ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 112–COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND LABOR

(ON BEHALF OF COMMISSION ON WORKPLACE SAFETY)

FEBRUARY 4, 1999

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Requires establishment of standards and procedures for places of employment where explosives are produced, used, stored or handled. (BDR 53-780)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No. Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: 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 occupational safety; requiring the division of industrial relations of the department of business and industry to establish standards and procedures for places of employment where explosives are produced, used, stored or handled; providing for the certification of such places of employment and employees engaged in the production, use, storage or handling of explosives; requiring the disclosure of confidential information of the division to law enforcement agencies under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

- Section 1. Chapter 618 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto
- the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act.
- Sec. 2. 1. The division shall adopt regulations establishing
- 4 standards and procedures for places of employment where explosives are
- 5 produced, used, stored or handled, including, without limitation,
- 6 regulations requiring the:
 - (a) Establishment and implementation of safety plans and procedures;
- 8 (b) Establishment of safety zones at or around such places of
- 9 *employment*;

- (c) Annual certification of such places of employment; and
- (d) Establishment and implementation of programs for the training
- 12 and annual certification of employees engaged in the production, use,
- 13 storage or handling of explosives.

2. If the standards and procedures adopted pursuant to this section conflict with any ordinances of a local governing body regulating explosives, the more stringent standard applies.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, compliance with an ordinance of a local governing body regulating explosives does not excuse any person from complying with the standards and procedures adopted by the division pursuant to this section.

4. As used in this section, "explosive" means gunpowders, powders used for blasting, all forms of high explosives, blasting materials, fuses other than electric circuit breakers, detonators and other detonating agents, smokeless powders, other explosive or incendiary devices and any chemical compound, mechanical mixture or device that contains any oxidizing and combustible units, or other ingredients, in such

proportions, quantities or packing that ignition by fire, friction, concussion, percussion, or detonation of the compound, mixture or

device or any part thereof may cause an explosion.

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- Sec. 3. 1. An applicant for the issuance or renewal of certification as an employee engaged in the production, use, storage or handling of explosives pursuant to section 2 of this act shall submit with his application the statement prescribed by the welfare division of the department of human resources pursuant to NRS 425.520. The statement must be completed and signed by the applicant.
- 23 2. The division shall include the statement required pursuant to subsection 1 in:
- 25 (a) The application or any other forms that must be submitted for the 26 issuance or renewal of the certification; or
 - (b) A separate form prescribed by the division.
- 28 3. Certification as an employee engaged in the production, use, 29 storage or handling of explosives may not be issued or renewed pursuant 30 to section 2 of this act if the applicant:
 - (a) Fails to submit the statement required pursuant to subsection 1; or
 - (b) Indicates on the statement submitted pursuant to subsection 1 that he is subject to a court order for the support of a child and is not in compliance with the order or a plan approved by the district attorney or other public agency enforcing the order for the repayment of the amount owed pursuant to the order.
- 4. If an applicant indicates on the statement submitted pursuant to subsection 1 that he is subject to a court order for the support of a child and is not in compliance with the order or a plan approved by the district attorney or other public agency enforcing the order for the repayment of the amount owed pursuant to the order, the person to whom

application was submitted shall advise the applicant to contact the district attorney or other public agency enforcing the order to determine the actions that the applicant may take to satisfy the arrearage.

- Sec. 4. An application for the issuance of certification as an employee engaged in the production, use, storage or handling of explosives pursuant to section 2 of this act must include the social security number of the applicant.
- Sec. 5. 1. If the division receives a copy of a court order issued pursuant to NRS 425.540 that provides for the suspension of all professional, occupational and recreational licenses, certificates and permits issued to a person who has been certified as an employee 12 engaged in the production, use, storage or handling of explosives 13 pursuant to section 2 of this act, the division shall deem the certification 14 issued to that person to be suspended at the end of the 30th day after the 15 date on which the court order was issued unless the division receives a letter issued by the district attorney or other public agency pursuant to NRS 425.550 to the person who has been issued the certification stating that the person has complied with the subpoena or warrant or has satisfied the arrearage pursuant to NRS 425.560.

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- The division shall reinstate the certification of an employee engaged in the production, use, storage or handling of explosives issued pursuant to section 2 of this act that has been suspended by a district court pursuant to NRS 425.540 if the division receives a letter issued by the district attorney or other public agency pursuant to NRS 425.550 to the person whose certification was suspended stating that the person whose certification was suspended has complied with the subpoena or warrant or has satisfied the arrearage pursuant to NRS 425.560.
- **Sec. 6.** NRS 618.341 is hereby amended to read as follows: 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the public may inspect all records of the division which contain information regarding:
- (a) An oral or written complaint filed by an employee or a representative of employees alleging the existence of an imminent danger or a violation of a safety or health standard that threatens physical harm;
 - (b) The manner in which the division acted on any such complaint;
- (c) Any citation issued by the division to an employer and the reason 36 for its issuance; and 37
- (d) Any penalty imposed by the division on an employer and the reason 38 therefor. 39
- The division shall, upon oral or written request and payment of any 40 applicable charges, provide to any person a copy of any record of the 41 division which is open to public inspection pursuant to subsection 1. The

- first six pages reproduced pursuant to each such request must be provided without charge. The charge for each additional page copied must not exceed the cost of reproduction.
- 3. [The] Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, the division shall keep confidential:
- (a) The name of any employee who filed any complaint against an employer or who made any statement to the division concerning an employer; and
- 9 (b) Any information which is part of a current investigation by the division, but the fact that an investigation is being conducted is public information.
- 12 **[For the purposes of]** *As used in* this subsection, "current investigation" means any investigation conducted before the issuance of a citation or notice of violation or, if no citation or notice of violation is issued, an investigation which is not closed.
 - 4. The division shall, upon the receipt of a written request from a law enforcement agency, disclose otherwise confidential information to that law enforcement agency for the limited purpose of pursuing a criminal investigation.
 - **Sec. 7.** NRS 618.365 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 618.365 1. This chapter does not supersede or in any manner affect the Nevada Industrial Insurance Act , or the Nevada Occupational Diseases Act or enlarge, diminish or affect in any other manner the common law or statutory rights, duties or liabilities of employers and employees under the laws of this state with respect to injuries, occupational
 - or other, diseases or death of employees arising out of or in the course of employment.
 - 2. Statements, reports and information obtained or received by the division in connection with an investigation under, or the administration or enforcement of, the provisions of this chapter must not be admitted as evidence in any civil action other than an action for enforcement, variance hearing or review under this chapter.
 - 3. Any report of investigation or inspection or any information concerning trade secrets or secret industrial processes obtained under this chapter must not be disclosed or open to public inspection, except [as]:
- (a) As such information may be disclosed to other officers or employees concerned with carrying out this chapter [or when];
 - (b) When relevant in any court proceeding under this chapter [.]; or
 - (c) As otherwise provided in NRS 618.341.

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40 4. The division, the courts, and where applicable, the review board 41 may issue such orders as may be appropriate to protect the confidentiality 42 of trade secrets.

- **Sec. 8.** NRS 244.2961 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 244.2961 1. The board of county commissioners may by ordinance 2 create a district for a fire department. The board of county commissioners is ex officio the governing body of any district created pursuant to this section and may:
 - (a) Organize, regulate and maintain the fire department.
 - (b) Appoint and prescribe the duties of the fire chief.
 - (c) Designate arson investigators as peace officers.
- (d) Regulate or prohibit the storage of any explosive, combustible or inflammable material in or transported through the county, and prescribe the distance from any residential or commercial area where it may be kept. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this paragraph that regulates places of employment where explosives are stored must be at least as stringent 13 as the standards and procedures adopted by the division of industrial
- relations of the department of business and industry pursuant to section 2 15 of this act. 16
- (e) Establish, by ordinance, a fire code and other regulations necessary 17 to carry out the purposes of this section. 18
 - (f) Include the budget of the district in the budget of the county.
 - (g) Hold meetings of the governing body of the district in conjunction with the meetings of the board of county commissioners without posting additional notices of the meetings within the district.
- The other officers and employees of the county shall perform duties for the district that correspond to the duties they perform for the county. 24
 - All persons employed to perform the functions of the fire
- department are employees of the county for all purposes. 26 **Sec. 9.** NRS 266.310 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 266.310 The city council may: 28
 - Organize, regulate and maintain a fire department.
- Prescribe the duties of the fire chief. 30 2.
 - Designate arson investigators as peace officers.
- Regulate or prohibit the storage of any explosive, combustible or 32 inflammable material in or transported through the city, and prescribe the 33 34 distance from any residential or commercial area where it may be kept.
- Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this subsection that regulates places 35 of employment where explosives are stored must be at least as stringent
- as the standards and procedures adopted by the division of industrial 37
- relations of the department of business and industry pursuant to section 2
- of this act. 39

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40 Establish, by ordinance, a fire code and other regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

- Sec. 10. NRS 269.220 is hereby amended to read as follows: 269.220 In addition to the powers and jurisdiction conferred by other laws, the town board or board of county commissioners [shall have the power and duty to] may regulate the storage of gunpowder and other explosive or combustible materials. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this section that regulates places of employment where explosives are stored must be at least as stringent as the standards and procedures adopted by the division of industrial relations of the department of business and industry pursuant to section 2 of this act.
- Sec. 11. NRS 477.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 477.030 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the state fire
 marshal shall enforce all laws and adopt regulations relating to:
 - (a) The prevention of fire.

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- (b) The storage and use of combustibles, flammables and fireworks [-
- (c) The storage and use of explosives in any commercial construction, but not in mining or the control of avalanches.
- (d) under those circumstances that are not otherwise regulated by the division of industrial relations of the department of business and industry pursuant to section 2 of this act.
- (c) The safety, access, means and adequacy of exit in case of fire from mental and penal institutions, facilities for the care of children, foster homes, residential facilities for groups, facilities for intermediate care, nursing homes, hospitals, schools, all buildings, except private residences, which are occupied for sleeping purposes, buildings used for public assembly and all other buildings where large numbers of persons work, live or congregate for any purpose. As used in this paragraph, "public assembly" means a building or a portion of a building used for the gathering together of 50 or more persons for purposes of deliberation, education, instruction, worship, entertainment, amusement or awaiting transportation, or the gathering together of 100 or more persons in establishments for drinking or dining.
- [(e)] (d) The suppression and punishment of arson and fraudulent claims or practices in connection with fire losses.
- claims or practices in connection with fire losses.

 The regulations of the state fire marshal apply throughout the state, but, except with respect to state-owned or state-occupied buildings, his
- authority to enforce them or conduct investigations under this chapter is limited to those counties whose population is less than 35,000, except in
- those local jurisdictions in other counties where he is requested to exercise
- that authority by the chief officer of the organized fire department of that
- 40 jurisdiction.

- 2. The state fire marshal may set standards for equipment and appliances pertaining to fire safety or to be used for fire protection within this state, including the threads used on fire hose couplings and hydrant fittings.
- 3. The state fire marshal shall cooperate with the state forester firewarden in the preparation of regulations relating to standards for fire retardant roofing materials pursuant to paragraph (e) of subsection 1 of NRS 472.040.
- 4. The state fire marshal shall cooperate with the division of child and family services of the department of human resources in establishing reasonable minimum standards for overseeing the safety of and directing the means and adequacy of exit in case of fire from family foster homes and group foster homes.
- 5. The state fire marshal shall coordinate all activities conducted pursuant to the Fire Research and Safety Act of 1968, 15 U.S.C. §§ 278f and 278g, and receive and distribute money allocated by the United States pursuant to that act.
- 6. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 10, the state fire marshal shall:
 - (a) Investigate any fire which occurs in a county whose population is less than 35,000, and from which a death results or which is of a suspicious nature.
 - (b) Investigate any fire which occurs in a county whose population is 35,000 or more, and from which a death results or which is of a suspicious nature, if requested to do so by the chief officer of the fire department in whose jurisdiction the fire occurs.
 - (c) Cooperate with the commissioner of insurance in any investigation of a fraudulent claim under an insurance policy for any fire of a suspicious nature.
- 30 (d) Cooperate with any local fire department in the investigation of any report received pursuant to NRS 629.045.
 - (e) Provide specialized training in investigating the causes of fires if requested to do so by the chief officer of an organized fire department.
- 7. The state fire marshal shall put the Uniform Fire Incident Reporting
 System into effect throughout the state and publish at least annually a
 summary of data collected under the system.
- 8. The state fire marshal shall provide assistance and materials to local authorities, upon request, for the establishment of programs for public education and other fire prevention activities.
 - 9. The state fire marshal shall:

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41 (a) Assist in checking plans and specifications for construction;

- (b) Provide specialized training to local fire departments; and
- (c) Assist local governments in drafting regulations and ordinances, on request or as he deems necessary.
- 10. In a county whose population is less than 35,000, the state fire marshal shall, upon request by a local government, delegate to the local government by interlocal agreement all or a portion of his authority or duties if the local government's personnel and programs are, as determined by the state fire marshal, equally qualified to perform those functions. If a local government fails to maintain the qualified personnel and programs in accordance with such an agreement, the state fire marshal shall revoke the agreement. 11
 - Sec. 12. NRS 477.033 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 477.033 1. A license, issued by the state fire marshal, is required for:
- (a) [Maintenance,] The maintenance, installation or sale of fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems or fire sprinkler systems. 15
 - (b) [Use of explosives in any commercial construction, but not in mining or the control of avalanches.
 - (c) Commercial fireworks displays.

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- 2. Applications for licenses must be made on a form prescribed by the state fire marshal.
- The state fire marshal may conduct inspections, examinations or hearings before the issuance of licenses.
- The state fire marshal may charge a reasonable fee, to be fixed by regulation, for the inspection and issuance of licenses.
- If any person is denied a license by the state fire marshal, he is entitled to a hearing, upon request, before a hearing officer.
- **Sec. 13.** Section 2.160 of the charter of the City of Caliente, being 27 chapter 31, Statutes of Nevada 1971, at page 60, is hereby amended to read 28 29 as follows:
 - Sec. 2.160 Powers of city council: Fire protection; regulation of explosives, inflammable materials; fire codes and regulations. The city council may:
 - Organize, regulate and maintain a fire department.
 - 2. Provide for the appointment of a fire chief and prescribe his duties.
 - Regulate or prohibit the storage of any explosive, combustible or inflammable material in or transported through the city, and prescribe the distance from any residential or commercial area where it may be kept. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this subsection that regulates places of employment where explosives are stored must be at least as stringent as the standards and

procedures adopted by the division of industrial relations of the department of business and industry pursuant to section 2 of this act.

- 4. Establish, by ordinance, a fire code and other regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.
- **Sec. 14.** Section 2.170 of the charter of the City of Carlin, being chapter 344, Statutes of Nevada 1971, at page 608, is hereby amended to read as follows:

- Sec. 2.170 Powers of board of councilmen: Fire protection; regulation of explosives, inflammable materials; fire codes and regulations. The board of councilmen may:
 - 1. Organize, regulate and maintain a fire department.
- 2. Provide for the appointment of a fire chief and prescribe his duties.
- 3. Regulate or prohibit the storage of any explosive, combustible or inflammable material in or transported through the city, and prescribe the distance from any residential or commercial area where it may be kept. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this subsection that regulates places of employment where explosives are stored must be at least as stringent as the standards and procedures adopted by the division of industrial relations of the department of business and industry pursuant to section 2 of this act.
- 4. Establish, by ordinance, a fire code and other regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.
- **Sec. 15.** Section 2.165 of the charter of Carson City, being chapter 118, Statutes of Nevada 1985, at page 474, is hereby amend to read as follows:
 - Sec. 2.165 Power of board: Regulation of hazardous material. The board may regulate or prohibit the storage within or transportation through Carson City of any explosive, combustible, toxic or other hazardous material. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this section that regulates places of employment where explosives are stored must be at least as stringent as the standards and procedures adopted by the division of industrial relations of the department of business and industry pursuant to section 2 of this act.
- **Sec. 16.** Section 2.200 of the charter of the City of Elko, being chapter 276, Statutes of Nevada 1971, at page 481, is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - Sec. 2.200 Powers of board of supervisors: Fire protection; regulation of explosives, inflammable materials; fire codes and regulations. The board of supervisors

may:

1. Organize, regulate and maintain a fire department.

- 2. Provide for the appointment of a fire chief and prescribe his duties.
- 3. Regulate or prohibit the storage of any explosive, combustible or inflammable material in or transported through the city, and prescribe the distance from any residential or commercial area where it may be kept. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this subsection that regulates places of employment where explosives are stored must be at least as stringent as the standards and procedures adopted by the division of industrial relations of the department of business and industry pursuant to section 2 of this act.
- 4. Establish, by ordinance, a fire code and other regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this section, and to provide for the prevention, suppression and extinguishment of fires and conditions hazardous to life and property from fire, explosion or combustion, and to provide for the enforcement of all such codes and regulations by imposing adequate penalties for violations thereof.
- **Sec. 17.** Section 2.170 of the charter of the City of Gabbs, being chapter 265, Statutes of Nevada 1971, at page 391, is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - Sec. 2.170 Powers of board of councilmen: Fire protection; regulation of explosives, inflammable materials; fire codes and regulations. The board of councilmen may:
 - 1. Organize, regulate and maintain a fire department.
 - 2. Provide for the appointment of a fire chief and prescribe his duties.
 - 3. Regulate or prohibit the storage of any explosive, combustible or inflammable material in or transported through the city, and prescribe the distance from any residential or commercial area where it may be kept. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this subsection that regulates places of employment where explosives are stored must be at least as stringent as the standards and procedures adopted by the division of industrial relations of the department of business and industry pursuant to section 2 of this act.
 - 4. Establish, by ordinance, a fire code and other regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

Sec. 18. Section 2.160 of the charter of the City of Henderson, being chapter 266, Statutes of Nevada 1971, at page 407, is hereby amended to read as follows:

- Sec. 2.160 Powers of city council: Fire protection; regulation of explosives, inflammable materials; fire codes and regulations. The city council may:
 - 1. Organize, regulate and maintain a fire department.
- 2. Regulate or prohibit the storage of any explosive, combustible or inflammable material in or transported through the city, and prescribe the distance from any residential or commercial area where it may be kept. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this subsection that regulates places of employment where explosives are stored must be at least as stringent as the standards and procedures adopted by the division of industrial relations of the department of business and industry pursuant to section 2 of this act.
- 3. Establish, by ordinance, a fire code and other regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.
- **Sec. 19.** Section 2.170 of the charter of the City of Las Vegas, being chapter 517, Statutes of Nevada 1983, at page 1399, is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - Sec. 2.170 Powers of city council: Fire protection; regulation of explosives, inflammable materials; fire codes and regulations. The city council may:
 - 1. Organize, regulate and maintain a fire department.
 - 2. Regulate or prohibit the storage in or the transportation through the city of any explosive, combustible or inflammable material and prescribe the location within the city where those materials may be kept. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this subsection that regulates places of employment where explosives are stored must be at least as stringent as the standards and procedures adopted by the division of industrial relations of the department of business and industry pursuant to section 2 of this act.
 - 3. Establish by ordinance a fire code and other regulations which are necessary to provide for the prevention of and protection against fires and to carry out the purposes of this section.
 - 4. Suspend or revoke the license of any business for its failure to comply with any regulation which is adopted pursuant to this section.

Sec. 20. Section 2.160 of the charter of the City of North Las Vegas, being chapter 573, Statutes of Nevada 1971, at page 1216, is hereby amended to read as follows:

- Sec. 2.160 Powers of city council: Fire protection; regulation of explosives, flammable materials; fire codes and regulations. The city council may:
 - 1. Organize, regulate and maintain a fire department.
- 2. Regulate or prohibit the storage of any explosive, combustible or flammable material in or transported through the city, and prescribe the distance from any residential or commercial area where it may be kept. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this subsection that regulates places of employment where explosives are stored must be at least as stringent as the standards and procedures adopted by the division of industrial relations of the department of business and industry pursuant to section 2 of this act.
- 3. Establish, by ordinance, a fire code and other regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.
- **Sec. 21.** Section 2.170 of the charter of the City of Wells, being chapter 275, Statutes of Nevada 1971, at page 463, is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - Sec. 2.170 Powers of board of councilmen: Fire protection; regulation of explosives, inflammable materials; fire codes and regulations. The board of councilmen may:
 - 1. Organize, regulate and maintain a fire department.
 - 2. Provide for the appointment of a fire chief and prescribe his duties.
 - 3. Regulate or prohibit the storage of any explosive, combustible or inflammable material in or transported through the city, and prescribe the distance from any residential or commercial area where it may be kept. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this subsection that regulates places of employment where explosives are stored must be at least as stringent as the standards and procedures adopted by the division of industrial relations of the department of business and industry pursuant to section 2 of this act.
 - 4. Establish, by ordinance, a fire code and other regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

Sec. 22. Section 2.160 of the charter of the City of Yerington, being chapter 465, Statutes of Nevada 1971, at page 906, is hereby amended to read as follows:

- Sec. 2.160 Powers of city council: Fire protection; regulation of explosives, inflammable materials; fire codes and regulations. The city council may:
 - 1. Organize, regulate and maintain a fire department.
- 2. Provide for the appointment of a fire chief and prescribe his duties.
- 3. Regulate or prohibit the storage of any explosive, combustible or inflammable material in or transported through the city, and prescribe the distance from any residential or commercial area where it may be kept. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this subsection that regulates places of employment where explosives are stored must be at least as stringent as the standards and procedures adopted by the division of industrial relations of the department of business and industry pursuant to section 2 of this act.
- 4. Establish, by ordinance, a fire code and other regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.
- **Sec. 23.** Sections 3, 4 and 5 of this act expire by limitation on the date on which the provisions of 42 U.S.C. § 666 requiring each state to establish procedures under which the state has authority to withhold or suspend, or to restrict the use of professional, occupational and recreational licenses of persons who:
- 1. Have failed to comply with a subpoena or warrant relating to a proceeding to determine the paternity of a child or to establish or enforce an obligation for the support of a child; or
- 2. Are in arrears in the payment for the support of one or more children,
- are repealed by the Congress of the United States.
 - **Sec. 24.** The division of industrial relations of the department of business and industry shall adopt the regulations required by section 2 of this act on or before February 1, 2000.
 - **Sec. 25.** 1. This section and sections 6 and 7 of this act become effective upon passage and approval.
- 2. Sections 1 to 5, inclusive, and 8 to 24, inclusive, of this act become effective upon passage and approval for the purpose of the adoption of regulations by the division of industrial relations of the department of business and industry pursuant to section 2 of this act and on February 1, 2000, for all other purposes.

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