SENATE BILL NO. 340–SENATOR NEAL

MARCH 23, 2021

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY-Revises provision relating to the wages and working conditions of certain employees. (BDR 53-573)

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

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

AN ACT relating to employment; requiring the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a home care employment standards board under certain circumstances; prescribing the membership of a home care employment standards board; requiring such a board to conduct an investigation into certain matters relating to the employment of home care employees; requiring such a board to develop recommendations concerning the minimum wage for home care employees or the working conditions of such employees; authorizing the Director to adopt regulations implementing such recommendations; revising provisions governing the administration and enforcement of provisions governing the minimum wage paid to employees in this State; providing penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Existing law requires an employer to pay an employee a wage of not less than a certain minimum wage. (Nev. Const. Art. 15, § 16; NRS 608.250) Existing law requires the Labor Commissioner to administer and enforce the provisions of existing law governing the minimum wage. (NRS 608.270)

23456789 Existing law provides for the establishment of certain programs to provide services to certain elderly persons or persons with disabilities to allow such persons to remain in their homes or in the community. (NRS 422.396, 427A.250-427A.280, 427A.793) Section 8 of this bill designates such a program, and any similar program established by a state agency or a local government, as a "home care 10 program."

11 Existing law authorizes an agency licensed as an agency to provide personal 12 care services in the home to provide certain authorized medical services to persons





13 with disabilities and certain nonmedical services related to personal care to elderly 14 persons or persons with disabilities. (NRS 449.1935) Under existing law, certain 15 providers of temporary respite services are not required to be licensed as an agency 16 to provide personal care services in the home. (NRS 449.0021) Existing law 17 authorizes a certified intermediary service organization to provide certain services 18 related to the employment of a personal assistant who is selected by a person with a 19 disability or other responsible person to provide certain nonmedical and authorized 20 medical services to the person with a disability. (NRS 449.4308)

Section 6 of this bill designates an agency to provide personal care services in the home, an intermediary service organization and certain providers of temporary respite services that have entered into a contract with a state agency or a local government to provide certain services under a home care program as "home care employers." Section 5 of this bill designates a person who is an employee of a home care employer and who provides personal care services, personal assistance or temporary respite services through a home care program as a "home care employee."
Section 13 of this bill requires the Director of the Department of Health and

Section 13 of this bill requires the Director of the Department of Health and $\overline{30}$ Human Services to establish a home care employment standards board if the 31 Director determines that it is necessary or upon the petition of 50 or more home 32 33 care employees. Section 13 sets forth the membership of such a board, which consists of certain representatives of home care employers and home care 34 employees and certain other persons. Section 14 of this bill provides that if the 35 Director establishes a home care employment standards board upon the petition of 36 50 or more home care employees, the Director or his or her designee is required to 37 meet with the petitioners and discuss certain matters relating to the employment of 38 home care employees. Section 15 of this bill requires the Labor Commissioner to 39 conduct an investigation into certain matters relating to the employment of home 40 care employees and present the findings of the investigation to a home care 41 employment standards board at the first meeting of the board.

42 Section 16 of this bill requires a home care employment standards board to 43 conduct an investigation into certain matters of its choosing related to the wages 44 and working conditions of home care employees and the compliance of home care 45 employers with applicable laws. Section 16 also requires a home care employment 46 standards board to, based on such an investigation, develop recommendations 47 regarding: (1) the minimum wage that may be paid to a home care employee; or (2) 48 safe and healthful working conditions for home care employees. Section 16 49 requires a home care employment standards board to submit to the Director a report 50 with its findings and recommendations not later than 1 year after the date of its first 51 meeting.

52 Section 17 of this bill authorizes the Director to take certain actions with 53 respect to the report of a home care employment standards board. Under section 18 54 of this bill, if the Director approves of a recommendation of such a board, the 55 Director is required to adopt regulations as necessary to: (1) establish the minimum 56 wage recommended by the home care employment standards board as the minimum 57 wage which may be paid by a home care employer to a home care employee in this 58 State; or (2) provide for safe and healthful working conditions for home care 59 employees in accordance with the recommendation of the home care employment 60 standards board. Section 18 also provides that if the Director establishes a 61 minimum wage for a home care employee, the Director is also authorized to adopt 62 regulations concerning the payment of overtime for such employees. Section 21 of 63 this bill provides that such regulations prevail over the provisions of existing law 64 governing the payment of overtime generally. (NRS 608.018)

65 Section 20 of this bill makes it a misdemeanor for a home care employer to 66 take certain actions against a home care employee because the home care employee





67 engages in or is believed to have engaged in certain activities relating to a home 68 care employment standards board.

69 Section 22 of this bill revises provisions of existing law which authorize an 69 employee to bring a civil action against an employer who pays the employee less 67 than the minimum wage for the purpose of allowing a home care employee to bring 72 such an action against a home care employer who pays the homecare employee less 73 than the minimum wage for a home care employee established by regulation 74 pursuant to section 18. (NRS 608.260)

Section 23 of this bill provides for the enforcement of the provisions governing the minimum wage for a home care employee established pursuant to section 18 in the same manner in which the minimum wage established under existing law is enforced. (NRS 608.270)

Existing law provides that a person who violates the provisions of existing law governing the minimum wage is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to an administrative fine of not more than \$5,000. (NRS 608.290) Section 24 of this bill applies these same penalties to a person who violates the provisions governing the minimum wage for a home care employee established by the Director pursuant to section 18.

Section 25 of this bill authorizes a home care employment standards board or the Labor Commissioner to develop certain recommendations related to the outbreak of the disease identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Department of Health and Human Services as COVID-19 and submit such recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature.

90 Sections 3-12 of this bill define words and terms for the purposes of sections 2-91 20 of this bill.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 608 of NRS is hereby amended by adding 2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 20, inclusive, of this 3 act.

4 Sec. 2. As used in sections 2 to 20, inclusive, of this act, 5 unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined 6 in sections 3 to 12, inclusive, of this act have the meanings 7 ascribed to them in those sections.

8 Sec. 3. "Agency to provide personal care services in the 9 home" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 449.0021.

10 Sec. 4. "Director" means the Director of the Department of 11 Health and Human Services.

12 Sec. 5. 1. "Home care employee" means a person who 13 provides:

(a) Personal care services through a home care program as an
employee of a home care employer that is an agency to provide
personal care services in the home;

17 (b) Personal assistance through a home care program as a 18 personal assistant for whom a home care employer that is an 19 intermediary service organization is the employer of record; or





(c) Temporary respite services through a home care program as an employee of a home care employer that has entered into a contract with the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services to provide such

5 services.

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2. As used in this section, "personal assistant" has the 6 7 meaning ascribed to it in NRS 449.4308. 8

Sec. 6. *"Home care employer" means:*

9 1. An agency to provide personal care services in the home that has entered into a contract with a state agency or local 10 government to provide personal care services under a home care 11 12 program:

13 2. An intermediary service organization that has entered into 14 a contract with a state agency or local government to provide services relating to personal assistance under a home care 15 16 program; or

17 A person or agency who has entered into a contract with *3*. the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of 18 Health and Human Services to provide temporary respite services 19 20 under a home care program.

21 Sec. 7. "Home care employment standards board" means a 22 board established by the Labor Commissioner pursuant to section 23 13 or 17 of this act.

24 Sec. 8. 1. "Home care program" means a program established by a state agency or a local government which provides 25 26 in the home personal care services, personal assistance or 27 temporary respite services to elderly persons or persons with 28 disabilities.

29 2. The term includes, without limitation:

30 (a) Any program established under the State Plan for Medicaid which provides, in the home, the services described in 31 32 subsection 1.

33 (b) Any program established pursuant to NRS 427A.250 to 34 427A.280, inclusive.

35 (c) The program established pursuant to NRS 422.396.

36 (d) The program established pursuant to NRS 427A.793.

37 Sec. 9. "Intermediary service organization" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 449.4304. 38

Sec. 10. "Personal assistance" has the meaning ascribed to it 39 in NRS 449.4308. 40

Sec. 11. "Personal care services" means the services 41 42 described in NRS 449.1935.

43 Sec. 12. "Temporary respite services" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 449.0021. 44





1 Sec. 13. 1. If the Director determines that it is necessary or 2 upon the petition of 50 or more home care employees, the Director 3 shall establish a home care employment standards board to 4 conduct an investigation and develop recommendations as 5 provided in section 16 of this act.

6 2. A home care employment standards board must consist of:

7 (a) The Director or his or her designee, who serves as Chair
8 and a nonvoting member; and
9 (b) The following voting members:

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(1) *The Labor Commissioner*;

11 (2) Three representatives of home care employers, 12 appointed by the Director;

13 (3) Three representatives of home care employees, 14 appointed by the Director; and

15 (4) Three persons who receive or are representatives of 16 persons who receive services from a home care employee, 17 appointed by the Director.

18 3. The Director shall appoint the members of a home care 19 employment standards board pursuant to subparagraphs (2), (3) 20 and (4) of paragraph (b) of subsection 2 after providing public 21 notice and soliciting applications for the appointment of such 22 members.

4. The members of a home care employment standards board
serve without compensation.

25 5. A majority of the voting members of a home care 26 employment standards board constitutes a quorum to transact 27 business, and a majority of a quorum present at any meeting is 28 sufficient to approve any recommendation of such a board.

29 6. A home care employment standards board shall meet at the 30 times and places specified by a call of the Chair. A home care 31 employment standards board shall meet as often as necessary to 32 accomplish the duties set forth in section 16 of this act, but not less 33 than once each calendar quarter.

Sec. 14. If the Director establishes a home care employment 34 standards board upon the petition of 50 or more home care 35 employees pursuant to section 13 of this act, the Director or his or 36 her designee shall, not later than 30 days after the receipt of the 37 petition, meet with the persons who submitted the petition and 38 discuss matters relating to the wages and working conditions of 39 home care employees in this State and the compliance of home 40 care employers with applicable federal, state and local laws. 41

42 Sec. 15. 1. As soon as practicable after the appointment of 43 the members of a home care employment standards board 44 pursuant to section 13 of this act, the Director shall fix a date for 45 the first meeting of the board. Before such meeting, the Labor





Commissioner shall conduct a preliminary investigation into the 1 2 wages and working conditions of home care employees in this 3 State and the compliance of home care employers with applicable federal, state and local laws. The Labor Commissioner shall 4 coordinate with the Aging and Disability Services Division of the 5 Department, the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy of 6 7 the Department and the Division of Public and Behavioral Health 8 of the Department as necessary to complete the investigation. The Labor Commissioner shall present the results of the 9

9 2. The Labor Commissioner shall present the results of the 10 preliminary investigation conducted pursuant to subsection I to 11 the home care employment standards board at the first meeting of 12 the board.

13 3. As used in this section, "Department" means the 14 Department of Health and Human Services.

15 Sec. 16. 1. Each home care employment standards board 16 shall:

(a) Conduct an investigation into matters relating to the wages
and working conditions of home care employees in this State and
the compliance of home care employers with applicable federal,
state and local laws; and

21 (b) Based on the investigation conducted pursuant to 22 paragraph (a), develop recommendations regarding:

23 (1) The minimum wage that may be paid to a home care
24 employee in this State; or

25 (2) Safe and healthful working conditions for home care 26 employees.

27 2. Each home care employment standards board shall 28 determine the scope of its investigation conducted pursuant to 29 paragraph (a) of subsection 1 and the specific matters into which 30 it will inquire, which may include, without limitation:

(a) The adequacy of wage rates and other compensation
policies of home care employers to ensure the provision of quality
services and sufficient levels of recruitment and retention of home
care employees;

35 (b) The sufficiency of levels of recruitment and retention of 36 home care employees;

(c) The adequacy of the role of home care employees in
making decisions affecting their wages and working conditions;

39 (d) The adequacy and enforcement of training requirements 40 for home care employees;

41 (e) The impact of home care programs, the larger system for 42 long-term care in this State and any efforts to reach the goal of 43 rebalancing long-term care services toward home and community-44 based services on the wages and working conditions of home care 45 employees;





1 (f) The impact of systemic racism and economic injustice on 2 home care employees and the adequacy of efforts to alleviate such 3 impact through the development of career paths through 4 partnerships between labor and management and other methods; 5 and

6 (g) The adequacy of payment practices and policies of the 7 State as such practices and policies relate to the reimbursement of 8 home care employers for the provision of services under a home 9 care program.

10 3. In conducting the investigation pursuant to paragraph (a) 11 of subsection 1, a home care employment standards board shall 12 have the power to administer oaths, take testimony thereunder and 13 issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the 14 production of books, papers and any other materials relevant to 15 the investigation.

4. A home care employment standards board may request information relevant to the investigation conducted pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1 directly from any state agency. A state agency that receives a reasonable request for information from a home care employment standards board shall comply with the request as soon as is reasonably practicable after receiving the request.

5. A home care employment standards board may request
direct testimony from any state agency at a meeting of the board.
The head, or a designee thereof, of a state agency who receives a
reasonable request for direct testimony at a meeting of a home
care employment standards board shall appear at the meeting and
shall comply with the request.

6. Not later than 1 year after the date of the first meeting of a
home care employment standards board, the board shall submit to
the Director a report of its findings and recommendations.

32 Sec. 17. Upon receipt of a report submitted by a home care 33 employment standards board pursuant to subsection 6 of section 34 16 of this act, the Director shall review the findings and each 35 recommendation contained in the report. The Director may:

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1. Approve or disapprove any recommendation;

37 2. Require the home care employment standards board that
38 submitted the report to conduct a new investigation and develop
39 new recommendations in accordance with section 16 of this act; or
40 3. Establish a new home care employment standards board in

40 3. Establish a new home care employment standards board in 41 the manner provided in section 13 of this act to conduct a new 42 investigation and develop new recommendations in accordance 43 with section 16 of this act.

44 Sec. 18. 1. If the Director approves a recommendation 45 contained in a report submitted by a home care employment





standards board pursuant to subsection 6 of section 16 of this act,
 the Director shall adopt regulations necessary to:

3 (a) Establish the minimum wage recommended by the home 4 care employment standards board as the minimum wage which 5 may be paid to a home care employee in this State; or

6 (b) Provide for safe and healthful working conditions for 7 home care employees in accordance with the recommendation of 8 the home care employment standards board.

9 2. If the Director adopts regulations establishing the 10 minimum wage which may be paid to a home care employee 11 pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1, the Director may also 12 adopt any regulations concerning the payment of overtime to a 13 home care employee which the Director deems appropriate and 14 which are consistent with federal law.

15 Sec. 19. If the Director adopts regulations establishing the 16 minimum wage which may be paid to a home care employee 17 pursuant to section 18 of this act:

Each home care employer shall pay to each home care
 employee of the employer a wage of not less than the minimum
 wage established by regulation of the Director pursuant to section
 18 of this act.

22 2. It is unlawful for a home care employer to employ, cause to 23 be employed or permit to be employed, or to contract with, cause to 24 be contracted with or permit to be contracted with, any home care 25 employee for a wage less than that established by regulation of the 26 Director pursuant to section 18 of this act.

27 Sec. 20. 1. It is unlawful for a home care employer in this 28 State to discharge, discipline, discriminate against in any manner 29 or deny employment or promotion to, or threaten to take any such 30 action against, a home care employee because:

(a) The home care employee serves as a member of a home
 care employment standards board;

(b) The home care employee has actively participated in the
 formation of a home care employment standards board;

(c) The home care employee has testified or is about to testify
in an investigation conducted by a home care employment
standards board;

(d) The home care employee has engaged in any other activity
related to the formation or activities of a home care employment
standards board; or

41 (e) The home care employer believes that the home care 42 employee may engage in any of the activities described in 43 paragraphs (a) to (d), inclusive.





2. A home care employer who violates the provisions of 1 2 subsection 1 is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a 3 fine of not more than \$1,000. 4 **Sec. 21.** NRS 608.018 is hereby amended to read as follows: 5 608.018 An employer shall pay 1 1/2 times an employee's 1.

6 rate whenever an employee who receives regular wage 7 compensation for employment at a rate less than 1 1/2 times the 8 minimum rate set forth in NRS 608.250 works:

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(a) More than 40 hours in any scheduled week of work; or

10 (b) More than 8 hours in any workday unless by mutual agreement the employee works a scheduled 10 hours per day for 4 11 12 calendar days within any scheduled week of work.

13 2. An employer shall pay 1 1/2 times an employee's regular 14 wage rate whenever an employee who receives compensation for 15 employment at a rate not less than $1 \frac{1}{2}$ times the minimum rate set 16 forth in NRS 608.250 works more than 40 hours in any scheduled 17 week of work.

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3. The provisions of subsections 1 and 2 do not apply to:

19 (a) Employees who are not covered by the minimum wage 20 provisions of Section 16 of Article 15 of the Nevada Constitution;

21 (b) Outside buyers;

22 (c) Employees in a retail or service business if their regular rate 23 is more than $1 \frac{1}{2}$ times the minimum wage, and more than half 24 their compensation for a representative period comes from 25 commissions on goods or services, with the representative period 26 being, to the extent allowed pursuant to federal law, not less than 1 27 month:

28 (d) Employees who are employed in bona fide executive, 29 administrative or professional capacities;

30 (e) Employees covered by collective bargaining agreements 31 which provide otherwise for overtime;

32 (f) Drivers, drivers' helpers, loaders and mechanics for motor 33 carriers subject to the Motor Carrier Act of 1935, as amended;

34 (g) Employees of a railroad; 35

(h) Employees of a carrier by air;

(i) Drivers or drivers' helpers making local deliveries and paid 36 37 on a trip-rate basis or other delivery payment plan; 38

(i) Drivers of taxicabs or limousines;

39 (k) Agricultural employees;

40 (1) Employees of business enterprises having a gross sales 41 volume of less than \$250,000 per year;

42 (m) Any salesperson or mechanic primarily engaged in selling 43 or servicing automobiles, trucks or farm equipment;

44 (n) A mechanic or worker for any hours to which the provisions 45 of subsection 3 or 4 of NRS 338.020 apply;





1 (o) A domestic worker who resides in the household where he or 2 she works if the domestic worker and his or her employer agree in 3 writing to exempt the domestic worker from the requirements of 4 subsections 1 and 2; and

5 (p) A domestic service employee who resides in the household 6 where he or she works if the domestic service employee and his or 7 her employer agree in writing to exempt the domestic service 8 employee from the requirements of subsections 1 and 2.

9 4. Any regulation of the Director of the Department of Health 10 and Human Services concerning the payment of overtime to a 11 home care employee adopted pursuant to section 18 of this act 12 prevails over the general provisions of this section.

5. As used in this section [, "domestic] :

14 (a) "Domestic worker" has the meaning ascribed to it in 15 NRS 613.620.

16 (b) "Home care employee" has the meaning ascribed to it in 17 section 5 of this act.

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Sec. 22. NRS 608.260 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19 608.260 1. If any employer pays any employee a lesser 20 amount than the minimum wage set forth in NRS 608.250 [] or, if 21 applicable, the minimum wage established by regulation of the 22 Director of the Department of Health and Human Services 23 *pursuant to section 18 of this act*, the employee may, at any time 24 within 2 years, bring a civil action against the employer. A contract between the employer and the employee or any acceptance of a 25 26 lesser wage by the employee is not a bar to the action.

27 2. If the employee prevails in a civil action brought pursuant to 28 subsection 1:

(a) The employee is entitled to all remedies available under the
law or in equity appropriate to remedy the violation by the employer
which may include, without limitation, back pay, damages,
reinstatement or injunctive relief; and

(b) The court must award the employee reasonable attorney'sfees and costs.

35 Sec. 23. NRS 608.270 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 608.270 1. The Labor Commissioner shall:

37 (a) Administer and enforce the provisions of NRS 608.250 [;]
 38 and section 18 of this act;

(b) Adopt any regulations necessary to carry out the duties setforth in paragraph (a); and

41 (c) Furnish the district attorney of any county or the Attorney 42 General all data and information concerning violations of the

43 provisions of NRS 608.250 [-] or section 18 of this act, occurring in

44 the county coming to the attention of the Labor Commissioner.





Each district attorney shall, if a complaint is made to him or 1 2. 2 her by the Labor Commissioner or by any aggrieved person, 3 prosecute each violation of the provisions of NRS 608.250 or 4 *section 18 of this act* that occurs in the district attorney's county. If 5 any such district attorney fails, neglects or refuses for 20 days to 6 commence a prosecution for a violation of the provisions of NRS 608.250 **[]** or section 18 of this act, after being furnished data and 7 8 information concerning the violation, and diligently to prosecute the 9 same to conclusion, the district attorney is guilty of a misdemeanor, 10 and in addition thereto must be removed from office.

Sec. 24. NRS 608.290 is hereby amended to read as follows:

608.290 1. Any person who violates any provision of NRS
608.250, *section 18 of this act* or any regulation adopted pursuant
thereto is guilty of a misdemeanor.

15 2. In addition to any other remedy or penalty, the Labor 16 Commissioner may impose against the person an administrative 17 penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each such violation.

Sec. 25. 1. For the period of time that any emergency directive issued by the Governor pursuant to chapter 414 of NRS relating to the outbreak of the disease identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Department of Health and Human Services as COVID-19 remains in effect, a home care employment standards board or, if such a board has not been established by December 1, 2021, the Labor Commissioner, may:

(a) Examine matters relating to COVID-19, including, without
limitation, the adequacy of plans relating to the distribution of
personal protective equipment to home care employees, the testing
of home care employees for COVID-19 and the distribution of
vaccines for COVID-19 to home care employees; and

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(b) Develop recommendations concerning:

(1) Measures to ensure that plans relating to the distribution
of personal protective equipment to home care employees, the
testing of home care employees for COVID-19 and the distribution
of vaccines for COVID-19 to home care employees are sufficient
and equitable;

(2) Effective training requirements for home care employees
 for COVID-19 response;

(3) Protocols to allow a home care employee to report an
outbreak of COVID-19 or any deficiencies relating to personal
protective equipment or testing for COVID-19 without fear of
retaliation; and

42 (4) Measures to ensure that the disbursement of federal funds43 for COVID-19 relief are targeted with the greatest impact.

44 2. In developing any recommendations pursuant to subsection 45 1, a home care employment standards board or the Labor



1 Commissioner shall solicit input from home care employers and 2 home care employees.

3 3. If a home care employment standards board or the Labor 4 Commissioner develops recommendations pursuant to subsection 1, 5 the board or the Labor Commissioner shall prepare a report 6 summarizing such recommendations and submit the report to the 7 Governor and to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for 8 transmittal to the Legislature or, if the Legislature is not in session, 9 to the Legislative Commission.

10 4. As used in this section:

11 (a) "Home care employee" has the meaning ascribed to it in 12 section 5 of this act.

13 (b) "Home care employer" has the meaning ascribed to it in 14 section 6 of this act.

15 (c) "Home care employment standards board" has the meaning 16 ascribed to it in section 7 of this act.

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