

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 171—ASSEMBLYMEMBERS  
YEAGER AND WATTS

PREFILED JANUARY 31, 2025

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Authorizes the State Quarantine Officer to order the temporary suspension of certain prohibitions relating to the sale, offer or exposing for sale or transport for sale of eggs produced by egg-laying hens in certain enclosures under certain circumstances. (BDR 51-985)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

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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 eggs; authorizing the State Quarantine Officer to order the temporary suspension of certain requirements relating to the sale, offer or exposing for sale or transport for sale of egg products or shell eggs under certain circumstances; authorizing the State Quarantine Officer to adopt regulations relating to an order to temporarily suspend such requirements; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Existing law prohibits an egg product or shell egg from being sold or offered,  
2 exposed or transported for sale within this State if the egg product or shell egg was  
3 produced by an egg-laying hen confined in certain enclosures that are not cage-free.  
4 (NRS 583.211-583.251) **Section 1** of this bill authorizes the State Quarantine  
5 Officer to order the temporary suspension of such requirements during an ongoing  
6 event that negatively impacts the national supply chain for egg products or shell  
7 eggs which may not exceed 120 consecutive days per suspension. **Section 1**  
8 additionally: (1) prohibits the State Quarantine Officer from ordering more than  
9 two temporary suspensions in 1 calendar year; and (2) requires the State Quarantine  
10 Officer to provide notice to the public when the order for the temporary suspension  
11 will be released.

12 **Section 8** of this bill authorizes the State Quarantine Officer to adopt  
13 regulations governing the circumstances in which a temporary suspension will be  
14 ordered and any requirements for such a temporary suspension.



15       **Sections 4-7 and 9** of this bill provide that the provisions of **section 1** are an  
16 exception to the existing prohibitions, enforcement and penalties relating to egg  
17 products and shell eggs produced by egg-laying hens confined in certain enclosures  
18 that are not cage-free. **Section 3** of this bill provides that certain exemptions to  
19 these prohibitions also apply to the provisions of **section 1**.

20       **Section 2** of this bill applies certain definitions relating to cage-free eggs to the  
21 provisions of **section 1**.

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

1       **Section 1.** Chapter 583 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3       1. *The State Quarantine Officer may, by order, temporarily*  
4 *suspend the provisions of this section and NRS 583.211 to*  
5 *583.251, inclusive, for a period of time which may not exceed 120*  
6 *consecutive days per suspension during any ongoing event that*  
7 *negatively impacts the national supply chain for egg products or*  
8 *shell eggs, including, without limitation:*

9       (a) *A foreign animal disease identified by the Animal and*  
10 *Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department*  
11 *of Agriculture; or*

12       (b) *A federally declared disease emergency or natural disaster.*

13       2. *If the State Quarantine Officer orders the temporary*  
14 *suspension of the provisions of this section and NRS 583.211 to*  
15 *583.251, inclusive, pursuant to subsection 1:*

16       (a) *Subject to the maximum duration specified in subsection 1,*  
17 *the temporary suspension remains in effect until the State*  
18 *Quarantine Officer orders the release of the temporary*  
19 *suspension; and*

20       (b) *Not less than 14 days before the State Quarantine Officer*  
21 *orders the release of the temporary suspension, the State*  
22 *Quarantine Officer must provide notice to the public that the order*  
23 *temporarily suspending the provisions of this section and NRS*  
24 *583.211 to 583.251, inclusive, will be released.*

25       3. *The State Quarantine Officer may not order more than two*  
26 *temporary suspensions in 1 calendar year.*

27       **Sec. 2.** NRS 583.211 is hereby amended to read as follows:

28       583.211 As used in NRS 583.211 to 583.251, inclusive, *and*  
29 *section 1 of this act*, unless the context otherwise requires, the  
30 words and terms defined in NRS 583.212 to 583.224, inclusive, *and*  
31 *section 1 of this act* have the meanings ascribed to them in those  
32 sections.



1       **Sec. 3.** NRS 583.235 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2       583.235 The provisions of NRS 583.211 to 583.251, inclusive,  
3       *and section 1 of this act*, do not apply to the production, sale or  
4       transport for sale in this State of shell eggs by a farm owner or  
5       operator with an annual shell egg production from 3,000 or fewer  
6       egg-laying hens if all shell eggs sold or transported for sale in this  
7       State by the owner or operator are derived from the 3,000 or fewer  
8       egg-laying hens.

9       **Sec. 4.** NRS 583.237 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
10       583.237 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2 and  
11       3 ~~§~~ *and by an order issued by the State Quarantine Officer*  
12       *pursuant to section 1 of this act*, on or after July 1, 2022, a farm  
13       owner or operator in this State shall not knowingly confine an egg-  
14       laying hen in an enclosure which has less than 1 square foot of  
15       usable floor space per egg-laying hen.

16       2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3 ~~§~~ *and by an*  
17       *order issued by the State Quarantine Officer pursuant to section 1*  
18       *of this act*, on or after January 1, 2024, a farm owner or operator in  
19       this State shall not knowingly confine an egg-laying hen in an  
20       enclosure which:

21       (a) Is not a cage-free housing system; or  
22       (b) Is a cage-free housing system that has less than:  
23       (1) One square foot of usable floor space per egg-laying hen  
24       if the cage-free housing system provides egg-laying hens with  
25       unrestricted access to elevated flat platforms, including, without  
26       limitation, unrestricted access in a multi-tiered aviary or partially  
27       slatted system; or

28       (2) One and one-half square feet of usable floor space per  
29       egg-laying hen if the cage-free housing system does not provide  
30       unrestricted access to elevated flat platforms, including, without  
31       limitation, unrestricted access in a single-level, all-litter floor  
32       system.

33       3. The prohibitions in subsections 1 and 2 do not apply to the  
34       confinement of an egg-laying hen during:

35       (a) Medical research for which the egg-laying hen is used;  
36       (b) The examination, testing or treatment of or a surgical  
37       procedure performed on the egg-laying hen that is conducted by a  
38       person licensed to practice as a veterinarian pursuant to chapter 638  
39       of NRS or a person who is under the direct supervision of a person  
40       licensed to practice as a veterinarian pursuant to chapter 638 of  
41       NRS;

42       (c) The transportation of the egg-laying hen;  
43       (d) A State or county fair exhibition, 4-H program or other  
44       similar exhibition involving the egg-laying hen;



1 (e) The slaughter of the egg-laying hen so long as the slaughter  
2 complies with the rules and regulations governing the slaughtering  
3 of such animals; or

4 (f) Temporary periods for animal husbandry purposes. Such  
5 temporary periods must last not more than 6 hours in any 24-hour  
6 period and not more than 24 hours in total of such temporary  
7 periods are allowed in any 30-day period.

8 **Sec. 5.** NRS 583.239 is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 583.239 1. A farm owner or operator shall not sell, offer or  
10 expose for sale or transport for sale egg products or shell eggs  
11 within this State unless the farm owner or operator has been issued a  
12 certificate by the Department pursuant to NRS 576.128 and , *except*  
13 *as otherwise provided by an order issued by the State Quarantine*  
14 *Officer pursuant to section 1 of this act*, an endorsement of the  
15 certificate by the Department indicating that the egg products or  
16 shell eggs were produced by an egg-laying hen which was confined  
17 in a manner that complies with NRS 583.237.

18 2. To apply for an endorsement required by subsection 1, a  
19 farm owner or operator must submit to the Department with an  
20 application for a certificate or renewal of a certificate issued  
21 pursuant to NRS 576.128:

22 (a) An attestation that the farm owner or operator confined the  
23 egg-laying hens in a manner that complies with NRS 583.237; and

24 (b) Evidence that the enclosures for egg-laying hens have been  
25 inspected by a person described in subsection 4.

26 3. The Department shall issue the endorsement required by  
27 subsection 1 to an applicant if:

28 (a) The farm owner or operator submits the information required  
29 pursuant to subsection 2; and

30 (b) The Department determines that such information is  
31 sufficient to indicate compliance with NRS 583.237.

32 4. The Department may use a government inspector, including,  
33 without limitation, an inspector who is employed, contracted with or  
34 authorized by the Department, or a private inspection or process  
35 verification provider to ensure compliance with NRS 583.211 to  
36 583.251, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act*, during the production  
37 and the handling of egg products and shell eggs. If the Department  
38 uses such an inspector or provider, the Department must approve the  
39 inspector or provider as competent to ensure compliance with NRS  
40 583.211 to 583.251, inclusive ~~§~~, *and section 1 of this act*.

41 5. Each endorsement issued pursuant to subsection 3 is valid  
42 for the period for which the certificate issued pursuant to NRS  
43 576.128 is valid.

44 6. If a holder of a certificate issued pursuant to NRS 576.128  
45 holds an endorsement issued pursuant to this section, the



1 Department shall include in any notice of renewal of the certificate  
2 provided to the holder of the certificate a notice to renew the  
3 endorsement issued pursuant to this section.

4 7. The Department may require an inspection of the enclosure  
5 for egg-laying hens to determine whether to renew an endorsement  
6 issued pursuant to this section. If the Department determines that an  
7 inspection of the enclosure is required for the renewal of the  
8 endorsement, the endorsement remains in effect until the  
9 endorsement expires or until the Department makes a determination  
10 whether to renew the endorsement, whichever occurs later.

11 8. The Department may not charge a fee for the issuance or  
12 renewal of an endorsement pursuant to this section.

13 **Sec. 6.** NRS 583.245 is hereby amended to read as follows:

14 583.245 1. ~~[A]~~ *Except as otherwise provided by an order*  
15 *issued by the State Quarantine Officer pursuant to section 1 of*  
16 *this act, a* business owner or operator shall not knowingly sell, offer  
17 or expose for sale or transport for sale egg products or shell eggs  
18 within this State if the business owner or operator knows or should  
19 have known that the egg products or shell eggs were produced by an  
20 egg-laying hen which was confined in a manner that conflicts with  
21 the standards set forth in NRS 583.237.

22 2. ~~[A]~~ *Except as otherwise provided by an order issued by the*  
23 *State Quarantine Officer pursuant to section 1 of this act, a*  
24 business owner or operator shall obtain a copy of the certificate  
25 issued pursuant to NRS 576.128 that contains the endorsement  
26 issued pursuant to NRS 583.239 from the farm owner or operator to  
27 whom the certificate is issued before doing any business governed  
28 by NRS 583.211 to 583.251, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act,*  
29 with the farm owner or operator.

30 3. The business owner or operator shall:

31 (a) Retain a copy of the certificate obtained pursuant to  
32 subsection 2; and

33 (b) Provide a copy of the certificate to the Department upon  
34 request.

35 4. It is a defense to any action to enforce NRS 583.211 to  
36 583.251, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act,* that a business owner  
37 or operator relied in good faith upon a certificate obtained pursuant  
38 to subsection 2.

39 **Sec. 7.** NRS 583.247 is hereby amended to read as follows:

40 583.247 *Except as otherwise provided by an order issued by*  
41 *the State Quarantine Officer pursuant to section 1 of this act:*

42 1. The Department shall enforce the provisions of NRS  
43 583.211 to 583.251, inclusive ~~[A]~~, *and section 1 of this act.*

44 2. The Department or an authorized inspector or agent of the  
45 Department is entitled to free access during regular business hours



1 to an applicable farm or business and to the records of such a farm  
2 owner or operator or business owner or operator for the purpose of  
3 inspecting such farm, business or record to determine whether any  
4 of the provisions of NRS 583.211 to 583.251, inclusive, *and section*  
5 *1 of this act* are being or have been violated.

6 **Sec. 8.** NRS 583.249 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 583.249 The State Quarantine Officer may adopt such  
8 regulations as he or she deems necessary for carrying out the  
9 provisions of NRS 583.211 to 583.251, inclusive ~~[ ]~~, *and section 1*  
10 *of this act, including, without limitation, the circumstances in*  
11 *which the State Quarantine Officer may order the temporary*  
12 *suspension of the provisions of NRS 583.211 to 583.251, inclusive,*  
13 *and section 1 of this act and requirements for the temporary*  
14 *suspension.*

15 **Sec. 9.** NRS 583.251 is hereby amended to read as follows:

16 583.251 ~~[Any]~~ *Except as otherwise provided by an order*  
17 *issued by the State Quarantine Officer pursuant to section 1 of*  
18 *this act, any* person who violates any of the provisions of NRS  
19 583.211 to 583.251, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act* is subject to  
20 a civil penalty pursuant to NRS 583.700.

21 **Sec. 10.** This act becomes effective upon passage and  
22 approval.





