

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to natural resources; revising provisions concerning the use of certain money in the Solid Waste Management Account; requiring the Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to encourage the Nevada System of Higher Education to research and develop methods for the reduction, reclamation and conversion of solid waste; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Under existing law, the proceeds from: (1) civil penalties for violations of certain laws concerning the management and disposal of solid waste; (2) damages recovered from persons or municipalities that violate those laws; and (3) the \$1 recycling fee that is collected on each new tire sold are deposited in the Solid Waste Management Account. (NRS 444.596, 444.598, 444A.090) The money in the Account is then allocated among the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the various solid waste management authorities to be used for solid waste management and public education. (NRS 444.616) Under existing law, the Department is required to transfer a portion of the money it receives to the Division of Environmental Protection of the Department to use for public education concerning the State's plan for solid waste management. **Section 1** of this bill authorizes the Division to use this money to also support other activities that encourage the reduction of solid waste.

Under existing law, the Division is required to establish, sponsor, assist or otherwise conduct various programs and other activities that encourage the reduction of waste and litter. (NRS 444A.110) The Division conducts some of those activities on its own and others in conjunction with local governments, educational institutions and other state agencies. **Section 2** of this bill expands the number of those activities to include encouraging the Nevada System of Higher Education to research and develop methods for the reduction, reclamation and conversion of solid waste, including encouraging the Nevada System of Higher Education to seek money from public and private sources for that purpose.

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

Section 1. NRS 444.616 is hereby amended to read as follows:
444.616 1. The State Controller shall allocate and remit, on a quarterly basis, the money in the Solid Waste Management Account as follows:

- (a) To the Department of Taxation, 0.5 percent.
- (b) To the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 44.5 percent.



(c) To the district board of health of the health district which has the largest population in this State, 30 percent.

(d) To the district board of health of the health district which has the second largest population in this State, 25 percent.

➡ If more than two health districts are created within this State, the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources shall transfer to the district boards of health of those additional districts an amount determined by the Department to be necessary to carry out the health district's duties pursuant to NRS 444.440 to 444.620, inclusive. If less than two health districts are created within this State, the amount otherwise allocated to a health district must be allocated to the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

2. The money allocated pursuant to subsection 1 to the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the district boards of health must be used for solid waste management in accordance with NRS 444.440 to 444.620, inclusive.

3. The State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources shall transfer to the Division of Environmental Protection of that Department a portion of the money it receives pursuant to this section it deems necessary for use in educating the public concerning the objectives and functioning of the State's plan for solid waste management *and the purposes set forth in NRS 444A.110.*

Sec. 2. NRS 444A.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:

444A.110 1. The Division shall develop a program of public education to provide information, increase public awareness of the individual responsibility of properly disposing of solid waste and encouraging public participation in recycling, reuse and waste reduction. The program must be designed in accordance with the plans to provide for a solid waste management system approved pursuant to NRS 444.510 to communicate the importance of conserving natural resources, in addition to the importance of protecting public health and the environment. The program must include promotion of the private and public efforts to accomplish conservation, recovery and reuse.

2. The Division shall encourage the reduction of waste and litter by:

(a) Providing, upon request, advice to persons regarding techniques to reduce waste and general information on recycling.

(b) Establishing a computer database to process related information.



(c) Establishing a toll-free telephone line to assist in the dissemination of information.

(d) Sponsoring or cosponsoring technical workshops and seminars on waste reduction.

(e) Assisting local programs for the research and development of plans to reduce waste.

(f) Coordinating the dissemination of publications on waste reduction, regardless of the source of those publications.

(g) Assisting in the development and promotion of programs of continuing education for educators and administrators to enable them to teach and encourage methods of waste reduction.

(h) Developing an emblem to signify and advertise the efforts in Nevada to encourage recycling.

(i) Recommending to educational institutions courses and curricula relating to recycling and the reduction of waste.

(j) Assisting state agencies, upon request, to develop and carry out programs for recycling within state buildings.

(k) Encouraging the Nevada System of Higher Education to research and develop methods for the reduction, reclamation and conversion of solid waste, including, without limitation, encouraging the Nevada System of Higher Education to seek money from public and private sources for that purpose.

3. The Division shall coordinate the technical assistance available from the various state agencies. The Administrator of the Division shall prepare and deliver biennial reports to the Governor regarding the progress of the program.

4. The Division may award grants to municipalities, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations for projects that enhance solid waste management systems and promote the efficient use of resources. The Division shall consult a solid waste management authority before awarding a grant for a project within the jurisdiction of that solid waste management authority.

5. The State Environmental Commission shall adopt regulations governing the administration of grants awarded pursuant to subsection 4.

6. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "Division" means the Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

