## ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 260-ASSEMBLYMAN LEAVITT

MARCH 12, 2021

JOINT SPONSOR: SENATOR HARDY

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Provides for the confidentiality of contact tracing information. (BDR 40-747)

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

CONTAINS UNFUNDED MANDATE (§ 8) (NOT REQUESTED BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

EXPLANATION - Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets fomitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to public health; providing, with certain exceptions, that information obtained for the purpose of or in the course of contact tracing for COVID-19 is confidential and privileged and is not subject to discovery or subpoena; prohibiting a law enforcement agency from conducting such contact tracing; prescribing the circumstances under which the disclosure of such information is authorized; authorizing the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services to take certain actions to stop or prevent unauthorized disclosure; creating a cause of action for a person or entity aggrieved by unauthorized disclosure; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:** 

Existing law requires the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services and authorizes local boards of health and local health officers to take certain actions to control the spread of communicable diseases. (NRS 439.170, 439.360, 439.366, 439.410, 439.470, chapter 441A of NRS) **Sections 2-4** of this bill define certain terms used in this bill. **Section 5** of this bill prohibits a governmental entity that conducts contact tracing





for COVID-19 and any employee, volunteer or independent contractor of such a governmental entity from disclosing information obtained for the purpose of or in the course of contact tracing except in certain circumstances authorized by this bill or as required by federal law. **Section 10** of this bill makes a conforming change to clarify that such information is not subject to laws providing for the disclosure of public records. **Section 5** further provides that such information is privileged and not subject to discovery or subpoena, except under certain circumstances.

**Section 5** prohibits a court from requiring the production or disclosure of information obtained for the purpose of or in the course of contact tracing except in certain circumstances. **Section 5** also: (1) prohibits a law enforcement agency from conducting contact tracing; and (2) limits the amount of time that an employee, volunteer or independent contractor of a governmental entity that conducts contact tracing is authorized to retain personally identifiable information obtained for the purpose of or in the course of contact tracing.

**Section 6** of this bill authorizes a governmental entity that conducts contact tracing for COVID-19 or an employee, volunteer or independent contractor of such a governmental entity to disclose information obtained for the purpose of or in the course of contact tracing that contains personally identifiable information: (1) with the informed consent of the person to whom the information relates or his or her representative; (2) if the disclosure is necessary for contact tracing or for certain governmental actions to protect public health; (3) in an emergency, for the purpose of providing for the diagnosis, care or treatment of the person to whom the information relates; and (4) for the purpose of an investigation or legal action to enforce the provisions of this bill. Section 6 prohibits a person or entity to whom such information is disclosed from disclosing the information to additional persons or entities without consent. Section 7 of this bill authorizes a governmental entity that conducts contact tracing for COVID-19 or an employee, volunteer or independent contractor of such a governmental entity to disclose information obtained for the purpose of or in the course of contact tracing that does not contain personally identifiable information for purposes related to public health or scientific research with the approval of the Division.

**Section 8** of this bill requires the State Board of Health to adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this bill and protect the confidentiality of information obtained for the purpose of or in the course of contact tracing for COVID-19.

**Section 9** of this bill: (1) authorizes the Division to take certain actions to stop or prevent a violation of the provisions of this bill; and (2) creates a cause of action for any person aggrieved by a violation of the provisions of this bill.

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

**Section 1.** Chapter 441A of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 9, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. As used in sections 2 to 9, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in sections 3 and 4 of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

Sec. 3. "Contact tracing" means investigating cases of COVID-19 to identify:

1. Persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19; and





- 2. Persons who have or may have:
- (a) Come into contact with persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19; or
  - (b) Otherwise been exposed to COVID-19.

Sec. 4. "COVID-19" means:

- 1. The novel coronavirus identified as SARS-CoV-2;
- 2. Any mutation of the novel coronavirus identified as SARS-CoV-2; or
- 3. A disease or health condition caused by the novel coronavirus identified as SARS-CoV-2.
- Sec. 5. 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section and sections 6 and 7 of this act, a governmental entity that conducts contact tracing for COVID-19 and any employee, volunteer or independent contractor of such a governmental entity shall keep confidential any information obtained for the purpose of or in the course of contact tracing, including, without limitation, test results and other information relating to whether a person has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or been in contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, and such information is privileged and not subject to discovery or subpoena. Except as authorized in this section or section 6 or 7 of this act or where disclosure is required by federal law, a governmental entity or an employee, volunteer or independent contractor of a governmental entity shall not disclose such information to any other person or entity, including, without limitation:
- (a) A law enforcement agency or any employee or agent thereof; or
- (b) A person or entity whose responsibilities include enforcing federal immigration law.
- 2. A law enforcement agency shall not conduct contact tracing for COVID-19.
- 3. A court may not require a governmental entity that conducts contact tracing for COVID-19 or an employee, volunteer or independent contractor of such a governmental entity to produce or disclose information obtained for the purpose of or in the course of contact tracing for a purpose not authorized by section 6 of this act.
- 4. Within the time period prescribed by subsection 5, an employee, volunteer or independent contractor of a governmental entity who is in possession of information obtained for the purpose of or in the course of contact tracing conducted by or on behalf of the governmental entity shall:
- (a) Delete or dispose of any such information in the possession of the employee, volunteer or independent contractor, as applicable; or





(b) Remove any information that could be used to identify a person from information obtained for the purpose of or in the course of contact tracing in the possession of the employee,

volunteer or independent contractor, as applicable.

5. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, an employee, volunteer or independent contractor of a governmental entity must take the action required by subsection 4 not later than 30 days after receiving information obtained for the purpose of or in the course of contact tracing conducted by or on behalf of the governmental entity. If the employee, volunteer or independent contractor requires the information to conduct contact tracing after the expiration of that time period, the employee, volunteer or independent contractor is not required to take such action until the earlier of:

(a) Forty-five days after the employee, volunteer or

independent contractor receives the information; or

(b) The date on which the employee, volunteer or independent contractor no longer requires the information to conduct contact tracing.

6. An employee, volunteer or independent contractor of a governmental entity may provide information obtained for the purpose of or in the course of contact tracing conducted by or on behalf of the governmental entity to the governmental entity before taking the action required by subsection 4.

7. As used in this section, "law enforcement agency" means any agency, office or bureau of this State or a political subdivision of this State, the primary duty of which is to enforce the law. The

term does not include:

- (a) The Department of Health and Human Services or any division thereof; or
  - (b) A local board of health.
- Sec. 6. 1. Subject to the requirements of subsection 3, a governmental entity that conducts contact tracing for COVID-19 or an employee, volunteer or independent contractor of such a governmental entity may disclose information obtained for the purpose of or in the course of contact tracing that includes personally identifiable information:
- (a) If the person to whom the information relates has provided consent pursuant to subsection 2;
  - (b) If the disclosure is necessary to carry out contact tracing;
- (c) To a provider of health care or medical facility for the purpose of providing for the diagnosis, care or treatment of the person to whom the information relates in an emergency if attempting to obtain written consent would delay treatment in a manner that creates a risk to the life or health of the person;





- (d) If the disclosure is necessary for an action by a governmental entity relating to a specific person to protect the public health; or
- (e) For the purpose of an investigation or legal action initiated pursuant to section 9 of this act. If information is requested pursuant to this paragraph by a person other than the person to whom the information relates, the information must not be disclosed unless:
- (1) The person to whom the information relates provides informed, written consent to the disclosure pursuant to subsection 2; or
- (2) The court having jurisdiction over the investigation or action orders the disclosure after determining that the information is highly material to the investigation or action.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a person to whom information described in subsection 1 relates or, if the person is an unemancipated minor or lacks the capacity to provide informed consent, the representative of the person may consent to the release of such information only by providing written, informed and voluntary consent that expressly states the limits and scope of the consent and is not a part of any other document. Consent is not required to be written if the consent is provided solely for the purpose of arranging or providing quarantine support for the person to whom the information relates.
- 3. Any disclosure of information pursuant to this section must be limited to the information necessary to achieve the purpose of the disclosure. A person or entity to whom information is disclosed pursuant to this section shall not disclose the information to any other person or entity except where explicitly authorized by informed consent provided pursuant to subsection 2.
- 4. Any governmental entity or independent contractor of a governmental entity that discloses information pursuant to this section shall:
- (a) Create a written record of the disclosure which includes, without limitation:
  - (1) The name of the person to whom the information was disclosed, the purpose for which the information was disclosed and the date of the disclosure; and
  - (2) A copy of any written consent to the disclosure provided pursuant to subsection 2; and
- (b) Include the record in the file for the information that is disclosed.
  - 5. As used in this section:





- (a) "Quarantine support" means resources or services that enable a person to safely quarantine or isolate, including, without limitation:
  - (1) Delivery of groceries, meals or medications;
  - (2) Laundry services;

- (3) Care of children, elderly persons or pets;
- (4) Assistance with telephone, Internet or other services or devices for communication;
  - (5) Physical and behavioral health care;
  - (6) Legal services;
- (7) Provision of living space for a person who is unable to safely quarantine at home;
  - (8) Replacement of income; and
- (9) The provision of resources and services, including, without limitation, the resources and services described in subparagraphs (1) to (8), inclusive, to a person for whom the person in isolation regularly provides those resources or services.
  - (b) "Representative of the person" means:
- (1) If the person is an unemancipated minor, the parent or legal guardian of the person; or
- (2) If the person is not an unemancipated minor, a legal guardian of the person or a person given power of attorney to make decisions concerning health care for the person pursuant to NRS 162A.700 to 162A.870, inclusive.
- Sec. 7. 1. A governmental entity that conducts contact tracing for COVID-19 or an employee, volunteer or independent contractor of such a governmental entity may disclose information obtained for the purpose of or in the course of contact tracing that does not include personally identifiable information to a person or entity who has obtained the written approval of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services. The Division may approve disclosure of information pursuant to this section if it determines that:
  - (a) The disclosure will be:
    - (1) For a purpose relating to public health; or
- (2) To a qualified researcher whom the Division determines is conducting valid scientific research with data from the reported information; and
- (b) The person or entity to whom the information will be disclosed has implemented measures that meet the requirements prescribed by the Board pursuant to section 8 of this act to prevent the identification of any person to whom the information relates.
  - 2. A written approval pursuant to subsection 1 must specify:
  - (a) The purpose, nature and scope of the disclosure;





- (b) The measures that the person or entity to whom the information is disclosed must take to prevent the identification of any person to whom the information relates; and
  - (c) Any other terms of the approval.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11 12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25 26

27

28

29

30

31 32

33

34

35

36 37

38

39

40

41 42

43

**Sec. 8.** 1. The Board shall adopt regulations prescribing:

- (a) Policies, procedures and security protections that a governmental entity that conducts contact tracing for COVID-19 must implement to protect the confidentiality of information obtained for the purpose of or in the course of contact tracing;
- (b) The process by which a person or entity seeking disclosure of information pursuant to section 7 of this act may request the written approval of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services; and
- (c) Requirements for the measures that the person or entity to whom information is disclosed pursuant to section 7 of this act must take to prevent the identification of any person to whom the information relates.
- The Board may adopt any other regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 2 to 9, inclusive, of this act.
- 1. The Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services may investigate any alleged violation of sections 2 to 9, inclusive, of this act and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto and:
- (a) Issue to any person or entity an order to cease and desist from any such violation; or
- (b) Cause appropriate legal action to be taken in the district court of any county to secure an injunction or order against such a violation.
- 2. Any person aggrieved by a violation of sections 2 to 9, inclusive, of this act or the regulations adopted pursuant thereto may commence an action in any district court in this State. If the court determines that the defendant has committed such a violation, and that the plaintiff has been injured thereby, the court may enjoin the defendant from continued violation or may take such other affirmative action as may be appropriate and, in the case of a prevailing plaintiff, may award to the plaintiff actual damages, punitive damages, court costs and reasonable attorney's fees.
  - NRS 239.010 is hereby amended to read as follows: Sec. 10.

239.010 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section and NRS 1.4683, 1.4687, 1A.110, 3.2203, 41.071, 49.095, 49.293, 62D.420, 62D.440, 62E.516, 62E.620, 62H.025, 62H.030, 62H.170, 62H.220, 62H.320, 75A.100, 75A.150, 76.160, 78.152, 80.113, 81.850, 82.183, 86.246, 86.54615, 87.515, 87.5413, 87A.200,

44 87A.580, 87A.640, 88.3355, 88.5927, 88.6067, 88A.345, 88A.7345, 45





89.045, 89.251, 90.730, 91.160, 116.757, 116A.270, 116B.880, 1 2 118B.026, 119.260, 119.265, 119.267. 119.280. 119A.280. 119A.653, 119A.677, 119B.370, 119B.382, 120A.690, 125.130, 3 125B.140, 126.141, 126.161, 126.163, 126.730, 127.007, 127.057, 4 5 127.130, 127.140, 127.2817, 128.090, 130.312, 130.712, 136.050, 159.044, 159A.044, 172.245, 176.01249, 176.015, 6 172.075, 7 176.0625, 176.09129, 176.156, 176A.630, 178.39801, 178.4715, 178.5691, 179.495, 179A.070, 179A.165, 179D.160, 200.3771, 8 9 200.5095. 200.604. 202.3662, 205.4651, 209.392, 200.3772. 209.3923, 209.3925, 209.419, 209.429, 209.521, 211A.140, 10 213.010, 213.040, 213.095, 213.131, 217.105, 217.110, 217.464, 11 217.475, 218A.350, 218E.625, 218F.150, 218G.130, 218G.240, 12 13 218G.350, 226.300, 228.270, 228.450, 228.495, 228.570, 231.069, 231.1473, 233.190, 237.300, 239.0105, 239.0113, 14 239B.030, 239B.040, 239B.050, 239C.140, 239C.210, 239C.230, 15 239C.250, 239C.270, 239C.420, 240.007, 241.020, 16 241.039, 242.105, 244.264, 244.335, 247.540, 247.550, 247.560, 17 250.087, 250.130, 250.140, 250.150, 268.095, 268.0978, 268.490, 18 269.174, 271A.105, 281.195, 281.805, 281A.350, 19 268.910, 281A.680, 281A.685, 281A.750, 281A.755, 281A.780, 284.4068, 20 286.110, 286.118, 287.0438, 289.025, 289.080, 289.387, 289.830, 21 22 293.4855, 293.5002, 293.503, 293.504, 293.558, 293.5757, 293.870, 293.906, 293.908, 293.910, 293B.135, 293D.510, 331.110, 332.061, 23 332.351, 333.333, 333.335, 338.070, 338.1379, 338.1593, 338.1725, 24 348.420, 349.597, 349.775, 353.205, 353A.049, 25 338.1727, 353A.100, 353C.240, 360.240, 360.247, 360.255, 26 353A.085. 360.755, 361.044, 361.2242, 361.610, 365.138, 366.160, 368A.180, 27 370.257, 370.327, 372A.080, 378.290, 378.300, 379.0075, 379.008, 28 29 379.1495, 385A.830, 385B.100, 387.626, 387.631, 388.1455, 388.259, 388.501, 388.503, 388.513, 388.750, 388A.247, 388A.249, 30 391.033, 391.035, 391.0365, 391.120, 391.925, 392.029, 392.147, 31 392.264, 392.271, 392.315, 392.317, 392.325, 392.327, 392.335, 32 392.850, 393.045, 394.167, 394.16975, 394.1698, 394.447, 394.460, 33 394.465, 396.3295, 396.405, 396.525, 396.535, 396.9685, 34 398A.115, 408.3885, 408.3886, 408.3888, 408.5484, 412.153, 35 414.280, 416.070, 422.2749, 422.305, 422A.342, 422A.350, 36 425.400, 427A.1236, 427A.872, 432.028, 432.205, 432B.175, 37 432B.280, 432B.290, 432B.407, 432B.430, 432B.560, 432B.5902, 38 432C.140, 432C.150, 433.534, 433A.360, 437.145, 437.207, 39 439.4941, 439.840, 439.914, 439B.420, 439B.754, 439B.760, 40 440.170, 441A.195, 441A.220, 441A.230, 442.330, 442.395, 41 42 442.735, 442.774, 445A.665, 445B.570, 445B.7773, 447.345, 43 449.209, 449.245, 449.4315, 449A.112, 450.140, 450B.188, 44 453.164, 453.720, 453A.610, 453A.700, 458.055, 458.280, 459.050, 459.3866, 459.555, 459.7056, 459.846, 463.120, 463.15993, 45





463.240, 463.3403, 463.3407, 463.790, 467.1005, 480.535, 480.545, 1 2 480.935, 480.940, 481.063, 481.091, 481.093, 482.170, 482.5536, 3 483.340, 483.363, 483.575, 483.659, 483.800, 484A.469, 484E.070, 485.316, 501.344, 503.452, 522.040, 534A.031, 561.285, 571.160, 4 5 584.655, 587.877, 598.0964, 598.098, 598A.110, 599B.090, 603.070, 603A.210, 604A.303, 604A.710, 612.265, 616B.012, 6 7 616B.315, 616B.350, 618.341, 618.425, 616B.015, 622.238, 8 622.310, 623.131, 623A.137, 624.110, 624.265, 624.327, 625.425, 9 625A.185. 628.418. 628B.230. 628B.760. 629.047. 629.069. 630.133, 630.2673, 630.30665, 630.336, 630A.555, 631.368, 10 632.121, 632.125, 632.3415, 632.405, 633.283, 633.301, 633.4715, 11 12 633.524, 634.055, 634.214, 634A.185, 635.158, 636.107, 637.085, 13 637B.288, 638.087, 638.089, 639.2485, 639.570, 640.075, 14 640A.220, 640B.730, 640C.580, 640C.600, 640C.620, 640C.745, 15 640C.760, 640D.190, 640E.340, 641.090, 641.221, 641.325. 641A.191, 641A.262, 641A.289, 641B.170, 641B.282, 641B.460, 16 17 641C.760, 641C.800, 642.524, 643.189, 644A.870, 645.180, 645.625, 645A.050, 645A.082, 645B.060, 645B.092, 645C.220, 18 645C.225, 645D.130, 645D.135, 645G.510, 645H.320, 645H.330, 19 20 647.0945, 647.0947, 648.033, 648.197, 649.065, 649.067, 652.228, 21 653.900, 654.110, 656.105, 657A.510, 661.115, 665.130, 665.133, 22 669.275, 669.285, 669A.310, 671.170, 673.450, 673.480, 675.380, 676A.340, 676A.370, 677.243, 678A.470, 678C.710, 678C.800, 23 24 679B.122, 679B.124, 679B.152, 679B.159, 679B.190, 679B.285, 25 679B.690, 680A.270, 681A.440, 681B.260, 681B.410, 681B.540, 26 683A.0873, 685A.077, 686A.289, 686B.170, 686C.306, 687A.110, 687A.115, 687C.010, 688C.230, 688C.480, 688C.490, 689A.696, 27 28 692A.117, 692C.190, 692C.3507, 692C.3536, 692C.3538, 29 692C.354, 692C.420, 693A.480, 693A.615, 696B.550, 696C.120, 30 703.196, 704B.325, 706.1725, 706A.230, 710.159, 711.600, and section 5 of this act, sections 35, 38 and 41 of chapter 478, Statutes 31 32 of Nevada 2011 and section 2 of chapter 391, Statutes of Nevada 33 2013 and unless otherwise declared by law to be confidential, all public books and public records of a governmental entity must be 34 35 open at all times during office hours to inspection by any person, 36 and may be fully copied or an abstract or memorandum may be 37 prepared from those public books and public records. Any such 38 copies, abstracts or memoranda may be used to supply the general public with copies, abstracts or memoranda of the records or may be 39 40 used in any other way to the advantage of the governmental entity or of the general public. This section does not supersede or in any 41 manner affect the federal laws governing copyrights or enlarge, 42 43 diminish or affect in any other manner the rights of a person in any 44 written book or record which is copyrighted pursuant to federal law.





- 2. A governmental entity may not reject a book or record which is copyrighted solely because it is copyrighted.
- 3. A governmental entity that has legal custody or control of a public book or record shall not deny a request made pursuant to subsection 1 to inspect or copy or receive a copy of a public book or record on the basis that the requested public book or record contains information that is confidential if the governmental entity can redact, delete, conceal or separate, including, without limitation, electronically, the confidential information from the information included in the public book or record that is not otherwise confidential.
- 4. If requested, a governmental entity shall provide a copy of a public record in an electronic format by means of an electronic medium. Nothing in this subsection requires a governmental entity to provide a copy of a public record in an electronic format or by means of an electronic medium if:
  - (a) The public record:

- (1) Was not created or prepared in an electronic format; and
- (2) Is not available in an electronic format; or
- (b) Providing the public record in an electronic format or by means of an electronic medium would:
  - (1) Give access to proprietary software; or
- (2) Require the production of information that is confidential and that cannot be redacted, deleted, concealed or separated from information that is not otherwise confidential.
- 5. An officer, employee or agent of a governmental entity who has legal custody or control of a public record:
- (a) Shall not refuse to provide a copy of that public record in the medium that is requested because the officer, employee or agent has already prepared or would prefer to provide the copy in a different medium.
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 239.030, shall, upon request, prepare the copy of the public record and shall not require the person who has requested the copy to prepare the copy himself or herself.
- **Sec. 11.** 1. The provisions of sections 5, 6 and 7 of this act and NRS 239.010, as amended by section 10 of this act, apply to information obtained for the purpose of or in the course of contact tracing for COVID-19 that:
- (a) Is in the possession of a governmental entity that conducts contact tracing for COVID-19 or any employee, volunteer or independent contractor of such a governmental entity on the effective date of this act; or
- (b) Comes into the possession of a governmental entity that conducts contact tracing for COVID-19 or any employee, volunteer





or independent contractor of such a governmental entity on or after the effective date of this act.

- 2. The provisions of subsection 2 of section 9 of this act apply to any cause of action that accrues under those provisions on or after the effective date of this act.
  - 3. As used in this section:

1 2

3

4

5

6

7 8

9

10

11

12 13

- (a) "Contact tracing" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 3 of this act.
- (b) "COVID-19" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 4 of this act.
- **Sec. 12.** 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. 13.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.





