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SENATE BILL NO. 391—SENATOR D. HARRIS

MARCH 27, 2023

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JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN WATTS AND BACKUS

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Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to governmental entities.  
(BDR 20-936)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
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.

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AN ACT relating to governmental entities; revising provisions prohibiting certain counties, cities and unincorporated towns from sounding sirens, bells or alarms for certain purposes; establishing civil penalties for violations of such prohibitions; authorizing the Attorney General to bring a civil action to recover such penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Existing law prohibits a county, city or town in this State from sounding a  
2 siren, bell or alarm that was previously sounded on certain days or times in  
3 association with an ordinance enacted by the county, city or town which required  
4 persons of a particular race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin or color to leave the  
5 county or a city, town or township within the county by a certain time. (NRS  
6 244.159, 268.0199, 269.234)

7 This bill revises these provisions by prohibiting a county, a city and an  
8 unincorporated town from sounding a siren, bell or alarm for a purpose other than:  
9 (1) alerting persons to an emergency; (2) testing the siren, bell or alarm at  
10 reasonable time intervals; or (3) celebrating or recognizing a legal holiday on the  
11 day of the legal holiday or the day on which the legal holiday is recognized by  
12 existing law. This bill authorizes the Attorney General to bring a civil action to  
13 collect a monetary penalty from a county, city or unincorporated town for each  
14 violation. This bill prohibits a county, city or unincorporated town from taking  
15 adverse employment action against the employee for reporting such a violation to  
16 the Attorney General.



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

1       **Section 1.** NRS 244.159 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2       244.159 **1.** A county in this State may not sound a siren, bell  
3 or alarm ~~at a time during which the siren, bell or alarm was~~  
4 ~~previously sounded on specific days or times in association with an~~  
5 ~~ordinance enacted by the county which required persons of a~~  
6 ~~particular race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin or color to leave~~  
7 ~~the county or a city, town or township within the county by a~~  
8 ~~specific time.] for a purpose other than:~~

- 9       (a) *Alerting persons to an emergency;*  
10       (b) *Testing the siren, bell or alarm at reasonably scheduled*  
11 *intervals; or*  
12       (c) *Celebrating or recognizing a day declared to be a legal*  
13 *holiday pursuant to NRS 236.015 on the day of the legal holiday*  
14 *or the day on which the legal holiday is recognized.*

15       **2.** Any county that sounds a siren, bell or alarm in violation  
16 of subsection 1 is subject to a penalty of not more than \$50,000 for  
17 each violation. The Attorney General may recover the penalty in a  
18 civil action brought in the name of the State of Nevada in any  
19 court of competent jurisdiction. Such an action must be  
20 commenced within 1 year after the violation.

21       **3.** A county shall not take adverse employment action against  
22 an employee who reports a violation of this section to the Office of  
23 the Attorney General.

24       **Sec. 2.** NRS 268.0199 is hereby amended to read as follows:

25       268.0199 **1.** A city in this State may not sound a siren, bell or  
26 alarm ~~at a time during which the siren, bell or alarm was previously~~  
27 ~~sounded on specific days or times in association with an ordinance~~  
28 ~~enacted by the city which required persons of a particular race,~~  
29 ~~ethnicity, ancestry, national origin or color to leave the city by a~~  
30 ~~specific time.] for a purpose other than:~~

- 31       (a) *Alerting persons to an emergency;*  
32       (b) *Testing the siren, bell or alarm at reasonably scheduled*  
33 *intervals; or*  
34       (c) *Celebrating or recognizing a day declared to be a legal*  
35 *holiday pursuant to NRS 236.015 on the day of the legal holiday*  
36 *or the day on which the legal holiday is recognized.*

37       **2.** Any city that sounds a siren, bell or alarm in violation of  
38 subsection 1 is subject to a penalty of not more than \$50,000 for  
39 each violation. The Attorney General may recover the penalty in a  
40 civil action brought in the name of the State of Nevada in any  
41 court of competent jurisdiction. Such an action must be  
42 commenced within 1 year after the violation.



1       **3. A city shall not take adverse employment action against an**  
2 *employee who reports a violation of this section to the Office of the*  
3 *Attorney General.*

4       **Sec. 3.** NRS 269.234 is hereby amended to read as follows:

5       269.234 **1.** An unincorporated town in this State may not  
6 sound a siren, bell or alarm ~~[at a time during which the siren, bell or~~  
7 ~~alarm was previously sounded on specific days or times in~~  
8 ~~association with an ordinance enacted by the town which required~~  
9 ~~persons of a particular race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin or~~  
10 ~~color to leave the town by a specific time.]~~ *for a purpose other*  
11 *than:*

12       (a) *Alerting persons to an emergency;*

13       (b) *Testing the siren, bell or alarm at reasonably scheduled*  
14 *intervals; or*

15       (c) *Celebrating or recognizing a day declared to be a legal*  
16 *holiday pursuant to NRS 236.015 on the day of the legal holiday*  
17 *or the day on which the legal holiday is recognized.*

18       **2.** *Any unincorporated town that sounds a siren, bell or alarm*  
19 *in violation of subsection 1 is subject to a penalty of not more than*  
20 *\$50,000 for each violation. The Attorney General may recover the*  
21 *penalty in a civil action brought in the name of the State of*  
22 *Nevada in any court of competent jurisdiction. Such an action*  
23 *must be commenced within 1 year after the violation.*

24       **3.** *An unincorporated town shall not take adverse*  
25 *employment action against an employee who reports a violation of*  
26 *this section to law enforcement.*

27       **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

