

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

MARCH 19, 2007

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Makes various changes concerning 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 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,



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18 educational institutions and other state agencies. **Section 2** of this bill expands the
19 number of those activities to include encouraging the Nevada System of Higher
20 Education to research and develop methods for the reduction, reclamation and
21 conversion of solid waste, including encouraging the Nevada System of Higher
22 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:

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 *and the purposes set forth in*
31 **NRS 444A.110.**

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

33 444A.110 1. The Division shall develop a program of public
34 education to provide information, increase public awareness of the
35 individual responsibility of properly disposing of solid waste and
36 encouraging public participation in recycling, reuse and waste



1 reduction. The program must be designed in accordance with the
2 plans to provide for a solid waste management system approved
3 pursuant to NRS 444.510 to communicate the importance of
4 conserving natural resources, in addition to the importance of
5 protecting public health and the environment. The program must
6 include promotion of the private and public efforts to accomplish
7 conservation, recovery and reuse.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

