

SENATE BILL NO. 65—COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

(ON BEHALF OF THE NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 20, 2024

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to certain records of investigations of deaths. (BDR 20-452)

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

~

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

AN ACT relating to coroners; providing, with certain exceptions, that the final report of a coroner concerning certain investigations of deaths is a public record; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Under existing law, with certain exceptions, all sheriffs in this State are ex  
2 officio coroners. (NRS 259.020) Existing law requires a coroner to conduct an  
3 investigation when the coroner or the coroner’s deputy is informed that a person  
4 has been killed, has committed suicide or has suddenly died under certain  
5 circumstances. (NRS 259.050) **Section 2** of this bill provides, with certain  
6 exceptions, that the final report of a coroner for the investigation is a public record.  
7 **Section 2** also: (1) authorizes a coroner to redact or withhold from public disclosure  
8 certain information, records, documents or materials under certain circumstances;  
9 and (2) provides that, with certain exceptions, certain records, documents and  
10 materials contained in the case file or final report of a coroner for the investigation  
11 are confidential.

12 Existing law authorizes a board of county commissioners to create the office of  
13 the county coroner by ordinance and prescribe the qualifications and duties of the  
14 county coroner. (NRS 244.163) If created, the office of county coroner enacted by  
15 ordinance is governed by the ordinance and certain provisions of existing law  
16 relating to coroners. (NRS 244.163, 259.010) **Sections 1 and 3** of this bill provide  
17 that the case files and final reports of a coroner whose office is enacted by  
18 ordinance are also governed by the provisions of **section 2**.

19 **Section 4** of this bill makes a conforming change to reflect that certain records  
20 are confidential pursuant to **section 2**.



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

1       **Section 1.** NRS 244.163 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2       244.163 1. The boards of county commissioners in their  
3       respective counties may create by ordinance the office of the county  
4       coroner, prescribe the qualifications and duties of the county  
5       coroner and make appointments to the office.

6       2. Any coroner so appointed is governed by the ordinances  
7       pertaining to such office which may be enacted by the board of  
8       county commissioners, and the provisions of NRS 259.025, 259.045  
9       and 259.150 to 259.180, inclusive ~~H~~, *and section 2 of this act.*

10      3. The boards of county commissioners shall require that the  
11      county coroner make a reasonable effort to notify a decedent's next  
12      of kin who is authorized to order the burial or cremation of the  
13      human remains of the decedent pursuant to NRS 451.024 of the fact  
14      of the decedent's death without unreasonable delay.

15      4. For any offense relating to the violation or willful disregard  
16      of such duties or trusts of office as may be specified by the  
17      respective boards of county commissioners, all coroners holding  
18      office by appointment pursuant to this section are subject to such  
19      fines and criminal penalties, including misdemeanor penalties and  
20      removal from office by indictment, accusation or otherwise, as the  
21      ordinance prescribes. This subsection applies to all deputies, agents,  
22      employees and other persons employed by or exercising the powers  
23      and functions of the coroner.

24      **Sec. 2.** Chapter 259 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
25      thereto a new section to read as follows:

26      1. *Except as otherwise provided in this section, the final*  
27      *report of a coroner for an investigation into the death of a person*  
28      *conducted pursuant to NRS 259.050 or an ordinance enacted*  
29      *pursuant to NRS 244.163 is a public record. Notwithstanding the*  
30      *provisions of NRS 239.010 and the provisions of this chapter, a*  
31      *coroner may:*

32      (a) *Redact or withhold from public disclosure any information,*  
33      *record, document or material in the final report that is*  
34      *confidential, privileged or unrelated to the cause and manner of*  
35      *death of the decedent; and*

36      (b) *Withhold from public disclosure any record, document or*  
37      *material related to a homicide or death where the manner of death*  
38      *has not been determined until:*

39      (1) *The investigation of the coroner is complete;*

40      (2) *The investigation of a law enforcement agency is*  
41      *complete; or*



1           (3) *The final disposition of a criminal case related to the*  
2 *death of the decedent.*

3           2. *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the following*  
4 *records, documents and materials contained in the case file or*  
5 *final report of a coroner on an investigation into the death of a*  
6 *person conducted pursuant to NRS 259.050 or an ordinance*  
7 *enacted pursuant to NRS 244.163 are confidential and not public*  
8 *records:*

9           (a) *Photographs or video recordings of an autopsy, crime*  
10 *scene, the scene of the death of a decedent, the location at which*  
11 *an incident occurred that resulted in the death of a decedent or the*  
12 *residence of a decedent;*

13           (b) *Postmortem imaging, including, without limitation, a*  
14 *radiograph, ultrasound, computed tomography or magnetic*  
15 *resonance imaging;*

16           (c) *Fingerprints;*

17           (d) *Documents with identifying information of a decedent;*

18           (e) *Biological specimens, including, without limitation, slides*  
19 *prepared for a histological analysis;*

20           (f) *Incomplete or unfinished reports, including, without*  
21 *limitation, any notes, dictations or diagrams;*

22           (g) *Notes of the coroner;*

23           (h) *Medical records obtained from a third party;*

24           (i) *Any records, documents or materials obtained by a*  
25 *subpoena issued pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS 259.050; and*

26           (j) *Any records, documents or materials of which the coroner*  
27 *is not the custodian.*

28           3. *Nothing in subsection 2 prohibits a coroner from:*

29           (a) *Disclosing the records, documents and materials set forth*  
30 *in subsection 2 in response to a lawfully issued subpoena or court*  
31 *order;*

32           (b) *Releasing the final report of the coroner and the records,*  
33 *documents and materials set forth in subsection 2 as authorized by*  
34 *subsection 2 of NRS 259.045; or*

35           (c) *At the discretion of the coroner, releasing the records,*  
36 *documents and materials set forth in subsection 2 for the purposes*  
37 *of scientific research, educational training or any governmental*  
38 *purpose.*

39           4. *As used in this section, "case file" includes, without*  
40 *limitation, any materials obtained or created during an*  
41 *investigation conducted by a coroner into the death of a person.*

42           **Sec. 3.** NRS 259.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

43           259.010 1. Every county in this State constitutes a coroner's  
44 district, except a county where a coroner is appointed pursuant to  
45 the provisions of NRS 244.163.



1 2. The provisions of this chapter, except NRS 259.025,  
2 259.045, 259.047, 259.049, subsections 3 and 4 of NRS 259.050,  
3 NRS 259.053 and 259.150 to 259.180, inclusive, *and section 2 of*  
4 *this act*, do not apply to any county where a coroner is appointed  
5 pursuant to the provisions of NRS 244.163.

6 **Sec. 4.** NRS 239.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 239.010 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section and  
8 NRS 1.4683, 1.4687, 1A.110, 3.2203, 41.0397, 41.071, 49.095,  
9 49.293, 62D.420, 62D.440, 62E.516, 62E.620, 62H.025, 62H.030,  
10 62H.170, 62H.220, 62H.320, 75A.100, 75A.150, 76.160, 78.152,  
11 80.113, 81.850, 82.183, 86.246, 86.54615, 87.515, 87.5413,  
12 87A.200, 87A.580, 87A.640, 88.3355, 88.5927, 88.6067, 88A.345,  
13 88A.7345, 89.045, 89.251, 90.730, 91.160, 116.757, 116A.270,  
14 116B.880, 118B.026, 119.260, 119.265, 119.267, 119.280,  
15 119A.280, 119A.653, 119A.677, 119B.370, 119B.382, 120A.640,  
16 120A.690, 125.130, 125B.140, 126.141, 126.161, 126.163, 126.730,  
17 127.007, 127.057, 127.130, 127.140, 127.2817, 128.090, 130.312,  
18 130.712, 136.050, 159.044, 159A.044, 164.041, 172.075, 172.245,  
19 176.01334, 176.01385, 176.015, 176.0625, 176.09129, 176.156,  
20 176A.630, 178.39801, 178.4715, 178.5691, 178.5717, 179.495,  
21 179A.070, 179A.165, 179D.160, 180.600, 200.3771, 200.3772,  
22 200.5095, 200.604, 202.3662, 205.4651, 209.392, 209.3923,  
23 209.3925, 209.419, 209.429, 209.521, 211A.140, 213.010, 213.040,  
24 213.095, 213.131, 217.105, 217.110, 217.464, 217.475, 218A.350,  
25 218E.625, 218F.150, 218G.130, 218G.240, 218G.350, 218G.615,  
26 224.240, 226.462, 226.796, 228.270, 228.450, 228.495, 228.570,  
27 231.069, 231.1285, 231.1473, 232.1369, 233.190, 237.300,  
28 239.0105, 239.0113, 239.014, 239B.026, 239B.030, 239B.040,  
29 239B.050, 239C.140, 239C.210, 239C.230, 239C.250, 239C.270,  
30 239C.420, 240.007, 241.020, 241.030, 241.039, 242.105, 244.264,  
31 244.335, 247.540, 247.545, 247.550, 247.560, 250.087, 250.130,  
32 250.140, 250.145, 250.150, 268.095, 268.0978, 268.490, 268.910,  
33 269.174, 271A.105, 281.195, 281.805, 281A.350, 281A.680,  
34 281A.685, 281A.750, 281A.755, 281A.780, 284.4068, 284.4086,  
35 286.110, 286.118, 287.0438, 289.025, 289.080, 289.387, 289.830,  
36 293.4855, 293.5002, 293.503, 293.504, 293.558, 293.5757, 293.870,  
37 293.906, 293.908, 293.909, 293.910, 293B.135, 293D.510, 331.110,  
38 332.061, 332.351, 333.333, 333.335, 338.070, 338.1379, 338.1593,  
39 338.1725, 338.1727, 348.420, 349.597, 349.775, 353.205,  
40 353A.049, 353A.085, 353A.100, 353C.240, 353D.250, 360.240,  
41 360.247, 360.255, 360.755, 361.044, 361.2242, 361.610, 365.138,  
42 366.160, 368A.180, 370.257, 370.327, 372A.080, 378.290, 378.300,  
43 379.0075, 379.008, 379.1495, 385A.830, 385B.100, 387.626,  
44 387.631, 388.1455, 388.259, 388.501, 388.503, 388.513, 388.750,  
45 388A.247, 388A.249, 391.033, 391.035, 391.0365, 391.120,



1 391.925, 392.029, 392.147, 392.264, 392.271, 392.315, 392.317,  
2 392.325, 392.327, 392.335, 392.850, 393.045, 394.167, 394.16975,  
3 394.1698, 394.447, 394.460, 394.465, 396.1415, 396.1425, 396.143,  
4 396.159, 396.3295, 396.405, 396.525, 396.535, 396.9685,  
5 398A.115, 408.3885, 408.3886, 408.3888, 408.5484, 412.153,  
6 414.280, 416.070, 422.2749, 422.305, 422A.342, 422A.350,  
7 425.400, 427A.1236, 427A.872, 427A.940, 432.028, 432.205,  
8 432B.175, 432B.280, 432B.290, 432B.4018, 432B.407, 432B.430,  
9 432B.560, 432B.5902, 432C.140, 432C.150, 433.534, 433A.360,  
10 439.4941, 439.4988, 439.5282, 439.840, 439.914, 439A.116,  
11 439A.124, 439B.420, 439B.754, 439B.760, 439B.845, 440.170,  
12 441A.195, 441A.220, 441A.230, 442.330, 442.395, 442.735,  
13 442.774, 445A.665, 445B.570, 445B.7773, 449.209, 449.245,  
14 449.4315, 449A.112, 450.140, 450B.188, 450B.805, 453.164,  
15 453.720, 458.055, 458.280, 459.050, 459.3866, 459.555, 459.7056,  
16 459.846, 463.120, 463.15993, 463.240, 463.3403, 463.3407,  
17 463.790, 467.1005, 480.535, 480.545, 480.935, 480.940, 481.063,  
18 481.091, 481.093, 482.170, 482.368, 482.5536, 483.340, 483.363,  
19 483.575, 483.659, 483.800, 484A.469, 484B.830, 484B.833,  
20 484E.070, 485.316, 501.344, 503.452, 522.040, 534A.031, 561.285,  
21 571.160, 584.655, 587.877, 598.0964, 598.098, 598A.110,  
22 598A.420, 599B.090, 603.070, 603A.210, 604A.303, 604A.710,  
23 604D.500, 604D.600, 612.265, 616B.012, 616B.015, 616B.315,  
24 616B.350, 618.341, 618.425, 622.238, 622.310, 623.131, 623A.137,  
25 624.110, 624.265, 624.327, 625.425, 625A.185, 628.418, 628B.230,  
26 628B.760, 629.043, 629.047, 629.069, 630.133, 630.2671,  
27 630.2672, 630.2673, 630.2687, 630.30665, 630.336, 630A.327,  
28 630A.555, 631.332, 631.368, 632.121, 632.125, 632.3415,  
29 632.3423, 632.405, 633.283, 633.301, 633.427, 633.4715, 633.4716,  
30 633.4717, 633.524, 634.055, 634.1303, 634.214, 634A.169,  
31 634A.185, 634B.730, 635.111, 635.158, 636.262, 636.342, 637.085,  
32 637.145, 637B.192, 637B.288, 638.087, 638.089, 639.183,  
33 639.2485, 639.570, 640.075, 640.152, 640A.185, 640A.220,  
34 640B.405, 640B.730, 640C.580, 640C.600, 640C.620, 640C.745,  
35 640C.760, 640D.135, 640D.190, 640E.225, 640E.340, 641.090,  
36 641.221, 641.2215, 641A.191, 641A.217, 641A.262, 641B.170,  
37 641B.281, 641B.282, 641C.455, 641C.760, 641D.260, 641D.320,  
38 642.524, 643.189, 644A.870, 645.180, 645.625, 645A.050,  
39 645A.082, 645B.060, 645B.092, 645C.220, 645C.225, 645D.130,  
40 645D.135, 645G.510, 645H.320, 645H.330, 647.0945, 647.0947,  
41 648.033, 648.197, 649.065, 649.067, 652.126, 652.228, 653.900,  
42 654.110, 656.105, 657A.510, 661.115, 665.130, 665.133, 669.275,  
43 669.285, 669A.310, 670B.680, 671.365, 671.415, 673.450, 673.480,  
44 675.380, 676A.340, 676A.370, 677.243, 678A.470, 678C.710,  
45 678C.800, 679B.122, 679B.124, 679B.152, 679B.159, 679B.190,



1 679B.285, 679B.690, 680A.270, 681A.440, 681B.260, 681B.410,  
2 681B.540, 683A.0873, 685A.077, 686A.289, 686B.170, 686C.306,  
3 687A.060, 687A.115, 687B.404, 687C.010, 688C.230, 688C.480,  
4 688C.490, 689A.696, 692A.117, 692C.190, 692C.3507, 692C.3536,  
5 692C.3538, 692C.354, 692C.420, 693A.480, 693A.615, 696B.550,  
6 696C.120, 703.196, 704B.325, 706.1725, 706A.230, 710.159,  
7 711.600, **and section 2 of this act**, sections 35, 38 and 41 of chapter  
8 478, Statutes of Nevada 2011 and section 2 of chapter 391, Statutes  
9 of Nevada 2013 and unless otherwise declared by law to be  
10 confidential, all public books and public records of a governmental  
11 entity must be open at all times during office hours to inspection by  
12 any person, and may be fully copied or an abstract or memorandum  
13 may be prepared from those public books and public records. Any  
14 such copies, abstracts or memoranda may be used to supply the  
15 general public with copies, abstracts or memoranda of the records or  
16 may be used in any other way to the advantage of the governmental  
17 entity or of the general public. This section does not supersede or in  
18 any manner affect the federal laws governing copyrights or enlarge,  
19 diminish or affect in any other manner the rights of a person in any  
20 written book or record which is copyrighted pursuant to federal law.

21 2. A governmental entity may not reject a book or record  
22 which is copyrighted solely because it is copyrighted.

23 3. A governmental entity that has legal custody or control of a  
24 public book or record shall not deny a request made pursuant to  
25 subsection 1 to inspect or copy or receive a copy of a public book or  
26 record on the basis that the requested public book or record contains  
27 information that is confidential if the governmental entity can  
28 redact, delete, conceal or separate, including, without limitation,  
29 electronically, the confidential information from the information  
30 included in the public book or record that is not otherwise  
31 confidential.

32 4. If requested, a governmental entity shall provide a copy of a  
33 public record in an electronic format by means of an electronic  
34 medium. Nothing in this subsection requires a governmental entity  
35 to provide a copy of a public record in an electronic format or by  
36 means of an electronic medium if:

- 37 (a) The public record:
- 38 (1) Was not created or prepared in an electronic format; and
  - 39 (2) Is not available in an electronic format; or
- 40 (b) Providing the public record in an electronic format or by  
41 means of an electronic medium would:
- 42 (1) Give access to proprietary software; or
  - 43 (2) Require the production of information that is confidential  
44 and that cannot be redacted, deleted, concealed or separated from  
45 information that is not otherwise confidential.



1       5. An officer, employee or agent of a governmental entity who  
2 has legal custody or control of a public record:

3       (a) Shall not refuse to provide a copy of that public record in the  
4 medium that is requested because the officer, employee or agent has  
5 already prepared or would prefer to provide the copy in a different  
6 medium.

7       (b) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 239.030, shall, upon  
8 request, prepare the copy of the public record and shall not require  
9 the person who has requested the copy to prepare the copy himself  
10 or herself.

11       **Sec. 5.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.



