

SENATE BILL NO. 331—SENATOR COFFIN (BY REQUEST)

MARCH 19, 2007

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Makes various changes concerning the support of research and other activities concerning solid waste. (BDR 40-318)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

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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 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 make grants to the Nevada System of Higher Education for the support of research and other activities relating to 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 to use for public education. **Section 1** of this bill authorizes the Division to use this money to 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



18 number of those activities to include making grants to the Nevada System of Higher
19 Education for the support of research relating to the reduction, reclamation and
20 conversion of solid waste.

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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 444.616 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 444.616 1. The State Controller shall allocate and remit, on a
3 quarterly basis, the money in the Solid Waste Management Account
4 as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 444A.110 1. The Division shall develop a program of public
33 education to provide information, increase public awareness of the
34 individual responsibility of properly disposing of solid waste and
35 encouraging public participation in recycling, reuse and waste
36 reduction. The program must be designed in accordance with the
37 plans to provide for a solid waste management system approved
38 pursuant to NRS 444.510 to communicate the importance of



1 conserving natural resources, in addition to the importance of
2 protecting public health and the environment. The program must
3 include promotion of the private and public efforts to accomplish
4 conservation, recovery and reuse.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 ***(k) Making grants to the Nevada System of Higher Education***
29 ***for the support of research and development concerning the***
30 ***reduction, reclamation and conversion of solid waste.***

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

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

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

44 6. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise
45 requires, "Division" means the Division of Environmental



* S B 3 3 1 R 1 *

- 1 Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural
- 2 Resources.
- 3 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.



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