

Senate Bill No. 404—Senators Smith, Woodhouse,
Denis, Spearman, Parks; and Atkinson

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Kirkpatrick;
Dondero Loop and Sprinkle

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to business practices; prohibiting a subcontractor from receiving any public money unless the subcontractor is the holder of a state business license under certain circumstances; clarifying that a person is prohibited from entering into a contract with the State of Nevada unless the person is the holder of a state business license; making certain misrepresentations by a provider or vendor of floral or ornamental products a deceptive trade practice; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Sections 1 and 8 of this bill prohibit subcontractors from receiving public money for subcontracts for public works or projects for the construction or maintenance of highways unless the subcontractors hold a state business license. **Section 7.5** of this bill also clarifies that a person is prohibited from entering into a contract with the State of Nevada unless the person holds a state business license.

Existing law defines activities that constitute deceptive trade practices and provides for the imposition of civil and criminal penalties against persons who engage in deceptive trade practices. (Chapter 598 of NRS) **Section 9** of this bill provides that certain advertising practices which misrepresent the geographic location of a provider or vendor of floral or ornamental products or services constitutes a deceptive trade practice. **Sections 6, 7 and 10-18** of this bill make conforming changes relating to the new deceptive trade practice established in **section 9**.

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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

Section 1. Chapter 338 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

A subcontractor who enters into a subcontract for a public work shall not accept or otherwise receive any public money for the public work, including, without limitation, accepting or receiving any public money as a payment from a contractor, unless the subcontractor is the holder of a state business license issued pursuant to chapter 76 of NRS.



Sec. 2. NRS 338.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:

338.050 For the purpose of NRS 338.010 to 338.090, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act*, except as otherwise provided by specific statute, every worker who performs work for a public work covered by a contract therefor is subject to all of the provisions of NRS 338.010 to 338.090, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act* regardless of any contractual relationship alleged to exist between such worker and his or her employer.

Sec. 3. NRS 338.080 is hereby amended to read as follows:

338.080 None of the provisions of NRS 338.020 to 338.090, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act* apply to:

1. Any work, construction, alteration, repair or other employment performed, undertaken or carried out, by or for any railroad company or any person operating the same, whether such work, construction, alteration or repair is incident to or in conjunction with a contract to which a public body is a party, or otherwise.

2. Apprentices recorded under the provisions of chapter 610 of NRS.

3. Any contract for a public work whose cost is less than \$100,000. A unit of the project must not be separated from the total project, even if that unit is to be completed at a later time, in order to lower the cost of the project below \$100,000.

Sec. 4. NRS 338.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:

338.090 1. ~~Any~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, any* person, including the officers, agents or employees of a public body, who violates any provision of NRS 338.010 to 338.090, inclusive, or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

2. The Labor Commissioner, in addition to any other remedy or penalty provided in this chapter:

(a) Shall assess a person who, after an opportunity for a hearing, is found to have failed to pay the prevailing wage required pursuant to NRS 338.020 to 338.090, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act* an amount equal to the difference between the prevailing wages required to be paid and the wages that the contractor or subcontractor actually paid; and

(b) May, in addition to any other administrative penalty, impose an administrative penalty not to exceed the costs incurred by the Labor Commissioner to investigate and prosecute the matter.

3. If the Labor Commissioner finds that a person has failed to pay the prevailing wage required pursuant to NRS 338.020 to 338.090, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act*, the public body may,



in addition to any other remedy or penalty provided in this chapter, require the person to pay the actual costs incurred by the public body to investigate the matter.

4. *The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to a subcontractor specified in section 1 of this act.*

Sec. 5. NRS 338.1373 is hereby amended to read as follows:

338.1373 1. A local government or its authorized representative shall award a contract for a public work pursuant to the provisions of NRS 338.1415 and:

- (a) NRS 338.1377 to 338.139, inclusive;
- (b) NRS 338.143 to 338.148, inclusive;
- (c) NRS 338.169 to 338.16995, inclusive; or
- (d) NRS 338.1711 to 338.173, inclusive.

2. The provisions of NRS 338.1375 to 338.1382, inclusive, 338.1386, 338.13862, 338.13864, 338.139, 338.142, 338.169 to 338.16995, inclusive, and 338.1711 to 338.1727, inclusive, do not apply with respect to contracts for the construction, reconstruction, improvement and maintenance of highways that are awarded by the Department of Transportation pursuant to NRS 408.201 and 408.313 to 408.433, inclusive **H**, **and section 8 of this act.**

Sec. 6. NRS 11.190 is hereby amended to read as follows:

11.190 Except as otherwise provided in NRS 40.4639, 125B.050 and 217.007, actions other than those for the recovery of real property, unless further limited by specific statute, may only be commenced as follows:

1. Within 6 years:

(a) An action upon a judgment or decree of any court of the United States, or of any state or territory within the United States, or the renewal thereof.

(b) An action upon a contract, obligation or liability founded upon an instrument in writing, except those mentioned in the preceding sections of this chapter.

2. Within 4 years:

(a) An action on an open account for goods, wares and merchandise sold and delivered.

(b) An action for any article charged on an account in a store.

(c) An action upon a contract, obligation or liability not founded upon an instrument in writing.

(d) An action against a person alleged to have committed a deceptive trade practice in violation of NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive, **and section 9 of this act**, but the cause of action shall be deemed to accrue when the aggrieved party discovers, or by the



exercise of due diligence should have discovered, the facts constituting the deceptive trade practice.

3. Within 3 years:

(a) An action upon a liability created by statute, other than a penalty or forfeiture.

(b) An action for waste or trespass of real property, but when the waste or trespass is committed by means of underground works upon any mining claim, the cause of action shall be deemed to accrue upon the discovery by the aggrieved party of the facts constituting the waste or trespass.

(c) An action for taking, detaining or injuring personal property, including actions for specific recovery thereof, but in all cases where the subject of the action is a domestic animal usually included in the term "livestock," which has a recorded mark or brand upon it at the time of its loss, and which strays or is stolen from the true owner without the owner's fault, the statute does not begin to run against an action for the recovery of the animal until the owner has actual knowledge of such facts as would put a reasonable person upon inquiry as to the possession thereof by the defendant.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 112.230 and 166.170, an action for relief on the ground of fraud or mistake, but the cause of action in such a case shall be deemed to accrue upon the discovery by the aggrieved party of the facts constituting the fraud or mistake.

(e) An action pursuant to NRS 40.750 for damages sustained by a financial institution or other lender because of its reliance on certain fraudulent conduct of a borrower, but the cause of action in such a case shall be deemed to accrue upon the discovery by the financial institution or other lender of the facts constituting the concealment or false statement.

4. Within 2 years:

(a) An action against a sheriff, coroner or constable upon liability incurred by acting in his or her official capacity and in virtue of his or her office, or by the omission of an official duty, including the nonpayment of money collected upon an execution.

(b) An action upon a statute for a penalty or forfeiture, where the action is given to a person or the State, or both, except when the statute imposing it prescribes a different limitation.

(c) An action for libel, slander, assault, battery, false imprisonment or seduction.

(d) An action against a sheriff or other officer for the escape of a prisoner arrested or imprisoned on civil process.



(e) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 11.215, an action to recover damages for injuries to a person or for the death of a person caused by the wrongful act or neglect of another. The provisions of this paragraph relating to an action to recover damages for injuries to a person apply only to causes of action which accrue after March 20, 1951.

(f) An action to recover damages under NRS 41.740.

5. Within 1 year:

(a) An action against an officer, or officer de facto to recover goods, wares, merchandise or other property seized by the officer in his or her official capacity, as tax collector, or to recover the price or value of goods, wares, merchandise or other personal property so seized, or for damages for the seizure, detention or sale of, or injury to, goods, wares, merchandise or other personal property seized, or for damages done to any person or property in making the seizure.

(b) An action against an officer, or officer de facto for money paid to the officer under protest, or seized by the officer in his or her official capacity, as a collector of taxes, and which, it is claimed, ought to be refunded.

Sec. 7. NRS 41.600 is hereby amended to read as follows:

41.600 1. An action may be brought by any person who is a victim of consumer fraud.

2. As used in this section, "consumer fraud" means:

(a) An unlawful act as defined in NRS 119.330;

(b) An unlawful act as defined in NRS 205.2747;

(c) An act prohibited by NRS 482.36655 to 482.36667, inclusive;

(d) An act prohibited by NRS 482.351; or

(e) A deceptive trade practice as defined in NRS 598.0915 to 598.0925, inclusive ~~†~~, and *section 9 of this act*.

3. If the claimant is the prevailing party, the court shall award the claimant:

(a) Any damages that the claimant has sustained;

(b) Any equitable relief that the court deems appropriate; and

(c) The claimant's costs in the action and reasonable attorney's fees.

4. Any action brought pursuant to this section is not an action upon any contract underlying the original transaction.

Sec. 7.5. Chapter 353 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. A person shall not enter into a contract with the State of Nevada unless the person is a holder of a state business license issued pursuant to chapter 76 of NRS.



2. The provisions of this section apply to all offices, departments, divisions, boards, commissions, institutions, agencies or any other units of:

(a) The Legislative, Executive and Judicial Departments of the State Government;

(b) The Nevada System of Higher Education; and

(c) The Public Employees' Retirement System.

Sec. 7.7. NRS 353.005 is hereby amended to read as follows:

353.005 ~~The~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 7.5 of this act, the* provisions of this chapter do not apply to boards created by the provisions of NRS 590.485 and chapters 623 to 625A, inclusive, 628, 630 to 644, inclusive, 648, 654 and 656 of NRS and the officers and employees of those boards.

Sec. 8. Chapter 408 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. A subcontractor who enters into a subcontract for a project for the construction and maintenance of a highway shall not accept or otherwise receive any public money for the project, including, without limitation, accepting or receiving any public money as a payment from a contractor, unless the subcontractor is the holder of a state business license issued pursuant to chapter 76 of NRS.

2. As used in this section, "subcontractor" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 338.010.

Sec. 9. Chapter 598 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. A provider or vendor of floral or ornamental products or services engages in a "deceptive trade practice" if the provider or vendor misrepresents the geographic location of its business by listing:

(a) A local telephone number in any advertisement or listing unless the advertisement or listing identifies the actual physical address, including the city and state, of the provider or vendor's business.

(b) An assumed or fictitious business name in any advertisement or listing if:

(1) The name of the business misrepresents the provider or vendor's geographic location; and

(2) The advertisement or listing does not identify the actual physical address, including the city and state, of the provider or vendor's business.

2. The provisions of this section do not apply to:



(a) *A publisher of a telephone directory or any other publication or a provider of a directory assistance service that publishes or provides information about another business;*

(b) *An Internet website that aggregates and provides information about other businesses;*

(c) *An owner or publisher of a print advertising medium that provides information about other businesses;*

(d) *An Internet service provider; or*

(e) *An Internet service that displays or distributes advertisements for other businesses.*

3. *This section does not create or impose a duty or an obligation on a person other than a vendor or provider described in subsection 1.*

4. *As used in this section:*

(a) *“Floral or ornamental products or services” means floral arrangements, cut flowers, floral bouquets, potted plants, balloons, floral designs and related products and services.*

(b) *“Local telephone number” means a specific telephone number, including the area code and prefix, assigned for the purpose of completing local telephone calls between a calling party or station and any other party or station within a telephone exchange located in this State or its designated local calling areas. The term does not include long distance telephone numbers or toll-free telephone numbers listed in a local telephone directory.*

Sec. 10. NRS 598.0903 is hereby amended to read as follows:

598.0903 As used in NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive, *and section 9 of this act*, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 598.0905 to 598.0947, inclusive, *and section 9 of this act* have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

Sec. 11. NRS 598.0953 is hereby amended to read as follows:

598.0953 1. Evidence that a person has engaged in a deceptive trade practice is prima facie evidence of intent to injure competitors and to destroy or substantially lessen competition.

2. The deceptive trade practices listed in NRS 598.0915 to 598.0925, inclusive, *and section 9 of this act* are in addition to and do not limit the types of unfair trade practices actionable at common law or defined as such in other statutes of this State.

Sec. 12. NRS 598.0955 is hereby amended to read as follows:

598.0955 1. The provisions of NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive, *and section 9 of this act* do not apply to:



(a) Conduct in compliance with the orders or rules of, or a statute administered by, a federal, state or local governmental agency.

(b) Publishers, including outdoor advertising media, advertising agencies, broadcasters or printers engaged in the dissemination of information or reproduction of printed or pictorial matter who publish, broadcast or reproduce material without knowledge of its deceptive character.

(c) Actions or appeals pending on July 1, 1973.

2. The provisions of NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive, *and section 9 of this act* do not apply to the use by a person of any service mark, trademark, certification mark, collective mark, trade name or other trade identification which was used and not abandoned prior to July 1, 1973, if the use was in good faith and is otherwise lawful except for the provisions of NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive **H**, *and section 9 of this act*.

Sec. 13. NRS 598.0963 is hereby amended to read as follows:

598.0963 1. Whenever the Attorney General is requested in writing by the Commissioner or the Director to represent him or her in instituting a legal proceeding against a person who has engaged or is engaging in a deceptive trade practice, the Attorney General may bring an action in the name of the State of Nevada against that person on behalf of the Commissioner or Director.

2. The Attorney General may institute criminal proceedings to enforce the provisions of NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive **H**, *and section 9 of this act*. The Attorney General is not required to obtain leave of the court before instituting criminal proceedings pursuant to this subsection.

3. If the Attorney General has reason to believe that a person has engaged or is engaging in a deceptive trade practice, the Attorney General may bring an action in the name of the State of Nevada against that person to obtain a temporary restraining order, a preliminary or permanent injunction, or other appropriate relief.

4. If the Attorney General has cause to believe that a person has engaged or is engaging in a deceptive trade practice, the Attorney General may issue a subpoena to require the testimony of any person or the production of any documents, and may administer an oath or affirmation to any person providing such testimony. The subpoena must be served upon the person in the manner required for service of process in this State or by certified mail with return receipt requested. An employee of the Attorney General may personally serve the subpoena.



Sec. 14. NRS 598.0967 is hereby amended to read as follows:

598.0967 1. The Commissioner and the Director, in addition to other powers conferred upon them by NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive, *and section 9 of this act*, may issue subpoenas to require the attendance of witnesses or the production of documents, conduct hearings in aid of any investigation or inquiry and prescribe such forms and adopt such regulations as may be necessary to administer the provisions of NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive **H**, *and section 9 of this act*. Such regulations may include, without limitation, provisions concerning the applicability of the provisions of NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive, *and section 9 of this act* to particular persons or circumstances.

2. Service of any notice or subpoena must be made as provided in N.R.C.P. 45(c).

Sec. 15. NRS 598.0971 is hereby amended to read as follows:

598.0971 1. If, after an investigation, the Commissioner has reasonable cause to believe that any person has been engaged or is engaging in any deceptive trade practice in violation of NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive, *and section 9 of this act*, the Commissioner may issue an order directed to the person to show cause why the Commissioner should not order the person to cease and desist from engaging in the practice. The order must contain a statement of the charges and a notice of a hearing to be held thereon. The order must be served upon the person directly or by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested.

2. If, after conducting a hearing pursuant to the provisions of subsection 1, the Commissioner determines that the person has violated any of the provisions of NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive, *and section 9 of this act*, or if the person fails to appear for the hearing after being properly served with the statement of charges and notice of hearing, the Commissioner may make a written report of his or her findings of fact concerning the violation and cause to be served a copy thereof upon the person and any intervener at the hearing. If the Commissioner determines in the report that such a violation has occurred, he or she may order the violator to:

(a) Cease and desist from engaging in the practice or other activity constituting the violation;

(b) Pay the costs of conducting the investigation, costs of conducting the hearing, costs of reporting services, fees for experts and other witnesses, charges for the rental of a hearing room if such a room is not available to the Commissioner free of charge, charges



for providing an independent hearing officer, if any, and charges incurred for any service of process, if the violator is adjudicated to have committed a violation of NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive **†**, and **section 9 of this act**; and

(c) Provide restitution for any money or property improperly received or obtained as a result of the violation.

↳ The order must be served upon the person directly or by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested. The order becomes effective upon service in the manner provided in this subsection.

3. Any person whose pecuniary interests are directly and immediately affected by an order issued pursuant to subsection 2 or who is aggrieved by the order may petition for judicial review in the manner provided in chapter 233B of NRS. Such a petition must be filed within 30 days after the service of the order. The order becomes final upon the filing of the petition.

4. If a person fails to comply with any provision of an order issued pursuant to subsection 2, the Commissioner may, through the Attorney General, at any time after 30 days after the service of the order, cause an action to be instituted in the district court of the county wherein the person resides or has his or her principal place of business requesting the court to enforce the provisions of the order or to provide any other appropriate injunctive relief.

5. If the court finds that:

(a) The violation complained of is a deceptive trade practice;

(b) The proceedings by the Commissioner concerning the written report and any order issued pursuant to subsection 2 are in the interest of the public; and

(c) The findings of the Commissioner are supported by the weight of the evidence,

↳ the court shall issue an order enforcing the provisions of the order of the Commissioner.

6. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 598.0974, an order issued pursuant to subsection 5 may include:

(a) A provision requiring the payment to the Commissioner of a penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each act amounting to a failure to comply with the Commissioner's order; or

(b) Such injunctive or other equitable or extraordinary relief as is determined appropriate by the court.

7. Any aggrieved party may appeal from the final judgment, order or decree of the court in a like manner as provided for appeals in civil cases.

8. Upon the violation of any judgment, order or decree issued pursuant to subsection 5 or 6, the Commissioner, after a hearing



thereon, may proceed in accordance with the provisions of NRS 598.0999.

Sec. 16. NRS 598.0985 is hereby amended to read as follows:

598.0985 Notwithstanding the requirement of knowledge as an element of a deceptive trade practice, and notwithstanding the enforcement powers granted to the Commissioner or Director pursuant to NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive, *and section 9 of this act*, whenever the district attorney of any county has reason to believe that any person is using, has used or is about to use any deceptive trade practice, knowingly or otherwise, he or she may bring an action in the name of the State of Nevada against that person to obtain a temporary or permanent injunction against the deceptive trade practice.

Sec. 17. NRS 598.0993 is hereby amended to read as follows:

598.0993 The court in which an action is brought pursuant to NRS 598.0979 and 598.0985 to 598.099, inclusive, may make such additional orders or judgments as may be necessary to restore to any person in interest any money or property, real or personal, which may have been acquired by means of any deceptive trade practice which violates any of the provisions of NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive, *and section 9 of this act*, but such additional orders or judgments may be entered only after a final determination has been made that a deceptive trade practice has occurred.

Sec. 18. NRS 598.0999 is hereby amended to read as follows:

598.0999 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 598.0974, a person who violates a court order or injunction issued pursuant to the provisions of NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive, *and section 9 of this act* upon a complaint brought by the Commissioner, the Director, the district attorney of any county of this State or the Attorney General shall forfeit and pay to the State General Fund a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each violation. For the purpose of this section, the court issuing the order or injunction retains jurisdiction over the action or proceeding. Such civil penalties are in addition to any other penalty or remedy available for the enforcement of the provisions of NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive, *and section 9 of this act*.

2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 598.0974, in any action brought pursuant to the provisions of NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive, *and section 9 of this act*, if the court finds that a person has willfully engaged in a deceptive trade practice, the Commissioner, the Director, the district attorney of any county in this State or the Attorney General bringing the action may recover a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000 for each violation. The court in



any such action may, in addition to any other relief or reimbursement, award reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

3. A natural person, firm, or any officer or managing agent of any corporation or association who knowingly and willfully engages in a deceptive trade practice:

(a) For the first offense, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) For the second offense, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(c) For the third and all subsequent offenses, is guilty of a category D felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.

↳ The court may require the natural person, firm, or officer or managing agent of the corporation or association to pay to the aggrieved party damages on all profits derived from the knowing and willful engagement in a deceptive trade practice and treble damages on all damages suffered by reason of the deceptive trade practice.

4. Any offense which occurred within 10 years immediately preceding the date of the principal offense or after the principal offense constitutes a prior offense for the purposes of subsection 3 when evidenced by a conviction, without regard to the sequence of the offenses and convictions.

5. If a person violates any provision of NRS 598.0903 to 598.0999, inclusive, *and section 9 of this act*, 598.100 to 598.2801, inclusive, 598.305 to 598.395, inclusive, 598.405 to 598.525, inclusive, 598.741 to 598.787, inclusive, or 598.840 to 598.966, inclusive, fails to comply with a judgment or order of any court in this State concerning a violation of such a provision, or fails to comply with an assurance of discontinuance or other agreement concerning an alleged violation of such a provision, the Commissioner or the district attorney of any county may bring an action in the name of the State of Nevada seeking:

(a) The suspension of the person's privilege to conduct business within this State; or

(b) If the defendant is a corporation, dissolution of the corporation.

↳ The court may grant or deny the relief sought or may order other appropriate relief.

6. If a person violates any provision of NRS 228.500 to 228.640, inclusive, fails to comply with a judgment or order of any court in this State concerning a violation of such a provision, or fails to comply with an assurance of discontinuance or other agreement concerning an alleged violation of such a provision, the Attorney



General may bring an action in the name of the State of Nevada seeking:

(a) The suspension of the person's privilege to conduct business within this State; or

(b) If the defendant is a corporation, dissolution of the corporation.

↳ The court may grant or deny the relief sought or may order other appropriate relief.



