

Assembly Bill No. 138–Assemblywoman Carlton
(by request)

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to water; authorizing the de minimus collection of precipitation for nonpotable domestic use and, under certain circumstances, to provide water to wildlife; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law requires that, subject to existing rights, the appropriation of any water in this State is subject to the provisions of chapter 533 of NRS, which, among other things, require any person seeking to appropriate water to obtain a permit to do so. (NRS 533.030, 533.325) **Section 1** of this bill provides that the de minimus collection of precipitation from the rooftop of a single-family dwelling for nonpotable domestic use or, under certain circumstances, in a guzzler to provide water to wildlife is exempted from the requirements of chapter 533 of NRS and thus may be collected without a water right or permit to appropriate water. **Sections 2-5** of this bill make conforming changes.

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 533 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The provisions of this chapter do not apply to the de minimus collection of precipitation:

(a) From the rooftop of a single-family dwelling for nonpotable domestic use; or

(b) If the collection does not conflict with any existing water rights as determined by the State Engineer, in a guzzler to provide water for use by wildlife. The guzzler must:

(1) Have a capacity of 20,000 gallons or less;

(2) Have a capture area of 1 acre or less;

(3) Have a pipe length of 1/4 mile or less;

(4) Be developed by a state or federal agency responsible for wildlife management or by any other person in consultation with the Department of Wildlife; and

(5) Be approved for use by the Department of Wildlife.

2. As used in this section:

(a) “Domestic use” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 534.013; and

(b) “Guzzler” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 501.121.



Sec. 2. NRS 533.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

533.030 1. Subject to existing rights, and except as otherwise provided in this section ~~†~~ *and section 1 of this act*, all water may be appropriated for beneficial use as provided in this chapter and not otherwise.

2. The use of water, from any stream system as provided in this chapter and from underground water as provided in NRS 534.080, for any recreational purpose, or the use of water from the Muddy River or the Virgin River to create any developed shortage supply or intentionally created surplus, is hereby declared to be a beneficial use. As used in this subsection:

(a) “Developed shortage supply” has the meaning ascribed to it in Volume 73 of the Federal Register at page 19884, April 11, 2008, and any subsequent amendment thereto.

(b) “Intentionally created surplus” has the meaning ascribed to it in Volume 73 of the Federal Register at page 19884, April 11, 2008, and any subsequent amendment thereto.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, in any county whose population is 700,000 or more:

(a) The board of county commissioners may prohibit or restrict by ordinance the use of water and effluent for recreational purposes in any artificially created lake or stream located within the unincorporated areas of the county.

(b) The governing body of a city may prohibit or restrict by ordinance the use of water and effluent for recreational purposes in any artificially created lake or stream located within the boundaries of the city.

4. In any county whose population is 700,000 or more, the provisions of subsection 1 and of any ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection 3 do not apply to:

(a) Water stored in an artificially created reservoir for use in flood control, in meeting peak water demands or for purposes relating to the treatment of sewage;

(b) Water used in a mining reclamation project; or

(c) A body of water located in a recreational facility that is open to the public and owned or operated by the United States or the State of Nevada.

Sec. 3. NRS 533.325 is hereby amended to read as follows:

533.325 ~~†Any~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 1 of this act, any* person who wishes to appropriate any of the public waters, or to change the place of diversion, manner of use or place of use of water already appropriated, shall, before performing any work in connection with such appropriation, change in place of



diversion or change in manner or place of use, apply to the State Engineer for a permit to do so.

Sec. 4. NRS 533.475 is hereby amended to read as follows:

533.475 The State Engineer and the assistants of the State Engineer shall have power to arrest any person violating any of the provisions of NRS 533.005 to 533.470, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act*, and to turn that person over to the sheriff or other competent police officer within the county. Immediately on delivering any such person so arrested into the custody of the sheriff, the State Engineer or assistant making such arrest shall immediately, in writing, and upon oath, make a complaint before the justice of the peace against the person so arrested.

Sec. 5. NRS 533.480 is hereby amended to read as follows:

533.480 Any person violating any of the provisions of NRS 533.005 to 533.475, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act* shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Sec. 6. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2017.

