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New State Laws Take Effect Today

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Budget Reforms

AB 87 Authorizes the State Controller to act as the debt collection agent for state agencies that do not have specific statutes concerning their debt collection practices and other procedures for the collection of government debt. Assembly Government Affairs Committee (Marilyn Kirkpatrick)

AB 165 Creates a new state budget stabilization fund, a forced savings account for our state to provide a better cushion in difficult financial times such as the current recession. Speaker Buckley

AB 492 Improves accountability and transparency in the granting of exemptions and abatements. Assembly Government Affairs Committee (Marilyn Kirkpatrick)

Children

AB 103 Provides for the audit, inspection, review and survey of certain facilities for children. Sheila Leslie

AB 337 Establishes within the Office of the Attorney General a Statewide Coordinator for Children Who Are Endangered by Drug Exposure, to create programs to assist children who are endangered by exposure, and to educate the public about children endangered by drug exposure. Sheila Leslie

AB 364 Requires the state to track certain medication given to children with emotional disturbances who are in the foster care system and for the first time allows siblings who are aging out of the foster care system to petition the court for the right to visit younger brothers and sisters who are still in the system. April Mastroluca

Consumer Protection

AB 49 Allows counties to fine a business that violates an ordinance without going through the judicial process, similar to what other local government agencies can now do. The need for this statute was brought to light by the Hepatitis C health care crisis in Southern Nevada last year. Assembly Government Affairs Committee. (Marilyn Kirkpatrick)

AB 389 Prohibits the printing of the full credit card number on the merchant's or customer's receipt. Bonnie Parnell

AB 472 Protects consumers by requiring that a person being sued for a debt be supplied with specific information showing that the debt truly belongs to him or her, is still owed, and that the lawsuit is being brought forth in a timely manner. Assembly Commerce and Labor Committee (Marcus Conklin)

AB 482 Streamlines the process for filing complaints against unscrupulous car repair shops, making it easier for consumers to lodge complaints and saving the state money. The bill also strengthens penalties for certain deceptive trade practices regarding vehicle sales and leases. Assembly Transportation Committee (Kelvin Atkinson)

Education

AB 26 Improves accountability of charter schools by requiring that if a charter school no longer satisfies the requirements for an exemption from annual performance audits or if reasonable evidence of non-compliance in achieving educational goals and objectives are present, the school will be required to submit to an annual performance audit. After undergoing the annual performance audit, the charter school may reapply for the exemption. An annual report must be submitted by the Department of Education for each charter school sponsored by the State Board. Assembly Education Committee. (Bonnie Parnell)

AB 100 Improves accountability for charter schools and allows students in charter schools to participate in classes and extracurricular activities in the school district where they live. Assembly Education Committee. (Bonnie Parnell)

AB 327 Requires the Board of Regents to submit a report to the Legislature about the participation of ethnic and racial minorities and women in the Nevada System of Higher Education. Mo Denis

AB 348 Requires each school to post a public notice containing information about advanced placement, honors, special education, gifted and talented and international baccalaureate courses and other courses available to students. A similar notice of available courses must be made available to students and parents. Harvey Munford

AB 393 Authorizes a charter school for at-risk students to enroll a child who was enrolled in Pre-K or other program at the charter school and to enroll a child whose parent is employed full-time by the charter school before enrolling other eligible children. Debbie Smith

AB 428 Increases a school district's flexibility to put the highest qualified teacher in every classroom by allowing a teacher with a bachelor's degree, not just those with master's degrees, to get a special qualifications license if he/she participates in mentoring or courses of pedagogy for the first two years of employment with the school district or charter school. Marilyn Dondero Loop

AB 429 Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Budget Division and Fiscal Analysis Division, to determine the minimum amount that must be expended each fiscal year on textbooks, instructional supplies, software and hardware. The amount must increase the amount established during the 20th Special Session by the change in pupil enrollment plus inflation. Charter schools and university schools for the profoundly gifted are subject to the minimum expenditure requirements. Requires university schools for the profoundly gifted to report on their minimum expenditures for these materials. Debbie Smith

AB 487 Reforms middle schools by requiring school districts to adopt policies to be implemented in 2011 to develop a 4-year academic plan for incoming middle school or junior high school students, to institute small learning communities, to institute a peer mentoring program, and to implement pupil-led conferences between the student, teacher and legal guardian. Assembly Education Committee (Bonnie Parnell)

Energy

AB 192 Requires government agencies to develop a plan and timeline to meet energy efficiency standards. Marilyn Kirkpatrick

AB 387 Creates renewable energy zones to facilitate transmission lines and support renewable energy projects. The bill also increases the renewable portfolio standard so that 25% of our energy will come from renewable sources by 2025. Marcus Conklin

AB 522 Allows renewable energy developers to receive abatements of a portion of their property taxes, and establishes an energy trust fund to help buy down utility rates with 20% of the money coming from new property tax when renewable energy facilities come on line. Schools are kept whole on the state's portion of LSST. The bill also requires construction jobs to be paid 150% of the state wage as the minimum standard on new jobs and 110% of the state wage on existing jobs. The bill requires 30% of workers to come from Nevada and mandates annual reporting to ensure that renewable energy projects are meeting these standards in order to continue to receiving the abatements. Assembly Commerce and Labor Committee (Marilyn Kirkpatrick)

Foreclosure

AB 149 Requires good faith mediation between lenders and borrowers, if the borrower requests mediation. The bill gives borrowers and lenders a neutral forum to work out affordable, sustainable repayment plans. The program would operate statewide and would use senior judges and our judiciary to administer it. Speaker Buckley

AB 152 Requires additional licensing of foreclosure consultants and loan modification consultants to prevent foreclosure scams. Marcus Conklin

Health care/Prescription drugs

AB 10 Prohibits discrimination against nurses and doctors who blow the whistle on unsafe medical practices. Assembly Health and Human Services Committee. (Sheila Leslie)

AB 112 Provides for the establishment of an emergency team to coordinate a response to a public health crisis declared by the Governor. Assembly Health and Human Services Committee. (Debbie Smith)

AB 196 Improves the regulation of facilities for refractive surgery (such as lasik eye correction procedures) and allows a facility to be closed if operating without a license. Sheila Leslie

AB 206 Requires surgery centers to better report sentinel events. It would also allow the Department of Health and Human Services to obtain medical records in investigations into unsafe medical practices, such as the Hepatitis C outbreak last year. Assembly Health and Human Services Committee (Debbie Smith)

AB 213 Requires the Board of Pharmacy to establish the Cancer Drug Donation Program to distribute and dispense drugs donated to the program. The bill authorizes persons to donate drugs to the program through pharmacies, medical facilities or health care providers and provides immunity from civil and criminal liability for the manufacturer of the cancer drug, the pharmacy or medical facility and health care providers accepting or distributing the drugs, and any person exercising reasonable care in donating cancer drugs to the program. Bernie Anderson

AB 326 Increases access to a computerized program of persons authorized to dispense controlled substances. Requires the Board and Investigative Division of the Department of Public Safety to establish a training course on the computer program before it can be accessed. Requires the Legislative Committee on Health Care to conduct a study on the abuse of prescription narcotic drugs and submit a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature. Mo Denis

AB 521 Expands the list of cancers for which firefighters can receive treatment as an occupational disease if exposed to carcinogens associated with those cancers in the line of duty. Assembly Commerce and Labor Committee (John Ocegüera)

Housing

AB 139 Requires the Housing Division to keep a database of low-income housing. A residential housing owner that receives government or other public money is required to provide quarterly reports to the Office of Disability Services concerning the availability and suitability for use by persons with disabilities. Assembly Commerce and Labor Committee (Marcus Conklin)

Public safety

AB 154 Mandates the board of trustees of each school district to establish a policy to prohibit criminal gang activity on school property. Harvey Munford

AB 233 Increases the penalties for stealing metals such as copper and aluminum from construction sites, streetlights and even from homes. John Ocegüera

Quality of Life

AB 332 Expands immunity from civil liability to persons and nonprofit charitable organizations that donate, contribute or distribute perishable food items for use by nonprofit charitable organizations or members of an individual's immediate family. Marilyn Dondero Loop

Seniors and Veterans

AB 9 Creates the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs. Assembly Committee on Elections, Procedures, Ethics and Constitutional Amendments (Kathy McClain)

AB 187 Authorizes the creation of a specialized Veteran's Court, modeled after successful courts created for people with mental health or substance abuse problems. Speaker Barbara Buckley

AB 338 Authorizes a program to provide grants to nonprofit private entities concerning small business start-ups for veterans and senior citizens. Kathy McClain

Wildlife

AB 246 Allows the Department of Wildlife to issue an apprentice license to a person who is 12 years old or older, has not previously had a hunting license in another State or Canada, and is qualified for a license other than completing the course of instruction for hunters. An apprentice hunter must be supervised by a person 18 or older, and the mentor hunter must ensure that the apprentice properly handles the firearm and must maintain close visual and verbal contact with the apprentice and have the ability to readily assume control of the firearm. Allows the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to establish a program for the issuance of additional big game tags known as "Dream Tags" and allows a tax exempt nonprofit to purchase "Dream Tags" and have a raffle for the tags. Big game tags and turkey tags must be awarded through the Silver State Tag Drawing and any money received from the raffle is deposited into the Wildlife Heritage Trust Account. David Bobzien and Debbie Smith.

This is not a complete list of new laws that go into effect on July 1; a complete list can be found on the legislative website.



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