ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 139—ASSEMBLYMEN DALY, KIRKPATRICK, BOBZIEN, BENITEZ-THOMPSON, HORNE; BUSTAMANTE ADAMS, CARLTON, DIAZ, FRIERSON, HEALEY, OHRENSCHALL, SPIEGEL AND SPRINKLE

FEBRUARY 18, 2013

JOINT SPONSOR: SENATOR SMITH

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to the state business portal. (BDR 7-127)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact. Effect on the State: Yes.

CONTAINS UNFUNDED MANDATE (§ 1) (NOT REQUESTED BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

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

AN ACT relating to business; revising provisions governing the state business portal; requiring certain state and local agencies and health districts to use the state business portal for certain purposes; requiring certain persons who are not required to obtain a state business license to obtain a certificate of exemption from the Secretary of State; requiring the Secretary of State to issue unique business identification numbers under certain circumstances; revising provisions governing the issuance of certain licenses by incorporated cities and counties; providing penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:** 

Under existing law, the Secretary of State is required to establish the state business portal to facilitate interaction among businesses and governmental agencies in this State by allowing businesses to conduct necessary transactions with governmental agencies in this State through the state business portal. (NRS 75A.100) **Section 1** of this bill requires the Secretary of State to: (1) establish common business registration information that is used by state and local agencies





and health districts to conduct necessary transactions with businesses in this State; and (2) cause the state business portal to provide common business registration information to state and local agencies and health districts that conduct necessary transactions with businesses in this State. Section 1 further requires state and local agencies and health districts to use the state business portal to: (1) collect business registration information that is needed by the state or local agency or health district to issue a license, certificate, registration, permit or similar type of authorization to conduct a business in this State or to engage in an occupation or profession in this State; and (2) to make available on the Internet applications for a license, certificate, registration, permit or similar type of authorization to conduct a business in this State or to engage in an occupation or profession in this State and to integrate such applications into the state business portal. Under section 9 of this bill, a state or local agency or health district is not required to comply with section 1 until January 1, 2014, unless the State Board of Examiners extends that deadline.

Under existing law, certain persons are excluded from the definition of "business" for the purposes of state business licenses and, thus, are not required to obtain a state business license. (NRS 76.020) **Section 2** of this bill requires these persons to obtain annually from the Secretary of State a certificate of exemption from the requirement to obtain a state business license. Under **section 2**, a person required to obtain a certificate of exemption must post the certificate conspicuously at his or her establishment or place of business and is subject to a penalty of not more than \$250 if the person fails to do so. **Section 3** of this bill provides that a person required to obtain a state business license must post the state business license conspicuously at his or her establishment or place of business and is subject to a penalty of not more than \$250 if the person fails to do so.

**Section 4** of this bill requires the Secretary of State to assign a unique business identification number to each business entity organized in this State and to each person issued a state business license or a certificate of exemption from the requirement to obtain a state business license. Under **section 1**: (1) the Secretary of State must cause the state business portal to interface with the system used by the Secretary of State to assign business identification numbers; and (2) state and local agencies and health districts that issue licenses, certificates, registrations, permits or similar types of authorization to conduct a business in this State for to engage in an occupation or profession in this State must require applicants for such a license, certificate, registration or permit to include the business identification number on the application. **Sections 2 and 3** require that a state business license or certificate of exemption include the business identification number assigned to the holder of the license or certificate.

**Sections 5 and 6** of this bill amend provisions governing city and county business licenses so that certain information regarding industrial insurance is provided through the state business portal. **Section 7** of this bill provides that the affidavit required by existing law to obtain a local business license to sell certain retail merchandise must include a statement that the applicant has a current state business license and the applicant's business identification number.





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

**Section 1.** NRS 75A.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 75A.100 1. The Secretary of State shall provide for the establishment of a state business portal to facilitate interaction among businesses and governmental agencies in this State by allowing businesses to conduct necessary transactions with governmental agencies in this State through use of the state business portal.
  - 2. The Secretary of State shall:

- (a) Establish, through cooperative efforts, the standards and requirements necessary to design, build and implement the state business portal;
- (b) Establish the standards and requirements necessary for a state or local agency to participate in the state business portal;
- (c) Authorize a state or local agency to participate in the state business portal if the Secretary of State determines that the agency meets the standards and requirements necessary for such participation;
- (d) Determine the appropriate requirements to be used by businesses and governmental agencies conducting transactions through use of the state business portal;
- (e) Cause the state business portal to interface with the system established by the Secretary of State to assign business identification numbers;
- (f) For the purpose of coordinating the collection of information from businesses by state and local agencies and health districts:
- (1) Establish common business registration information that is required to be collected from businesses by state and local agencies and health districts that collect taxes or fees or that conduct other necessary transactions with businesses in this State; and
- (2) Cause the state business portal to provide the common business registration information to state and local agencies and health districts which participate in the state business portal and which use the common business registration information to collect taxes or fees or conduct other necessary transactions with businesses in this State;
- (g) In carrying out the provisions of this section, consult with the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development to ensure that the activities of the Secretary of State are consistent with





the State Plan for Economic Development developed by the Executive Director pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 231.053; and

**(f)** (h) Adopt such regulations and take any appropriate action as necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

3. Each state or local agency or health district that issues any license, certificate, registration, permit or similar type of authorization to conduct a business in this State or to engage in an occupation or profession in this State shall:

(a) To the extent practicable, make available on its Internet website any application for a license, certificate, registration, permit or similar type of authorization to conduct a business in this State or to engage in an occupation or profession in this State and integrate those applications into the state business portal;

(b) Require an applicant for a license, certificate, registration, permit or similar type of authorization to conduct a business in this State or to engage in an occupation or profession in this State to include in the application the applicant's business identification number; and

- (c) Ensure that the state or local agency or health district, as applicable, is capable of using the state business portal to collect the common business registration information established pursuant to subparagraph (1) of paragraph (f) of subsection 2 which is needed by the state or local agency or health district to issue a license, certificate, registration, permit or similar type of authorization to conduct a business in this State or to engage in an occupation or profession in this State.
  - 4. As used in this section:
- (a) "Business identification number" means the number assigned by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 4 of this act to an entity organized pursuant to this title or to a person who is issued a state business license pursuant to chapter 76 of NRS or a certificate of exemption from the requirement to obtain a state business license pursuant to section 2 of this act.
- (b) "Health district" means a health district created pursuant to NRS 439.362 or 439.370.
- **Sec. 2.** Chapter 76 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:
- 1. A person who is not required to obtain a state business license pursuant to paragraphs (b) to (f), inclusive, of subsection 2 of NRS 76.020 or NRS 680B.020 must obtain a certificate of exemption from the Secretary of State pursuant to this section.
- 2. An application for a certificate of exemption must be made upon a form prescribed by the Secretary of State and include any information that the Secretary of State deems necessary to determine whether the applicant is exempt from the requirements





to obtain a state business license pursuant to paragraphs (b) to (f), inclusive, of subsection 2 of NRS 76.020 or NRS 680B.020.

- 3. The application must be signed pursuant to NRS 239.330 by:
  - (a) The owner of a business that is owned by a natural person.
  - (b) A member or partner of an association or partnership.
  - (c) A general partner of a limited partnership.
  - (d) A managing partner of a limited-liability partnership.
- (e) A manager or managing member of a limited-liability company.
- (f) An officer of a corporation or some other person specifically authorized by the corporation to sign the application.
- 4. If the application for a certificate of exemption is defective in any respect, the Secretary of State may return the application for correction.
- 5. A certificate of exemption issued pursuant to this section must contain the business identification number assigned by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 4 of this act.
- 6. A certificate of exemption must be renewed annually. A person who applies for the renewal of a certificate of exemption must submit the application for renewal:
- (a) If the person is an entity required to file an annual list with the Secretary of State pursuant to this title, at the time the person submits the annual list to the Secretary of State, unless the person submits a certificate or other form evidencing the dissolution of the entity; or
- (b) If the person is not an entity required to file an annual list with the Secretary of State pursuant to this title, on the last day of the month in which the anniversary date of issuance of the certificate of exemption occurs in each year, unless the person submits a written statement to the Secretary of State, at least 10 days before that date, indicating that the person will not be conducting an activity for which a certificate of exemption must be obtained.
- 7. Every person required to obtain a certificate of exemption pursuant to this section shall post the certificate of exemption conspicuously at the person's establishment or place of business, and keep it so conspicuously posted until the certificate of exemption has expired or the person is no longer required to obtain a certificate of exemption. Any person who fails to post or keep posted a certificate of exemption as required by this section is subject to a penalty of not more than \$250 to be imposed by the Secretary of State.
- 8. If the Secretary of State discovers that a person has violated the requirements of subsection 7, the Secretary of State





shall send a written notice of the violation to the person. The written notice must state that the person may request a hearing by filing a written request for a hearing with the Secretary of State not later than 14 days after the written notice is sent. If the person files a request for a hearing with the Secretary of State not later than 14 days after written notice is sent, the Secretary of State must afford the person an opportunity for a hearing.

**Sec. 3.** NRS 76.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

76.100 1. A person shall not conduct a business in this State unless and until the person obtains a state business license issued by the Secretary of State. If the person is:

- (a) An entity required to file an initial or annual list with the Secretary of State pursuant to this title, the person must obtain the state business license at the time of filing the initial or annual list
- (b) Not an entity required to file an initial or annual list with the Secretary of State pursuant to this title, the person must obtain the state business license before conducting a business in this State.
  - 2. An application for a state business license must:
  - (a) Be made upon a form prescribed by the Secretary of State;
- (b) Set forth the name under which the applicant transacts or intends to transact business, or if the applicant is an entity organized pursuant to this title and on file with the Secretary of State, the exact name on file with the Secretary of State, the entity number as assigned by the Secretary of State, if known, and the location in this State of the place or places of business;
  - (c) Be accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$100; and
- (d) Include any other information that the Secretary of State deems necessary.
- → If the applicant is an entity organized pursuant to this title and on file with the Secretary of State and the applicant has no location in this State of its place of business, the address of its registered agent shall be deemed to be the location in this State of its place of business.
  - 3. The application must be signed pursuant to NRS 239.330 by:
  - (a) The owner of a business that is owned by a natural person.
  - (b) A member or partner of an association or partnership.
  - (c) A general partner of a limited partnership.
  - (d) A managing partner of a limited-liability partnership.
- (e) A manager or managing member of a limited-liability company.
  - (f) An officer of a corporation or some other person specifically authorized by the corporation to sign the application.
- 4. If the application for a state business license is defective in any respect or the fee required by this section is not paid, the





Secretary of State may return the application for correction or payment.

- 5. A state business license issued pursuant to this section must contain the business identification number assigned by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 4 of this act.
- 6. Every person required to obtain a state business license pursuant to this section shall post such license conspicuously at the person's establishment or place of business, and keep it so conspicuously posted until the license has expired or the person ceases to transact such business. Any person who fails to post or keep posted a license as required by this section is subject to a penalty of not more than \$250 to be imposed by the Secretary of State.
- 7. If the Secretary of State discovers that a person has violated the requirements of subsection 6, the Secretary of State shall send a written notice of the violation to the person. The written notice must state that the person may request a hearing by filing a written request for a hearing with the Secretary of State not later than 14 days after the written notice is sent. If the person files a request for a hearing with the Secretary of State not later than 14 days after written notice is sent, the Secretary of State must afford the person an opportunity for a hearing.
- 8. The state business license required to be obtained pursuant to this section is in addition to any license to conduct business that must be obtained from the local jurisdiction in which the business is being conducted.
- [6.] 9. For the purposes of this chapter, a person shall be deemed to conduct a business in this State if a business for which the person is responsible:
- (a) Is organized pursuant to this title, other than a business organized pursuant to:
  - (1) Chapter 82 or 84 of NRS; or
- (2) Chapter 81 of NRS if the business is a nonprofit religious, charitable, fraternal or other organization that qualifies as a tax-exempt organization pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 501(c).
  - (b) Has an office or other base of operations in this State;
  - (c) Has a registered agent in this State; or
- (d) Pays wages or other remuneration to a natural person who performs in this State any of the duties for which he or she is paid.
- [7.] 10. As used in this section, "registered agent" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 77.230.
- **Sec. 4.** Chapter 225 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:
- For the purpose of establishing the identity of an entity organized pursuant to title 7 of NRS or a person who is issued a





state business license pursuant to chapter 76 of NRS or a certificate of exemption pursuant to section 2 of this act, the Secretary of State shall assign a unique business identification number to each entity organized pursuant to title 7 of NRS or to any person who is issued a state business license pursuant to chapter 76 of NRS or a certificate of exemption pursuant to section 2 of this act.

**Sec. 5.** NRS 244.33505 is hereby amended to read as follows:

244.33505 1. In a county in which a license to engage in a business is required, the board of county commissioners shall not issue such a license unless the applicant for the license:

(a) Signs an affidavit affirming that the business:

- (1) Has received coverage by a private carrier as required pursuant to chapters 616A to 616D, inclusive, and chapter 617 of NRS:
- (2) Maintains a valid certificate of self-insurance pursuant to chapters 616A to 616D, inclusive, of NRS;
- (3) Is a member of an association of self-insured public or private employers; or
- (4) Is not subject to the provisions of chapters 616A to 616D, inclusive, or chapter 617 of NRS; or
- (b) If the applicant submits his or her application electronically, attests to his or her compliance with the provisions of paragraph (a).
- 2. In a county in which such a license is not required, the board of county commissioners shall require a business, when applying for a post office box, to submit to the board the affidavit or attestation required by subsection 1.
- 3. [Each board of county commissioners shall submit to the Administrator of] The state business portal established pursuant to NRS 75A.100 must make available to the Division of Industrial Relations of the Department of Business and Industry monthly a [list] report of the names of those businesses which have submitted an affidavit or attestation required by subsections 1 and 2.
- 4. Upon receiving an affidavit or attestation required by subsection 1, the state business portal may provide the owner of the business with a document setting forth the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees to promote safety in the workplace, in accordance with regulations adopted by the Division of Industrial Relations of the Department of Business and Industry pursuant to NRS 618.376.
- 5. Upon receiving an affidavit or attestation required by [this section,] subsection 2, a board of county commissioners shall provide the owner of the business with a document setting forth the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees to promote safety in the workplace, in accordance with regulations adopted by





the Division of Industrial Relations of the Department of Business and Industry pursuant to NRS 618.376.

**Sec. 6.** NRS 268.0955 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 268.0955 1. In an incorporated city in which a license to engage in a business is required, the city council or other governing body of the city shall not issue such a license unless the applicant for the license:
  - (a) Signs an affidavit affirming that the business:
- (1) Has received coverage by a private carrier as required pursuant to chapters 616A to 616D, inclusive, and chapter 617 of NRS;
- (2) Maintains a valid certificate of self-insurance pursuant to chapters 616A to 616D, inclusive, of NRS;
- (3) Is a member of an association of self-insured public or private employers; or
- (4) Is not subject to the provisions of chapters 616A to 616D, inclusive, or chapter 617 of NRS; or
- (b) If the applicant submits his or her application electronically, attests to his or her compliance with the provisions of paragraph (a).
- 2. In an incorporated city in which such a license is not required, the city council or other governing body of the city shall require a business, when applying for a post office box, to submit to the governing body the affidavit or attestation required by subsection 1.
- 3. [Each city council or other governing body of an incorporated city shall submit to the Administrator of] The state business portal established pursuant to NRS 75A.100 must make available to the Division of Industrial Relations of the Department of Business and Industry monthly a [list] report of the names of those businesses which have submitted an affidavit or attestation required by subsections 1 and 2.
- 4. Upon receiving an affidavit or attestation required by subsection 1, the state business portal may provide the owner of the business with a document setting forth the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees to promote safety in the workplace, in accordance with regulations adopted by the Division of Industrial Relations of the Department of Business and Industry pursuant to NRS 618.376.
- 5. Upon receiving an affidavit or attestation required by [this section,] subsection 2, the city council or other governing body of an incorporated city shall provide the applicant with a document setting forth the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees to promote safety in the workplace in accordance with regulations adopted by the Division of Industrial Relations of the Department of Business and Industry pursuant to NRS 618.376.





- **Sec. 7.** NRS 364.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 364.110 No county license board and no other licensing authority, whether county, city or township, within the State of Nevada, shall issue an initial license or transfer any license to any person, firm or corporation authorizing the person, firm or corporation to engage in, or in any manner carry on, any business of the retail sale of wines, beers, liquors, soft drinks, produce, meats or other foodstuffs, clothing, hardware, or any other type or class of merchandise whatever, without requiring the applicant or applicants for the license to file with the licensing authority an affidavit showing:
- 1. That the applicant or applicants maintain an active state business license issued pursuant to chapter 76 of NRS and the business identification number assigned to the applicant or applicants by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 4 of this act.
- 2. Whether the applicant or applicants are engaged in business under a fictitious name, and if so engaged in business, that the applicant or applicants have complied with the provisions of chapter 602 of NRS.
- [2.] 3. Whether there has been any change in ownership in the business of the applicant or applicants during the preceding calendar year, and if there has been any such change in ownership, that the change was made in compliance with the provisions of chapter 104 of NRS.
  - **Sec. 8.** NRS 237.180 is hereby repealed.
- **Sec. 9.** 1. Notwithstanding the amendatory provisions of this act, a state or local agency or health district is not required to use the state business portal to collect common business registration information or integrate into the state business portal as required by subsection 3 of NRS 75A.100, as amended by section 1 of this act, until January 1, 2014, unless the State Board of Examiners extends this deadline pursuant to subsection 2.
- 2. If a state or local agency or health district believes that it cannot comply with the requirements of subsection 3 of NRS 75A.100, as amended by section 1 of this act, before January 1, 2014, the state or local agency or health district may submit to the State Board of Examiners a written request to extend the deadline which sets forth the reason for requesting the extension. Upon receipt of a written request to extend the deadline, the State Board of Examiners may extend the deadline set forth in subsection 1 as it deems necessary. The State Board of Examiners shall report to the Legislative Commission each deadline extension approved by the State Board of Examiners pursuant to this subsection.





**Sec. 10.** The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any additional expenses of a local government that are related to the provisions of this act.

**Sec. 11.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2013.

## TEXT OF REPEALED SECTION

237.180 Requirements; annual meeting to design and modify joint forms; report of annual meeting.

- 1. The agencies of this State, and the local governments within this State, that collect taxes or fees from persons engaged in business, or require such persons to provide related information and forms, shall coordinate their collection of information and forms so that each enterprise is required to furnish information in as few separate reports as possible. This section applies specifically, but is not limited, to the Department of Taxation, the Employment Security Division of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the counties and cities that require a business license.
- 2. On or before October 1 of each year, the Executive Director of the Department of Taxation shall convene the heads, or persons designated by the respective heads, of the state agencies named in subsection 1 and the appropriate officers of the cities and counties that require a business license. The Secretary of State, a representative of the Nevada Association of Counties and a representative of the Nevada League of Cities must be invited to attend the meeting. If the Executive Director knows, or is made aware by persuasive information furnished by any enterprise required to pay a tax or fee or to provide information, that any other state or local agency needs to participate to accomplish the purpose set forth in subsection 1, the Executive Director shall also invite the head of that agency or the appropriate officer of the local government, and the person so invited shall attend. The Administrator of the Division of Enterprise Information Technology Services of the Department of Administration shall assist in effecting the consolidation of the information and the creation of the forms.
- 3. The persons so assembled shall design and modify, as appropriate, the necessary joint forms for use during the ensuing fiscal year to accomplish the purpose set forth in subsection 1. If any dispute cannot be resolved by the participants, it must be referred to





the Nevada Tax Commission for a decision that is binding on all parties.

- 4. On or before February 15 of each year, the Executive Director of the Department of Taxation shall submit a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for presentation to the Legislature. The report must include a summary of the annual meeting held during the immediately preceding year and any recommendations for proposed legislation.
- 5. The provisions of chapter 241 of NRS apply to a meeting held pursuant to this section. The Executive Director of the Department of Taxation shall provide members of the staff of the Department of Taxation to assist in complying with the requirements of chapter 241 of NRS.





