

SENATE BILL NO. 23—COMMITTEE ON  
GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE

(ON BEHALF OF THE NEVADA HIGHWAY PATROL DIVISION  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 15, 2018

Referred to Committee on Growth and Infrastructure

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to testing of blood samples under certain circumstances. (BDR 43-345)

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

CONTAINS UNFUNDED MANDATE (§§ 1, 2)  
(NOT REQUESTED BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

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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 public safety; requiring the testing of a blood sample for the presence and quantity of any controlled substance under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Existing law provides that a driver shall be deemed to have given his or her  
2 consent to an evidentiary test to determine the concentration of alcohol in his or her  
3 blood or breath or to determine whether a controlled substance, chemical, poison,  
4 organic solvent or another prohibited substance is present, if such a test is  
5 administered at the request of a police officer having reasonable grounds to believe  
6 that the driver was driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a  
7 controlled substance or with a prohibited substance in his or her blood or urine or  
8 that the driver engaged in another prohibited act. (NRS 484C.160) **Section 1** of this  
9 bill provides that upon the request of the arresting officer, a sample of blood  
10 obtained pursuant to an evidentiary test must be tested for the presence and quantity  
11 of any controlled substance.

12 Existing law provides that in all cases in which a death has occurred as a result  
13 of a crash involving a motor vehicle, a blood sample must be drawn from each  
14 decedent involved in the crash to be analyzed for the presence and concentration of  
15 alcohol. (NRS 484C.170) **Section 2** of this bill provides that the blood of the  
16 decedent must also be tested for the presence and quantity of any controlled  
17 substance.



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

1     **Section 1.** NRS 484C.160 is hereby amended to read as  
2 follows:

3     484C.160 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 4  
4 and 5, any person who drives or is in actual physical control of a  
5 vehicle on a highway or on premises to which the public has access  
6 shall be deemed to have given his or her consent to an evidentiary  
7 test of his or her blood, urine, breath or other bodily substance to  
8 determine the concentration of alcohol in his or her blood or breath  
9 or to determine whether a controlled substance, chemical, poison,  
10 organic solvent or another prohibited substance is present, if such a  
11 test is administered at the request of a police officer having  
12 reasonable grounds to believe that the person to be tested was:

13     (a) Driving or in actual physical control of a vehicle while under  
14 the influence of intoxicating liquor or a controlled substance or with  
15 a prohibited substance in his or her blood or urine; or

16     (b) Engaging in any other conduct prohibited by NRS 484C.110,  
17 484C.120, 484C.130 or 484C.430.

18     2. A police officer who requests that a person submit to a test  
19 pursuant to subsection 1 shall inform the person that his or her  
20 license, permit or privilege to drive will be revoked if he or she fails  
21 to submit to the test.

22     3. If the person to be tested pursuant to subsection 1 is dead or  
23 unconscious, the officer shall direct that samples of blood from the  
24 person to be tested.

25     4. Any person who is afflicted with hemophilia or with a heart  
26 condition requiring the use of an anticoagulant as determined by a  
27 physician is exempt from any blood test which may be required  
28 pursuant to this section but must, when appropriate pursuant to the  
29 provisions of this section, be required to submit to a breath or urine  
30 test.

31     5. If the concentration of alcohol in the blood or breath of the  
32 person to be tested is in issue:

33     (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the person may  
34 refuse to submit to a blood test if means are reasonably available to  
35 perform a breath test.

36     (b) The person may request a blood test, but if means are  
37 reasonably available to perform a breath test when the blood test is  
38 requested, and the person is subsequently convicted, the person must  
39 pay for the cost of the blood test, including the fees and expenses of  
40 witnesses whose testimony in court or an administrative hearing is  
41 necessary because of the use of the blood test. The expenses of such  
42 a witness may be assessed at an hourly rate of not less than:



1 (1) Fifty dollars for travel to and from the place of the  
2 proceeding; and

3 (2) One hundred dollars for giving or waiting to give  
4 testimony.

5 (c) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 484C.200, not more  
6 than three samples of the person's blood or breath may be taken  
7 during the 5-hour period immediately following the time of the  
8 initial arrest.

9 6. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, if the presence  
10 of a controlled substance, chemical, poison, organic solvent or  
11 another prohibited substance in the blood or urine of the person is in  
12 issue, the officer may request that the person submit to a blood or  
13 urine test, or both.

14 7. If the presence of marijuana in the blood of the person is in  
15 issue, the officer may request that the person submit to a blood test.

16 8. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 4 and 6, a  
17 police officer shall not request that a person submit to a urine test.

18 9. If a person to be tested fails to submit to a required test as  
19 requested by a police officer pursuant to this section and the officer  
20 has reasonable grounds to believe that the person to be tested was:

21 (a) Driving or in actual physical control of a vehicle while under  
22 the influence of intoxicating liquor or a controlled substance or with  
23 a prohibited substance in his or her blood or urine; or

24 (b) Engaging in any other conduct prohibited by NRS 484C.110,  
25 484C.120, 484C.130 or 484C.430,

26 ↪ the officer may apply for a warrant or court order directing that  
27 reasonable force be used to the extent necessary to obtain samples of  
28 blood from the person to be tested.

29 10. If a person who is less than 18 years of age is requested to  
30 submit to an evidentiary test pursuant to this section, the officer  
31 shall, before testing the person, make a reasonable attempt to notify  
32 the parent, guardian or custodian of the person, if known.

33 ***11. Upon the request of an arresting officer, a sample of***  
34 ***blood obtained pursuant to this section must be tested for the***  
35 ***presence and quantity of any controlled substance.***

36 **Sec. 2.** NRS 484C.170 is hereby amended to read as follows:

37 484C.170 1. Any coroner, or other public official performing  
38 like duties, shall in all cases in which a death has occurred as a  
39 result of a crash involving a motor vehicle, whether the person  
40 killed is a driver, passenger or pedestrian, cause to be drawn from  
41 each decedent, within 8 hours of the crash, a blood sample to be  
42 analyzed for the presence and concentration of alcohol ***+*** ***and the***  
43 ***presence and quantity of any controlled substance.***



1 2. The findings of the examinations are a matter of public  
2 record and must be reported to the Department by the coroner or  
3 other public official within 30 days after the death.

4 3. ~~[Blood alcohol analyses]~~ *Analyses of the presence and*  
5 *concentration of alcohol and the presence and quantity of any*  
6 *controlled substance* are acceptable only if made by laboratories  
7 licensed to perform this function.

8 **Sec. 3.** The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any  
9 additional expenses of a local government that are related to the  
10 provisions of this act.

11 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on January 1, 2020.

