

SENATE BILL NO. 48—COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

PREFILED JANUARY 24, 2001

(ON BEHALF OF ENCOURAGING BUSINESSES TO ORGANIZE AND
CONDUCT BUSINESS IN NEVADA (SCR 19))

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Prohibits various acts related to Internet, networks, computers and electronic mail. (BDR 15-259)

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 technology; prohibiting various acts related to the Internet, networks, computers and electronic mail; prohibiting a person from committing certain acts that prevent, impede, delay or disrupt the normal operation or use of any Internet or network site, electronic mail address, computer, system or network; allowing victims of certain technological crimes to recover response costs in a civil action; providing penalties; 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 205 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto
2 the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.
3 **Sec. 2. 1. “Internet or network site” means any identifiable site on**
4 **the Internet or on a network.**
5 **2. The term includes, without limitation:**
6 **(a) A website or other similar site on the World Wide Web;**
7 **(b) A site that is identifiable through a Uniform Resource Location;**
8 **(c) A site on a network that is owned, operated, administered or**
9 **controlled by a provider of Internet service;**
10 **(d) An electronic bulletin board;**
11 **(e) A list server;**
12 **(f) A newsgroup; or**
13 **(g) A chat room.**



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- 1 **Sec. 3. 1. “Response costs” means any reasonable costs that arise**
2 **in response to and as a proximate result of a crime described in NRS**
3 **205.473 to 205.513, inclusive, and sections 2 and 3 of this act.**
4 **2. The term includes, without limitation, any reasonable costs to:**
5 **(a) Investigate the facts surrounding the crime;**
6 **(b) Ascertain or calculate any past or future loss, injury or other**
7 **damage;**
8 **(c) Remedy, mitigate or prevent any past or future loss, injury or other**
9 **damage; or**
10 **(d) Test, examine, restore or verify the integrity of or the normal**
11 **operation or use of any Internet or network site, electronic mail address,**
12 **computer, system, network, component, device, equipment, data,**
13 **information, image, program, signal or sound.**
14 **Sec. 4.** NRS 205.473 is hereby amended to read as follows:
15 205.473 As used in NRS 205.473 to 205.513, inclusive, **and sections 2**
16 **and 3 of this act**, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and
17 terms defined in NRS 205.4732 to 205.476, inclusive, **and sections 2 and 3**
18 **of this act** have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.
19 **Sec. 5.** NRS 205.4765 is hereby amended to read as follows:
20 205.4765 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a person
21 who knowingly, willfully and without authorization:
22 (a) Modifies;
23 (b) Damages;
24 (c) Destroys;
25 (d) Discloses;
26 (e) Uses;
27 (f) Transfers;
28 (g) Conceals;
29 (h) Takes;
30 (i) Retains possession of;
31 (j) Copies;
32 (k) Obtains or attempts to obtain access to, permits access to or causes
33 to be accessed; or
34 (l) Enters,
35 data, a program or any supporting documents which exist inside or outside
36 a computer, system or network is guilty of a misdemeanor.
37 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a person who
38 knowingly, willfully and without authorization:
39 (a) Modifies;
40 (b) Destroys;
41 (c) Uses;
42 (d) Takes;
43 (e) Damages;
44 (f) Transfers;
45 (g) Conceals;
46 (h) Copies;
47 (i) Retains possession of; or



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1 (j) Obtains or attempts to obtain access to, permits access to or causes to
2 be accessed,
3 equipment or supplies that are used or intended to be used in a computer,
4 system or network is guilty of a misdemeanor.
5 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a person who
6 knowingly, willfully and without authorization:
7 (a) Destroys;
8 (b) Damages;
9 (c) Takes;
10 (d) Alters;
11 (e) Transfers;
12 (f) Discloses;
13 (g) Conceals;
14 (h) Copies;
15 (i) Uses;
16 (j) Retains possession of; or
17 (k) Obtains or attempts to obtain access to, permits access to or causes
18 to be accessed,
19 a computer, system or network is guilty of a misdemeanor.
20 4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a person who
21 knowingly, willfully and without authorization:
22 (a) Obtains and discloses;
23 (b) Publishes;
24 (c) Transfers; or
25 (d) Uses,
26 a device used to access a computer, network or data is guilty of a
27 misdemeanor.
28 5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a person who
29 knowingly, willfully and without authorization introduces, causes to be
30 introduced or attempts to introduce a computer contaminant into a
31 computer, system or network is guilty of a misdemeanor.
32 6. If the violation of any provision of this section:
33 (a) Was committed to devise or execute a scheme to defraud or illegally
34 obtain property;
35 (b) Caused *response costs, loss, injury or other* damage in excess of
36 \$500; or
37 (c) Caused an interruption or impairment of a public service, including,
38 without limitation, a governmental operation, a system of public
39 communication or transportation or a supply of water, gas or
40 electricity,
41 the person is guilty of a category C felony and shall be punished as
42 provided in NRS 193.130, and may be further punished by a fine of not
43 more than \$100,000. In addition to any other penalty, the court shall order
44 the person to pay restitution.
45 **Sec. 6.** NRS 205.477 is hereby amended to read as follows:
46 205.477 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 3 and 4, a
47 person who knowingly, willfully and without authorization interferes with,
48 denies or causes the denial of access to or use of a computer, system or



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1 network to a person who has the duty and right to use it is guilty of a
2 misdemeanor.

3 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 3 and 4, a person who
4 knowingly, willfully and without authorization uses, causes the use of,
5 accesses, attempts to gain access to or causes access to be gained
6 to a computer, system, network, telecommunications device,
7 telecommunications service or information service is guilty of a
8 misdemeanor.

9 3. If the violation of ~~subsection 1 or 2 was~~ *any provision of this*
10 *section:*

11 (a) *Was* committed to devise or execute a scheme to defraud or illegally
12 obtain property ~~+~~ ;

13 (b) *Caused response costs, loss, injury or other damage in excess of*
14 *\$500; or*

15 (c) *Caused an interruption or impairment of a public service,*
16 *including, without limitation, a governmental operation, a system of*
17 *public communication or transportation or a supply of water, gas or*
18 *electricity,*

19 the person is guilty of a category C felony and shall be punished as
20 provided in NRS 193.130, and may be further punished by a fine of not
21 more than \$100,000. In addition to any other penalty, the court shall order
22 the person to pay restitution.

23 4. It is an affirmative defense to a charge made pursuant to this section
24 that at the time of the alleged offense the defendant reasonably believed
25 that:

26 (a) He was authorized to use or access the computer, system, network,
27 telecommunications device, telecommunications service or information
28 service and such use or access by the defendant was within the scope of
29 that authorization; or

30 (b) The owner or other person authorized to give consent would
31 authorize the defendant to use or access the computer, system, network,
32 telecommunications device, telecommunications service or information
33 service.

34 5. A defendant who intends to offer an affirmative defense described
35 in subsection 4 at a trial or preliminary hearing must, not less than 14 days
36 before the trial or hearing or at such other time as the court may direct, file
37 and serve on the prosecuting attorney a written notice of that intent.

38 **Sec. 7.** NRS 205.492 is hereby amended to read as follows:

39 205.492 1. A person shall not willfully falsify or forge any data,
40 information, image, program, signal or sound that:

41 (a) Is contained in the header, subject line or routing instructions of an
42 item of electronic mail; or

43 (b) Describes or identifies the sender, source, point of origin or path of
44 transmission of an item of electronic mail,
45 with the intent to transmit or cause to be transmitted the item of electronic
46 mail to *any Internet or network site or to* the electronic mail address of
47 one or more recipients without their knowledge of or consent to the
48 transmission.



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1 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection ~~15.1~~ 7, a person shall not
2 willfully transmit or cause to be transmitted an item of electronic mail to
3 *any Internet or network site or to* the electronic mail address of one or
4 more recipients without their knowledge of or consent to the transmission
5 if the person knows or has reason to know that the item of electronic mail
6 contains or has been generated or formatted with:

7 (a) An Internet domain name that is being used without the consent of
8 the person who holds the Internet domain name; or

9 (b) Any data, information, image, program, signal or sound that has
10 been used intentionally in the header, subject line or routing instructions of
11 the item of electronic mail to falsify or misrepresent:

12 (1) The identity of the sender; or

13 (2) The source, point of origin or path of transmission of the item of
14 electronic mail.

15 3. A person shall not knowingly sell, give or otherwise distribute or
16 possess with the intent to sell, give or otherwise distribute any data,
17 information, image, program, signal or sound which is designed or
18 intended to be used to falsify or forge any data, information, image,
19 program, signal or sound that:

20 (a) Is contained in the header, subject line or routing instructions of an
21 item of electronic mail; or

22 (b) Describes or identifies the sender, source, point of origin or path of
23 transmission of an item of electronic mail.

24 4. ~~15.1~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, a person shall*
25 *not willfully and without authorization transmit or cause to be*
26 *transmitted an item of electronic mail or any other data, information,*
27 *image, program, signal or sound to any Internet or network site, to the*
28 *electronic mail address of one or more recipients or to any other*
29 *computer, system or network:*

30 (a) *With the intent to prevent, impede, delay or disrupt the normal*
31 *operation or use of the Internet or network site, electronic mail address,*
32 *computer, system or network, whether or not such a result actually*
33 *occurs; or*

34 (b) *Under circumstances in which such conduct is reasonably likely to*
35 *prevent, impede, delay or disrupt the normal operation or use of the*
36 *Internet or network site, electronic mail address, computer, system or*
37 *network, whether or not such a result actually occurs.*

38 5. *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a person who*
39 *violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.*

40 ~~15.1~~ 6. *If the violation of any provision of subsection 4:*

41 (a) *Was committed to devise or execute a scheme to defraud or*
42 *illegally obtain property;*

43 (b) *Caused response costs, loss, injury or other damage in excess of*
44 *\$500; or*

45 (c) *Caused an interruption or impairment of a public service,*
46 *including, without limitation, a governmental operation, a system of*
47 *public communication or transportation or a supply of water, gas or*
48 *electricity,*



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1 *the person is guilty of a category C felony and shall be punished as*
2 *provided in NRS 193.130, and may be further punished by a fine of not*
3 *more than \$100,000. In addition to any other penalty, the court shall*
4 *order the person to pay restitution.*

5 7. The provisions of ~~[subsection]~~ *subsections 2 and 4* do not apply to a
6 provider of Internet service who, in the course of providing service,
7 transmits or causes to be transmitted an item of electronic mail on behalf of
8 another person, unless the provider of Internet service is the person who
9 first generates the item of electronic mail.

10 8. *As used in this section, "item of electronic mail" includes, without*
11 *limitation:*

- 12 (a) *A single item of electronic mail;*
13 (b) *Multiple copies of one or more items of electronic mail;*
14 (c) *A collection, group or bulk aggregation of one or more items of*
15 *electronic mail;*
16 (d) *A constant, continual or recurring pattern or series of one or more*
17 *items of electronic mail; or*
18 (e) *Any other data, information, image, program, signal or sound that*
19 *is included or embedded in or attached or connected to one or more items*
20 *of electronic mail.*

21 **Sec. 8.** NRS 205.511 is hereby amended to read as follows:

22 205.511 1. Any victim of a crime described in NRS 205.473 to
23 205.513, inclusive, *and sections 2 and 3 of this act* may bring a civil
24 action to recover:

- 25 (a) Damages for any *response costs*, loss or injury suffered as a result of
26 the crime;
27 (b) Punitive damages; and
28 (c) Costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred in bringing the civil
29 action.

30 2. *A victim of a crime described in NRS 205.473 to 205.513,*
31 *inclusive, and sections 2 and 3 of this act may bring a civil action*
32 *pursuant to this section whether or not the person who committed the*
33 *crime is or has been charged with or convicted or acquitted of the crime*
34 *or any other offense arising out of the facts surrounding the crime.*

35 3. The provisions of this section do not abrogate or limit the right of a
36 victim of a crime described in NRS 205.473 to 205.513, inclusive, *and*
37 *sections 2 and 3 of this act* to bring a civil action pursuant to any other
38 statute or the common law.

39 **Sec. 9.** NRS 205.513 is hereby amended to read as follows:

40 205.513 1. If it appears that a person has engaged in or is about to
41 engage in any act or practice which violates any provision of NRS 205.473
42 to 205.513, inclusive, *and sections 2 and 3 of this act*, the attorney general
43 or the appropriate district attorney may file an action in any court of
44 competent jurisdiction to prevent the occurrence or continuance of that act
45 or practice.

46 2. An injunction:

- 47 (a) May be issued without proof of actual damage sustained by any
48 person.



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1 (b) Does not preclude the criminal prosecution and punishment of a
2 violator.
3 **Sec. 10.** The amendatory provisions of sections 5, 6 and 7 of this act
4 do not apply to offenses committed before October 1, 2001.

