

SENATE BILL NO. 391—SENATOR D. HARRIS

MARCH 27, 2023

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN WATTS AND BACKUS

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to governmental entities.  
(BDR 20-936)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: 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 governmental entities; revising provisions prohibiting certain counties, cities and unincorporated towns from sounding sirens, bells or alarms for certain purposes; establishing civil penalties for violations of such prohibitions; authorizing the Attorney General to bring a civil action to recover such penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

Existing law prohibits a county, city or town in this State from sounding a siren, bell or alarm that was previously sounded on certain days or times in association with an ordinance enacted by the county, city or town which required persons of a particular race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin or color to leave the county or a city, town or township within the county by a certain time. (NRS 244.159, 268.0199, 269.234)

This bill revises these provisions by prohibiting a county, a city and an unincorporated town that sounds or sounded such a siren, bell or alarm in association with such an ordinance from sounding a siren, bell or alarm for a purpose other than: (1) alerting persons to an emergency; (2) testing the siren, bell or alarm at reasonable time intervals of not more than once every 6 months; or (3) celebrating or recognizing a legal holiday on the day of the legal holiday or the day on which the legal holiday is recognized by existing law. This bill authorizes the Attorney General to bring a civil action to collect a monetary penalty from a county, city or unincorporated town for each violation. This bill prohibits a county, city or unincorporated town from taking adverse employment action against the employee for reporting such a violation to the Attorney General.



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

1       **Section 1.** NRS 244.159 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2       244.159 **1.** A county in this State may not sound a siren, bell  
3 or alarm ~~[at a time during which the]~~ *if a siren, bell or alarm is*  
4 *currently or* was previously sounded on specific days or times in  
5 association with an ordinance enacted by the county which required  
6 persons of a particular race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin or  
7 color to leave the county or a city, town or township within the  
8 county by a specific time ~~[ ]~~, *for a purpose other than:*

9       (a) *Alerting persons to an emergency;*

10       (b) *Testing the siren, bell or alarm at reasonably scheduled*  
11 *intervals of not more than once every 6 months; or*

12       (c) *Celebrating or recognizing a day declared to be a legal*  
13 *holiday pursuant to NRS 236.015 on the day of the legal holiday*  
14 *or the day on which the legal holiday is recognized.*

15       **2.** *Any county that sounds a siren, bell or alarm in violation*  
16 *of subsection 1 is subject to a penalty of not more than \$50,000 for*  
17 *each violation. The Attorney General may recover the penalty in a*  
18 *civil action brought in the name of the State of Nevada in any*  
19 *court of competent jurisdiction. Such an action must be*  
20 *commenced within 1 year after the violation.*

21       **3.** *A county shall not take adverse employment action against*  
22 *an employee who reports a violation of this section to the Office of*  
23 *the Attorney General.*

24       **Sec. 2.** NRS 268.0199 is hereby amended to read as follows:

25       268.0199 **1.** A city in this State may not sound a siren, bell or  
26 alarm ~~[at a time during which the]~~ *if a siren, bell or alarm is*  
27 *currently or* was previously sounded on specific days or times in  
28 association with an ordinance enacted by the city which required  
29 persons of a particular race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin or  
30 color to leave the city by a specific time ~~[ ]~~, *for a purpose other*  
31 *than:*

32       (a) *Alerting persons to an emergency;*

33       (b) *Testing the siren, bell or alarm at reasonably scheduled*  
34 *intervals of not more than once every 6 months; or*

35       (c) *Celebrating or recognizing a day declared to be a legal*  
36 *holiday pursuant to NRS 236.015 on the day of the legal holiday*  
37 *or the day on which the legal holiday is recognized.*

38       **2.** *Any city that sounds a siren, bell or alarm in violation of*  
39 *subsection 1 is subject to a penalty of not more than \$50,000 for*  
40 *each violation. The Attorney General may recover the penalty in a*  
41 *civil action brought in the name of the State of Nevada in any*



1 *court of competent jurisdiction. Such an action must be*  
2 *commenced within 1 year after the violation.*

3 *3. A city shall not take adverse employment action against an*  
4 *employee who reports a violation of this section to the Office of the*  
5 *Attorney General.*

6 **Sec. 3.** NRS 269.234 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 269.234 *1.* An unincorporated town in this State may not  
8 sound a siren, bell or alarm ~~[at a time during which the]~~ *if a* siren,  
9 bell or alarm *is currently or* was previously sounded on specific  
10 days or times in association with an ordinance enacted by the town  
11 which required persons of a particular race, ethnicity, ancestry,  
12 national origin or color to leave the town by a specific time ~~[-]~~, *for*  
13 *a purpose other than:*

14 *(a) Alerting persons to an emergency;*

15 *(b) Testing the siren, bell or alarm at reasonably scheduled*  
16 *intervals of not more than once every 6 months; or*

17 *(c) Celebrating or recognizing a day declared to be a legal*  
18 *holiday pursuant to NRS 236.015 on the day of the legal holiday*  
19 *or the day on which the legal holiday is recognized.*

20 *2. Any unincorporated town that sounds a siren, bell or alarm*  
21 *in violation of subsection 1 is subject to a penalty of not more than*  
22 *\$50,000 for each violation. The Attorney General may recover the*  
23 *penalty in a civil action brought in the name of the State of*  
24 *Nevada in any court of competent jurisdiction. Such an action*  
25 *must be commenced within 1 year after the violation.*

26 *3. An unincorporated town shall not take adverse*  
27 *employment action against an employee who reports a violation of*  
28 *this section to law enforcement.*

29 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

