SENATE BILL NO. 284-SENATORS TITUS AND STONE

MARCH 15, 2023

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN GRAY AND HANSEN

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to driving or operating certain vehicles or vessels while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance. (BDR 16-940)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State: Yes.

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

AN ACT relating to offenders; revising provisions relating to the assignment of certain offenders to an institution or facility of minimum security; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

In general, existing law prohibits the Director of the Department of Corrections from assigning an offender to an institution or facility of minimum security if the offender is not eligible for parole or release from prison within a reasonable period. Existing law provides an exception to this prohibition for certain offenders imprisoned for an offense relating to driving or operating certain vehicles or vessels while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance. (NRS 209.481) Section 1 of this bill eliminates this exception, thereby prohibiting the Director from assigning certain offenders imprisoned for an offense related to driving or operating certain vehicles or vessels while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance to an institution or facility of minimum security unless the offender is eligible for parole or release from prison within a reasonable period.

Insofar as practicable, existing law requires certain offenders imprisoned for offenses relating to driving or operating certain vehicles or vessels while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance to be: (1) segregated from offenders whose crimes were violent; and (2) assigned to an institution or facility of minimum security. (NRS 484C.400, 484C.410, 484C.430, 484C.440, 488.420, 488.425, 488.427) **Sections 2-8** of this bill: (1) remove the requirement that such offenders be assigned to an institution or facility of minimum security insofar as practicable; and (2) prohibit the assignment of such offenders to an institution or



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

- **Section 1.** NRS 209.481 is hereby amended to read as follows: 209.481 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 176A.780, the Director shall not assign any prisoner to an institution or facility of minimum security if the prisoner:
- (a) [Except as otherwise provided in NRS 484C.400, 484C.410, 484C.430, 484C.440, 488.420, 488.425 and 488.427, is] *Is* not eligible for parole or release from prison within a reasonable period;
- (b) Has recently committed a serious infraction of the rules of an institution or facility of the Department;
- (c) Has not performed the duties assigned to him or her in a faithful and orderly manner;
- (d) Has ever been convicted of a sexual offense that is punishable as a felony;
- (e) Has, within the immediately preceding year, been convicted of any crime involving the use or threatened use of force or violence against a victim that is punishable as a felony; or
- (f) Has attempted to escape or has escaped from an institution of the Department.
- 2. The Director shall, by regulation, establish procedures for classifying and selecting qualified prisoners.
 - **Sec. 2.** NRS 484C.400 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 484C.400 1. Unless a greater penalty is provided pursuant to NRS 484C.430 or 484C.440, and except as otherwise provided in NRS 484C.394 or 484C.410, a person who violates the provisions of NRS 484C.110 or 484C.120:
- (a) For the first offense within 7 years, is guilty of a misdemeanor. Unless the person is allowed to undergo treatment as provided in NRS 484C.320, the court shall:
- (1) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (4) of this paragraph or subsection 3 of NRS 484C.420, order the person to pay tuition for an educational course on alcohol or other substance use disorders approved by the Department and complete the course within the time specified in the order, and the court shall notify the Department if the person fails to complete the course within the specified time;
- (2) Unless the sentence is reduced pursuant to NRS 484C.320:
- (I) Sentence the person to imprisonment for not less than 2 days nor more than 6 months in jail or residential confinement for





not less than 2 days nor more than 6 months, in the manner provided in NRS 4.376 to 4.3766, inclusive, or 5.0755 to 5.078, inclusive; or

- (II) Order the person to perform not less than 48 hours, but not more than 96 hours, of community service while dressed in distinctive garb that identifies the person as having violated the provisions of NRS 484C.110 or 484C.120;
- (3) Fine the person not less than \$400 nor more than \$1,000; and
- (4) If the person is found to have a concentration of alcohol of 0.18 or more in his or her blood or breath, order the person to attend a program of treatment for an alcohol or other substance use disorder pursuant to the provisions of NRS 484C.360.
- (b) For a second offense within 7 years, is guilty of a misdemeanor. Unless the sentence is reduced pursuant to NRS 484C.330, the court shall:
 - (1) Sentence the person to:

- (I) Imprisonment for not less than 10 days nor more than 6 months in jail; or
- (II) Residential confinement for not less than 10 days nor more than 6 months, in the manner provided in NRS 4.376 to 4.3766, inclusive, or 5.0755 to 5.078, inclusive;
- (2) Fine the person not less than \$750 nor more than \$1,000, or order the person to perform an equivalent number of hours of community service while dressed in distinctive garb that identifies the person as having violated the provisions of NRS 484C.110 or 484C.120; and
- (3) Order the person to attend a program of treatment for an alcohol or other substance use disorder pursuant to the provisions of NRS 484C.360.
- A person who willfully fails or refuses to complete successfully a term of residential confinement or a program of treatment ordered pursuant to this paragraph is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 484C.340, for a third offense within 7 years, is guilty of a category B felony and the court:
 - (1) Shall:
- (I) Sentence the person to imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 6 years; and
- (II) Fine the person not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$5,000; and
- (2) May order the person to attend a program of treatment for an alcohol or other substance use disorder pursuant to the provisions of NRS 484C.360 if the results of an evaluation conducted pursuant to NRS 484C.300 indicate that the person has an alcohol or other





substance use disorder and that the person can be treated successfully for his or her condition.

- → An offender who is imprisoned pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph must, insofar as practicable, be segregated from offenders whose crimes were violent and [, insofar as practicable,] must not be assigned to an institution or facility of minimum security [.], unless the offender meets the eligibility criteria for assignment to such an institution or facility prescribed by the regulations adopted pursuant to NRS 209.481.
- 2. An offense that occurred within 7 years immediately preceding the date of the principal offense or after the principal offense constitutes a prior offense for the purposes of this section:
 - (a) When evidenced by a conviction; or
- (b) If the offense is conditionally dismissed or the judgment of conviction is set aside pursuant to NRS 176A.240, 176A.260 or 176A.290 or dismissed in connection with successful completion of a diversionary program or specialty court program,
- without regard to the sequence of the offenses and convictions. The facts concerning a prior offense must be alleged in the complaint, indictment or information, must not be read to the jury or proved at trial but must be proved at the time of sentencing and, if the principal offense is alleged to be a felony, must also be shown at the preliminary examination or presented to the grand jury.
- 3. A term of confinement imposed pursuant to the provisions of this section may be served intermittently at the discretion of the judge or justice of the peace, except that a person who is convicted of a second or subsequent offense within 7 years must be confined for at least one segment of not less than 48 consecutive hours. This discretion must be exercised after considering all the circumstances surrounding the offense, and the family and employment of the offender, but any sentence of 30 days or less must be served within 6 months after the date of conviction or, if the offender was sentenced pursuant to NRS 484C.320 or 484C.330 and the suspension of his or her sentence was revoked, within 6 months after the date of revocation. Any time for which the offender is confined must consist of not less than 24 consecutive hours.
- 4. Jail sentences simultaneously imposed pursuant to this section and NRS 482.456, 483.560, 484C.410 or 485.330 must run consecutively.
- 5. If the defendant was transporting a person who is less than 15 years of age in the motor vehicle at the time of the violation, the court shall consider that fact as an aggravating factor in determining the sentence of the defendant.
- 6. For the purpose of determining whether one offense occurs within 7 years of another offense, any period of time between the





two offenses during which, for any such offense, the offender is imprisoned, serving a term of residential confinement, placed under the supervision of a treatment provider, on parole or on probation must be excluded.

- 7. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "offense" means:
 - (a) A violation of NRS 484C.110, 484C.120 or 484C.430;
- (b) A homicide resulting from driving or being in actual physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a controlled substance or resulting from any other conduct prohibited by NRS 484C.110, 484C.130 or 484C.430; or
- (c) A violation of a law of any other jurisdiction that prohibits the same or similar conduct as set forth in paragraph (a) or (b).
- **Sec. 3.** NRS 484C.410 is hereby amended to read as follows: 484C.410 1. Unless a greater penalty is provided in NRS 484C.440, a person who has previously been convicted of:
- (a) A violation of NRS 484C.110 or 484C.120 that is punishable as a felony pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 1 of NRS 484C.400:
 - (b) A violation of NRS 484C.430;
- (c) A homicide resulting from driving or being in actual physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a controlled substance or resulting from any other conduct prohibited by NRS 484C.110, 484C.130 or 484C.430;
- (d) A violation of a law of any other jurisdiction that prohibits the same or similar conduct as set forth in paragraph (a), (b) or (c); or
- (e) A violation of NRS 484C.110 or 484C.120 that is punishable pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NRS 484C.400 that was reduced from a felony pursuant to NRS 484C.340,
- → and who violates the provisions of NRS 484C.110 or 484C.120 is guilty of a category B felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 2 years and a maximum term of not more than 15 years, and shall be further punished by a fine of not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$5,000. An offender so imprisoned must, insofar as practicable, be segregated from offenders whose crimes were violent and [, insofar as practicable,] must not be assigned to an institution or facility of minimum security [.], unless the offender meets the eligibility criteria for assignment to such an institution or facility prescribed by the regulations adopted pursuant to NRS 209.481.
- 2. An offense which is listed in paragraphs (a) to (e), inclusive, of subsection 1 that occurred on any date preceding the date of the principal offense or after the principal offense constitutes a prior





offense for the purposes of this section when evidenced by a conviction, without regard for the sequence of the offenses and convictions. The facts concerning a prior offense must be alleged in the complaint, indictment or information, must not be read to the jury or proved at trial but must be proved at the time of sentencing and, if the principal offense is alleged to be a felony, must also be shown at the preliminary examination or presented to the grand jury.

- 3. A term of confinement imposed pursuant to the provisions of this section may be served intermittently at the discretion of the judge or justice of the peace, except that a person who is convicted of a second or subsequent offense within 7 years must be confined for at least one segment of not less than 48 consecutive hours. This discretion must be exercised after considering all the circumstances surrounding the offense, and the family and employment of the offender, but any sentence of 30 days or less must be served within 6 months after the date of conviction or, if the offender was sentenced pursuant to NRS 484C.320 or 484C.330 and the suspension of offender's sentence was revoked, within 6 months after the date of revocation. Any time for which the offender is confined must consist of not less than 24 consecutive hours.
- 4. Jail sentences simultaneously imposed pursuant to this section and NRS 482.456, 483.560, 484C.400 or 485.330 must run consecutively.
- 5. If the defendant was transporting a person who is less than 15 years of age in the motor vehicle at the time of the violation, the court shall consider that fact as an aggravating factor in determining the sentence of the defendant.
- 6. For the purpose of determining whether one offense occurs within 7 years of another offense, any period of time between the two offenses during which, for any such offense, the offender is imprisoned, serving a term of residential confinement, placed under the supervision of a treatment provider, on parole or on probation must be excluded.
- 7. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "offense" means:
 - (a) A violation of NRS 484C.110, 484C.120 or 484C.430;
- (b) A homicide resulting from driving or being in actual physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a controlled substance or resulting from any other conduct prohibited by NRS 484C.110, 484C.130 or 484C.430; or
- (c) A violation of a law of any other jurisdiction that prohibits the same or similar conduct as set forth in paragraph (a) or (b).





- **Sec. 4.** NRS 484C.430 is hereby amended to read as follows: 484C.430 1. Unless a greater penalty is provided pursuant to NRS 484C.440, a person who:
 - (a) Is under the influence of intoxicating liquor;
- (b) Has a concentration of alcohol of 0.08 or more in his or her blood or breath;
- (c) Is found by measurement within 2 hours after driving or being in actual physical control of a vehicle to have a concentration of alcohol of 0.08 or more in his or her blood or breath;
- (d) Is under the influence of a controlled substance or is under the combined influence of intoxicating liquor and a controlled substance:
- (e) Inhales, ingests, applies or otherwise uses any chemical, poison or organic solvent, or any compound or combination of any of these, to a degree which renders the person incapable of safely driving or exercising actual physical control of a vehicle; or
- (f) Has a prohibited substance in his or her blood or urine, as applicable, in an amount that is equal to or greater than the amount set forth in subsection 3 or 4 of NRS 484C.110,
- → and does any act or neglects any duty imposed by law while driving or in actual physical control of any vehicle on or off the highways of this State, if the act or neglect of duty proximately causes the death of, or substantial bodily harm to, another person, is guilty of a category B felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 2 years and a maximum term of not more than 20 years and must be further punished by a fine of not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$5,000. A person so imprisoned must, insofar as practicable, be segregated from offenders whose crimes were violent and [, insofar as practicable,] must not be assigned to an institution or facility of minimum security [.], unless the offender meets the eligibility criteria for assignment to such an institution or facility prescribed by the regulations adopted pursuant to NRS 209.481.
- 2. A prosecuting attorney shall not dismiss a charge of violating the provisions of subsection 1 in exchange for a plea of guilty, guilty but mentally ill or nolo contendere to a lesser charge or for any other reason unless the attorney knows or it is obvious that the charge is not supported by probable cause or cannot be proved at the time of trial. A sentence imposed pursuant to subsection 1 may not be suspended nor may probation be granted.
- 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, if consumption is proven by a preponderance of the evidence, it is an affirmative defense under paragraph (c) of subsection 1 that the defendant consumed a sufficient quantity of alcohol after driving or being in actual physical control of the vehicle, and before his or her





blood or breath was tested, to cause the defendant to have a concentration of alcohol of 0.08 or more in his or her blood or breath. A defendant who intends to offer this defense at a trial or preliminary hearing must, not less than 14 days before the trial or hearing or at such other time as the court may direct, file and serve on the prosecuting attorney a written notice of that intent.

4. If the defendant is also charged with violating the provisions of NRS 484E.010, 484E.020 or 484E.030, the defendant may not

offer the affirmative defense set forth in subsection 3.

- 5. If the defendant was transporting a person who is less than 15 years of age in the motor vehicle at the time of the violation, the court shall consider that fact as an aggravating factor in determining the sentence of the defendant.
 - **Sec. 5.** NRS 484C.440 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 484C.440 1. A person who commits vehicular homicide pursuant to NRS 484C.130 is guilty of a category A felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison:
- (a) For life with the possibility of parole, with eligibility for parole beginning when a minimum of 10 years has been served; or
- (b) For a definite term of 25 years, with eligibility for parole beginning when a minimum of 10 years has been served.
 - 2. A person imprisoned pursuant to subsection 1 [must,]:
- (a) Must, insofar as practicable, be segregated from offenders whose crimes were violent; and [, insofar as practicable,]
- (b) Must not be assigned to an institution or facility of minimum security [.], unless the offender meets the eligibility criteria for assignment to such an institution or facility prescribed by the regulations adopted pursuant to NRS 209.481.
- 3. A prosecuting attorney shall not dismiss a charge of vehicular homicide in exchange for a plea of guilty, guilty but mentally ill or nolo contendere to a lesser charge or for any other reason unless the attorney knows or it is obvious that the charge is not supported by probable cause or cannot be proved at the time of trial. A sentence imposed pursuant to subsection 1 may not be suspended nor may probation be granted.
- 4. If the defendant was transporting a person who is less than 15 years of age in the vehicle at the time of the violation, the court shall consider that fact as an aggravating factor in determining the sentence of the defendant.
 - **Sec. 6.** NRS 488.420 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 488.420 1. Unless a greater penalty is provided pursuant to NRS 488.425, a person who:
 - (a) Is under the influence of intoxicating liquor;
- (b) Has a concentration of alcohol of 0.08 or more in his or her blood or breath;





- (c) Is found by measurement within 2 hours after operating or being in actual physical control of a vessel under power or sail to have a concentration of alcohol of 0.08 or more in his or her blood or breath;
- (d) Is under the influence of a controlled substance or is under the combined influence of intoxicating liquor and a controlled substance;
- (e) Inhales, ingests, applies or otherwise uses any chemical, poison or organic solvent, or any compound or combination of any of these, to a degree which renders the person incapable of safely operating or being in actual physical control of a vessel under power or sail; or
- (f) Has a prohibited substance in his or her blood or urine, as applicable, in an amount that is equal to or greater than the amount set forth in subsection 3 or 4 of NRS 488.410,
- → and does any act or neglects any duty imposed by law while operating or being in actual physical control of any vessel under power or sail, if the act or neglect of duty proximately causes the death of, or substantial bodily harm to, another person, is guilty of a category B felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 2 years and a maximum term of not more than 20 years and shall be further punished by a fine of not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$5,000. A person so imprisoned must, insofar as practicable, be segregated from offenders whose crimes were violent and [, insofar as practicable,] must not be assigned to an institution or facility of minimum security [.], unless the offender meets the eligibility criteria for assignment to such an institution or facility prescribed by the regulations adopted pursuant to NRS 209.481.
- 2. A prosecuting attorney shall not dismiss a charge of violating the provisions of subsection 1 in exchange for a plea of guilty, guilty but mentally ill or nolo contendere to a lesser charge or for any other reason unless the prosecuting attorney knows or it is obvious that the charge is not supported by probable cause or cannot be proved at the time of trial. A sentence imposed pursuant to subsection 1 must not be suspended, and probation must not be granted.
- 3. If consumption is proven by a preponderance of the evidence, it is an affirmative defense under paragraph (c) of subsection 1 that the defendant consumed a sufficient quantity of alcohol after operating or being in actual physical control of the vessel under power or sail, and before his or her blood was tested, to cause the defendant to have a concentration of alcohol of 0.08 or more in his or her blood or breath. A defendant who intends to offer this defense at a trial or preliminary hearing must, not less than 14





days before the trial or hearing or at such other time as the court may direct, file and serve on the prosecuting attorney a written notice of that intent.

- 4. If a person less than 15 years of age was in the vessel at the time of the defendant's violation, the court shall consider that fact as an aggravating factor in determining the sentence of the defendant.
 - **Sec. 7.** NRS 488.425 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 488.425 1. A person commits homicide by vessel if the person:
- (a) Operates or is in actual physical control of a vessel under power or sail on the waters of this State and:
 - (1) Is under the influence of intoxicating liquor;
- (2) Has a concentration of alcohol of 0.08 or more in his or her blood or breath;
- (3) Is found by measurement within 2 hours after operating or being in actual physical control of a vessel under power or sail to have a concentration of alcohol of 0.08 or more in his or her blood or breath:
- (4) Is under the influence of a controlled substance or is under the combined influence of intoxicating liquor and a controlled substance:
- (5) Inhales, ingests, applies or otherwise uses any chemical, poison or organic solvent, or any compound or combination of any of these, to a degree which renders the person incapable of safely operating or exercising actual physical control of a vessel under power or sail; or
- (6) Has a prohibited substance in his or her blood or urine, as applicable, in an amount that is equal to or greater than the amount set forth in subsection 3 or 4 of NRS 488.410;
- (b) Proximately causes the death of another person while operating or in actual physical control of a vessel under power or sail; and
 - (c) Has previously been convicted of at least three offenses.
- 2. A person who commits homicide by vessel is guilty of a category A felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison:
- (a) For life with the possibility of parole, with eligibility for parole beginning when a minimum of 10 years has been served; or
- (b) For a definite term of 25 years, with eligibility for parole beginning when a minimum of 10 years has been served.
 - 3. A person imprisoned pursuant to subsection 2 [must,]:
- (a) Must, insofar as practicable, be segregated from offenders whose crimes were violent; and [, insofar as practicable,]
- (b) Must not be assigned to an institution or facility of minimum security [...], unless the offender meets the eligibility criteria for





assignment to such an institution or facility prescribed by the regulations adopted pursuant to NRS 209.481.

- 4. A prosecuting attorney shall not dismiss a charge of homicide by vessel in exchange for a plea of guilty, guilty but mentally ill or nolo contendere to a lesser charge or for any other reason unless the prosecuting attorney knows or it is obvious that the charge is not supported by probable cause or cannot be proved at the time of trial. A sentence imposed pursuant to subsection 2 may not be suspended nor may probation be granted.
- 5. If consumption is proven by a preponderance of the evidence, it is an affirmative defense under subparagraph (3) of paragraph (a) of subsection 1 that the defendant consumed a sufficient quantity of alcohol after operating or being in actual physical control of the vessel, and before his or her blood or breath was tested, to cause the defendant to have a concentration of alcohol of 0.08 or more in his or her blood or breath. A defendant who intends to offer this defense at a trial or preliminary hearing must, not less than 14 days before the trial or hearing or at such other time as the court may direct, file and serve on the prosecuting attorney a written notice of that intent.
- 6. If the defendant was transporting a person who is less than 15 years of age in the vessel at the time of the violation, the court shall consider that fact as an aggravating factor in determining the sentence of the defendant.
 - 7. As used in this section, "offense" means:
 - (a) A violation of NRS 488.410 or 488.420;
- (b) A homicide resulting from operating or being in actual physical control of a vessel while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a controlled substance or resulting from any other conduct prohibited by this section or NRS 488.410 or 488.420; or
- (c) A violation of a law of any other jurisdiction that prohibits the same or similar conduct as set forth in paragraph (a) or (b).
 - **Sec. 8.** NRS 488.427 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 488.427 1. Unless a greater penalty is provided pursuant to NRS 488.425, a person who violates the provisions of NRS 488.410 and who has previously been convicted of a violation of NRS 488.420 or 488.425 or a violation of the law of any other jurisdiction that prohibits the same or similar conduct as set forth in NRS 488.420 or 488.425 is guilty of a category B felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 2 years and a maximum term of not more than 15 years, and shall be further punished by a fine of not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$5,000. An offender so imprisoned [must,]:
- (a) Must, insofar as practicable, be segregated from offenders whose crimes were violent; and [, insofar as practicable,]





- (b) Must not be assigned to an institution or facility of minimum security [.], unless the offender meets the eligibility criteria for assignment to such an institution or facility prescribed by the regulations adopted pursuant to NRS 209.481.
- 2. The facts concerning a prior violation of NRS 488.420 or 488.425 must be alleged in the complaint, indictment or information, must not be read to the jury or proved at trial but must be proved at the time of sentencing.
- 3. A prosecuting attorney shall not dismiss a charge of violating the provisions of NRS 488.410 against a person previously convicted of violating NRS 488.420 or 488.425 in exchange for a plea of guilty, guilty but mentally ill or nolo contendere to a lesser charge or for any other reason unless the prosecuting attorney knows or it is obvious that the charge is not supported by probable cause or cannot be proved at the time of trial. A sentence imposed pursuant to subsection 1 must not be suspended, and probation must not be granted.
- 4. If a person less than 15 years of age was in the vessel at the time of the defendant's violation, the court shall consider that fact as an aggravating factor in determining the sentence of the defendant.
- **Sec. 9.** 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and approval.
 - 2. Sections 1 to 8, inclusive, of this act become effective:
- (a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and
 - (b) On January 1, 2024, for all other purposes.





