

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 255—COMMITTEE
ON COMMERCE AND LABOR

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION’S SUBCOMMITTEE
TO REVIEW THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR’S REPORT
ON THE NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM)

MARCH 10, 2011

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Revises procedures relating to certain accidents
occurring in the course of employment.
(BDR 53-102)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
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 occupational safety; requiring the Division of Industrial Relations of the Department of Business and Industry to provide certain persons with specified information and notifications relating to an investigation of an accident which results in the death or, under certain circumstances, the injury of an employee; requiring the Division to use its best efforts to interview certain persons during an investigation of an accident which results in the death of an employee; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law authorizes the Administrator of the Division of Industrial
2 Relations of the Department of Business and Industry to inspect and investigate
3 places of employment and conditions, equipment and structures therein. (NRS
4 618.325) Existing law also requires the Division to investigate certain accidents
5 that result in the death or injury of employees. (NRS 618.378) **Section 1** of this bill
6 requires the Division, after an accident which results in the death of an employee or
7 the hospitalization of three or more employees, to provide to the injured employees,
8 the immediate families of the injured or deceased employees and the
9 representatives of the injured or deceased employees a written description of their
10 rights regarding an investigation of the accident. **Section 1** also requires the



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Division to provide such persons with notice of certain events related to an investigation of the accident or proceedings concerning the accident.

With regard to an accident which results in the death of an employee, existing law requires the Division and the Occupational Safety and Health Review Board to provide specified information and notifications to, and under certain circumstances to enter into discussions with, the immediate family of the deceased employee after a citation is issued regarding the accident. (NRS 618.480, 618.605) **Section 3** of this bill requires the Division to use its best efforts to interview the immediate family of the deceased employee during an investigation of the fatal accident to obtain information relevant to the investigation.

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

Section 1. Chapter 618 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. If an accident occurs in the course of employment which is fatal to one or more employees or which results in the hospitalization of three or more injured employees, the Division shall, as soon as practicable:

(a) Provide to each injured employee, the immediate family of each deceased or injured employee and each representative of each deceased or injured employee a written description of the rights of such persons with regard to an investigation of the accident; and

(b) Notify each injured employee, the immediate family of each deceased or injured employee and each representative of each deceased or injured employee of:

(1) The commencement by the Division of any investigation of the accident;

(2) The result of any informal conference between the employer and the Division;

(3) The finalization of any agreement between an employer and the Division which formally settles an issue related to the accident;

(4) The issuance of any citation under the provisions of this chapter related to the accident;

(5) The receipt by the Division of notice from an employer that the employer wishes to contest or appeal any action or decision of the Division which relates to the accident; and

(6) The completion by the Division and, if applicable, the Board of any investigation of the accident and any proceeding related to the accident.

2. As used in this section, "representative of each deceased or injured employee" means:



1 (a) A person previously identified to the Division as an
2 authorized representative of the employee bargaining unit of a
3 labor organization which has a collective bargaining relationship
4 with the employer of the employee and represents the employee.

5 (b) An attorney acting on behalf of the employee.

6 (c) A person designated by a court to act as the official
7 representative for the employee or the estate of the employee.

8 **Sec. 2.** NRS 618.315 is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 618.315 1. The Division has authority over working
10 conditions in all places of employment except as limited by
11 subsection 2.

12 2. The authority of the Division does not extend to working
13 conditions which:

14 (a) Exist in household domestic service;

15 (b) Exist in motor vehicles operating on public highways of this
16 State; or

17 (c) Are regulated pursuant to the Federal Mine Safety and
18 Health Act of 1977 , ~~§~~ 30 U.S.C. §§ 801 et seq. , ~~§~~ the Federal
19 Safety ~~Appliances~~ **Appliance** Act ~~§~~ ~~(45)~~ , 49 U.S.C. §§ ~~§~~ ~~20301~~ et
20 seq. , ~~§~~ or the Federal Railroad Safety Act of 1970 ~~§~~ ~~(45)~~ , 49
21 U.S.C. §§ ~~§~~ ~~1421~~ **20101** et seq. ~~§~~ , and any amendments thereto.

22 3. The Division may:

23 (a) Declare and prescribe which safety devices, safeguards or
24 other means of protection are well adapted to render employees safe
25 as required by lawful order, state standards or regulations or federal
26 standards, as adopted by the Division.

27 (b) Fix and adopt such reasonable standards and prescribe,
28 modify and enforce such reasonable orders for the adoption,
29 installation, use, maintenance and operation of safety devices,
30 safeguards and other means or methods of protection, which must be
31 as nearly uniform as practicable, as may be necessary to carry out all
32 laws and lawful orders relative to the protection of the lives, safety
33 and health of employees.

34 (c) Adopt such reasonable standards for the construction, repair
35 and maintenance of places of employment as render those places
36 safe and healthful.

37 (d) Require the performance of any other act which the
38 protection of the lives, safety and health in places of employment
39 reasonably demands.

40 (e) ~~Provide~~ **Except as otherwise provided in NRS 618.480,**
41 **provide** the method and frequency of making investigations,
42 examinations and inspections.

43 (f) Prepare, provide and regulate forms of notices, publications
44 and blank forms deemed proper and advisable to carry out the



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provisions of this chapter, and to charge to employers the printing costs for those publications.

(g) Furnish blank forms upon request.

(h) Provide for adequate notice to each employer or employee of his or her right to administrative review of any action or decision of the Division as set forth in NRS 618.475 and 618.605 and to judicial review.

(i) Consult with the Health Division of the Department of Health and Human Services with respect to occupational health matters in chapter 617 of NRS.

(j) Appoint and fix the compensation of advisers who shall assist the Division in establishing standards of safety and health. The Division may adopt and incorporate in its general orders such safety and health recommendations as it may receive from advisers.

Sec. 3. NRS 618.480 is hereby amended to read as follows:

618.480 1. ~~If, after~~ *During* an investigation of an accident occurring in the course of employment which is fatal to one or more employees, *the Division shall use its best efforts to interview the immediate family of each deceased employee to obtain any information relevant to the investigation, including, without limitation, information which the deceased employee shared with the immediate family.*

2. *If, after the investigation of the accident,* the Division issues a citation under the provisions of this chapter, the Division shall offer to enter into a discussion with the immediate family of each deceased employee within a reasonable time after the Division issues the citation.

~~2.~~ 3. During the discussion ~~if~~ *described in subsection 2,* the Division shall provide each family with:

(a) Information regarding the citation and abatement process;

(b) Information regarding the means by which the family may obtain a copy of the final incident report and abatement decision of the Division; and

(c) Any other information that the Division deems relevant and necessary to inform the family of the outcome of the investigation by the Division.

Sec. 4. This act becomes effective on January 1, 2012.

