

Amendment No. 775

Senate Amendment to Senate Bill No. 324 First Reprint	(BDR 35-23)
Proposed by: Senate Committee on Finance	
Amends: Summary: No Title: Yes Preamble: No Joint Sponsorship: No Digest: Yes	

Adoption of this amendment will MAINTAIN the 2/3s majority vote requirement for final passage of S.B. 324 R1 (§ 15).

ASSEMBLY ACTION		Initial and Date	SENATE ACTION		Initial and Date
Adopted	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lost <input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lost <input type="checkbox"/>
Concurred In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not <input type="checkbox"/>	Concurred In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not <input type="checkbox"/>
Receded	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not <input type="checkbox"/>	Receded	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not <input type="checkbox"/>

EXPLANATION: Matter in (1) *blue bold italics* is new language in the original bill; (2) variations of green bold underlining is language proposed to be added in this amendment; (3) ~~red strikethrough~~ is deleted language in the original bill; (4) ~~purple double strikethrough~~ is language proposed to be deleted in this amendment; (5) orange double underlining is deleted language in the original bill proposed to be retained in this amendment.

MSM/WLK



Date: 5/16/2015

S.B. No. 324—Revises provisions concerning the Department of Transportation.
(BDR 35-23)



SENATE BILL NO. 324—SENATOR MANENDO (BY REQUEST)

MARCH 16, 2015

Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Revises provisions concerning the Department of Transportation.
(BDR 35-23)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Increases or Newly Provides for
Term of Imprisonment in County or City Jail or Detention
Facility.
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 the Department of Transportation; authorizing the Director of the Department to issue an encroachment permit for certain discharges onto a state highway ~~for~~ within a right-of-way ~~for~~ or into, onto or by way of a conveyance system; providing civil penalties for an ~~unpermitted~~ unauthorized discharge onto a state highway ~~for~~ within a right-of-way or into, onto or by way of a conveyance system or for a violation of an encroachment permit issued by the Director; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires a person to obtain from the Director of the Department of Transportation a permit before disturbing or digging up, or performing certain similar acts with respect to, a state highway or right-of-way. (NRS 408.423) **Section 4** of this bill prohibits a person from discharging onto a state highway ~~for~~ within a right-of-way ~~any substance other than storm water that results or could result in the pollution of the waters of this State~~ or into, onto or by way of a conveyance system unless: (1) the ~~Director has issued to the person~~ discharge is allowed by a valid National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit or a valid encroachment permit issued by the Director for the discharge; (2) the discharge is ~~followed pursuant to a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System~~ carried out in compliance with the terms of the applicable permit; ~~for~~ and (3) the discharge is ~~the result of fire fighting operations~~ carried out in accordance with any applicable conditions, rules and regulations prescribed by the Director. In addition, **section 4** requires that if a person ~~who discharges a substance onto a state highway or right-of-way~~ carries out such a discharge without ~~such a permit, or in violation of the terms of the permit~~ adhering to the three preceding requirements, the person must, upon receipt of an order for compliance issued pursuant to section 7 of this bill, abate, remove or remediate the discharge ~~in a timely manner~~ in a timely manner. If the person fails to abate, remove or remediate the discharge, the Director may ~~abate, remove or remediate the discharge and charge the person for the costs associated with the abatement, removal or remediation~~ exercise several powers of enforcement, as set forth in sections 5-10 of this bill.

Sections 5-10 of this bill provide certain enforcement powers to the Director relating to **section 4** and authorize the Director to: (1) enter upon any premises to investigate the source

of a discharge; (2) issue orders for compliance to enforce the provisions of **section 4**; (3) seek injunctive relief in a court of competent jurisdiction to prevent the continuance or occurrence of any act which violates or may violate the provisions of **section 4**; (4) impose a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per day for violations of the provisions of **section 4**; ~~and~~ (5) request that the Attorney General institute a criminal prosecution for a violation of the provisions of section 4; and (6) conduct an independent investigation of any act which violates or may violate the provisions of **section 4**.

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

Section 1. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 2. NRS 405.205 is hereby amended to read as follows:

405.205 A rural electric cooperative which has been formed pursuant to NRS 81.410 to 81.540, inclusive, may erect or bury, and thereafter maintain or operate, power lines, and may permit the maintenance and operation of telephone lines in connection therewith, along public highways, roads, streets and alleys within the area which it holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity to serve. In exercising this right, the cooperative shall not obstruct the natural and proper use of the highway, road, street or alley, and is subject to the requirements of NRS 408.423 ~~and~~ and section 4 of this act.

Sec. 3. Chapter 408 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections ~~408.423 to 408.429~~ 3.3 to 10, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 3.3. "Conveyance system" means any system of drainage along or involving the roads or highways of this State, or within the rights-of-way of the Department, and designed or used to collect, contain, store or provide for the flow of surface and storm water. The term includes, without limitation, gutters, curbs, ditches, pipes, culverts, channels, catch basins, vaults, man-made channels or storm drains that are owned, operated or controlled by the Department.

Sec. 3.5. "Discharge" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 445A.345, means the release of any pollutant, as that term is defined in NRS 445A.400, onto any state highway, within any right-of-way or into, onto or by way of any conveyance system.

Sec. 4. 1. No person shall discharge or cause ~~to be discharged~~ a discharge upon a state highway ~~for~~, within a right-of-way ~~any substance that is not composed entirely of storm water and that results or could result in the pollution of the waters of this State, other than a discharge allowed pursuant to or into, onto or by way of a conveyance system unless:~~

(a) The discharge is allowed by a valid National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit or ~~waters used for fire fighting operations, without~~ a valid encroachment permit issued by the Director pursuant to NRS 408.423 ~~and then only~~;

(b) The person ensures that the discharge is carried out in compliance with the terms of the applicable permit that allows the discharge, as described in paragraph (a); and

(c) The person ensures that the discharge is carried out in accordance with ~~the~~ any applicable conditions, rules and regulations prescribed by the Director.

2. ~~If a person who~~ violates the provisions of subsection 1, the person shall, upon receipt of an order for compliance issued pursuant to section 7 of this act, abate, remove or remediate the discharge in a timely manner.

3. If a person who violates the provisions of subsection 1 fails to abate, remove or remediate the discharge in a timely manner, the Director may abate,

1 remove or remediate the discharge. The abatement, removal or remediation of a
2 discharge pursuant to this subsection gives the Department a right of action to
3 recover ~~for~~ any of the following:

4 (a) Any expenses associated with the abatement, removal or remediation. ~~for~~

5 (b) Attorney's fees, costs and expenses related to the abatement, removal or
6 remediation. ~~for and~~

7 (c) An administrative fee in an amount not to exceed \$750 for each day ~~for~~ of
8 noncompliance with the provisions of subsection 1, commencing on the 6th day
9 after ~~the initial discharge, that~~ the person who failed to abate, remove or
10 remediate the discharge ~~for~~ received an order for compliance pursuant to section
11 7 of this act.

12 (d) A civil penalty pursuant to section 9 of this act.

13 4. The remedies provided in subsection 3 are cumulative and do not
14 abrogate and are in addition to any other rights, remedies and penalties that may
15 exist at law or in equity, including, without limitation, pursuant to sections 4 to
16 10, inclusive, of this act.

17 5. All money obtained in accordance with this section, including, without
18 limitation, all fees and monetary penalties imposed pursuant to this section, must
19 be deposited in the State Highway Fund.

20 6. To enforce the provisions of this section, the Director may cooperate and
21 coordinate with the Division of Environmental Protection of the State
22 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Office of the
23 Attorney General.

24 ~~for~~ 6. As used in this section, "pollution" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS
25 445A.105.

26 Sec. 5. To enforce the provisions of section 4 of this act or any rule,
27 regulation, standard, permit or order of the Director related thereto, the Director
28 or ~~for~~ an authorized designee of the Director may, upon presenting proper
29 credentials:

30 1. Enter upon any premises upon which any act in violation of section 4 of
31 this act takes place to inspect, investigate, collect data or otherwise document the
32 violation;

33 2. At reasonable times, have access to and copy any records required to be
34 maintained in association with any permit issued for the purposes of section 4 of
35 this act or with any abatement, removal or remediation of a discharge that
36 violates the provisions of section 4 of this act;

37 3. Inspect any equipment or method for the monitoring or observation of a
38 discharge; and

39 4. Have access to and sample any discharge onto the state highway or right-
40 of-way which results directly or indirectly from activities of an owner or operator
41 of a premises where the discharge originates.

42 Sec. 6. 1. Except as otherwise provided in section 10 of this act, if the
43 Director finds that any person is engaged or is about to engage in any act or
44 practice which violates any rule, regulation, standard, permit or order issued by
45 the Director for the purposes of section 4 of this act, the Director may:

46 (a) Issue an order for compliance pursuant to section 7 of this act; ~~for~~

47 (b) Commence a civil action pursuant to sections 8 and 9 of this act ~~for~~; or

48 (c) Request that the Attorney General prosecute any person who violates any
49 provision of sections 4 to 10, inclusive, of this act.

50 2. The remedies provided in subsection 1 are cumulative and do not
51 abrogate and are in addition to any other rights, remedies and penalties that may
52 exist at law or in equity, including, without limitation, pursuant to sections 4 to
53 10, inclusive, of this act.

1 Sec. 7. 1. Except as otherwise provided in section 10 of this act, if the
2 Director finds that any person is engaged in or is about to engage in any act or
3 practice which constitutes or will constitute a violation of any rule, regulation,
4 standard, permit or order issued by the Director to enforce the provisions of
5 section 4 of this act, the Director or ~~for~~ an authorized designee of the Director
6 may issue an order for compliance which:

7 (a) Specifies the provisions of section 4 of this act, or any rule, regulation,
8 standard, permit or order issued by the Director, alleged to be violated or about to
9 be violated;

10 (b) Indicates the facts alleged which constitute the alleged violation;

11 (c) Prescribes the necessary corrective action to be taken and a reasonable
12 period for completion of that corrective action; and

13 (d) ~~For~~ Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, is served upon the
14 person at his or her place of business or, if that place of business is unknown,
15 served upon the person through the post office or at his or her last known address
16 of record. Alternatively, the order for compliance may be served upon the person
17 by sending a copy of the order to the electronic mail address of the person, if the
18 electronic mail address of the person is known.

19 2. Any order for compliance issued pursuant to subsection 1 is final and is
20 not subject to review unless the person against whom the order is issued, within
21 ~~for~~ 10 days after the date on which the order is served, requests by written
22 petition a hearing before the Director ~~for~~ or an authorized designee of the
23 Director.

24 Sec. 8. 1. Except as otherwise provided in section 10 of this act, the
25 Director may seek injunctive relief in a court of competent jurisdiction to prevent
26 the continuance or occurrence of any act or practice which violates any provision
27 of section 4 of this act, or any rule, regulation, standard, permit or order issued
28 pursuant thereto.

29 2. On a showing by the Director or ~~for~~ an authorized designee of the
30 Director that a person is engaged or is about to engage in any act or practice
31 which violates or will violate any rule, regulation, ~~for~~ standard, ~~for~~ permit or
32 order issued for the purposes of section 4 of this act, the court may issue, without
33 bond, any prohibitory or mandatory injunctions that the facts may warrant,
34 including, without limitation, a temporary restraining order issued ex parte, or,
35 after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, a preliminary injunction or
36 permanent injunction.

37 3. Failure to establish lack of an adequate remedy at law or irreparable
38 harm is not a ground for denying a request for a temporary restraining order or
39 injunction pursuant to subsection 2.

40 4. A court may require the posting of a sufficient performance bond or
41 other security interest to ensure compliance with the court order within the period
42 prescribed.

43 5. An injunction issued pursuant to this section does not abrogate and is in
44 addition to any other remedies and penalties that may exist at law or in equity,
45 including, without limitation, pursuant to sections 4 to 10, inclusive, of this act.

46 Sec. 9. Except as otherwise provided in sections 4 to 10, inclusive, of this
47 act, any person who violates or aids or abets in the violation of any provision of
48 section 4 of this act, or of any rule, regulation, standard, permit or order issued
49 pursuant thereto, shall pay a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000 for each day
50 of the violation. A civil penalty imposed pursuant to this section is cumulative and
51 does not abrogate and is in addition to any other remedies and penalties that may
52 exist at law or in equity, including, without limitation, pursuant to sections 4 to
53 10, inclusive, of this act.

1 **Sec. 10. 1.** *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, before*
2 *determining whether to issue an order for compliance, commence a civil action ,*
3 *request that the Attorney General commence a criminal action or seek injunctive*
4 *relief pursuant to sections 4 to 10, inclusive, of this act, the Director or the*
5 *authorized designee of the Director shall, if practicable, conduct an independent*
6 *investigation of the alleged act or practice for which the Director is making the*
7 *determination.*

8 **2.** *The Director is not required to conduct an independent investigation*
9 *pursuant to subsection 1 if:*

10 *(a) The determination of the Director to take any action specified in that*
11 *subsection is based on information that is provided to the Director by ~~the holder~~*
12 *off a person authorized to act pursuant to a permit issued for the purposes of*
13 *section 4 of this act ~~or by a person who has carried out a discharge that is~~*
14 *unauthorized, unlawful or otherwise impermissible pursuant to that section; or*

15 *(b) The alleged act or practice ~~is~~*

16 ~~*(1) Occurs on land that is managed or controlled by the United States*~~
17 ~~*Department of Defense or Department of Energy; or*~~

18 ~~*(2) Creates*~~ *creates an imminent and substantial danger to the public*
19 *health or the environment.*

20 **Sec. 10.5.** NRS 408.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21 408.020 As used in this chapter , *unless the context otherwise requires,* the
22 words and terms defined in NRS 408.033 to 408.095, inclusive, ~~unless the context~~
23 ~~otherwise requires, and ~~section~~ sections 3.3 and 3.5 of this act~~ have the
24 meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

25 **Sec. 11.** NRS 408.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:

26 408.050 “Encroachment” means any tower, pole, pole line, wire, pipe,
27 pipeline, fence, billboard, approach road, driveway, stand or building, crop or
28 crops, flora, *discharge of any kind or character* or any structure which is placed in,
29 upon, under or over any portion of highway rights-of-way.

30 **Sec. 12.** ~~NRS 408.172 is hereby amended to read as follows:~~

31 ~~408.172 1. Subject to the approval of the Board, the Attorney General shall,~~
32 ~~immediately upon request by the Board, appoint an attorney at law as the Chief~~
33 ~~Counsel of the Department, and such assistant attorneys as are necessary. Attorneys~~
34 ~~so appointed are deputy attorneys general.~~

35 ~~2. The Chief Counsel shall act as the attorney and legal advisor of the~~
36 ~~Department in all actions, proceedings, hearings and all matters relating to the~~
37 ~~Department and to the powers and duties of its officers.~~

38 ~~3. Under the direction of or in the absence of the Chief Counsel, the assistant~~
39 ~~attorneys may perform any duty required or permitted by law to be performed by~~
40 ~~the Chief Counsel.~~

41 ~~4. The Chief Counsel and assistant attorneys are in the unclassified service of~~
42 ~~the State.~~

43 ~~5. All contracts, instruments and documents executed by the Department must~~
44 ~~be first approved and endorsed as to legality and form by the Chief Counsel.~~

45 ~~6. The Chief Counsel shall act as the attorney and legal advisor of the~~
46 ~~Department in all actions, proceedings, hearings and enforcement actions related~~
47 ~~to the provisions of sections 4 to 10, inclusive, of this act. (Deleted by~~
48 ~~amendment.)~~

49 **Sec. 13.** NRS 408.175 is hereby amended to read as follows:

50 408.175 1. The Director shall:

51 (a) Appoint one Deputy Director who in the absence, inability or failure of the
52 Director has full authority to perform any duty required or permitted by law to be
53 performed by the Director.

(b) Appoint one Deputy Director for southern Nevada whose principal office must be located in an urban area in southern Nevada.

(c) *Appoint one Deputy Director with full authority to perform any duty required or ~~permitted~~ allowed by law to be performed by the Director to implement, manage, oversee and enforce any environmental program of the Department.*

(d) Employ such engineers, engineering and technical assistants, clerks and other personnel as in the Director's judgment may be necessary to the proper conduct of the Department and to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 284.143, the Deputy Directors shall devote their entire time and attention to the business of the office and shall not pursue any other business or occupation or hold any other office of profit.

3. The Director may delegate such authority as may be necessary for the Deputy Director appointed pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1 to carry out his or her duties.

Sec. 14. NRS 408.210 is hereby amended to read as follows:

408.210 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 484D.655, the Director of the Department of Transportation may restrict the use of, or close, any highway whenever the Director considers the closing or restriction of use necessary:

(a) For the protection of the public.

(b) For the protection of such highway from damage during storms or during construction, reconstruction, improvement or maintenance operations thereon.

(c) To promote economic development or tourism in the best interest of the State or upon the written request of the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development or the Director of the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs.

2. The Director of the Department of Transportation may:

(a) Divide or separate any highway into separate roadways, wherever there is particular danger to the traveling public of collisions between vehicles proceeding in opposite directions or from vehicular turning movements or cross-traffic, by constructing curbs, central dividing sections or other physical dividing lines, or by signs, marks or other devices in or on the highway appropriate to designate the dividing line.

(b) Lay out and construct frontage roads on and along any highway or freeway and divide and separate any such frontage road from the main highway or freeway by means of curbs, physical barriers or by other appropriate devices.

3. ~~The~~ *Except as otherwise provided in sections 4 to 10, inclusive, of this act, the* Director may remove from the highways any unlicensed encroachment which is not removed, or the removal of which is not commenced and thereafter diligently prosecuted, within 5 days after personal service of notice and demand upon the owner of the encroachment or the owner's agent. In lieu of personal service upon that person or agent, service of the notice may also be made by registered or certified mail and by posting, for a period of 5 days, a copy of the notice on the encroachment described in the notice. Removal by the Department of the encroachment on the failure of the owner to comply with the notice and demand gives the Department a right of action to recover the expense of the removal, cost and expenses of suit, and in addition thereto the sum of ~~\$100~~ *\$750* for each day the encroachment remains beyond 5 days after the service of the notice and demand.

4. If the Director determines that the interests of the Department are not compromised by a proposed or existing encroachment, the Director may issue a license to the owner or the owner's agent permitting an encroachment on the highway. Such a license is revocable and must provide for relocation or removal of

1 the encroachment in the following manner. Upon notice from the Director to the
2 owner of the encroachment or the owner's agent, the owner or agent may propose a
3 time within which he or she will relocate or remove the encroachment as required.
4 If the Director and the owner or the owner's agent agree upon such a time, the
5 Director shall not himself or herself remove the encroachment unless the owner or
6 the owner's agent has failed to do so within the time agreed. If the Director and the
7 owner or the owner's agent do not agree upon such a time, the Director may
8 remove the encroachment at any time later than 30 days after the service of the
9 original notice upon the owner or the owner's agent. Service of notice may be made
10 in the manner provided by subsection 3. Removal of the encroachment by the
11 Director gives the Department the right of action provided by subsection 3, but the
12 penalty must be computed from the expiration of the agreed period or 30-day
13 period, as the case may be.

14 **Sec. 15.** NRS 408.423 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 408.423 1. No state highway or right-of-way may be disturbed, dug up,
16 crossed, encroached upon, **discharged upon** or otherwise used for the laying or re-
17 laying of pipelines, ditches, flumes, sewers, poles, wires, approach roads,
18 driveways, railways or for any other purpose, without the written permit of the
19 Director, and then only in accordance with the conditions and regulations
20 prescribed by the Director. All such work must be done under the supervision and
21 to the satisfaction of the Director. All costs of replacing the highway in as good
22 condition as previous to its being disturbed must be paid by the persons to whom or
23 on whose behalf such permit was given or by the person by whom the work was
24 done.

25 2. In case of immediate necessity therefor, a city or town may dig up a state
26 highway without a permit from the Director, but in such cases the Director must be
27 first notified and the highway must be replaced forthwith in as good condition as
28 before at the expense of such city or town.

29 3. The Department shall charge each applicant a reasonable fee for all
30 administrative costs incurred by the Department in acting upon an application for a
31 permit, including costs for the preparation and inspection of a proposed
32 encroachment.

33 **Sec. 16.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.