

SENATE BILL NO. 391—SENATOR D. HARRIS

MARCH 27, 2023

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN WATTS AND BACKUS

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.

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 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.



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 of not more than once every 6 months; 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 of not more than once every 6 months; 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 of not more than once every 6 months; 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.

