Senate Bill No. 259–Senator Porter

CHAPTER........

AN ACT relating to business; exempting a business that creates or produces motion pictures from the requirement of obtaining a business license from the department of taxation; increasing the membership of the commission on tourism; revising the provisions concerning legislative appropriations to the commission on economic development for awarding grants to develop certain programs for occupational education; 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. NRS 364A.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

364A.020 1. "Business" includes:

(a) A corporation, partnership, proprietorship, business association and any other similar organization that conducts an activity for profit;

(b) The activities of a natural person which are deemed to be a business pursuant to NRS 364A.120; and

(c) A trade show or convention held in this state in which a business described in paragraph (a) or (b) takes part, or which a person who conducts such a business attends, for a purpose related to the conduct of the business.

2. The term includes an independent contractor.

3. The term does not include:

(a) A nonprofit religious, charitable, fraternal or other organization that qualifies as a tax-exempt organization pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 501(c); ~~[or]~~

(b) A governmental entity ~~[.]~~ ***; or***

(c) A business that creates or produces motion pictures. As used in this paragraph, "motion pictures" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 231.020.

Sec. 2. NRS 364A.130 is hereby amended to read as follows:

364A.130 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6 ***,*** ~~[and NRS 364A.153,]~~ a person shall not conduct a business in this state unless he has a business license issued by the department.

2. The application for a business license must:

(a) Be made upon a form prescribed by the department;

(b) Set forth the name under which the applicant transacts or intends to transact business and the location of his place or places of business;

(c) Declare the estimated number of employees for the previous calendar quarter;

(d) Be accompanied by a fee of $25; and

(e) Include any other information that the department deems necessary.

3. The application must be signed by:

(a) The owner, if the business is owned by a natural person;

(b) A member or partner, if the business is owned by an association or partnership; or

(c) An officer or some other person specifically authorized to sign the application, if the business is owned by a corporation.

4. If the application is signed pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 3, written evidence of the signer's authority must be attached to the application.

5. For the purposes of this chapter, a person shall be deemed to conduct a business in this state if a business for which the person is responsible:

(a) Is incorporated pursuant to chapter 78 or 78A of NRS;

(b) Has an office or other base of operations in this state; or

(c) Pays wages or other remuneration to a natural person who performs in this state any of the duties for which he is paid.

6. A person who takes part in a trade show or convention held in this state for a purpose related to the conduct of a business is not required to obtain a business license specifically for that event.

Sec. 3. NRS 231.068 is hereby amended to read as follows:

231.068 ***1.*** The commission on economic development, to the extent of legislative appropriations, may grant money to a postsecondary educational institution to develop a program for occupational education which is designed to teach skills in a short **[**~~time~~**]** ***period*** to persons who are needed for employment by new or existing businesses.

2. Any money appropriated to the commission on economic development for awarding grants to develop a program specified in subsection 1 must be accounted for separately in the state general fund. The money in the account:

(a) Does not revert to the state general fund at the end of any fiscal year; and

(b) Must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

Sec. 4. NRS 231.170 is hereby amended to read as follows:

231.170 1. The commission on tourism is composed of the lieutenant governor, who is its chairman, and **[**~~six~~**]** ***eight*** members who are appointed by the governor.

2. The governor shall appoint as members of the commission persons who are informed on and have experience in travel and tourism, including the business of gaming.

3. The chief administrative officers of ***the*** county fair and recreation boards **[**~~of counties whose population is 100,000 or more~~**]** ***or, if there is no county fair and recreation board in the county, the chairman of the board of county commissioners, of the three counties that paid the largest amount of the proceeds from the taxes imposed on the revenue from the rental of transient lodging to the department of taxation for deposit with the state treasurer for credit to the fund for the promotion of tourism created by NRS 231.250 for the previous fiscal year*** are ex officio but nonvoting members of the commission. ***A change in any member of the commission who serves pursuant to the provisions of this subsection that is required because of a change in the amount of the proceeds paid to the***

department of taxation by each county must be effective on January 1 of the calendar year immediately following the fiscal year in which the proceeds were paid to the department of taxation.

4. ~~[The]~~ ***In addition to the appointments made pursuant to subsection 3, the*** governor shall appoint ***:*** ~~[at least one member who is a resident of:]~~

(a) ***At least one member who is a resident of*** Clark County.

(b) ***At least one member who is a resident of*** Washoe County.

(c) ~~[A county]~~ ***At least two members who are residents of counties*** whose population is ~~[35,000]~~ ***50,000*** or less.

(d) One member who is a resident of any county in this state.

Sec. 5. NRS 608.300 is hereby amended to read as follows:

608.300 As used in NRS 608.300 to 608.330, inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Artist" means an actor, musician, dancer or athlete.

2. "Production" means ~~[:~~

~~(a) A stage production; or~~

~~(b) A motion picture, as that term is defined in NRS 231.020, that uses artists.]~~ ***a stage production, concert, trade show, exhibition, convention or sporting event.*** The term includes the technical personnel used to create and produce the production.

3. "Producer-promoter-employer" means a natural person who, or a firm, association or corporation which, supervises or finances a production or attempts to organize a production. ~~[The term also includes a company that, in connection with the production of a motion picture within this state:~~

~~(a) Is hired or established to organize or manage the payroll of the production and is the employer of record of any or all of the persons engaged in the production; or~~

~~(b) Is responsible for all of the debts and obligations incurred by a motion picture company in the production.]~~

Sec. 6. NRS 608.310 is hereby amended to read as follows:

608.310 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, a producer-promoter-employer intending to do business in this state must obtain a permit from the labor commissioner.

2. An application for the permit required by subsection 1 must contain information concerning:

(a) The applicant's name and permanent address;

(b) The financing for the production;

(c) The type of production intended by the applicant, the number of artists, technical personnel and other persons required for the production and where the applicant intends to exhibit the production; and

(d) Such other information as the labor commissioner may require by regulation for the protection of persons associated with the entertainment industry.

3. The commissioner may by regulation require a reasonable fee for processing an application.

4. The provisions of this section do not apply to any producer-promoter-employer who produces proof to the commissioner or, in a county whose population is 400,000 or more, produces proof to the department or agency within that county which is authorized to issue business licenses on behalf of the county that he:

(a) Has been in the business of a producer-promoter-employer in this state for the 5-year period immediately preceding the filing of the application and has had no successful wage claim filed with the labor commissioner during that period;

(b) Has sufficient tangible assets in this state which, if executed upon, would equal or exceed the amount of bond required; ***or***

(c) Holds a license to operate a nonrestricted gaming operation in this state ***.*** ~~[; or~~

~~(d) If the producer-promoter-employer is engaged in the production of a motion picture, as that term is defined in NRS 231.020, within a county whose population is 400,000 or more, has contracted with a company to organize or manage the payroll of the production and the company is the employer of record of any or all of the persons engaged in the production.~~

~~5. If a producer-promoter-employer is exempt from the provisions of this section pursuant to subsection 4, he may request a waiver confirming that exemption from:~~

~~(a) The director of the division of motion pictures of the commission on economic development; or~~

~~(b) In a county whose population is 400,000 or more, the department or agency within that county which is authorized to issue business licenses on behalf of the county.~~

~~If the request is made pursuant to paragraph (b), the department or agency shall submit the request to the division of motion pictures in accordance with NRS 608.325. The labor commissioner shall, within 1 working day, approve such a request upon confirmation that the producer-promoter-employer fulfills one or more of the criteria for an exemption set forth in subsection 4. A waiver approved pursuant to this subsection is effective for a period of 5 years unless the labor commissioner determines that good cause exists to revoke the waiver. Upon the expiration of a waiver at the end of the 5-year period, the labor commissioner may extend the waiver for an additional period if the labor commissioner determines that the producer-promoter-employer has acted in good faith and has complied with the statutes and regulations of this state.]~~

Sec. 7. NRS 608.330 is hereby amended to read as follows:

608.330 Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of NRS 608.300 to 608.330, inclusive ~~[:~~

~~1. Is]~~ ***, is*** guilty of a misdemeanor ***.*** ~~[; and~~

~~2. May be prohibited by the division of motion pictures of the commission on economic development from proceeding with the production until the division determines that he is in compliance with those provisions.]~~

Sec. 8. Section 1 of Senate Bill No. 537 of this session is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 360 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. A person who intends to locate or expand a business in this state may apply to the commission on economic development for a partial abatement of one or more of the taxes imposed on the new or expanded business pursuant to chapter 361, 364A or 374 of NRS.

2. The commission on economic development shall approve an application for a partial abatement if the commission makes the following determinations:

(a) The business is consistent with:

(1) The state plan for industrial development and diversification that is developed by the commission pursuant to NRS 231.067; and

(2) Any guidelines adopted pursuant to the state plan.

(b) The applicant has executed an agreement with the commission which states that the business will, after the date on which a certificate of eligibility for the abatement is issued pursuant to subsection 5, continue in operation in this state for a period specified by the commission, which must be at least 5 years, and will continue to meet the eligibility requirements set forth in this subsection. The agreement must bind the successors in interest of the business for the specified period.

(c) The business is registered pursuant to the laws of this state or the applicant commits to obtain a valid business license and all other permits required by the county, city or town in which the business operates.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 361.0687, if the business is a new business in a county or city whose population is 50,000 or more, the business meets at least two of the following requirements:

(1) The business will have 75 or more full-time employees on the payroll of the business by the fourth quarter that it is in operation.

(2) Establishing the business will require the business to make a capital investment of at least $1,000,000 in this state.

(3) The average hourly wage that will be paid by the new business to its employees in this state is at least 100 percent of the average statewide hourly wage as established by the employment security division of the department of employment, training and rehabilitation on July 1 of each fiscal year and:

(I) The business will provide a health insurance plan for all employees that includes an option for health insurance coverage for dependents of the employees; and

(II) The cost to the business for the benefits the business provides to its employees in this state will meet the minimum requirements for benefits established by the commission by regulation pursuant to subsection 9.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 361.0687, if the business is a new business in a county or city whose population is less than 50,000, the business meets at least two of the following requirements:

(1) The business will have 25 or more full-time employees on the payroll of the business by the fourth quarter that it is in operation.

(2) Establishing the business will require the business to make a capital investment of at least $250,000 in this state.

(3) The average hourly wage that will be paid by the new business to its employees in this state is at least 100 percent of the average statewide hourly wage as established by the employment security division of the department of employment, training and rehabilitation on July 1 of each fiscal year and:

(I) The business will provide a health insurance plan for all employees that includes an option for health insurance coverage for dependents of the employees; and

(II) The cost to the business for the benefits the business provides to its employees in this state will meet the minimum requirements for benefits established by the commission by regulation pursuant to subsection 9.

(f) If the business is an existing business, the business meets at least two of the following requirements:

(1) The business will increase the number of employees on its payroll by 10 percent more than it employed in the immediately preceding fiscal year or by six employees, whichever is greater.

(2) The business will expand by making a capital investment in this state in an amount equal to at least 20 percent of the value of the tangible property possessed by the business in the immediately preceding fiscal year. The determination of the value of the tangible property possessed by the business in the immediately preceding fiscal year must be made by the:

(I) County assessor of the county in which the business will expand, if the business is locally assessed; or

(II) Department, if the business is centrally assessed.

(3) The average hourly wage that will be paid by the existing business to its new employees in this state is at least 100 percent of the average statewide hourly wage as established by the employment security division of the department of employment, training and rehabilitation on July 1 of each fiscal year and:

(I) The business will provide a health insurance plan for all new employees that includes an option for health insurance coverage for dependents of the employees; and

(II) The cost to the business for the benefits the business provides to its new employees in this state will meet the minimum requirements for benefits established by the commission by regulation pursuant to subsection 9.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 2, the commission on economic development may:

(a) Approve an application for a partial abatement by a business that does not meet the requirements set forth in paragraph (d), (e) or (f) of subsection 2;

(b) Make the requirements set forth in paragraph (d), (e) or (f) of subsection 2 more stringent; or

(c) Add additional requirements that a business must meet to qualify for a partial abatement,

if the commission determines that such action is necessary.

4. If a person submits an application to the commission on economic development pursuant to subsection 1, the commission shall provide notice to the governing body of the county and the city or town, if any, in which the person intends to locate or expand a business. The notice required pursuant to this subsection must set forth the date, time and location of the hearing at which the commission will consider the application.

5. If the commission on economic development approves an application for a partial abatement, the commission shall immediately forward a certificate of eligibility for the abatement to:

(a) The department;

(b) The Nevada tax commission; and

(c) If the partial abatement is from the property tax imposed pursuant to chapter 361 of NRS, the county treasurer.

6. An applicant for a partial abatement pursuant to this section or an existing business whose partial abatement is in effect shall, upon the request of the executive director of the commission on economic development, furnish the executive director with copies of all records necessary to verify that the applicant meets the requirements of subsection 2.

7. If a business whose partial abatement has been approved pursuant to this section and is in effect ceases:

(a) To meet the requirements set forth in subsection 2; or

(b) Operation before the time specified in the agreement described in paragraph (b) of subsection 2,

the business shall repay to the department or, if the partial abatement was from the property tax imposed pursuant to chapter 361 of NRS, to the county treasurer, the amount of the exemption that was allowed pursuant to this section before the failure of the business to comply unless the Nevada tax commission determines that the business has substantially complied with the requirements of this section. ~~[The business is also required to]~~ ***Except as otherwise provided in NRS 360.320 and section 2 of Senate Bill No. 362 of this session, the business shall, in addition to the amount of the exemption required to be paid pursuant to this subsection,*** pay interest on the amount due at the rate most recently established pursuant to NRS 99.040 for each month, or portion thereof, from the last day of the month following the period for which the payment would have been made had the partial abatement not been approved until the date of payment of the tax.

8. A county treasurer:

(a) Shall deposit any money that he receives pursuant to subsection 7 in one or more of the funds established by a local government of the county pursuant to NRS 354.611, 354.6113 or 354.6115; and

(b) May use the money deposited pursuant to paragraph (a) only for the purposes authorized by NRS 354.611, 354.6113 and 354.6115.

9. The commission on economic development:

(a) Shall adopt regulations ~~[regarding:]~~ ***relating to:***

(1) The minimum level of benefits that a business must provide to its employees if the business is going to use benefits paid to employees as a basis to qualify for a partial abatement; and

(2) The notice that must be provided pursuant to subsection 4.

(b) May adopt such other regulations as the commission on economic development determines to be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

10. The Nevada tax commission:

(a) Shall adopt regulations regarding:

(1) The capital investment that a new business must make to meet the requirement set forth in paragraph (d) or (e) of subsection 2; and

(2) Any security that a business is required to post to qualify for a partial abatement pursuant to this section.

(b) May adopt such other regulations as the Nevada tax commission determines to be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

11. An applicant for an abatement who is aggrieved by a final decision of the commission on economic development may petition for judicial review in the manner provided in chapter 233B of NRS.

Sec. 9. 1. NRS 364A.153 and 608.325 are hereby repealed.

2. Sections 12, 20 and 39 of Senate Bill No. 362 of this session are hereby repealed.

Sec. 10. 1. This section and subsection 2 of section 9 of this act become effective upon passage and approval.

2. Section 8 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 1999.

3. Sections 1 to 7, inclusive, and subsection 1 of section 9 of this act become effective on October 1, 1999.

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