

Senate Bill No. 391–Senator D. Harris

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Watts and Backus

CHAPTER.....

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:**

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

This bill revises these provisions by prohibiting a county, a city and an unincorporated town that sounds or sounded such a siren, bell or alarm in association with such an ordinance from sounding a siren, bell or alarm for a purpose other than: (1) alerting persons to an emergency; (2) testing the siren, bell or alarm at reasonable time intervals of not more than once every 6 months; or (3) celebrating or recognizing a legal holiday on the day of the legal holiday or the day on which the legal holiday is recognized by existing law. This bill authorizes the Attorney General to bring a civil action to collect a monetary penalty from a county, city or unincorporated town for each violation. This bill prohibits a county, city or unincorporated town from taking adverse employment action against the employee for reporting such a violation to the Attorney General.

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

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

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

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

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



*(b) Testing the siren, bell or alarm at reasonably scheduled intervals of not more than once every 6 months; or*

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

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

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

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

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

*(a) Alerting persons to an emergency;*

*(b) Testing the siren, bell or alarm at reasonably scheduled intervals of not more than once every 6 months; or*

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

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

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

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

269.234 *1. An unincorporated town in this State may not sound a siren, bell or alarm ~~[at a time during which the]~~ if a siren, bell or alarm is currently or* was previously sounded on specific days or times in association with an ordinance enacted by the town which required persons of a particular race, ethnicity, ancestry,



national origin or color to leave the town by a specific time **±**, *for a purpose other than:*

*(a) Alerting persons to an emergency;*

*(b) Testing the siren, bell or alarm at reasonably scheduled intervals of not more than once every 6 months; or*

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

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

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

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

