SENATE BILL NO. 3–COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

(ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR)

PREFILED OCTOBER 28, 2026

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to emergency management. (BDR 36-161)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State Highway Fund: 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 emergency management; revising the duties of the Chief of the Office of Emergency Management in the Office of the Governor; revising the duties of the State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee within the Office of Emergency Management; revising provisions governing the appointment of members of the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee; transferring certain duties of the Board of Search and Rescue and the Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee to the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee; eliminating the Board of Search and Rescue and the Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law creates the Office of Emergency Management in the Office of the Governor and requires the Chief of the Office of Emergency Management, in adopting an integrated process for emergency management, to conduct activities designed to prepare state and local governmental agencies, private organizations and other persons to respond appropriately if an emergency or disaster occurs by taking certain actions. (NRS 414.040) **Section 1** of this bill adds conducting emergency alerts, warnings and communications to such actions.

Existing law establishes the State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee within the Office of Emergency Management and requires the Committee to: (1) meet at the call of the Chief as frequently as required to perform

its duties, but not less than once each calendar year; (2) annually review its plan for performing certain duties during an activation of the Committee and annually practice carrying out the plan; and (3) submit an annual report concerning the activities of the Committee and any policies or procedures adopted by the Committee. (NRS 414.270, 414.280) **Section 3** of this bill eliminates the requirement that the Committee meet at least once each calendar year. **Section 4** of this bill eliminates the requirements that the Committee annually review and practice carrying out its plan. **Section 4** also requires the Committee to submit a report only if the Committee met during the immediately preceding calendar year and to include in such a report the activities of the Committee and any policies or procedures adopted since the submission of the last report.

Existing law creates the Board of Search and Rescue to: (1) provide direction and guidance for the Coordinator of Search and Rescue; (2) formulate policy regarding search and rescue; (3) coordinate training in techniques of search and rescue; (4) establish recommendations for organizations specializing in search and rescue and certify organizations which meet those recommendations; (5) maintain a list of all such certified organizations; and (6) carry out certain other duties assigned to the Board. (NRS 414.170, 414.180) Existing law also authorizes the Board to adopt regulations for the administration of laws regarding searches and rescues. (NRS 414.190) Existing law creates the Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee and requires the Committee to develop guidelines and procedures regarding requesting and responding to a request for intrastate mutual aid, recordkeeping during an emergency or disaster for which intrastate mutual aid has been requested and reimbursement of costs to assisting participants. (NRS 414A.110) **Section 9** of this bill eliminates the Board of Search and Rescue, the Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee and a definition made unnecessary by the elimination of the Board.

Existing law requires the Chief, with the advice of the Board, to appoint an employee of the Office of Emergency Management as Coordinator of Search and Rescue. (NRS 414.200) **Section 2** of this bill eliminates the requirement that the Chief obtain the advice of the Board in appointing the Coordinator.

Existing law creates the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee and requires the Chief, with the approval of the Governor, to appoint to the Committee not more than 34 voting members who have expertise in certain subjects. (NRS 239C.400) **Section 6** of this bill increases from 34 to 36 the maximum number of voting members of the Committee and adds search and rescue and forestry to the subjects in which the members of the Committee must have expertise.

Existing law requires the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee to perform certain duties, including, without limitation, formulating advisory recommendations and policies regarding emergency management, emergency response and homeland security efforts for the State, as well as statewide mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts. (NRS 239C.440) **Section 7** of this bill transfers certain duties from the Board of Search and Rescue and the Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee to the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee. **Section 5** of this bill makes conforming changes related to the transfer of duties made by **section 7**.

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

Section 1. NRS 414.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:

414.040 1. An Office of Emergency Management is hereby created within the Office of the Governor. The Chief of the Office of Emergency Management is appointed by and holds office at the

pleasure of the Governor. The Office of Emergency Management is the State Agency for Emergency Management for the purposes of the Compact ratified by the Legislature pursuant to NRS 415.010. The Chief is the State's Director of Emergency Management for the purposes of that Compact.

2. The Chief may employ technical, clerical, stenographic and other personnel as may be required, and may make such expenditures therefor and for other expenses of his or her office within the appropriation therefor, or from other money made available to him or her for purposes of emergency management, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

3. The Chief, subject to the direction and control of the Governor, shall carry out the program for emergency management in this State. The Chief shall coordinate the activities of all organizations for emergency management within the State, maintain liaison with and cooperate with agencies and organizations of other states and of the Federal Government for emergency management and carry out such additional duties as may be prescribed by the Governor.

4. The Chief shall assist in the development of comprehensive, coordinated plans for emergency management by adopting an integrated process, using the partnership of governmental entities, business and industry, volunteer organizations and other interested persons, for the mitigation of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies or disasters. In adopting this process, the Chief shall:

(a) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 232.3532, develop written plans for the mitigation of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters. The plans developed by the Chief pursuant to this paragraph must include the information prescribed in NRS 414.041 to 414.044, inclusive.

(b) Conduct activities designed to:

(1) Eliminate or reduce the probability that an emergency will occur or to reduce the effects of unavoidable disasters;

(2) Prepare state and local governmental agencies, private organizations and other persons to be capable of responding appropriately if an emergency or disaster occurs by fostering the adoption of plans for emergency operations, conducting exercises to test those plans, training necessary personnel ***,*** ~~[and]~~ acquiring necessary resources ~~[,]~~ ***and conducting emergency alerts, warnings and communications;***

(3) Test periodically plans for emergency operations to ensure that the activities of state and local governmental agencies, private organizations and other persons are coordinated;

(4) Provide assistance to victims, prevent further injury or damage to persons or property and increase the effectiveness of recovery operations; and

(5) Restore the operation of vital community life-support systems and return persons and property affected by an emergency or disaster to a condition that is comparable to or better than what existed before the emergency or disaster occurred.

5. In addition to any other requirement concerning the program of emergency management in this State, the Chief shall:

(a) Maintain an inventory of any state or local services, equipment, supplies, personnel and other resources related to participation in the Nevada Intrastate Mutual Aid System established pursuant to NRS 414A.100;

(b) Coordinate the provision of resources and equipment within this State in response to requests for mutual aid pursuant to NRS 414.075 or chapter 414A of NRS;

(c) Coordinate with state agencies, local governments, Indian tribes or nations and special districts to use the personnel and equipment of those state agencies, local governments, Indian tribes or nations and special districts as agents of the State during a response to a request for mutual aid pursuant to NRS 414.075 or 414A.130; and

(d) Provide notice:

(1) On or before February 15 of each year to the governing body of each political subdivision of whether the political subdivision has complied with the requirements of NRS 239C.250;

(2) On or before February 15 of each year to the Chair of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada of whether each utility that is not a governmental utility and each provider of new electric resources has complied with the requirements of NRS 239C.270;

(3) On or before February 15 of each year to the Governor of whether each governmental utility described in subsection 1 of NRS 239C.050 and each provider of new electric resources has complied with the requirements of NRS 239C.270;

(4) On or before February 15 of each year to the governing body of each governmental utility described in subsection 2 of NRS 239C.050 and each provider of new electric resources of whether each such governmental utility has complied with the requirements of NRS 239C.270;

(5) On or before November 15 of each year to the Superintendent of Public Instruction of whether each board of trustees of a school district, governing body of a charter school or governing body of a private school has complied with the requirements of NRS 388.243 or 394.1687, as applicable; and

(6) On or before November 15 of each year to the Chair of the Nevada Gaming Control Board of whether each resort hotel has complied with the requirements of NRS 463.790.

6. The Office shall:

(a) Execute, administer and enforce the provisions of chapters 414 and 414A of NRS and perform such duties and exercise such powers required pursuant to those chapters;

(b) Perform the duties required pursuant to chapter 415A of NRS;

(c) Perform the duties required pursuant to NRS 353.2753 at the request of a state agency or local government;

(d) Adopt regulations setting forth the manner in which federal funds received by the Office to finance projects related to emergency management and homeland security are allocated, except with respect to any funds committed by specific statute to the regulatory authority of another person or agency, including, without limitation, funds accepted by the State Emergency Response Commission pursuant to NRS 459.740; and

(e) Submit a written report to the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security within 60 days of making a grant of money to a state agency, political subdivision or tribal government to pay for a project or program relating to the prevention of, detection of, mitigation of, preparedness for, response to and recovery from acts of terrorism that includes, without limitation:

(1) The total amount of money that the state agency, political subdivision or tribal government has been approved to receive for the project or program;

(2) A description of the project or program; and

(3) An explanation of how the money may be used by the state agency, political subdivision or tribal government.

7. The Office shall develop a written guide for the preparation and maintenance of an emergency response plan to assist a person or governmental entity that is required to file a plan pursuant to NRS 239C.250, 239C.270, 388.243, 394.1687 or 463.790. The Office shall review the guide on an annual basis and revise the guide if necessary. On or before January 15 of each year, the Office shall post the guide on a publicly accessible Internet website maintained by the Office.

8. The Office shall provide a copy of the written guide developed pursuant to subsection 7 to a person or governmental entity that is required to file a plan pursuant to NRS 239C.250, 239C.270, 388.243, 394.1687 or 463.790 upon the request of such a person or entity.

9. The Office may disseminate to a local public safety agency, as the Office determines is reasonably necessary in the event of an

act of terrorism or related emergency or for emergency preparedness, coordination and response efforts:

(a) A plan developed pursuant to NRS 388.243 or updated pursuant to NRS 388.245;

(b) A plan developed pursuant to NRS 394.1687 or updated pursuant to NRS 394.1688; and

(c) A deviation approved pursuant to NRS 388.251 or 394.1692.

10. As used in this section, "public safety agency" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 388.2345.

Sec. 2. NRS 414.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:

414.200 The Chief ~~[, with the advice of the Board,]~~ shall appoint an employee of the Office as Coordinator of Search and Rescue.

Sec. 3. NRS 414.270 is hereby amended to read as follows:

414.270 1. A State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee is hereby established within the Office. The Chief shall appoint to the State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee:

(a) One or more representatives of a state or local organization for emergency management;

(b) One or more representatives of the office of a county coroner;

(c) One or more representatives of the Office of the Attorney General;

(d) One or more representatives of the Nevada Hospital Association or its successor organization;

(e) One or more representatives of a state or local public health agency whose duties relate to emergency preparedness;

(f) The Chief Medical Officer;

(g) An employee of the Department of Human Services whose duties relate to ensuring compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191, as amended, and any applicable regulations; and

(h) A consumer of healthcare services.

2. The State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee shall meet at the call of the Chief as frequently as required to perform its duties **.** ~~[, but not less than once each calendar year.]~~

3. The provisions of chapter 241 of NRS do not apply to any meeting held by the State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee or a subcommittee thereof.

Sec. 4. NRS 414.280 is hereby amended to read as follows:

414.280 1. The State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee shall:

(a) Notify providers of health care, as defined in NRS 629.031, in writing of the provisions of NRS 629.043.

(b) Develop a plan for performing its duties pursuant to NRS 414.285 during activation. Such a plan is confidential and must be securely maintained by each person who has possession, custody or control of the plan.

(c) ~~[Annually review the plan developed pursuant to paragraph (b) and annually practice carrying out the plan.~~

~~(d) On]~~ ***If the Committee met during the immediately preceding calendar year, on*** or before January 31 of ~~[each]~~ ***the following*** year, submit a report to the Chief, the Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the next session of the Legislature, if the report is submitted in an even-numbered year, or the Legislative Commission, if the report is submitted in an odd-numbered year. The report must include, without limitation:

(1) A description of the activities of the State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee ~~[for the immediately preceding calendar year;]~~ ***since the submission of the last report required by this paragraph;*** and

(2) A summary of any policies or procedures adopted by the State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee ~~[for the immediately preceding calendar year.~~

~~(e)]~~ ***since the submission of the last report required by this paragraph.***

(d) Upon the request of a political subdivision made for the purpose of performing reunification or identification services, share information obtained in a report submitted to the Committee pursuant to NRS 629.043 with the political subdivision, including, without limitation, the local health authority, the local law enforcement, the local emergency manager, the local coroner or other persons assigned by the political subdivision to perform reunification and identification services.

2. A member of the State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee is immune from any civil action for any disclosure made in good faith in accordance with paragraph ~~[(c)]~~ ***(d)*** of subsection 1.

Sec. 5. NRS 414A.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

414A.100 1. The Nevada Intrastate Mutual Aid System is hereby established and must, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, be administered by:

(a) The Chief of the Office for coordinating mutual aid relating to all emergencies or disasters other than wildfire suppression; and

(b) The State Forester Firewarden for coordinating mutual aid relating to wildfire suppression.

2. Except as provided in subsection 3, the Chief of the Office, subject to the direction and control of the Governor shall:

(a) Coordinate the provision of mutual aid during the response to and recovery from an emergency or disaster;

(b) Maintain records of the requests for and provision of mutual aid throughout this State;

(c) Identify, maintain an inventory of and coordinate participant personnel and equipment available for intrastate mutual aid response;

(d) Provide information and assistance, upon request, to participants concerning reimbursement for services and other guidelines and procedures developed by the ~~[Intrastate Mutual Aid]~~ ***Nevada Resilience Advisory*** Committee pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS ~~[414A.110;]~~ ***239C.440;*** and

(e) Adopt regulations relating to the administration of the System.

3. The State Forester Firewarden, subject to the direction of the Director of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, shall:

(a) Coordinate the provision of mutual aid during the response to and recovery from wildfire suppression;

(b) Maintain records of the requests for and provision of mutual aid in response to wildfire suppression throughout this State;

(c) Identify, maintain an inventory of and coordinate participant personnel and equipment available for intrastate mutual aid response to wildfire suppression;

(d) Upon request, provide information and assistance to participants concerning reimbursement for services provided in response to wildfire suppression and any guidelines and procedures developed by the ~~[Intrastate Mutual Aid]~~ ***Nevada Resilience Advisory*** Committee pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS ~~[414A.110]~~ ***239C.440*** with regard to wildfire suppression; and

(e) Adopt regulations relating to the administration of the System with regard to wildfire suppression.

Sec. 6. NRS 239C.400 is hereby amended to read as follows:

239C.400 1. The Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee is hereby created.

2. With the approval of the Governor, the Chief of the Office shall appoint to the Committee not more than ~~[34]~~ ***36*** voting members that the Chief determines to be appropriate and who have expertise in:

(a) Emergency management;

(b) Homeland security;

(c) Public safety;

(d) Cybersecurity;

(e) School safety; ~~[or]~~

(f) Public health ~~[.]~~ ***;***

(g) Search and rescue; or

(h) Forestry.

3. With the approval of the Governor, the Chief of the Office or his or her designee shall:

(a) Serve as the Chair and a voting member of the Committee; and

(b) Appoint one voting member of the Committee to serve as Vice Chair.

4. The term of office of each voting member of the Committee is 2 years. This term limit does not apply to the Chair. A member may be reappointed.

Sec. 7. NRS 239C.440 is hereby amended to read as follows:

239C.440 The Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee shall, within the limits of available money:

1. Annually develop state resilience goals and related objectives for the Committee;

2. Formulate advisory recommendations and policies regarding the emergency management, emergency response and homeland security efforts for the State, as well as statewide mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts;

3. In accordance with the state resilience goals and related objectives developed pursuant to subsection 1:

(a) Review grants proposed by state agencies, political subdivisions or tribal governments that are responsible for homeland security and make recommendations and provide related advice concerning such grants to the Committee on Finance appointed pursuant to NRS 239C.170;

(b) Review grants proposed by agencies of this State, political subdivisions or tribal governments that are responsible for emergency management or emergency response and make recommendations and provide related advice concerning such grants to the Chief of the Office; and

(c) Review statewide mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts in consultation with political subdivisions and tribal governments and make recommendations to such political subdivisions and tribal governments concerning these coordination efforts; ~~[and]~~

4. ***Develop comprehensive guidelines and procedures for the Nevada Intrastate Mutual Aid System established pursuant to NRS 414A.100 regarding:***

(a) Requesting intrastate mutual aid;

(b) Responding to a request for intrastate mutual aid;

(c) Recordkeeping during an emergency or disaster for which intrastate mutual aid has been requested; and

(d) Reimbursement of costs to assisting participants;

5. Provide direction and guidance on best practices for search and rescue operations and coordination for the Coordinator of Search and Rescue appointed pursuant to NRS 414.200; and

6. Develop the annual report required pursuant to NRS 239C.480.

Sec. 8. 1. Any administrative regulations adopted by an officer or an agency whose name has been changed or whose responsibilities have been transferred pursuant to the provisions of this act to another officer or agency remain in force until amended by the officer or agency to which the responsibility for the adoption of the regulations has been transferred.

2. Any contracts or other agreements entered into by an officer or agency whose name has been changed or whose responsibilities have been transferred pursuant to the provisions of this act to another officer or agency are binding upon the officer or agency to which the responsibility for the administration of the provisions of the contract or other agreement has been transferred. Such contracts and other agreements may be enforced by the officer or agency to which the responsibility for the enforcement of the provisions of the contract or other agreement has been transferred.

3. Any action taken by an officer or agency whose name has been changed or whose responsibilities have been transferred pursuant to the provisions of this act to another officer or agency remains in effect as if taken by the officer or agency to which the responsibility for the enforcement of such actions has been transferred.

Sec. 9. NRS 414.031, 414.170, 414.180, 414.190 and 414A.110 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 10. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2027.

LEADLINES OF REPEALED SECTIONS

414.031 "Board" defined.

414.170 Board of Search and Rescue: Creation; members; terms.

414.180 Board of Search and Rescue: Duties.

414.190 Board of Search and Rescue: Regulations.

414A.110 Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee: Creation; membership; terms; Co-Chairs and Vice Chair; duties; annual evaluation of System.