

SENATE BILL NO. 335—SENATORS PARKS  
AND HARDY (BY REQUEST)

MARCH 21, 2011

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN PIERCE; AND OHRENSCHALL

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing hypodermic devices.  
(BDR 40-795)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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

AN ACT relating to hypodermics; removing hypodermic devices from the list of paraphernalia that is prohibited for delivery, sale, possession, manufacture or use in this State; providing that hypodermic devices may be sold or furnished without a prescription if not prohibited by federal law in certain circumstances; repealing a provision which makes it a crime to misuse a hypodermic device; requiring the State Board of Health to establish a program for the safe distribution and disposal of hypodermic devices; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 **Section 1** of this bill requires the State Board of Health to establish by  
2 regulation a program for the safe distribution and disposal of hypodermic devices.  
3 **Section 1** further requires a pharmacy, health care facility, provider of health care,  
4 nonprofit community-based organization or governmental entity that wishes to sell  
5 or furnish hypodermic devices without a prescription to register with the  
6 appropriate health authority. **Section 1** requires the State Board to identify by  
7 regulation the persons who may obtain a hypodermic device without a prescription.  
8 In addition, **section 1** requires the State Board to develop or approve language for a  
9 safety insert to be included with each hypodermic device that is sold or furnished to  
10 a person without a prescription. Selling or furnishing a device in violation of the  
11 requirements of **section 1** or the regulations adopted pursuant thereto is a  
12 misdemeanor and the registration of the pharmacy, health care facility, provider of



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13 health care, nonprofit community-based organization or governmental entity may  
14 be suspended for such a violation.

15 Existing law prohibits the delivery, sale, possession or manufacture of certain  
16 drug paraphernalia when the person engaging in the act reasonably should know  
17 that it will be used for an illegal purpose. (NRS 453.560) Existing law further  
18 makes it a felony for a person to deliver drug paraphernalia to a minor who is at  
19 least 3 years younger than the person. (NRS 453.562) **Section 2** of this bill removes  
20 hypodermic devices from the list of items that may be found to constitute drug  
21 paraphernalia.

22 Existing law authorizes the sale of hypodermic devices which are not restricted  
23 by federal law to being sold by prescription to be sold without a prescription for  
24 certain limited purposes. (NRS 454.480) **Section 5** of this bill removes the  
25 restrictions so that hypodermic devices may be sold or furnished without a  
26 prescription for any purpose so long as the sale of such devices is not restricted by  
27 federal law and is authorized pursuant to the program for the safe distribution and  
28 disposal of hypodermic devices established by the State Board of Health pursuant  
29 to **section 1** of this bill. **Section 5** further prohibits a pharmacy that sells or  
30 provides hypodermic devices without a prescription from advertising the  
31 availability of such devices without a prescription and requires that such devices be  
32 stored so that they are accessible only to authorized personnel.

33 **Section 6** of this bill repeals a provision which makes it a misdemeanor to use  
34 or allow the use of a hypodermic device for a purpose other than that for which it  
35 was purchased, because the specific uses were removed in **section 5**.

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1 WHEREAS, The Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Hepatitis and  
2 other infectious diseases that may be transmitted through the use of  
3 unsterile hypodermic devices such as syringes and needles pose a  
4 major health threat in the United States, causing thousands of deaths  
5 and millions of dollars in preventable health care costs each year;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The lack of availability of sterile hypodermic  
8 devices is a major cause of this serious health threat; and

9 WHEREAS, Hundreds of studies have demonstrated that making  
10 sterile hypodermic devices available to persons who inject drugs  
11 reduces the spread of infectious disease and does not encourage  
12 drug use; and

13 WHEREAS, The trend among states has been to deregulate the  
14 possession, sale and use of hypodermic devices and to make such  
15 devices more accessible; and

16 WHEREAS, Increasing access to sterile hypodermic devices is  
17 necessary to control the spread of life-threatening infectious  
18 diseases; now, therefore,



1 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
2 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:  
3

4 **Section 1.** Chapter 439 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
5 thereto a new section to read as follows:

6 *1. The State Board Health shall establish by regulation a*  
7 *program for the safe distribution and disposal of hypodermic*  
8 *devices.*

9 *2. A person or governmental entity shall not sell or furnish a*  
10 *hypodermic device without a prescription unless the person or*  
11 *governmental entity is registered and authorized to do so pursuant*  
12 *to this section. A pharmacy, health care facility, provider of health*  
13 *care, nonprofit community-based organization or governmental*  
14 *entity that wishes to sell or furnish hypodermic devices without a*  
15 *prescription must register with the health authority to participate*  
16 *in the program established pursuant to subsection 1.*

17 *3. The regulations adopted by the State Board of Health must*  
18 *provide the requirements for a pharmacy, health care facility,*  
19 *provider of health care, nonprofit community-based organization*  
20 *or governmental entity to register with the health authority to*  
21 *participate in the program established pursuant to subsection 1.*

22 *4. The regulations adopted by the State Board of Health must*  
23 *identify the persons who may obtain hypodermic devices without a*  
24 *prescription. Such regulations:*

25 *(a) Must not allow the distribution of hypodermic devices to a*  
26 *person who is under the age of 18 years.*

27 *(b) Must limit the number of hypodermic devices that may be*  
28 *sold or furnished to a person without a prescription to not more*  
29 *than 10 such devices at one time.*

30 *5. The State Board of Health shall develop or approve the*  
31 *language for a safety insert that must be provided with each*  
32 *hypodermic device which is sold or furnished to a person without*  
33 *a prescription. The safety insert must include, without limitation:*

34 *(a) Information on the proper use of hypodermic devices;*

35 *(b) The risk of bloodborne diseases that may result from the*  
36 *use of hypodermic devices;*

37 *(c) Methods for preventing the transmission or contraction of*  
38 *bloodborne diseases;*

39 *(d) Information concerning the dangers of injecting drugs and*  
40 *the manner in which to access treatment;*

41 *(e) Information regarding the manner in which to obtain*  
42 *information concerning the human immunodeficiency virus; and*

43 *(f) Information concerning the safe disposal of hypodermic*  
44 *devices.*



1       6. *The State Board of Health may suspend the registration of*  
2 *a pharmacy, health care facility, provider of health care, nonprofit*  
3 *community-based organization or governmental entity upon*  
4 *finding that the pharmacy, health care facility, provider of health*  
5 *care, nonprofit community-based organization or governmental*  
6 *entity has violated the provisions of this section or the regulations*  
7 *adopted pursuant thereto, or that a pharmacy has violated the*  
8 *provisions of NRS 454.480.*

9       7. *Selling or furnishing a hypodermic device without a*  
10 *prescription in a manner that is not authorized pursuant to this*  
11 *section is a misdemeanor.*

12       8. *As used in this section:*

13       (a) *“Health care facility” means any facility in or through*  
14 *which health care services are provided, including, without*  
15 *limitation, a nonprofit or governmental entity that provides health*  
16 *care services.*

17       (b) *“Provider of health care” means a physician licensed*  
18 *pursuant to chapter 630 or 633 of NRS or any other person who is*  
19 *authorized to prescribe hypodermic devices.*

20       **Sec. 2.** NRS 453.554 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21       453.554 ~~[As]~~ **1.** *Except as otherwise provided in subsection*  
22 *2, as used in NRS 453.554 to 453.566, inclusive, unless the context*  
23 *otherwise requires, “drug paraphernalia” means all equipment,*  
24 *products and materials of any kind which are used, intended for use,*  
25 *or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing,*  
26 *harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing,*  
27 *preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing,*  
28 *containing, concealing, ~~[injecting,]~~ ingesting, inhaling or otherwise*  
29 *introducing into the human body a controlled substance in violation*  
30 *of this chapter. The term includes, but is not limited to:*

31       ~~[1-]~~ (a) *Kits used, intended for use, or designed for use in*  
32 *planting, propagating, cultivating, growing or harvesting of any*  
33 *species of plant which is a controlled substance or from which a*  
34 *controlled substance can be derived;*

35       ~~[2-]~~ (b) *Kits used, intended for use, or designed for use in*  
36 *manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing or preparing*  
37 *controlled substances;*

38       ~~[3-]~~ (c) *Isomerization devices used, intended for use, or*  
39 *designed for use in increasing the potency of any species of plant*  
40 *which is a controlled substance;*

41       ~~[4-]~~ (d) *Testing equipment used, intended for use, or designed*  
42 *for use in identifying, or in analyzing the strength, effectiveness or*  
43 *purity of controlled substances;*

44       ~~[5-]~~ (e) *Scales and balances used, intended for use, or designed*  
45 *for use in weighing or measuring controlled substances;*



1 ~~[6-]~~ (f) Diluents and adulterants, such as quinine hydrochloride,  
2 mannitol, mannite, dextrose and lactose, used, intended for use, or  
3 designed for use in cutting controlled substances;

4 ~~[7-]~~ (g) Separation gins and sifters used, intended for use, or  
5 designed for use in removing twigs and seeds from, or in otherwise  
6 cleaning or refining marijuana;

7 ~~[8-]~~ (h) Blenders, bowls, containers, spoons and mixing devices  
8 used, intended for use, or designed for use in compounding  
9 controlled substances;

10 ~~[9-]~~ (i) Capsules, balloons, envelopes and other containers used,  
11 intended for use, or designed for use in packaging small quantities  
12 of controlled substances;

13 ~~[10-]~~ (j) Containers and other objects used, intended for use, or  
14 designed for use in storing or concealing controlled substances; and

15 ~~[11-]~~ (k) Objects used, intended for use, or designed for use in  
16 ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing marijuana, cocaine,  
17 hashish or hashish oil into the human body, such as:

18 ~~[(a)]~~ (1) Metal, wooden, acrylic, glass, stone, plastic or ceramic  
19 pipes with or without screens, permanent screens, hashish heads or  
20 punctured metal bowls;

21 ~~[(b)]~~ (2) Water pipes;

22 ~~[(c)]~~ (3) Smoking masks;

23 ~~[(d)]~~ (4) Roach clips, which are objects used to hold burning  
24 material, such as a marijuana cigarette, that has become too small or  
25 too short to be held in the hand;

26 ~~[(e)]~~ (5) Cocaine spoons and cocaine vials;

27 ~~[(f)]~~ (6) Carburetor pipes and carburetion tubes and devices;

28 ~~[(g)]~~ (7) Chamber pipes;

29 ~~[(h)]~~ (8) Electric pipes;

30 ~~[(i)]~~ (9) Air-driven pipes;

31 ~~[(j)]~~ (10) Chillums;

32 ~~[(k)]~~ (11) Bongs; and

33 ~~[(l)]~~ (12) Ice pipes or chillers.

34 2. *The term does not include any type of hypodermic syringe,*  
35 *needle, instrument, device or implement intended or capable of*  
36 *being adapted for the purpose of administering drugs by*  
37 *subcutaneous, intramuscular or intravenous injection.*

38 **Sec. 3.** NRS 453.560 is hereby amended to read as follows:

39 453.560 Unless a greater penalty is provided in NRS 212.160,  
40 a person who delivers or sells, possesses with the intent to deliver or  
41 sell, or manufactures with the intent to deliver or sell any drug  
42 paraphernalia, knowing, or under circumstances where one  
43 reasonably should know, that it will be used to plant, propagate,  
44 cultivate, grow, harvest, manufacture, compound, convert, produce,  
45 prepare, test, analyze, pack, repack, store, contain, conceal, ~~[inject,]~~



1 ingest, inhale or otherwise introduce into the human body a  
2 controlled substance in violation of this chapter is guilty of a  
3 category E felony and shall be punished as provided in  
4 NRS 193.130.

5 **Sec. 4.** NRS 453.566 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 453.566 Any person who uses, or possesses with intent to use,  
7 drug paraphernalia to plant, propagate, cultivate, grow, harvest,  
8 manufacture, compound, convert, produce, prepare, test, analyze,  
9 pack, repack, store, contain, conceal, ~~inject,~~ ingest, inhale or  
10 otherwise introduce into the human body a controlled substance in  
11 violation of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor.

12 **Sec. 5.** NRS 454.480 is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 454.480 1. Hypodermic devices which are not restricted by  
14 federal law to sale by or on the order of a physician may be sold by  
15 a pharmacist, or by a person in a pharmacy under the direction of a  
16 pharmacist, on the prescription of a physician, dentist or  
17 veterinarian, or of an advanced practitioner of nursing who is a  
18 practitioner. Those prescriptions must be filed as required by NRS  
19 639.236, and may be refilled as authorized by the prescriber.  
20 Records of refilling must be maintained as required by NRS  
21 639.2393 to 639.2397, inclusive.

22 2. Hypodermic devices which are not restricted by federal law  
23 to sale by or on the order of a physician may be sold *or furnished*  
24 without prescription *[for the following purposes:*

25 ~~—(a) For use in the treatment of persons having asthma or~~  
26 ~~diabetes.~~

27 ~~—(b) For use in injecting intramuscular or subcutaneous~~  
28 ~~medications prescribed by a practitioner for the treatment of human~~  
29 ~~beings.~~

30 ~~—(c) For use in an ambulance or by a fire fighting agency for~~  
31 ~~which a permit is held pursuant to NRS 450B.200 or 450B.210.~~

32 ~~—(d) For the injection of drugs in animals or poultry.~~

33 ~~—(e) For commercial or industrial use or use by jewelers or other~~  
34 ~~merchants having need for those devices in the conduct of their~~  
35 ~~business, or by hobbyists if the seller is satisfied that the device will~~  
36 ~~be used for legitimate purposes.~~

37 ~~—(f) For use by funeral directors and embalmers, licensed medical~~  
38 ~~technicians or technologists, or research laboratories.] *if authorized*~~  
39 ~~*pursuant to section 1 of this act.*~~

40 3. *A pharmacy that is registered pursuant to section 1 of this*  
41 *act to sell or furnish hypodermic devices without a prescription:*

42 (a) *Shall not advertise the availability of such devices without*  
43 *a prescription.*

44 (b) *Shall store such devices in the pharmacy in a manner that*  
45 *makes them available only to authorized personnel.*



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1 *4. A violation of the provisions of this section is a*  
2 *misdemeanor.*

3 **Sec. 6.** NRS 454.520 is hereby repealed.

4 **Sec. 7.** The State Board of Health shall adopt regulations  
5 necessary to implement the provisions of this act on or before  
6 January 1, 2012.

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**TEXT OF REPEALED SECTION**

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**454.520 Misuse of hypodermic device; penalty.** Any person who has lawfully obtained a hypodermic device, as provided by NRS 454.480 to 454.530, inclusive, and uses, permits or causes, directly or indirectly, such a device to be used for any purpose other than that for which it was purchased is guilty of a misdemeanor.



