be disclosed to any person.

19 2. The SafeVoice Program must include, without limitation,
20 methods and procedures to ensure that:

21 (a) Information reported to the Program is promptly forwarded
22 to the appropriate public safety agencies, the Department and other
23 appropriate state agencies, school administrators and other school
24 employees, including, without limitation, the teams appointed
25 pursuant to NRS 388.14553;

26 (b) The identity of a person who reports information to the
27 Program may remain anonymous, unless the policies established and
28 regulations adopted pursuant to subsection 6 require the identity of
29 such a person to be disclosed; ~~and~~

30 (c) The appropriate public safety agencies may access
31 personally identifiable information concerning a pupil:

32 (1) To take the appropriate action in response to an activity
33 or threat reported pursuant to this section;

34 (2) Twenty-four hours a day; and

35 (3) Subject to the confidentiality required pursuant to this
36 section ~~and~~; ***and***

37 ***(d) To the extent money is available for such a purpose,***
38 ***technical assistance and support is provided to the Department***
39 ***and other appropriate state agencies, school administrators and***



1 *other school employees, including, without limitation, the teams*
2 *appointed pursuant to NRS 388.14553, when the Program is*
3 *misused.*

4 3. On behalf of the SafeVoice Program, the Director or his or
5 her designee shall establish and operate a support center that meets
6 her requirements of NRS 388.14557, which includes, without
7 limitation, a hotline, Internet website, mobile telephone application
8 and text messaging application or enter into an agreement with an
9 organization that the Director determines is appropriately qualified
10 and experienced, pursuant to which the organization will establish
11 and operate such a support center, which includes, without
12 limitation, a hotline, Internet website, mobile telephone application
13 and text messaging application. The support center shall receive
14 initial reports made to the Program through the hotline, Internet
15 website, mobile telephone application and text messaging
16 application and forward the information contained in the reports in
17 the manner required by subsection 2.

18 4. The Director shall provide training regarding:

19 (a) The Program to employees and volunteers of each public
20 safety agency, public safety answering point, board of trustees of a
21 school district, governing body of a charter school and any other
22 entity whose employees and volunteers the Director determines
23 should receive training regarding the Program.

24 (b) Properly responding to a report received from the support
25 center, including, without limitation, the manner in which to
26 respond to reports of different types of dangerous, violent and
27 unlawful activity and threats of such activity, to each member of a
28 team appointed pursuant to NRS 388.14553.

29 (c) The procedure for making a report to the support center
30 using the hotline, Internet website, mobile telephone application and
31 text messaging application and collaborating to prevent dangerous,
32 violent and unlawful activity directed at teachers and other members
33 of the staff of a school, pupils, family members of pupils and other
34 persons.

35 5. The Director shall:

36 (a) Post information concerning the SafeVoice Program on an
37 Internet website maintained by the Director;

38 (b) Provide to each public school educational materials
39 regarding the SafeVoice Program, including, without limitation,
40 information about the telephone number, address of the Internet
41 website, mobile telephone application, text messaging application
42 and any other methods by which a report may be made; and

43 (c) On or before July 1 of each year, submit to the Director of
44 the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislative
45 Committee on Education a report containing a summary of the



1 information reported to the Director pursuant to NRS 388.14557
2 during the immediately preceding 12 months and any other
3 information that the Director determines would assist the Committee
4 to evaluate the SafeVoice Program.

5 6. The Department shall establish policies and adopt
6 regulations pursuant to subsection 2 relating to the disclosure of the
7 identity of a person who reports information to the Program. The
8 regulations must include, without limitation, the disclosure of the
9 identity of a person who reported information to the Program:

10 (a) To ensure the safety and well-being of the person who
11 reported information to the Program;

12 (b) To comply with the provisions of NRS 388.1351; or

13 (c) If the person knowingly reported false information to the
14 Program.

15 7. As used in this section:

16 (a) "Public safety agency" has the meaning ascribed to it in
17 NRS 239B.020.

18 (b) "Public safety answering point" has the meaning ascribed to
19 it in NRS 707.500.

20 **Sec. 3.** NRS 388.14557 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21 388.14557 The support center must:

22 1. Be capable of receiving reports made through the SafeVoice
23 Program and notification provided through the Handle with Care
24 Program;

25 2. Be available to receive reports and notifications and staffed
26 with trained personnel 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including
27 holidays and other days when school is not in session;

28 3. Establish a process for handling a report or notification if
29 personnel at the support center are unable to determine the location
30 of the school or the person about whom the report or notification is
31 made, or if the report or notification concerns a private school or an
32 entity other than a school;

33 4. Train personnel at the support center who are involved in
34 responding to reports and notifications to follow up on each report
35 or notification by gathering information necessary to determine the
36 validity of the report or notification and the severity of any threat;

37 5. Use a software system that is resistant to hacking and
38 copying of information to protect the anonymity of persons who
39 submit reports and notifications;

40 6. Develop and implement a standardized procedure for
41 tracking the outcome of reports and notifications;

42 7. Compile statistics to determine:

43 (a) The most frequent days of the week on which reports and
44 notifications are made;



1 (b) The most frequent times of the day for making reports and
2 providing notifications;

3 (c) The types of dangerous, violent or unlawful activity that are
4 reported and the frequency of reports of each type of dangerous,
5 violent or unlawful activity;

6 (d) The frequency with which reports are submitted using the
7 hotline, Internet website, mobile telephone application and text
8 messaging application, respectively; ~~and~~

9 (e) *To the extent money is available for such a purpose, the*
10 *frequency with which reports are submitted by persons who*
11 *misuse the Program, disaggregated by type of activity;*

12 (f) *To the extent money is available for such a purpose, the*
13 *frequency with which the Program is used by a person submitting*
14 *a report to make a threat against or otherwise harm another*
15 *person; and*

16 (g) The outcome of reports and notifications;

17 8. Submit to the Director a quarterly report that contains the
18 information compiled pursuant to subsection 7 and any other
19 information necessary for the Director to evaluate the Programs or
20 that is requested by the Director; and

21 9. Provide each report received through the SafeVoice Program
22 to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

23 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2021.

