

SENATE BILL NO. 410—SENATORS PARKS, SPEARMAN, SEGERBLOM,  
KIHUEN; ATKINSON, GUSTAVSON, JONES, MANENDO,  
SMITH AND WOODHOUSE

MARCH 18, 2013

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN HEALEY, OHRENSCHALL;  
AIZLEY, DALY, DONDERO LOOP, FIORE, HOGAN, MARTIN,  
PIERCE, SPIEGEL AND SWANK

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing hypodermic devices.  
(BDR 40-451)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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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 hypodermic devices; authorizing certain entities to establish a program for the safe distribution and disposal of hypodermic devices and certain other material; requiring the State Board of Health to establish guidelines governing such a program; providing that the possession of a trace amount of a controlled substance is not a criminal offense in certain circumstances; removing hypodermic devices from the list of paraphernalia that is prohibited for delivery, sale, possession, manufacture or use in this State; providing that hypodermic devices may be sold or furnished without a prescription if not prohibited by federal law in certain circumstances; repealing a provision which makes it a crime to misuse a hypodermic device; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

- 1 **Section 4** of this bill authorizes a governmental entity, a tax-exempt nonprofit
- 2 corporation, a public health program, a licensed medical facility or a person who
- 3 has a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation as a fiscal sponsor, to establish a program



for the safe distribution and disposal of hypodermic devices. **Section 4.5** of this bill requires the State Board of Health to establish guidelines governing such a program. **Sections 5-7** of this bill enact provisions governing the operation of a sterile hypodermic device program, including, without limitation, the training of the staff and volunteers of the program and the devices, material and information that a program may provide. **Section 8** of this bill provides that the State, any of its political subdivisions and a sterile hypodermic device program and its staff and volunteers are exempt from civil liability relating to the operation of a sterile hypodermic device program. **Section 9** of this bill: (1) provides for the confidentiality of any record which is obtained or created in the operation of a sterile hypodermic device program; (2) provides that such records are not discoverable or admissible in criminal proceedings; (3) prohibits the use of records obtained from a sterile hypodermic device program as a basis for initiating a criminal charge, or to substantiate a criminal charge, against a person who participates in the program; and (4) provides that the staff and volunteers of a sterile hypodermic device program cannot be compelled to provide evidence in criminal proceedings concerning information known to the staff member or volunteer through the program.

Existing law prohibits the possession of a controlled substance. (NRS 453.336) **Section 11** of this bill provides that a person does not violate this provision if he or she has a trace amount of a controlled substance that is in or on a hypodermic device that was obtained from a sterile hypodermic device program.

Existing law prohibits the delivery, sale, possession or manufacture of certain drug paraphernalia when the person engaging in the act reasonably should know that it will be used for an illegal purpose. (NRS 453.560) Existing law further makes it a felony for a person to deliver drug paraphernalia to a minor who is at least 3 years younger than the person. (NRS 453.562) **Section 12** of this bill removes hypodermic devices from the list of items that may be found to constitute drug paraphernalia.

Existing law authorizes the sale of hypodermic devices which are not restricted by federal law to being sold by prescription to be sold without a prescription for certain limited purposes. (NRS 454.480) **Section 15** of this bill removes the restrictions so that hypodermic devices may be sold or furnished without a prescription for any purpose so long as the sale of such devices is not restricted by federal law.

**Section 16** of this bill repeals a provision which makes it a misdemeanor to use or allow the use of a hypodermic device for a purpose other than that for which it was purchased, because the specific uses were removed in **section 15**.

WHEREAS, The human immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis and other infectious diseases that may be transmitted through the use of unsterile hypodermic devices such as syringes and needles pose a major health threat in the United States, causing thousands of deaths and millions of dollars in preventable health care costs each year; and

WHEREAS, The lack of availability of sterile hypodermic devices is a major cause of this serious health threat; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of studies have demonstrated that making sterile hypodermic devices available to persons who inject drugs reduces the spread of infectious disease and does not encourage drug use; and



1 WHEREAS, The trend among states has been to deregulate the  
2 possession, sale and use of hypodermic devices and to make such  
3 devices more accessible; and

4 WHEREAS, Increasing access to sterile hypodermic devices is  
5 necessary to control the spread of life-threatening infectious  
6 diseases; now, therefore,

7  
8 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
9 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

10  
11 **Section 1.** Chapter 439 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
12 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this  
13 act.

14 **Sec. 2.** *The Legislature hereby declares that the purpose of*  
15 *sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this act is to enable the use of sterile*  
16 *hypodermic devices and other related material for use among*  
17 *people who inject drugs for the purpose of reducing the*  
18 *intravenous transmission of diseases. The provisions of sections 2*  
19 *to 10, inclusive, of this act are intended to:*

20 1. *Ensure the availability and accessibility of sterile*  
21 *hypodermic devices by encouraging distribution of such devices by*  
22 *various means.*

23 2. *Provide for the effective operation of sterile hypodermic*  
24 *device programs that protect the human rights of people who use*  
25 *such programs.*

26 3. *Guarantee that sterile hypodermic devices and other sterile*  
27 *injection supplies are not deemed illegal.*

28 4. *Ensure that sterile hypodermic device programs operate in*  
29 *harmony with law enforcement activities.*

30 **Sec. 3.** *As used in sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this act,*  
31 *“sterile hypodermic device program” or “program” means a*  
32 *program established pursuant to section 4 of this act for the safe*  
33 *distribution and disposal of hypodermic devices.*

34 **Sec. 4.** 1. *A governmental entity, a nonprofit corporation*  
35 *that is recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the*  
36 *Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), a public health*  
37 *program, a medical facility or a person who has a fiscal sponsor*  
38 *that is recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the*  
39 *Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), may establish a*  
40 *sterile hypodermic device program in this State.*

41 2. *As used in this section:*

42 (a) *“Medical facility” has the meaning ascribed to it in*  
43 *NRS 449.0151.*

44 (b) *“Public health program” has the meaning ascribed to it in*  
45 *NRS 454.00973.*



1     **Sec. 4.5.** *The State Board of Health shall establish guidelines*  
2 *governing the operation of the program which provide for, without*  
3 *limitation:*

4         1. *The recording of the quantities of hypodermic devices*  
5 *distributed and collected by the program; and*

6         2. *The procedures for the safe collection and disposal of used*  
7 *hypodermic devices.*

8     **Sec. 5.** *A sterile hypodermic device program shall:*

9         1. *Establish and follow procedures for the safe collection and*  
10 *disposal of used hypodermic devices and other related material*  
11 *pursuant to guidelines established by the State Board of Health.*

12         2. *Provide community outreach and educational programs*  
13 *concerning:*

14             (a) *The safer use of hypodermic devices to avoid disease and*  
15 *infection; and*

16             (b) *The safe disposal of hypodermic devices.*

17         3. *Report the quantities of hypodermic devices distributed and*  
18 *collected by the program to the State Board of Health at least*  
19 *semiannually.*

20     **Sec. 6.** *All staff and volunteers of a sterile hypodermic device*  
21 *program shall complete training which includes, without*  
22 *limitation, the following information:*

23         1. *The policies and procedures of the program and relevant*  
24 *regulations, including, without limitation, emergency and safety*  
25 *policies and procedures;*

26         2. *Legal and law enforcement issues and policies regarding*  
27 *hypodermic devices;*

28         3. *Overdose prevention, recognition and response;*

29         4. *The risk of blood-borne diseases that may result from the*  
30 *use of hypodermic devices;*

31         5. *Methods for preventing the transmission or contraction of*  
32 *blood-borne diseases;*

33         6. *The dangers of injecting drugs and the manner in which to*  
34 *access treatment;*

35         7. *Information concerning the human immunodeficiency*  
36 *virus and hepatitis virus and the prevention of the spread of these*  
37 *viruses;*

38         8. *The safe disposal of hypodermic devices, including,*  
39 *without limitation, procedures concerning accidental needle*  
40 *sticks; and*

41         9. *Cultural competency, including, without limitation,*  
42 *sensitivity to the needs of children, lesbian, gay, bisexual and*  
43 *transgendered individuals, racial and ethnic minorities, women,*  
44 *sex workers and any other participant population.*

45     **Sec. 7.** *A sterile hypodermic device program may provide:*



1     1. *Sterile hypodermic devices and other related material for*  
2 *safer injection drug use; and*

3     2. *Information concerning:*

4       (a) *The risks associated with the use of controlled substances;*

5       (b) *Drug dependence treatment services and other health*  
6 *services;*

7       (c) *Support services for people with drug dependence and their*  
8 *families;*

9       (d) *Methods for preventing the transmission or contraction of*  
10 *blood-borne diseases;*

11       (e) *Employment and vocational training services and centers;*  
12 *and*

13       (f) *Legal aid services.*

14     **Sec. 8.** *The State, any political subdivision thereof, a sterile*  
15 *hypodermic device program and the staff and volunteers thereof*  
16 *are not subject to civil liability in relation to any act or failure to*  
17 *act in connection with the operation of a sterile hypodermic device*  
18 *program, if the act or failure to act was in good faith for the*  
19 *purpose of executing the provisions of sections 2 to 10, inclusive,*  
20 *of this act, and was not a reckless act or failure to act.*

21     **Sec. 9.** 1. *Any record of a person which is created or*  
22 *obtained for use by a sterile hypodermic device program must be*  
23 *kept confidential and:*

24       (a) *Is not open for public inspection or disclosure;*

25       (b) *Must not be shared with any other person or entity without*  
26 *the consent of the person to whom the record relates; and*

27       (c) *Must not be discoverable or admissible during any legal*  
28 *proceeding.*

29     2. *A record described in subsection 1 must not be used:*

30       (a) *To initiate or substantiate any criminal charge against a*  
31 *person who participates in the sterile hypodermic device program;*  
32 *or*

33       (b) *As grounds for conducting any investigation of a person*  
34 *who participates in the sterile hypodermic device program.*

35     3. *The staff and volunteers of a sterile hypodermic device*  
36 *program shall not be compelled to provide evidence in any*  
37 *criminal proceeding conducted pursuant to the laws of this State*  
38 *concerning any information that was entrusted to them or became*  
39 *known to them through the program.*

40     4. *The use of any personal information of any person who*  
41 *participates in a sterile hypodermic device program or of the staff*  
42 *or volunteers of the sterile hypodermic device program in research*  
43 *and evaluation must be done in such a manner as to guarantee the*  
44 *anonymity of the person.*



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1       **5. Aggregate data from a sterile hypodermic device program,**  
2 **including, without limitation, demographic information, the**  
3 **number of clients contacted and the types of referrals may be**  
4 **made available to the public.**

5       **Sec. 10. No person shall be subject to any discrimination in**  
6 **the operation of a sterile hypodermic device program on the basis**  
7 **of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or**  
8 **expression, age, political affiliation, disability, national origin,**  
9 **residence, frequency of injection or controlled substance used.**

10       **Sec. 11.** NRS 453.336 is hereby amended to read as follows:

11       453.336 1. ~~1A~~ **Except as otherwise provided in subsection**

12 **5, a person shall not knowingly or intentionally possess a controlled**  
13 **substance, unless the substance was obtained directly from, or**  
14 **pursuant to, a prescription or order of a physician, physician**  
15 **assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 630 or 633 of NRS, dentist,**  
16 **podiatric physician, optometrist, advanced practitioner of nursing or**  
17 **veterinarian while acting in the course of his or her professional**  
18 **practice, or except as otherwise authorized by the provisions of NRS**  
19 **453.005 to 453.552, inclusive.**

20       2. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 3 and 4 and in  
21 NRS 453.3363, and unless a greater penalty is provided in NRS  
22 212.160, 453.3385, 453.339 or 453.3395, a person who violates this  
23 section shall be punished:

24       (a) For the first or second offense, if the controlled substance is  
25 listed in schedule I, II, III or IV, for a category E felony as provided  
26 in NRS 193.130.

27       (b) For a third or subsequent offense, if the controlled substance  
28 is listed in schedule I, II, III or IV, or if the offender has previously  
29 been convicted two or more times in the aggregate of any violation  
30 of the law of the United States or of any state, territory or district  
31 relating to a controlled substance, for a category D felony as  
32 provided in NRS 193.130, and may be further punished by a fine of  
33 not more than \$20,000.

34       (c) For the first offense, if the controlled substance is listed in  
35 schedule V, for a category E felony as provided in NRS 193.130.

36       (d) For a second or subsequent offense, if the controlled  
37 substance is listed in schedule V, for a category D felony as  
38 provided in NRS 193.130.

39       3. Unless a greater penalty is provided in NRS 212.160,  
40 453.337 or 453.3385, a person who is convicted of the possession of  
41 flunitrazepam or gamma-hydroxybutyrate, or any substance for  
42 which flunitrazepam or gamma-hydroxybutyrate is an immediate  
43 precursor, is guilty of a category B felony and shall be punished by  
44 imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less  
45 than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 6 years.



4. Unless a greater penalty is provided pursuant to NRS 212.160, a person who is convicted of the possession of 1 ounce or less of marijuana:

(a) For the first offense, is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be:

(1) Punished by a fine of not more than \$600; or

(2) Examined by an approved facility for the treatment of abuse of drugs to determine whether the person is a drug addict and is likely to be rehabilitated through treatment and, if the examination reveals that the person is a drug addict and is likely to be rehabilitated through treatment, assigned to a program of treatment and rehabilitation pursuant to NRS 453.580.

(b) For the second offense, is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be:

(1) Punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000; or

(2) Assigned to a program of treatment and rehabilitation pursuant to NRS 453.580.

(c) For the third offense, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.140.

(d) For a fourth or subsequent offense, is guilty of a category E felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.

5. *It is not a violation of this section if a person possesses a trace amount of a controlled substance and that trace amount is in or on a hypodermic device obtained from a sterile hypodermic device program pursuant to sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this act.*

6. As used in this section ~~“controlled”~~:

(a) *“Controlled substance”* includes flunitrazepam, gamma-hydroxybutyrate and each substance for which flunitrazepam or gamma-hydroxybutyrate is an immediate precursor.

(b) *“Sterile hypodermic device program”* has the meaning ascribed to it in section 3 of this act.

Sec. 12. NRS 453.554 is hereby amended to read as follows:

453.554 ~~As~~

1. *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, as* used in NRS 453.554 to 453.566, inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires, “drug paraphernalia” means all equipment, products and materials of any kind which are used, intended for use, or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing, concealing, ~~injecting,~~ ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing into the human body a controlled substance in violation of this chapter. The term includes, but is not limited to:

~~“~~ (a) Kits used, intended for use, or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing or harvesting of any



1 species of plant which is a controlled substance or from which a  
2 controlled substance can be derived;

3 ~~(b)~~ (b) Kits used, intended for use, or designed for use in  
4 manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing or preparing  
5 controlled substances;

6 ~~(c)~~ (c) Isomerization devices used, intended for use, or  
7 designed for use in increasing the potency of any species of plant  
8 which is a controlled substance;

9 ~~(d)~~ (d) Testing equipment used, intended for use, or designed  
10 for use in identifying, or in analyzing the strength, effectiveness or  
11 purity of controlled substances;

12 ~~(e)~~ (e) Scales and balances used, intended for use, or designed  
13 for use in weighing or measuring controlled substances;

14 ~~(f)~~ (f) Diluents and adulterants, such as quinine hydrochloride,  
15 mannitol, mannite, dextrose and lactose, used, intended for use, or  
16 designed for use in cutting controlled substances;

17 ~~(g)~~ (g) Separation gins and sifters used, intended for use, or  
18 designed for use in removing twigs and seeds from, or in otherwise  
19 cleaning or refining marijuana;

20 ~~(h)~~ (h) Blenders, bowls, containers, spoons and mixing devices  
21 used, intended for use, or designed for use in compounding  
22 controlled substances;

23 ~~(i)~~ (i) Capsules, balloons, envelopes and other containers used,  
24 intended for use, or designed for use in packaging small quantities  
25 of controlled substances;

26 ~~(j)~~ (j) Containers and other objects used, intended for use, or  
27 designed for use in storing or concealing controlled substances; and

28 ~~(k)~~ (k) Objects used, intended for use, or designed for use in  
29 ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing marijuana, cocaine,  
30 hashish or hashish oil into the human body, such as:

31 ~~(1)~~ (l) Metal, wooden, acrylic, glass, stone, plastic or ceramic  
32 pipes with or without screens, permanent screens, hashish heads or  
33 punctured metal bowls;

34 ~~(2)~~ (2) Water pipes;

35 ~~(3)~~ (3) Smoking masks;

36 ~~(4)~~ (4) Roach clips, which are objects used to hold burning  
37 material, such as a marijuana cigarette, that has become too small or  
38 too short to be held in the hand;

39 ~~(5)~~ (5) Cocaine spoons and cocaine vials;

40 ~~(6)~~ (6) Carburetor pipes and carburetion tubes and devices;

41 ~~(7)~~ (7) Chamber pipes;

42 ~~(8)~~ (8) Electric pipes;

43 ~~(9)~~ (9) Air-driven pipes;

44 ~~(10)~~ (10) Chillums;

45 ~~(11)~~ (11) Bongs; and



~~1~~ ~~(11)~~ (12) Ice pipes or chillers.

2 2. *The term does not include any type of hypodermic syringe,*  
3 *needle, instrument, device or implement intended or capable of*  
4 *being adapted for the purpose of administering drugs by*  
5 *subcutaneous, intramuscular or intravenous injection.*

6 **Sec. 13.** NRS 453.560 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 453.560 Unless a greater penalty is provided in NRS 212.160,  
8 a person who delivers or sells, possesses with the intent to deliver or  
9 sell, or manufactures with the intent to deliver or sell any drug  
10 paraphernalia, knowing, or under circumstances where one  
11 reasonably should know, that it will be used to plant, propagate,  
12 cultivate, grow, harvest, manufacture, compound, convert, produce,  
13 prepare, test, analyze, pack, repack, store, contain, conceal, ~~inject,~~  
14 ingest, inhale or otherwise introduce into the human body a  
15 controlled substance in violation of this chapter is guilty of a  
16 category E felony and shall be punished as provided in  
17 NRS 193.130.

18 **Sec. 14.** NRS 453.566 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19 453.566 Any person who uses, or possesses with intent to use,  
20 drug paraphernalia to plant, propagate, cultivate, grow, harvest,  
21 manufacture, compound, convert, produce, prepare, test, analyze,  
22 pack, repack, store, contain, conceal, ~~inject,~~ ingest, inhale or  
23 otherwise introduce into the human body a controlled substance in  
24 violation of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor.

25 **Sec. 15.** NRS 454.480 is hereby amended to read as follows:

26 454.480 1. Hypodermic devices which are not restricted by  
27 federal law to sale by or on the order of a physician may be sold by  
28 a pharmacist, or by a person in a pharmacy under the direction of a  
29 pharmacist, on the prescription of a physician, dentist or  
30 veterinarian, or of an advanced practitioner of nursing who is a  
31 practitioner. Those prescriptions must be filed as required by NRS  
32 639.236, and may be refilled as authorized by the prescriber.  
33 Records of refilling must be maintained as required by NRS  
34 639.2393 to 639.2397, inclusive.

35 2. Hypodermic devices which are not restricted by federal law  
36 to sale by or on the order of a physician may be sold *or furnished*  
37 without *a* prescription. ~~For the following purposes:~~

38 ~~—(a) For use in the treatment of persons having asthma or~~  
39 ~~diabetes.~~

40 ~~—(b) For use in injecting intramuscular or subcutaneous~~  
41 ~~medications prescribed by a practitioner for the treatment of human~~  
42 ~~beings.~~

43 ~~—(c) For use in an ambulance or by a fire fighting agency for~~  
44 ~~which a permit is held pursuant to NRS 450B.200 or 450B.210.~~

45 ~~—(d) For the injection of drugs in animals or poultry.~~



- 1 ~~—(e) For commercial or industrial use or use by jewelers or other~~  
2 ~~merchants having need for those devices in the conduct of their~~  
3 ~~business, or by hobbyists if the seller is satisfied that the device will~~  
4 ~~be used for legitimate purposes.~~  
5 ~~—(f) For use by funeral directors and embalmers, licensed medical~~  
6 ~~technicians or technologists, or research laboratories.]~~  
7 **Sec. 16.** NRS 454.520 is hereby repealed.  
8 **Sec. 17.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2013.

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**TEXT OF REPEALED SECTION**

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**454.520 Misuse of hypodermic device; penalty.** Any person who has lawfully obtained a hypodermic device, as provided by NRS 454.480 to 454.530, inclusive, and uses, permits or causes, directly or indirectly, such a device to be used for any purpose other than that for which it was purchased is guilty of a misdemeanor.

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