SENATE BILL NO. 143–COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

(ON BEHALF OF CLARK COUNTY)

FEBRUARY 18, 2003

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Authorizes certain counties to appoint public property trustee to perform duties of public administrator of county. (BDR 20-419)

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 county government; authorizing the board of county commissioners or county manager, as applicable, of certain counties to appoint a public property trustee to perform the duties that would otherwise be performed by the public administrator of the county; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

Section 1. NRS 244.200 is hereby amended to read as follows: 244.200 The boards of county commissioners shall have power and jurisdiction in their respective counties to examine and audit:

- 1. The accounts of all officers having the care, management, collection or disbursement of any money belonging to the county or appropriated by law, or otherwise, for its use and benefit; and
- 2. The fees or compensation received by the public administrators *or public property trustees*, *as applicable*, of the respective counties in their several official capacities.
- **Sec. 2.** NRS 248.245 is hereby amended to read as follows: 248.245 In counties having a population of less than 100,000, the sheriff shall report immediately to the public administrator *or*



public property trustee, as applicable, all deaths which he gains knowledge of in the performance of his duties.

- **Sec. 3.** Chapter 253 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 4 and 5 of this act.
- Sec. 4. As used in this chapter and except as otherwise provided in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "public administrator" includes a public property trustee for the purposes of the provisions of this chapter that set forth:
 - 1. The powers and authorities of a public administrator; and
- 10 2. The duties and obligations of a public 11 administrator.

The term does not include a public property trustee for the purposes of the provisions of this chapter that relate to the election of a public administrator.

- Sec. 5. 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5 of this section and subsection 3 of NRS 253.010, in each county where:
- (a) There is a county manager, the county manager, with the confirmation of the board of county commissioners, may appoint a public property trustee.
- (b) There is no county manager, the board of county commissioners may appoint a public property trustee.
- 2. A person appointed as the public property trustee pursuant to subsection 1 shall comply with the provisions of this chapter and of all other laws of this state relating to public administrators, except as such provisions pertain to the election of a public administrator.
- 3. The board of county commissioners may fix the compensation of the public property trustee. In counties where there is a county manager, the county manager may specify the procedures which the public property trustee must follow in performing the duties of his office. In counties where there is no county manager, the board of county commissioners may specify the procedures which the public property trustee must follow in performing the duties of his office.
- 4. In counties where there is a county manager, the public property trustee is under the direction of the county manager, subject to the approval of the board of county commissioners. In counties where there is no county manager, the public property trustee is under the direction of the board of county commissioners.
- 5. A public property trustee may not be appointed pursuant to subsection 1 until the earlier of:
- 44 (a) The expiration of the current term of the person serving as 45 the public administrator of the county; or



(b) A vacancy occurring in the office of public administrator of the county.

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- **Sec. 6.** NRS 253.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 253.030 1. The board of county commissioners shall fill a vacancy in the office of public administrator by appointment of a person pursuant to NRS 245.170.
- [2.] Any person appointed to the office of public administrator pursuant to NRS 245.170 shall, within 10 days, qualify in the same manner as if elected thereto.
- 2. The board of county commissioners or county manager, as applicable, shall fill a vacancy in the office of public property trustee in the same manner as the original appointment.
- **Sec. 7.** NRS 253.120 is hereby amended to read as follows: 253.120 *I.* Public administrators shall, at the expiration of their terms of office, surrender up to their successors in office all the books or papers belonging or appertaining to the office, including all exhibits, estates, money and property in their possession. [; but upon Upon the expiration of the term of office of any public administrator before the entry of a decree of distribution in any estate for which the public administrator is the duly appointed, qualified and acting administrator, if good cause be shown therefor, the court shall enter an order in such estate, authorizing and directing a person to whom letters have been issued, to close up the estate as expeditiously as possible, or the court shall enter an order requiring the filing of a petition for letters by the successor in office of the public administrator.
- 2. This section applies to the expiration or termination of the appointment of a public property trustee to the same extent it applies to the expiration of the term of office of a public administrator.
 - **Sec. 8.** NRS 258.075 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 258.075 In counties having a population of less than 100,000, every constable shall report immediately to the public administrator or public property trustee, as applicable, all deaths which he gains knowledge of in the performance of his duties.
 - **Sec. 9.** NRS 259.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 259.160 1. Upon payment of money into the county treasurer's office in such case, he shall place it to the credit of the county. Upon the delivery of property, he shall:
- (a) Deliver such property to the public administrator or public property trustee, as applicable, for disposition according to law; or
- (b) Give written notice to the public administrator *or public* property trustee, as applicable, of his intention to sell such property at public sale.



- 2. If within 10 days after the giving of notice pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1, the public administrator *or public property trustee*, *as applicable*, claims the property for disposition, the county treasurer shall deliver it to him.
- 3. If the public administrator *or public property trustee, as applicable*, does not claim the property as provided in subsection 1, the county treasurer may, after giving notice by posting at the courthouse for at least 10 days, sell the property at public sale and place the proceeds to the credit of the county.

Sec. 10. NRS 139.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 139.040 1. Administration of the intestate estate of a decedent must be granted to one or more of the persons mentioned in this section, and they are respectively entitled to priority for appointment in the following order:
 - (a) The surviving spouse.
 - (b) The children.

- (c) The father or the mother.
- (d) The brother or the sister.
- (e) The grandchildren.
- (f) Any other of the kindred entitled to share in the distribution of the estate.
- (g) The public administrator [.] or public property trustee, as applicable.
- (h) Creditors who have become such during the lifetime of the decedent.
- (i) Any of the kindred not above enumerated, within the fourth degree of consanguinity.
 - (j) Any person or persons legally qualified.
 - 2. A person in each of the foregoing classes is entitled:
 - (a) To appointment, if the person is:
- (1) A resident of the State of Nevada or associates as coadministrator a resident of the State of Nevada; or
- (2) A banking corporation which is authorized to do business in this state or which associates as coadministrator a resident of the State of Nevada or a banking corporation authorized to do business in this state.
- (b) To nominate a resident of the State of Nevada or a qualified banking corporation for appointment, whether or not the nominator is a resident of the State of Nevada or a qualified banking corporation. The nominee has the same priority as the nominator. That priority is independent of the residence or corporate qualification of the nominator.
- 3. If any heir who is otherwise entitled to appointment is a minor or an incompetent person for whom a guardian has been



appointed, the court may appoint the guardian of the minor or incompetent person as administrator.

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Sec. 11. NRS 146.080 is hereby amended to read as follows:

146.080 1. If a decedent leaves no real property, nor interest therein, nor mortgage or lien thereon, in this state, and the gross value of the decedent's property in this state, over and above any amounts due to the decedent for services in the Armed Forces of the United States, does not exceed \$20,000, a person who has a right to succeed to the property of the decedent pursuant to the laws of succession for a decedent who died intestate or pursuant to the valid will of a decedent who died testate, on behalf of all persons entitled to succeed to the property claimed, or the State Welfare Administrator or public administrator on behalf of the State or others entitled to the property, may, 40 days after the death of the decedent, without procuring letters of administration or awaiting the probate of the will, collect any money due the decedent, receive the property of the decedent, and have any evidences of interest, indebtedness or right transferred to the claimant upon furnishing the person, representative, corporation, officer or body owing the money, having custody of the property or acting as registrar or transfer agent of the evidences of interest, indebtedness or right, with an affidavit showing the right of the affiant or affiants to receive the money or property or to have the evidence transferred.

- 2. An affidavit made pursuant to this section must state:
- (a) The affiant's name and address, and that the affiant is entitled by law to succeed to the property claimed;
 - (b) The date and place of death of the decedent;
- (c) That the gross value of the decedent's property in this state, except amounts due to the decedent for services in the Armed Forces of the United States, does not exceed \$20,000, and that the property does not include any real property nor interest therein, nor mortgage or lien thereon;
- (d) That at least 40 days have elapsed since the death of the decedent, as shown in a certified copy of the certificate of death of the decedent attached to the affidavit;
- (e) That no petition for the appointment of a personal representative is pending or has been granted in any jurisdiction;
- (f) That all debts of the decedent, including funeral and burial expenses, and money owed to the Department of Human Resources as a result of the payment of benefits for Medicaid, have been paid or provided for;
- (g) A description of the personal property and the portion claimed:
- (h) That the affiant has given written notice, by personal service or by certified mail, identifying the affiant's claim and describing



the property claimed, to every person whose right to succeed to the decedent's property is equal or superior to that of the affiant, and that at least 14 days have elapsed since the notice was served or mailed;

- (i) That the affiant is personally entitled, or the Department of Human Resources is entitled, to full payment or delivery of the property claimed or is entitled to payment or delivery on behalf of and with the written authority of all other successors who have an interest in the property; and
- (j) That the affiant acknowledges an understanding that filing a false affidavit constitutes a felony in this state.
 - 3. If the affiant:

- (a) Submits an affidavit which does not meet the requirements of subsection 2 or which contains statements which are not entirely true, any money or property the affiant receives is subject to all debts of the decedent.
- (b) Fails to give notice to other successors as required by subsection 2, any money or property the affiant receives is held by the affiant in trust for all other successors who have an interest in the property.
- 4. A person who receives an affidavit containing the information required by subsection 2 is entitled to rely upon that information, and if the person relies in good faith, the person is immune from civil liability for actions based on that reliance.
- 5. Upon receiving proof of the death of the decedent and an affidavit containing the information required by this section:
- (a) A transfer agent of any security shall change the registered ownership of the security claimed from the decedent to the person claiming to succeed to ownership of that security.
- (b) A governmental agency required to issue certificates of ownership or registration to personal property shall issue a new certificate of ownership or registration to the person claiming to succeed to ownership of the property.
- 6. If any property of the estate not exceeding \$20,000 is located in a state which requires an order of a court for the transfer of the property, or if the estate consists of stocks or bonds which must be transferred by an agent outside this state, any person qualified pursuant to the provisions of subsection 1 to have the stocks or bonds or other property transferred may do so by obtaining a court order directing the transfer. The person desiring the transfer must file a petition, which may be ex parte, containing:
 - (a) A specific description of all the property of the decedent.
- (b) A list of all the liens and mortgages of record at the date of the decedent's death.
 - (c) An estimate of the value of the property of the decedent.



- (d) The names, ages of any minors, and residences of the decedent's heirs and devisees.
- (e) A request for the court to issue an order directing the transfer of the stocks or bonds or other property if the court finds the gross value of the estate does not exceed \$20,000.
- (f) An attached copy of the executed affidavit made pursuant to subsection 2.

If the court finds that the gross value of the estate does not exceed \$20,000 and the person requesting the transfer is entitled to it, the court may enter an order directing the transfer.

- 7. As used in this section, "public administrator" includes a public property trustee appointed pursuant to section 5 of this act.
- **Sec. 12.** NRS 179A.100 is hereby amended to read as follows: 179A.100 1. The following records of criminal history may be disseminated by an agency of criminal justice without any restriction pursuant to this chapter:
 - (a) Any which reflect records of conviction only; and
- (b) Any which pertain to an incident for which a person is currently within the system of criminal justice, including parole or probation.
- 2. Without any restriction pursuant to this chapter, a record of criminal history or the absence of such a record may be:
- (a) Disclosed among agencies which maintain a system for the mutual exchange of criminal records.
- (b) Furnished by one agency to another to administer the system of criminal justice, including the furnishing of information by a police department to a district attorney.
 - (c) Reported to the Central Repository.
- 3. An agency of criminal justice shall disseminate to a prospective employer, upon request, records of criminal history concerning a prospective employee or volunteer which:
 - (a) Reflect convictions only; or

- (b) Pertain to an incident for which the prospective employee or volunteer is currently within the system of criminal justice, including parole or probation.
- 4. The Central Repository shall disseminate to a prospective or current employer, upon request, information relating to sexual offenses concerning an employee, prospective employee, volunteer or prospective volunteer who gives his written consent to the release of that information.
- 5. Records of criminal history must be disseminated by an agency of criminal justice upon request, to the following persons or governmental entities:
- (a) The person who is the subject of the record of criminal history for the purposes of NRS 179A.150.



- (b) The person who is the subject of the record of criminal history or his attorney of record when the subject is a party in a judicial, administrative, licensing, disciplinary or other proceeding to which the information is relevant.
 - (c) The State Gaming Control Board.
 - (d) The State Board of Nursing.

- (e) The Private Investigator's Licensing Board to investigate an applicant for a license.
- (f) A public administrator *or public property trustee, as applicable*, to carry out his duties as prescribed in chapter 253 of NRS.
- (g) A public guardian to investigate a ward or proposed ward or persons who may have knowledge of assets belonging to a ward or proposed ward.
- (h) Any agency of criminal justice of the United States or of another state or the District of Columbia.
- (i) Any public utility subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada when the information is necessary to conduct a security investigation of an employee or prospective employee, or to protect the public health, safety or welfare.
- (j) Persons and agencies authorized by statute, ordinance, executive order, court rule, court decision or court order as construed by appropriate state or local officers or agencies.
- (k) Any person or governmental entity which has entered into a contract to provide services to an agency of criminal justice relating to the administration of criminal justice, if authorized by the contract, and if the contract also specifies that the information will be used only for stated purposes and that it will be otherwise confidential in accordance with state and federal law and regulation.
- (1) Any reporter for the electronic or printed media in his professional capacity for communication to the public.
- (m) Prospective employers if the person who is the subject of the information has given written consent to the release of that information by the agency which maintains it.
- (n) For the express purpose of research, evaluative or statistical programs pursuant to an agreement with an agency of criminal justice.
- (o) An agency which provides child welfare services, as defined in NRS 432B.030.
- (p) The Welfare Division of the Department of Human Resources or its designated representative.
- (q) An agency of this or any other state or the Federal Government that is conducting activities pursuant to Part D of Title IV of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 651 et seq.



- (r) The State Disaster Identification Team of the Division of Emergency Management of the Department.
 - (s) The Commissioner of Insurance.

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- 6. Agencies of criminal justice in this state which receive information from sources outside this state concerning transactions involving criminal justice which occur outside Nevada shall treat the information as confidentially as is required by the provisions of this chapter.
- **Sec. 13.** NRS 239A.070 is hereby amended to read as follows: 239A.070 This chapter does not apply to any subpoena issued pursuant to title 14 or chapters 616A to 617, inclusive, of NRS or prohibit:
- 1. Dissemination of any financial information which is not identified with or identifiable as being derived from the financial records of a particular customer.
- 2. The Attorney General, district attorney, Department of Taxation, public administrator, sheriff or a police department from requesting of a financial institution, and the institution from responding to the request, as to whether a person has an account or accounts with that financial institution and, if so, any identifying numbers of the account or accounts.
- 3. A financial institution, in its discretion, from initiating contact with and thereafter communicating with and disclosing the financial records of a customer to appropriate governmental agencies concerning a suspected violation of any law.
- 4. Disclosure of the financial records of a customer incidental to a transaction in the normal course of business of the financial institution if the director, officer, employee or agent of the financial institution who makes or authorizes the disclosure has no reasonable cause to believe that such records will be used by a governmental agency in connection with an investigation of the customer.
- 5. A financial institution from notifying a customer of the receipt of a subpoena or a search warrant to obtain his financial records, except when ordered by a court to withhold such notification.
- 6. The examination by or disclosure to any governmental regulatory agency of financial records which relate solely to the exercise of its regulatory function if the agency is specifically authorized by law to examine, audit or require reports of financial records of financial institutions.
- 7. The disclosure to any governmental agency of any financial information or records whose disclosure to that particular agency is required by the tax laws of this state.
- 8. The disclosure of any information pursuant to NRS 425.393, 425.400 or 425.460.



9. A governmental agency from obtaining a credit report or consumer credit report from anyone other than a financial institution.

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10. As used in this section, "public administrator" includes a public property trustee appointed pursuant to section 5 of this act.

Sec. 14. NRS 239A.075 is hereby amended to read as follows: 239A.075 Upon presentation of a death certificate or affidavit of death, a financial institution shall provide a public administrator *or public property trustee, as applicable*, with a statement which sets forth the identifying number and account balance of any accounts on which only the name of the deceased person appears.

Sec. 15. NRS 433.541 is hereby amended to read as follows:

433.541 Whenever any person admitted to a Division facility dies, the administrative officer shall send written notice to the decedent's legally appointed representative, listing the personal property remaining in the custody or possession of the facility. If there is no demand made upon the administrative officer of the facility by the decedent's legally appointed representative, all personal property of the decedent remaining in the custody or possession of the administrative officer must be held by him for a period of 1 year from the date of the decedent's death for the benefit of the heirs, legatees or successors of the decedent. At the end of this period, another notice must be sent to the decedent's representative, listing the property and specifying the manner in which the property will be disposed of if not claimed within 15 business days. After 15 business days, all personal property and documents of the decedent, other than cash, remaining unclaimed in the possession of the administrative officer must be disposed of as follows:

- 1. All documents must be filed by the administrative officer with the public administrator *or public property trustee*, *as applicable*, of the county from which the client was admitted.
- 2. All other personal property must be sold at a public auction or by sealed bids. The proceeds of the sale must be applied to the decedent's unpaid balance for costs incurred at the Division facility.

Sec. 16. NRS 440.250 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 440.250 1. Not later than the fifth day of each month, deputy county health officers shall file with the county health officer all original birth and death certificates executed by them.
- 2. Within 5 days after receipt of the original death certificates, the county health officer shall file with the public administrator *or public property trustee, as applicable*, a written list of the names and social security numbers of all deceased persons and the names of their next of kin as those names appear on the certificates.



- **Sec. 17.** NRS 482.368 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 482.368 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the Department shall provide suitable distinguishing license plates for exempt vehicles. These plates must be displayed on the vehicles in the same manner as provided for privately owned vehicles. The fee for the issuance of the plates is \$5. Any license plates authorized by this section must be immediately returned to the Department when the vehicle for which they were issued ceases to be used exclusively for the purpose for which it was exempted from the governmental services tax.
 - 2. License plates furnished for:

- (a) Those vehicles which are maintained for and used by the Governor or under the authority and direction of the Chief Parole and Probation Officer, the State Contractors' Board and auditors, the State Fire Marshal, the Investigation Division of the Department of Public Safety and any authorized federal law enforcement agency or law enforcement agency from another state;
- (b) One vehicle used by the Department of Corrections, three vehicles used by the Division of Wildlife of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, two vehicles used by the Caliente Youth Center and four vehicles used by the Nevada Youth Training Center;
- (c) Vehicles of a city, county or the State, if authorized by the Department for the purposes of law enforcement or work related thereto or such other purposes as are approved upon proper application and justification; and
- (d) Vehicles maintained for and used by investigators of the following:
 - (1) The State Gaming Control Board;
 - (2) The State Department of Agriculture;
 - (3) The Attorney General:
 - (4) City or county juvenile officers;
 - (5) District attorneys' offices;
 - (6) Public administrators' offices;
 - (7) Public guardians' offices;
 - (8) Sheriffs' offices;
 - (9) Police departments in the State; and
- (10) The Securities Division of the Office of the Secretary of State,
- must not bear any distinguishing mark which would serve to identify the vehicles as owned by the State, county or city. These license plates must be issued annually for \$12 per plate or, if issued in sets, per set.
- 3. The Director may enter into agreements with departments of motor vehicles of other states providing for exchanges of license



plates of regular series for vehicles maintained for and used by investigators of the law enforcement agencies enumerated in paragraph (d) of subsection 2, subject to all of the requirements imposed by that paragraph, except that the fee required by that paragraph must not be charged.

- 4. Applications for the licenses must be made through the head of the department, board, bureau, commission, school district or irrigation district, or through the chairman of the board of county commissioners of the county or town or through the mayor of the city, owning or controlling the vehicles, and no plate or plates may be issued until a certificate has been filed with the Department showing that the name of the department, board, bureau, commission, county, city, town, school district or irrigation district, as the case may be, and the words "For Official Use Only" have been permanently and legibly affixed to each side of the vehicle, except those vehicles enumerated in subsection 2.
 - 5. As used in this section [, "exempt]:

- (a) "Exempt vehicle" means a vehicle exempt from the governmental services tax, except a vehicle owned by the United States.
- (b) "Public administrator" includes a public property trustee appointed pursuant to section 5 of this act.
- 6. The Department shall adopt regulations governing the use of all license plates provided for in this section. Upon a finding by the Department of any violation of its regulations, it may revoke the violator's privilege of registering vehicles pursuant to this section.
 - **Sec. 18.** NRS 669.045 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 669.045 "Fiduciary" means a trustee, executor, administrator, guardian of an estate, conservator, assignee for the benefit of creditors, receiver, depositary or person that receives on deposit money or property from a public administrator *or public property trustee, as applicable*, under any provision of this chapter or from another fiduciary.
 - **Sec. 19.** NRS 704.197 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 704.197 1. A public administrator or *public property trustee*, as applicable, or a deputy designated by [him] either such officer may submit a written request to a public utility for the name and address of a person listed in the records of the public utility if the information is necessary to assist the public administrator or public property trustee, as applicable, in carrying out his duties pursuant to chapter 253 of NRS.
- 2. Upon receipt of a written request pursuant to subsection 1, a public utility shall disclose the name and address of the person listed in the records of customers of the public utility to the public



administrator or *public property trustee*, *as applicable*, *or* a deputy designated by [him.] *either such officer*.

3. A disclosure made in good faith pursuant to subsection 1 does not give rise to any action for damages for the disclosure of the name and address of a customer by a public utility.

Sec. 20. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2003.



