LCB File No. R224-03

PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE NEVADA TAX COMMISSION

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §§1 and 2, NRS 360.090, 360.250 and 375.015.

- Section 1. "Real Estate Transfer Tax Manual" means a manual of information to be used in the determination of the amount of tax to be imposed under NRS 375.020 and Section 124 of SB 8 of the 20th Special Session that is published by the Department as necessary, but no less than every three years, pursuant to section 2 of this regulation.
- Sec. 2. 1. The Department will periodically, but not less than every three years, publish or update a <u>Real Estate Transfer Tax Manual</u> which describes the methods and standards that must be used in the determination of the amount of tax to be imposed on real property transfers and in determining whether such transfers qualify for exemption from the imposition of the tax.

The manual must include, without limitation:

- a.) A glossary of real estate terms describing interests in land and used in NRS Chapter 375:
 - b.) Standards and guidelines to determine taxable and non-taxable types of transactions;
 - c.) Standards and guidelines for the determination of the taxable base value;
- d.) A compilation of current and applicable published court decisions and attorney general opinions regarding the imposition of the real property transfer tax;
- e.) Standards and guidelines to be used in the verification of any transfer tax imposed or exemption granted, pursuant to the requirements of NRS 375.140.
- 2. The <u>Real Estate Transfer Tax Manual</u> must be approved by the Commission in accordance with the requirements of NRS 233B before publication. The Department must disclose all proposed modifications to the manual and hold a public workshop on the modifications prior to presenting the manual to the Commission for approval.
- 3. Each county recorder shall use the <u>Real Estate Transfer Tax Manual</u> in determining whether real property transfers are taxable and the amount of tax to be imposed.
- 4. Each county recorder shall direct a copy of any written opinion of the district attorney of his jurisdiction, regarding the imposition and collection of the real property transfer tax, to the Department for review. District attorney opinions which appear inconsistent with the opinions of the attorney general or the standards announced in the Real Estate Transfer Tax Manual shall be returned to the recorder with advice about the apparent inconsistency, or referred to the Attorney General for additional consideration.
- Sec. 3. 1. The Department may conduct compliance verifications of each county recorder's records. The purpose of the verification is to determine whether each office's records comply with the statutes and regulations governing the calculation, collection, and distribution of the

state's portion of real property transfer taxes pursuant to NRS Chapter 375 and Section 124 of SB 8 of the 20th Special Session. Examination of county records will be made to:

- a.) Verify calculations of the real property tax on a sample of transfer transactions, including, without limitation, whether the basis of the tax was correctly reported and whether exemptions were appropriately allowed;
- b.) Verify calculations of the collection allowance allowed to each county pursuant to Section 124 of SB 8 of the 20th Special Session;
- c.) Verify timely submission of reports and payment of amounts collected to the appropriate governmental entity; and
- d.) Verify procedures for the recording of and release of certificates of delinquency and requests for correction of assessments;
- Sec. 4. The Department must periodically prepare a report on the status of collections of the real property transfer tax. To the extent each county has the computer system capability to provide information, county recorders must collect and report to the Department the following data:
 - a.) The total number of documents in each county that were subject to the tax by month;
 - b.) The total taxes collected by month;
 - c.) The total number of exemptions granted by type of exemption; and
- d.) Such other information determined useful for analysis of the tax and that the county recorders data systems are capable of capturing without undue expense to the county.
- Sec. 5. Each county recorder whose county has a population less than 30,000 may request assistance from the Department in making determinations about the amount of tax to be imposed or whether the transaction is exempt from taxation. The Department must respond to the request within two business days after receiving the request and supporting documentation.
- Sec. 6. Waiver or reduction of penalty or interest for deficiency; appeal
- 1. The county recorder may waive or reduce the penalty or interest for a deficiency for which a notice of a deficiency determination has been issued by the recorder pursuant to NRS 375.030(3), if the county recorder finds that the deficiency was caused by circumstances beyond the control of the taxpayer against whom the deficiency determination was made or his agent and occurred despite the exercise of ordinary care and without intent.
- 2. Such a taxpayer or his agent may request a waiver or reduction of the penalty or interest for the deficiency by filing a statement with the county recorder that contains the facts underlying the circumstances that caused the deficiency. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the statement must be filed in writing with the county recorder within 45 days after the date on which the taxpayer is served with a notice of a deficiency determination for the deficiency pursuant to NRS 375.030(3). If the notice of the deficiency determination is served by mail, the period for filing a statement pursuant to this subsection will be extended by 3 days. The statement must be witnessed by a notary public or contain an acknowledgment that it is signed under penalty of perjury.
- 3. In determining, for the purposes of subsection 1, whether or not the circumstances which caused the deficiency were beyond the control of the taxpayer against whom the

deficiency determination was made or his agent and occurred despite the exercise of ordinary care and without intent, the county recorder shall consider evidence which shows that the deficiency was caused by circumstances that were not directly related to the actions of the taxpayer or his agent, including, without limitation, fire, earthquake, flood or other acts of Nature, theft, the death or serious illness of the taxpayer or his agent or a member of the immediate family of the taxpayer, erroneous written information provided to the taxpayer or his agent by the county recorder and the misaddressed but timely mailing of the return or payment. The existence of an event described in this subsection does not create a conclusive presumption of eligibility for a waiver or reduction of the penalty or interest on a deficiency pursuant to this section.

- 4. If the assessment of a tax is accompanied by the assessment of a penalty based upon fraud or intent to evade the tax pursuant to NRS 375.110, the county recorder shall not consider a request to waive or reduce the penalty or interest on the deficiency pursuant to this section unless the county recorder determines that there is insufficient evidence to show fraud or intent to evade the tax.
- 5. If the county recorder denies a request by a taxpayer for a waiver or reduction of a penalty or interest on a deficiency pursuant to this section, the taxpayer may appeal the decision by filing a written notice of appeal with the county recorder within 30 days after the taxpayer has been served with the decision of the county recorder denying the request. Upon receipt of such a notice of appeal, the county recorder shall schedule a hearing for the appeal. The taxpayer must be given 21 working days' notice of the time and place of the hearing. The procedures set forth in this chapter for a hearing on a claim for refund apply to a hearing on an appeal of the denial of a request for a waiver or reduction of a penalty or interest on a deficiency.
- Sec. 7. At the same time the taxes are collected pursuant to Section 124 of SB 8 of the 20th Special Session, the county recorder may remit the collection allowance to the general fund of the county.
- **Sec. 8.** NAC 375.010 through NAC 375.170 are repealed upon the effective date of the adoption of the <u>Real Estate Transfer Tax Manual</u> by the Nevada Tax Commission.

[NAC 375.010 Definitions. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NAC 375.015 to 375.140, inclusive, have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.]

[NAC 375.015 "Agency agreement" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Agency agreement" means a written agreement pursuant to which a legal representative may act on behalf of another person.]

[NAC 375.020 "Assigned," "granted," "transferred," "otherwise conveyed" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Assigned," "granted," "transferred" and "otherwise conveyed" are synonymous words all meaning the transfer of title to realty from one person to another.]

[NAC 375.030 "Consideration" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Consideration" means that which is regarded as the equivalent or return given or suffered by one for the act or promise of

another. It means the price paid for the real property transferred. The consideration can be in the form of money, or in the form of other things of value, or a combination of both.]

[NAC 375.040 "Deed of trust," "trust deed" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Deed of trust" or "trust deed" means an instrument taking the place and serving the uses of a common-law mortgage, by which legal title to real property is placed in one or more trustees, to secure the repayment of a sum of money or the performance of other conditions.]

[NAC 375.050 "Deed with the right of redemption" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Deed with the right of redemption" means a deed which provides for the annulling and revoking of a conditional sale of property for the failure to perform the conditions stipulated.]

[NAC 375.060 "Easement" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Easement" means a permanent interest in another's land, with a right to enjoy it fully and without obstruction. The term includes the right of ingress and egress to a person's property.]

[NAC 375.063 "Fractional interest" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Fractional interest" means an interest in a portion of real property. A person who holds a fractional interest in real property has no rights in another owner's fractional interest in that property.]

[NAC 375.067 "Joint tenancy" and "joint tenants" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Joint tenancy" or "joint tenants" means a relationship in which two or more owners hold identical interests in real property simultaneously by the same instrument and with the same right of possession. A joint tenant has a right of survivorship to the other joint tenant's share.]

[NAC 375.070 "Land" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Land" means not only the soil, but everything attached to it, whether attached by the course of nature, as trees, herbage and water or by the hand of man, as buildings and fences.]

[NAC 375.080 "Lease" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Lease" means a conveyance of lands or tenements to a person for life, for a term of years, or at will, in consideration of rent or some other compensation. The person who so conveys such lands or tenements is termed the lessor and the person to whom they are conveyed, the lessee.]

[NAC 375.085 "Legal representative" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Legal representative" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 167.020.]

[NAC 375.090 "Life estate" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Life estate" means an estate whose duration is limited to the life of the party holding it or of some other person.]

[NAC 375.100 "Quitclaim deed" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Quitclaim deed" means a deed of conveyance operating by way of release; that is, intended to pass any title, interest or claim which the grantor may have in the premises, but not professing that the title is valid, nor containing any warranty or covenants for title.]

[NAC 375.110 "Realty" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Realty" means real property, anything which partakes of the nature of real property. The term includes land and tenements.]

[NAC 375.120 "Right of redemption" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Right of redemption" means the right to disencumber property or to free it from a claim or lien; specifically, the right, granted by statute only, to free property from the encumbrance of a foreclosure or other judicial sale or to recover the title passing thereby, by paying what is due, with interest and other costs.]

[NAC 375.128 "Tenancy in common" and "tenants in common" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Tenancy in common" or "tenants in common" means a relationship in which two or more owners hold the same real property by unity of possession but by separate and distinct titles with each person having an equal right to possession of the property but having no right of survivorship.]

[NAC 375.130 "Tenement" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Tenement" means land, houses and other buildings and means rents, commons and several other rights and interests issuing out of or concerning land.]

[NAC 375.140 "Transferred" defined. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) "Transferred" means:

- 1. The passing of a thing or of property from one person to another or to convey.
- 2. An act of the parties, or of the law, by which the title to property is conveyed from one living person to another.]

[NAC 375.150 Examples of methods of determining value or tax base. (NRS 360.090, 375.015, 375.020, 375.090) The following examples are given to illustrate methods of determining value or the tax base on which to compute the real property transfer tax:

- 1. "A," the owner of a residence, sold the residence for \$250,000. The tax is based on \$250,000, the amount paid for the property.
- 2. "A," the owner of certain real estate, sold it to "B" for \$144,000. "B" paid the amount of \$25,000 in cash, leaving a balance of \$119,000 and "A" gave "B" a deed to the property. The tax is computed on \$144,000, the amount paid or to be paid.
- 3. The holder of a trust deed in the amount of \$120,000 foreclosed upon the property securing the deed. At the foreclosure sale, because of taxes and additional expenses incurred, the trustee bid \$122,500, and a trustee's deed was issued to the beneficiary. The beneficiary then accepted a mortgage in the amount of \$125,000 as consideration for the retransfer of the property to the former owner. The tax on the trustee's deed should be computed on the amount bid for the property plus any costs, in this example \$122,500. The deed from the beneficiary to the former owner of the property is a conveyance of realty sold, and the tax should be computed upon the amount paid, namely \$125,000.
- 4. For a full purchase price of \$500,000, "A" conveys to "B" land on which there is an encumbrance of \$410,000 at the time of sale. "A" signs a contract agreeing to pay off the encumbrance at a later date. The deed of conveyance from "A" to "B" is subject to tax on the full purchase price of \$500,000. The fact that the seller retained a contractual obligation on the property does not diminish the amount that "B" will pay, \$500,000.
- 5. "A," the owner of certain real estate, sold it to "B" for a consideration of \$240,000. "B" paid the amount of \$125,000 in cash, leaving a balance due of \$115,000. "A" accepted bonds of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation for the balance of \$115,000 and gave "B" a deed to the property. The tax is based on the total purchase price of \$240,000, the \$125,000 in cash and the \$115,000 value of the bonds.

- 6. Two corporations that do not have identical ownership exchange properties worth \$450,000 each. Each transfer is taxable on the \$450,000 value. Each corporation is receiving something of value in exchange for the property it is transferring.
- 7. To qualify for a loan to refinance their home, a married couple adds the husband's parents to the title, with the married couple and the husband's parents all as joint tenants. The value of the property is \$145,000. Because the transfer to the husband's parents from the wife is not exempt from the tax and the joint tenants each have a right to the whole property, the transfer is taxable on the \$145,000 value.
- 8. A couple buys a home from the Veteran's Administration for \$97,142.36. The transfer is taxable on the amount of purchase, \$97,142.36.
- 9. A university foundation receives property valued at \$1,000,000. The transfer is exempt from taxation pursuant to subsection 15 of NRS 375.090. The university foundation sells the property to another party in a transaction that is not exempt pursuant to NRS 375.090 for \$750,000. The second transfer is taxable on the amount of purchase, \$750,000.
- 10. A corporation owns property valued at \$180,000. To refinance the property, the corporation transfers the property to one of its shareholders pursuant to the requirements of the lender. The transfer is taxable on the value of the property, \$180,000.
- 11. "A" owns property worth \$50,000. "B" owns property worth \$75,000. "A" and "B" form a limited-liability company and are the only two members. "A" and "B" transfer their properties to the limited-liability company. Each transfer is taxable for the value of the properties, \$50,000 and \$75,000, respectively.
- 12. "A" and "B," who are not married and not related within the first degree of consanguinity, own two identical properties, each worth \$50,000, as joint tenants. "A" and "B" wish to transfer their interest in each property to the other so that "A" owns one property as the sole owner and "B" owns the other property as the sole owner. Because "A" and "B" are giving up their respective rights in the other parcel, the transfers are made with consideration and thus each transfer is taxable for the \$50,000 value. If "A" and "B" held title to each property in 50 percent fractional interests, each transfer would be taxable for \$25,000.
- 13. "A" and "B" are joint tenants of a 10-acre parcel that is worth \$150,000. "A" and "B" are not married and are not related within the first degree of consanguinity. They wish to partition the property with each receiving a 5-acre parcel in his own name. The transfer of each 5-acre parcel is taxable at a \$75,000 value. If they each owned a 50 percent fractional interest in the parcel, the transfer of each 5-acre parcel would be exempt from taxation, but if 6 acres were transferred to "A" and 4 acres were transferred to "B," the transfer to "A" would be taxed on the value of 1 acre, \$15,000.
- 14. A partnership owns real property worth \$100,000. There is a mortgage on the property, and the partnership wishes to refinance the mortgage. As a condition of refinancing, the lender requires the property to be held in title by only one partner. The transfer from the partnership to the single partner is taxable on the entire \$100,000 value. Once the refinancing is complete, any transfer of title back to the partnership is also taxable on the entire \$100,000 value.
- 15. "A" and "B" own adjoining lots. "A" agrees to buy part of "B's" lot for \$1,500,000. To expedite the mapping requirements, "B" transfers 100 percent of his lot to "A," but retains a contractual obligation from "A" that after all mapping and adjustments to the legal description of the lot are complete, "A" will transfer back to "B" the property outside the purchased area. The first transfer is taxable on the \$1,500,000 amount. Because the second transfer is made without

stated consideration, the transfer back to "B" of the excess area is taxable based on the fair market value of that area.]

[NAC 375.160 Examples of taxable transactions. (NRS 360.090, 375.015, 375.020) The following are examples of transfers or conveyances subject to the real property transfer tax:

- 1. A conveyance of realty in exchange for other property and the conveyance of the other property, if it is realty.
- 2. A conveyance of realty in consideration of life maintenance. The tax is computed on the net value of the realty conveyed.
- 3. Deeds given by persons such as masters in chancery, sheriffs and clerks of court for realty sold under foreclosure or execution. The tax is computed on the amount bid for the property plus the costs if paid by the purchaser, whether the purchaser is the mortgagee, judgment creditor or any other person.
- 4. A conveyance of realty by a judgment or decree in a condemnation proceeding under the power of eminent domain or a conveyance of property under threat of imminence of the proceeding.
- 5. Conveyances to or by building and loan associations except that the tax does not apply to a conveyance of realty to a building and loan association for the purpose of securing a loan thereon, nor to the reconveyance of the realty to its owner as part of the loan transaction.
- 6. A conveyance of realty to a corporation in exchange for shares of its capital stock.
- 7. A conveyance of realty by a corporation in liquidation or in dissolution to its shareholders subject to the debts of the corporation except that if there are no corporate debts and the conveyance is made solely for the cancellation and retirement of the capital stock, the tax does not apply.
- 8. Deeds to standing timber, patented mines and water rights.
- 9. A transfer by which a contract for deed is recorded which sets forth the purchase price, legal description, the buyer and the seller and which provides that the buyer has received custody of the real property and a deed will be delivered to the buyer when he fulfills his contractual obligations. If only a memorandum of such a contract is recorded, the transfer is also taxable.]

[NAC 375.170 Examples of transactions to which real property transfer tax does not apply. (NRS 360.090, 375.015, 375.020, 375.090) In addition to the exemptions provided by NRS 375.090, the following are examples of transfers or conveyances which are not subject to the real property transfer tax:

- 1. The reconveyance of realty, conveyed to secure a debt, upon payment of the debt.
- 2. A deed to or by a trustee not pursuant to a sale.
- 3. A deed to confirm title already vested in the grantee, such as a quitelaim deed to correct a flaw in title.
- 4. A deed given by an executor in accordance with the terms of the will except that, if, by reason of a consideration passing between the devisees, one of them takes a greater share in the realty than that to which he is entitled under the will, the deed given by the executor to convey the greater share is subject to a tax computed upon the amount of the consideration.
- 5. A deed from an agent to his principal conveying real estate purchased for and with money of the principal. A valid agency agreement must exist between the agency and his principal. No money may be supplied by the agent.
- 6. An option or contingent agreement for the purchase of real property or a contract for the sale of real property, if the contract does not vest legal title until a future event occurs.

- 7. Partition deeds, unless, for consideration, some of the parties take shares greater in value than their undivided interests, in which event a tax attaches to each deed conveying a greater share computed upon the consideration for the excess. If, however, the parties hold title as joint tenants or tenants in common, the tax is applicable, unless another exemption applies.
- 8. Ordinary leases of real property for any term of years. If the lease is for life or in perpetuity, or if the lease is terminable at the option of the lessee only, the tax is applicable.
- 9. A deed executed by a debtor conveying property to a trustee for the benefit of his creditors except that when the trustee conveys the property to a creditor or sells it to any other person, the conveyance executed by him is taxable.
- 10. Conveyance to a receiver of realty included in the receivership assets, and reconveyance of the realty upon the termination of the receivership.
- 11. A deed conveying real estate situated in a foreign country.
- 12. Transfer of real estate in a statutory merger consolidation from a constituent corporation to the continuing or new corporation.
- 13. Distribution of interests in real property owned by a corporation as part of the liquidation of a corporation to the shareholders of the corporation in percentages equal to their ownership in the corporation. To receive title to his interest in the property, each shareholder must redeem his stock.
- 14. Transfer of title in real property to a trustee in a bankruptcy proceeding pursuant to a written plan of reorganization approved by the bankruptcy court.
- 15. Transfer of real property from "A" to "A's" trust, without consideration. "A" is trustor of the trust.
- 16. Transfer of real property from "A" to "A's" trust, without consideration. "B" is grantor on the deed and is the legal representative of "A," the trustor of the trust.
- 17. Real property is owned by "A" as trustee of the "A" Family Trust. "A" is also trustor of that trust. "A" transfers the real property to "C," "A's" son, without consideration.
- 18. A purchase agreement that is recorded which sets forth the purchase price, legal description, buyer and seller of the property, but which also provides that the transaction is not complete until the seller obtains a zoning change and the buyer has not yet received a present interest in the property.]

NAC 375.180 Declaration of value; claim for refund of overpayment; date for submission of claim. (NRS 360.090, 375.015, 375.060, 375.290)

- 1. When a deed as defined in NRS 375.010 (1)(b), evidencing a transfer of title of real property is filed with the County Recorder, the instrument must be accompanied by a declaration of value made under penalty of perjury by the grantor, grantee or the agent of grantor or grantee. The declaration of value must disclose the name, mailing address of the grantor, grantee, and the company or person, if any, requesting the recording; a description of the use-type of the property; and the actual full amount paid or to be paid for the property, if applicable.
- a) The declaration of value may include information regarding a claim for exemption from the tax, if applicable, including the type of exemption claimed, a statement explaining the reason for the claim, whether the exemption is being applied to a partial interest, and the actual sales price if available.
- [1.] 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection [2.] 4, if a deed evidencing a transfer of title of real property is offered for recording to a county recorder, the county recorder shall

require a declaration of value to be made on a form prescribed by the Nevada tax commission, and personally signed under penalty of perjury by the grantee, the grantor or the representative of the grantee or grantor. The form must contain, without limitation, information concerning the possible penalties and interest that may be imposed pursuant to NRS 375.030.

- 3. The county recorder shall not accept an incomplete form except:
- [(1)] (a) If the transfer of title of real property is exempt from the real property transfer tax, no value for the property need be declared on the form.
- [(2)] (b) If multiple parcels of real property are being transferred, only one parcel must be listed on the form, but the words "see attached" must be written next to the listed parcel number and an attachment that lists the number of each parcel being transferred must accompany the form.
- [2.] 4. If the value of the property is stated incorrectly on the declaration of value or the amount of tax is computed incorrectly, the person who pays an amount of tax which exceeds the amount due may make a claim for a refund of the amount of tax which he overpaid by completing a refund request form, which may be obtained from the office of the county recorder of the county in which the tax is paid. The form must be signed under penalty of perjury by the person entitled to the refund or his legal representative and submitted to the county recorder of the county in which the tax is paid. If the claim is unaudited, the claim must be submitted within 6 months after the date of recording pursuant to NRS 244.250. If the claim for a refund is submitted pursuant to an audit, the claim may be submitted within 3 years after the date of recording.

NAC 375.190 Availability of records and files; liability for payment of additional tax. (NRS 360.090, 375.015) The records and files of the grantor, grantee and other persons recording deeds regarding specific recorded documents must be made available to representatives of the county recorder or to representatives of the Department of Taxation. If the county recorder or the Department determines that additional real property transfer tax is due, the grantee and the grantor are jointly and severally liable for the payment of the tax.

NAC 375.200 Property located in more than one county: Determination of value; request for refund; distribution of refund. (NRS 360.090, 375.015, 375.020, 375.290)

- 1. If the property transferred is located in more than one county and the value has not been determined by the buyer and the seller as to each county, the value must be established by applying the ratio of the assessed valuation in each county to the total assessed valuation of all the property.
- 2. A person seeking a refund of the real property transfer tax for property located in more than one county must submit a request for refund to the county recorder in each county in which the property is located on the form prescribed by the county recorder in each county.
- 3. Refunds must be made pursuant to the same distribution formula under which the tax was initially paid.

NAC 375.210 Right to hearing for person claiming refund; documentation to accompany claim for refund; contested cases. (NRS 360.090, 375.015, 375.310)

- 1. The provisions of NAC 375.180, 375.190 and 375.200 do not afford a person claiming a refund a right to a hearing conducted by a hearing officer appointed by a county pursuant to NRS 375.320.
 - 2. A claim for a refund must be accompanied by:

- (a) A statement setting forth the amount of the claim;
- (b) A statement setting forth all grounds upon which the claim is based;
- (c) All evidence the claimant relied upon in determining the claim, including affidavits of any witnesses; and
 - (d) Any other information and documentation requested by the county recorder.
- 3. If a person files a claim for a refund in a contested case, all contested cases involved in the case shall be deemed to have been raised in the claim.

NAC 375.300 Hearings: Admissibility of evidence; depositions; affidavits. (NRS 360.090, 375.015, 375.320)

- 1. A hearing conducted by a hearing officer appointed by a county pursuant to NRS 375.320 may not be conducted according to the technical rules of evidence. Any relevant evidence may be admitted, except where precluded by law, if it is of a type commonly relied upon by reasonable and prudent persons in the conduct of their affairs, even though the evidence might be subject to objection in civil actions.
- 2. Hearsay evidence, as that term is used in civil actions, may be admitted for the purpose of supplementing or explaining other evidence, but hearsay evidence is not sufficient to support findings of fact unless it would be admissible over objection in civil actions.
- 3. The rules of privilege must be applied by the hearing officer as they are applied in civil actions.
- 4. Irrelevant, cumulative and unduly repetitious evidence is not admissible, nor is incompetent evidence, as that term is used in civil trials, with the exception of hearsay evidence as provided in subsection 2.
- 5. The parties or their counsel may, by written stipulation, agree that certain specified evidence may be admitted, even though the evidence would otherwise be subject to objection.
 - 6. The hearing officer or an

NAC 375.310 Hearings: Official notice. (NRS 360.090, 375.015, 375.320) A hearing officer appointed by a county pursuant to NRS 375.320 may take official notice of the following matters:

- 1. Any petition for a hearing on any matter pertaining to an appeal of an assessment of real property transfer tax.
 - 2. Matters of common knowledge and technical or scientific facts of established character.
- 3. Official documents, if pertinent, when properly introduced into the record of formal proceedings by reference if proper and definite reference to the document is made by the party offering it and it is published and generally circulated so that all the parties of interest at the hearing have an opportunity to examine it and present rebuttal evidence.
 - 4. Matters that may be judicially noticed by the courts of this state.

NAC 375.320 Hearings: briefs. (NRS 360.090, 375.015, 375.320)

- 1. In any hearing, a hearing officer appointed by a county pursuant to NRS 375.320 may order briefs filed within such time as he allows.
- 2. Briefs must be filed with the hearing officer and be accompanied by an acknowledgment or an affidavit showing service on all other parties of record.

NAC 375.330 Hearings: Duties of hearing officer after hearing; final decision. (NRS 360.090, 375.015, 375.320)

- 1. After the hearing of a contested case, a hearing officer appointed by a county pursuant to NRS 375.320 shall prepare findings of fact, conclusions of law and his final decision on the issues presented in the hearing.
- 2. The hearing officer shall service a copy of his findings of fact, conclusions of law and decision upon all the parties of record within 60 days after the date of the hearing.
 - 3. The decision of the hearing officer is a final decision for the purposes of judicial review.

375.340 Waiver or reduction of penalty or interest. (NRS 360.090, 375.015, 375.030)

- [1. The county recorder may waive or reduce the penalty or interest for a delinquent payment of real property transfer tax that was imposed pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 375.030 if he finds that the delinquent payment occurred:
- (a) Because of circumstances beyond the control of the taxpayer who was required to make the payment and occurred despite the exercise of ordinary care and without intent;
- (b) Because of justifiable negligence or inadvertence; or
- (c) For other good cause shown.
- 2. Any application for a waiver or reduction of the penalty or interest for a delinquent payment must be filed in writing with the recorder within 45 days after receipt of the notice of penalties and interest. The taxpayer must set forth in the application the circumstances that caused the delinquent payment.
- 3. In determining whether the circumstances that caused the delinquent payment were beyond the control of the taxpayer required to make the payment, the county recorder shall consider evidence which shows that the delinquent payment was caused by circumstances that were not directly related to the actions of the taxpayer, including, without limitation, fire, earthquake, flood or other acts of God, theft, the death or illness of the taxpayer or a member of the immediate family of the taxpayer, an error or the misconduct of an employee of the taxpayer, erroneous information provided to the taxpayer by the recorder's office and the misaddressed but timely mailing of the payment. The existence of an event described in this subsection does not create a conclusive presumption of eligibility for a waiver or reduction of the penalty or interest on a delinquent payment pursuant to this section.
- 4. If the county recorder finds that a delinquent payment was caused by circumstances beyond the control of the taxpayer required to make the payment, and the delinquent payment occurred despite the exercise of ordinary care and without intent:
- (a) The penalty assessment for the delinquent payment will be not more than:
 - (1) Two percent of the tax if the payment is not more than 2 days late.
 - (2) Four percent of the tax if the payment is not more than 5 days late.
 - (3) Six percent of the tax if the payment is not more than 10 days late.
 - (4) Eight percent of the tax if the payment is not more than 15 days late.
- (b) The interest on the delinquent payment will be reduced by the rate of reduction of the penalty applied by the county recorder pursuant to paragraph (a).
- 5. In determining whether the proximate cause of the delinquent payment was for good cause shown, the county recorder shall require, without limitation, the taxpayer to submit evidence that the assessment of penalties and interest:
- (a) Constitutes an extreme financial hardship to the taxpayer;
- (b) Is equal to or greater than two thirds of the amount of tax which is due; or

- (c) Is extremely unfair or inequitable under the circumstances.
- 6. The county recorder shall not consider an application to waive or reduce penalties or interest, or both, imposed upon a taxpayer if the assessment of tax is accompanied by the assessment of a penalty based upon negligence, fraud or intent to evade the tax.
- 7. As used in this section, "extreme financial hardship" means that the person who owes the tax has the present ability to pay the tax, but payment of the penalties and interest will render the person insolvent and, if applicable, unable to continue in business.]