

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 370—ASSEMBLYMEN LESLIE, BACHE, PARKS, PRICE, MCCLAIN, ANDERSON, ARBERRY, CHOWNING, CLABORN, DE BRAGA, DINI, FREEMAN, GIUNCHIGLIANI, HUMKE, KOIVISTO, MANENDO, MORTENSON, NEIGHBORS, PARNELL, SMITH AND TIFFANY

MARCH 15, 2001

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Authorizes employers to obtain temporary and extended orders for protection against harassment in workplace and establishes procedures for obtaining such orders. (BDR 3-720)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Yes.
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 injunctions; authorizing employers to obtain temporary and extended orders for protection against harassment in the workplace to protect employers, employees and persons at the workplace from harassment by other persons; establishing the procedures for obtaining such orders; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

- 1 **Section 1.** Chapter 33 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto
- 2 the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 19, inclusive, of this act.
- 3 **Sec. 2.** *As used in sections 2 to 19, inclusive, of this act, unless the*
- 4 *context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in sections 3, 4*
- 5 *and 5 of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.*
- 6 **Sec. 3.** *“Employee” means a person who is employed by an*
- 7 *employer, including, without limitation, an independent contractor.*
- 8 **Sec. 4.** *“Employer” means a public or private employer in this state,*
- 9 *including, without limitation, the State of Nevada, an agency of this state*
- 10 *and a political subdivision of this state.*
- 11 **Sec. 5.** *“Order for protection against harassment in the workplace”*
- 12 *means an order issued pursuant to section 8 of this act.*
- 13 **Sec. 6.** *Harassment in the workplace occurs when:*
- 14 *1. A person knowingly threatens to cause or commits an act that*
- 15 *causes:*



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- 1 (a) Bodily injury to himself or another person;
2 (b) Damage to the property of another person; or
3 (c) Substantial harm to the physical or mental health or safety of a
4 person;

5 2. The threat is made or the act is committed against an employer, an
6 employee of the employer while the employee performs his duties of
7 employment or a person present at the workplace of the employer; and

8 3. The threat would cause a reasonable person to fear that the threat
9 will be carried out or the act would cause a reasonable person to feel
10 terrorized, frightened, intimidated or harassed.

11 Sec. 7. 1. An employer or an authorized agent of an employer who
12 reasonably believes that harassment in the workplace has occurred may
13 file a verified application for a temporary order for protection against
14 harassment in the workplace against the person who allegedly committed
15 the harassment.

16 2. The verified application must include, without limitation:

- 17 (a) The name of the employer seeking the order;
18 (b) The name and address, if known, of the person who allegedly
19 committed the harassment in the workplace; and
20 (c) A detailed description of the events that allegedly constituted
21 harassment in the workplace and the dates on which these events
22 occurred.

23 Sec. 8. 1. The court may issue a temporary order for protection
24 against harassment in the workplace if it appears to the satisfaction of
25 the court from specific facts shown by a verified application filed
26 pursuant to section 7 of this act that harassment in the workplace has
27 occurred.

28 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, a temporary order
29 for protection against harassment in the workplace must not be issued
30 without notice to the person who allegedly committed the harassment. A
31 temporary order for protection against harassment in the workplace must
32 not be issued without the giving of security by the employer in an amount
33 determined by the court to be sufficient to pay for such costs and
34 damages as may be incurred or suffered by the person who allegedly
35 committed the harassment if the person who allegedly committed the
36 harassment is found to have been wrongfully enjoined or restrained.

37 3. The court may require the employer or the person who allegedly
38 committed the harassment, or both, to appear before the court before
39 determining whether to issue the temporary order for protection against
40 harassment in the workplace.

41 4. A court may issue a temporary order for protection against
42 harassment in the workplace without written or oral notice to the person
43 who allegedly committed the harassment or his attorney only if:

- 44 (a) A verified application is accompanied by an affidavit that contains
45 specific facts which clearly show that immediate and irreparable injury,
46 loss or damage will result to the employer, an employee of the employer
47 while the employee performs the duties of his employment or a person
48 who is present at the workplace of the employer before the person who



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1 *allegedly committed the harassment or his attorney can be heard in*
2 *opposition; and*
3 *(b) The employer and the employer's attorney, if any, set forth in the*
4 *affidavit:*
5 *(1) The efforts, if any, that have been made to give notice to the*
6 *person who allegedly committed the harassment; and*
7 *(2) The facts supporting waiver of notice requirements.*
8 *5. A temporary order for protection against harassment in the*
9 *workplace that is granted, with or without notice, must expire not later*
10 *than 15 days after the date on which the order is issued, unless extended*
11 *pursuant to subsections 6 and 7.*
12 *6. If a temporary order for protection against harassment in the*
13 *workplace is granted, with or without notice, the employer or his*
14 *authorized agent may apply for an extended order for protection against*
15 *harassment in the workplace by filing a verified application for an*
16 *extended order for protection against harassment in the workplace. Such*
17 *an application must:*
18 *(a) In addition to the information required by subsection 2 of section 7*
19 *of this act, set forth the facts that provide the basis for granting an*
20 *extended order for protection against harassment in the workplace;*
21 *(b) Be filed before the expiration of the temporary order for protection*
22 *against harassment in the workplace;*
23 *(c) Be heard as soon as reasonably possible and not later than 10 days*
24 *after the date on which the application is filed with the court unless the*
25 *court determines that there are compelling reasons to hold the hearing at*
26 *a later date; and*
27 *(d) Be dismissed if the court finds that the temporary order for*
28 *protection against harassment in the workplace which is the basis of the*
29 *application has been dissolved or has expired.*
30 *7. At the hearing on an application filed pursuant to subsection 6,*
31 *the employer must present evidence sufficient to support the granting of*
32 *the application for an extended order for protection against harassment*
33 *in the workplace. At the hearing, the court may:*
34 *(a) Dissolve or modify the temporary order for protection against*
35 *harassment in the workplace; or*
36 *(b) Grant an extended order for protection against harassment in the*
37 *workplace.*
38 *8. If granted, an extended order for protection against harassment in*
39 *the workplace expires within such time, not to exceed 1 year, as the court*
40 *fixes.*
41 *9. Upon 2 days' notice to an employer who obtained a temporary*
42 *order for protection against harassment in the workplace without notice*
43 *or on such shorter notice to the employer as the court may prescribe, the*
44 *person who allegedly committed the harassment may appear and move*
45 *the dissolution or modification of the temporary order for protection*
46 *against harassment in the workplace. Upon the filing of such a motion,*
47 *the court shall proceed to hear and determine the motion as expeditiously*
48 *as the ends of justice require. At the hearing, the court may dissolve,*
49 *modify or extend the order.*



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1 10. The court may award costs and reasonable attorney's fees to the
2 prevailing party in a matter brought pursuant to this section.

3 11. If a court issues an extended order for protection against
4 harassment in the workplace, an interlocutory appeal lies to the district
5 court, which may affirm, modify or vacate the order in question. The
6 appeal may be taken without bond, but its taking does not stay the effect
7 or enforcement of the order.

8 Sec. 9. 1. A temporary or extended order for protection against
9 harassment in the workplace may:

10 (a) Enjoin the person who allegedly committed the harassment from
11 contacting the employer, an employee of the employer while the employee
12 is performing his duties of employment and any person while the person
13 is present at the workplace of the employer;

14 (b) Order the person who allegedly committed the harassment to stay
15 away from the workplace of the employer; and

16 (c) Order such other relief as the court deems necessary to protect the
17 employer, the workplace of the employer, the employees of the employer
18 while performing their duties of employment and any other persons who
19 are present at the workplace.

20 2. A court may not issue a temporary or extended order for
21 protection against harassment in the workplace that is against more than
22 one person.

23 3. A temporary or extended order for protection against harassment
24 in the workplace must:

25 (a) Specify, as applicable, the county and city, if any, in which the
26 workplace of the employer is located and in which the employees of the
27 employer perform their duties of employment;

28 (b) Include a provision ordering any law enforcement officer to arrest
29 the person who allegedly committed the harassment, with or without a
30 warrant, if the officer has probable cause to believe that the person has
31 been served with a copy of the order and has violated a provision of the
32 order;

33 (c) State the reasons for granting the order; and

34 (d) Include the following statement:

35 **WARNING**

36 This is an official court order. If you disobey this order,
37 you may be arrested and prosecuted for the crime of
38 violating an order for protection against harassment in
39 the workplace and any other crime that you may have
40 committed in disobeying this order.
41

42
43 4. In addition to the requirements of subsection 3, if the court
44 granted a temporary order for protection against harassment in the
45 workplace without notice, the order must:

46 (a) Include a statement that the person who allegedly committed the
47 harassment is entitled to a hearing on the order pursuant to section 8 of
48 this act;



1 (b) Include the name and address of the court in which the petition
2 for a hearing may be filed;

3 (c) Contain the date and hour of issuance;

4 (d) Be immediately filed with the clerk of the court;

5 (e) Define the irreparable injury, loss or damage resulting from the
6 harassment and state why it is irreparable; and

7 (f) Set forth the reasons for granting the order without notice.

8 **Sec. 10.** A temporary or extended order for protection against
9 harassment in the workplace is in addition to and not in lieu of any other
10 available civil or criminal action. An employer is not barred from seeking
11 an order because of other pending proceedings.

12 **Sec. 11.** 1. A court shall transmit, by the end of the next business
13 day after a temporary or extended order for protection against
14 harassment in the workplace is issued, a copy of the order to the
15 appropriate law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the
16 workplace of the employer or the areas in which the employees of the
17 employer perform their duties of employment.

18 2. The court may order the appropriate law enforcement agency to
19 serve the person who allegedly committed the harassment personally with
20 the order if it finds that such service is necessary to avoid an act of
21 violence and to file with or mail to the clerk of the court proof of service
22 by the end of the next business day after service is made. Service of an
23 application for an order, the notice of hearing thereon and the order
24 must be served upon the person who allegedly committed the harassment
25 pursuant to the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure.

26 3. A law enforcement agency shall enforce a temporary or extended
27 order for protection against harassment in the workplace without regard
28 to the county in which the order was issued.

29 4. The clerk of the court that issued a temporary or extended order
30 for protection against harassment in the workplace shall issue a copy of
31 the order to the employer who requested the order and the person who
32 allegedly committed the harassment.

33 **Sec. 12.** 1. Whether or not a violation occurs in the presence of a
34 law enforcement officer, the officer may, with or without a warrant,
35 arrest and take into custody a person if the officer has probable cause to
36 believe that:

37 (a) An order has been issued pursuant to section 8 of this act against
38 the person;

39 (b) The person has been served with a copy of the order; and

40 (c) The person is acting in violation of the order.

41 2. If a law enforcement officer cannot verify that the person was
42 served with a copy of the order and the officer is at the workplace of the
43 employer, the officer shall serve the person with a copy of the order if a
44 copy is available.

45 3. A law enforcement officer who serves a person with a copy of an
46 order pursuant to subsection 2 shall note the date and time of such
47 service on the copy of the order that was issued to the employer.

48 **Sec. 13.** 1. An employer or an authorized agent of an employer
49 may register a temporary or extended order for protection against



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1 harassment in the workplace issued by the court of another state by
2 presenting a certified copy of the order to the clerk of the court in a
3 judicial district in which the employer believes that enforcement may be
4 necessary.

5 2. A temporary or extended order for protection against harassment
6 in the workplace that is registered has the same effect and must be
7 enforced in like manner as such an order issued by a court of this state.

8 3. The clerk of the court shall maintain a record of each order
9 registered pursuant to this section.

10 **Sec. 14.** 1. A court, a law enforcement officer or any other person
11 who enforces a temporary or extended order for protection against
12 harassment in the workplace based upon a reasonable belief that the
13 order is valid is immune from civil and criminal liability for any action
14 taken based upon that belief.

15 2. A court, a law enforcement officer or any other person who
16 refuses to enforce a temporary or extended order for protection against
17 harassment in the workplace based upon a reasonable belief that the
18 order is not valid is immune from civil and criminal liability for any
19 action taken or not taken based upon that belief.

20 3. The employer of a law enforcement officer who enforces a
21 temporary or extended order for protection against harassment in the
22 workplace based upon a reasonable belief that the order is valid or who
23 refuses to enforce such an order based upon a reasonable belief that the
24 order is not valid is immune from civil and criminal liability for any
25 action taken or not taken by the law enforcement officer based upon that
26 belief.

27 **Sec. 15.** (Deleted by amendment.)

28 **Sec. 16.** If an employer has knowledge that a specific person is the
29 target of harassment in the workplace and the employer intends to seek a
30 temporary or extended order for protection against such harassment, the
31 employer shall make a good faith effort to notify the person who is the
32 target of the harassment that the employer intends to seek such an order.

33 **Sec. 17.** 1. An employer is immune from civil liability for:

34 (a) Seeking a temporary or extended order for protection against
35 harassment in the workplace, if the employer acts in good faith in
36 seeking the order; and

37 (b) Failing to seek a temporary or extended order for protection
38 against harassment in the workplace, if the employer acts in good faith in
39 failing to seek the order.

40 2. An action taken or a statement made by an employer pursuant to
41 sections 2 to 19, inclusive, of this act:

42 (a) Shall not be deemed an admission by the employer of any fact; and

43 (b) May be used for the purposes of impeachment.

44 **Sec. 18.** The provisions of sections 2 to 19, inclusive, of this act do
45 not:

46 1. Modify the duty of an employer to provide a safe workplace for the
47 employees of the employer and other persons present at the workplace of
48 the employer;



2. *Prohibit a person from engaging in any constitutionally protected exercise of free speech, including, without limitation, speech involving labor disputes concerning organized labor; or*

3. *Prohibit a person from engaging in any activity which is part of a labor dispute.*

Sec. 19. *1. A person who violates a temporary or extended order for protection against harassment in the workplace is guilty of a misdemeanor, unless a more severe penalty is prescribed by law for the act that constitutes the violation of the order. If the violation is accompanied by a violent physical act by that person against a person protected by the order, the court shall:*

(a) Impose upon the person who violated the order a fine of \$1,000 or require him to perform a minimum of 200 hours of work for the community;

(b) Sentence the person who violated the order to imprisonment for not fewer than 5 days nor more than 6 months;

(c) Order the person who violated the order to reimburse the employer, in an amount determined by the court, for all costs and attorney's fees incurred by the employer in seeking to enforce the order, and for all medical expenses of the employer and any person protected by the order that were incurred as a result of the violent physical act; and

(d) Order the person who violated the order to participate in and complete a program of professional counseling, at his own expense, if such counseling is available.

2. The person who violates a temporary or extended order for protection against harassment in the workplace shall comply with the order for reimbursement of the employer or any other person protected by the order before paying a fine imposed pursuant to this section.

Sec. 20. NRS 4.355 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4.355 1. A justice of the peace in a township whose population is 40,000 or more may appoint a referee to take testimony and recommend orders and a judgment:

(a) In any action filed pursuant to NRS 73.010;

(b) *In any action filed pursuant to sections 2 to 19, inclusive, of this act;*

(c) In any action for a misdemeanor constituting a violation of chapter 484 of NRS, except NRS 484.379 and 484.3795; or

~~(e)~~ (d) In any action for a misdemeanor constituting a violation of a county traffic ordinance.

2. The referee must meet the qualifications of a justice of the peace as set forth in subsections 1 and 2 of NRS 4.010.

3. The referee:

(a) Shall take testimony;

(b) Shall make findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendations for an order or judgment;

(c) May, subject to confirmation by the justice of the peace, enter an order or judgment; and

(d) Has any other power or duty contained in the order of reference issued by the justice of the peace.



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1 4. The findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendations of
2 the referee must be furnished to each party or his attorney at the conclusion
3 of the proceeding or as soon thereafter as possible. Within 5 days after
4 receipt of the findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendations, a
5 party may file a written objection. If no objection is filed, the court shall
6 accept the findings, unless clearly erroneous, and the judgment may be
7 entered thereon. If an objection is filed within the 5-day period, the justice
8 of the peace shall review the matter by trial de novo, except that if all of
9 the parties so stipulate, the review must be confined to the record.

10 5. A referee must be paid one-half of the hourly compensation of a
11 justice of the peace.

12 **Sec. 21.** NRS 4.370 is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 4.370 1. Except as limited by subsection 2, justices' courts have
14 jurisdiction of the following civil actions and proceedings and no others
15 except as *otherwise* provided by specific statute:

16 (a) In actions arising on contract for the recovery of money only, if the
17 sum claimed, exclusive of interest, does not exceed \$7,500.

18 (b) In actions for damages for injury to the person, or for taking,
19 detaining or injuring personal property, or for injury to real property where
20 no issue is raised by the verified answer of the defendant involving the title
21 to or boundaries of the real property, if the damage claimed does not
22 exceed \$7,500.

23 (c) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (l) in actions for a fine,
24 penalty or forfeiture not exceeding \$7,500, given by statute or the
25 ordinance of a county, city or town, where no issue is raised by the answer
26 involving the legality of any tax, impost, assessment, toll or municipal fine.

27 (d) In actions upon bonds or undertakings conditioned for the payment
28 of money, if the sum claimed does not exceed \$7,500, though the penalty
29 may exceed that sum. Bail bonds and other undertakings posted in criminal
30 matters may be forfeited regardless of amount.

31 (e) In actions to recover the possession of personal property, if the value
32 of the property does not exceed \$7,500.

33 (f) To take and enter judgment on the confession of a defendant, when
34 the amount confessed, exclusive of interest, does not exceed \$7,500.

35 (g) Of actions for the possession of lands and tenements where the
36 relation of landlord and tenant exists, when damages claimed do not exceed
37 \$7,500 or when no damages are claimed.

38 (h) Of actions when the possession of lands and tenements has been
39 unlawfully or fraudulently obtained or withheld, when damages claimed do
40 not exceed \$7,500 or when no damages are claimed.

41 (i) Of suits for the collection of taxes, where the amount of the tax sued
42 for does not exceed \$7,500.

43 (j) Of actions for the enforcement of mechanics' liens, where the
44 amount of the lien sought to be enforced, exclusive of interest, does not
45 exceed \$7,500.

46 (k) Of actions for the enforcement of liens of owners of facilities for
47 storage, where the amount of the lien sought to be enforced, exclusive of
48 interest, does not exceed \$7,500.

49 (l) In actions for a fine imposed for a violation of NRS 484.757.



- 1 (m) Except in a judicial district that includes a county whose population
2 is 100,000 or more, in any action for the issuance of a temporary or
3 extended order for protection against domestic violence.
- 4 (n) *In an action for the issuance of a temporary or extended order for*
5 *protection against harassment in the workplace pursuant to sections 2 to*
6 *19, inclusive, of this act.*
- 7 (o) In small claims actions under the provisions of chapter 73 of NRS.
- 8 ~~(p)~~ (p) In actions to contest the validity of liens on mobile homes or
9 manufactured homes.
- 10 ~~(q)~~ (q) In any action pursuant to NRS 200.591 for the issuance of a
11 protective order against a person alleged to be committing the crime of
12 stalking, aggravated stalking or harassment.
- 13 2. The jurisdiction conferred by this section does not extend to civil
14 actions, other than for forcible entry or detainer, in which the title of real
15 property or mining claims or questions affecting the boundaries of land are
16 involved.
- 17 3. Justices' courts have jurisdiction of all misdemeanors and no other
18 criminal offenses except as otherwise provided by specific statute.
- 19 4. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 5 and 6, in criminal
20 cases the jurisdiction of justices of the peace extends to the limits of their
21 respective counties.
- 22 5. In the case of any arrest made by a member of the Nevada highway
23 patrol, the jurisdiction of the justices of the peace extends to the limits of
24 their respective counties and to the limits of all counties which have
25 common boundaries with their respective counties.
- 26 6. Each justice's court has jurisdiction of any violation of a regulation
27 governing vehicular traffic on an airport within the township in which the
28 court is established.
- 29 **Sec. 22.** NRS 171.124 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 30 171.124 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3 ~~and~~ *and*
31 *section 12 of this act*, a peace officer or an officer of the Drug
32 Enforcement Administration designated by the Attorney General of the
33 United States for that purpose may make an arrest in obedience to a
34 warrant delivered to him, or may, without a warrant, arrest a person:
- 35 (a) For a public offense committed or attempted in his presence.
- 36 (b) When a person arrested has committed a felony or gross
37 misdemeanor, although not in his presence.
- 38 (c) When a felony or gross misdemeanor has in fact been committed,
39 and he has reasonable cause for believing the person arrested to have
40 committed it.
- 41 (d) On a charge made, upon a reasonable cause, of the commission of a
42 felony or gross misdemeanor by the person arrested.
- 43 (e) When a warrant has in fact been issued in this state for the arrest of a
44 named or described person for a public offense, and he has reasonable
45 cause to believe that the person arrested is the person so named or
46 described.
- 47 2. He may also, at night, without a warrant, arrest any person whom he
48 has reasonable cause for believing to have committed a felony or gross



1 misdemeanor, and is justified in making the arrest, though it afterward
2 appear that a felony or gross misdemeanor has not been committed.

3 3. An officer of the Drug Enforcement Administration may only make
4 an arrest pursuant to subsections 1 and 2 for a violation of chapter 453 of
5 NRS.

6 **Sec. 23.** The amendatory provisions of this act do not apply to
7 offenses committed before October 1, 2001.

