ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 127–ASSEMBLYMEN HAMBRICK; AND O'NEILL

FEBRUARY 6, 2015

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS GUSTAVSON AND SETTELMEYER

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Provides for the uniform regulation of firearms in the State of Nevada. (BDR 20-74)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact. Effect on the State: No.

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

AN ACT relating to firearms; limiting the authority of certain political subdivisions of the State to enact or maintain laws, ordinances, rules or regulations relating to firearms and reserving such authority to the Legislature; authorizing a person adversely affected by the enforcement of such a law, ordinance, rule or regulation to seek declarative and injunctive relief and damages; deleting certain provisions authorizing certain larger counties to enact ordinances relating to the registration of firearms capable of being concealed; revising the applicability of certain provisions pertaining to the regulation of firearms by certain political subdivisions; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law provides that, except as otherwise provided by specific statute, the Legislature reserves for itself such rights and powers as are necessary to regulate the transfer, sale, purchase, possession, ownership, transportation, registration and licensing of firearms and ammunition in this State, and further provides that no county, city or town may infringe upon those rights and powers. (NRS 244.364, 268.418, 269.222) **Sections 2, 13 and 24** of this bill expand such rights and powers of the Legislature to include those necessary to: (1) regulate the carrying and storage of firearms and ammunition; (2) regulate the transfer, sale, purchase, possession, carrying, ownership, transportation, storage, registration and licensing





of firearm accessories; and (3) define all such terms. Sections 2, 13 and 24 also provide that certain county, city or town ordinances or regulations which are inconsistent with these rights and powers of the Legislature are null and void.

Sections 11, 22 and 33 of this bill authorize any person who is adversely affected by the enforcement of any such ordinance or regulation on or after January 15, 2016, to file suit in the appropriate court for declarative and injunctive relief and damages. Such a person is entitled to certain damages depending on whether or when the relevant governing body of a political subdivision repeals such an ordinance or regulation.

Existing law also requires certain political subdivisions of this State in a county whose population is 700,000 or more (currently Clark County) which adopted ordinances or regulations before June 13, 1989, that require the registration of firearms capable of being concealed to make certain amendments to such registration provisions. (NRS 244.364, 268.418, 269.222) Sections 11, 22 and 33 delete the provisions requiring certain political subdivisions of this State to make such amendments.

Assembly Bill No. 147 of the 1989 Legislative Session (A.B. 147) reserved to the Legislature the rights and powers necessary to regulate the transfer, sale, purchase, possession, ownership, transportation, regulation and licensing of firearms and ammunition in this State. (Chapter 308, Statutes of Nevada 1989, p. 652) However, section 5 of A.B. 147 provided that the preemptive effect of the bill applied only to ordinances or regulations adopted by certain political subdivisions on or after June 13, 1989. **Section 34** of this bill amends section 5 of A.B. 147 to include and preempt ordinances or regulations adopted by those political subdivisions before June 13, 1989.

Sections 35-37 of this bill require the governing bodies of certain political subdivisions of this State to repeal any conflicting ordinance or regulation before January 1, 2016.

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

- **Section 1.** Chapter 244 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this act.
 - Sec. 2. The Legislature hereby declares that:
 - 1. The State controls the regulation of and policies concerning firearms, firearm accessories and ammunition to ensure that such regulation and policies are uniform throughout this State and to ensure the protection of the right to keep and bear arms, which is recognized by the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nevada.
 - 2. The regulation of the transfer, sale, purchase, possession, carrying, ownership, transportation, storage, registration and licensing of firearms, firearm accessories and ammunition in this State and the ability to define such terms is within the exclusive power of the Legislature, and any contrary law, regulation, rule or ordinance of any political subdivision is null and void.





- 1 3. This section shall be liberally construed to effectuate its 2 purpose.
 - Sec. 3. As used in NRS 244.364 and sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in sections 4 to 9, inclusive, of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.
 - Sec. 4. "Ammunition" includes, without limitation, fixed cartridge ammunition and the individual components thereof, shotgun shells and the individual components thereof, projectiles for muzzle-loading firearms and any propellant used in firearms or ammunition.
 - Sec. 5. "Firearm" includes, without limitation, a pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, machine gun, submachine gun, black powder weapon, muzzle-loading firearm or any device that is designed to, able to or able to be readily converted to expel a projectile through the barrel by the action of an explosive, other form of combustion or expanding gases.
 - Sec. 6. "Firearm accessories" means:
 - 1. Devices specifically designed or adapted to enable the wearing or carrying of a firearm or the storing in or mounting on a conveyance of a firearm; or
 - 2. Attachments or devices specifically designed or adapted to be inserted into or affixed on a firearm to enable, alter or improve the functioning or capability of the firearm.
 - Sec. 7. "Person" includes, without limitation:
 - 1. Any person who has standing to bring or maintain an action pursuant to NRS 244.364, 268.418 or 269.222.
 - 2. Any person who:
 - (a) Can legally possess a firearm under state and federal law;
- 30 (b) Owns, possesses, stores, transports, carries or transfers 31 firearms, firearm accessories or ammunition within a county, city 32 or town; and
- 33 (c) Is subject to the county, city or town law, regulation, rule 34 or ordinance at issue.
 - 3. A membership organization whose members include a person described in subsections 1 and 2 and which is dedicated in whole or in part to protecting the legal, civil or constitutional rights of its members.
- Sec. 8. "Political subdivision" includes, without limitation, a state agency, county, city, town or school district.

 Sec. 9. "Public employer" has the meaning ascribed to it in
 - Sec. 9. "Public employer" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 286.070.
- Sec. 10. The provisions of NRS 244.364 must not be construed to prevent:



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1. A law enforcement agency or correctional institution from promulgating and enforcing its own rules pertaining to firearms, firearm accessories or ammunition that are issued to or used by peace officers in the course of their official duties.

2. A court or administrative law judge from hearing and resolving a case or controversy or issuing an opinion or order on a

matter within its jurisdiction.

3. A public employer from regulating or prohibiting the carrying or possession of firearms, firearm accessories or ammunition during or in the course of an employee's official duties.

- 4. The enactment or enforcement of a county zoning or business ordinance which is generally applicable to businesses within the county and thereby affects a firearms business within the county, including, without limitation, an indoor or outdoor shooting range.
- 5. A county from enacting and enforcing rules for the operation and use of any firearm range owned and operated by the county.
- 6. A political subdivision from sponsoring or conducting a firearm-related competition or educational or cultural program and enacting and enforcing rules for participation in or attendance at any such competition or program.
- 7. A political subdivision or any official thereof with appropriate authority from enforcing any statute of this State.
 - **Sec. 11.** NRS 244.364 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 244.364 1. Except as otherwise provided by specific statute, the Legislature reserves for itself such rights and powers as are necessary to regulate the transfer, sale, purchase, possession, *carrying*, ownership, transportation, *storage*, registration and licensing of firearms , *firearm accessories* and ammunition in Nevada, and [no] to define these terms. No county may infringe upon those rights and powers. [As used in this subsection, "firearm" means any weapon from which a projectile is discharged by means of an explosive, spring, gas, air or other force.]
- 2. A board of county commissioners may proscribe by ordinance or regulation the unsafe discharge of firearms.
- 3. [If a board of county commissioners in a county whose population is 700,000 or more has required by ordinance or regulation adopted before June 13, 1989, the registration of a firearm capable of being concealed, the board of county commissioners shall amend such an ordinance or regulation to require:
- (a) A period of at least 60 days of residency in the county before registration of such a firearm is required.





- (b) A period of at least 72 hours for the registration of a pistol by a resident of the county upon transfer of title to the pistol to the resident by purchase, gift or any other transfer.
- 4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 1, as used in this section:
- (a) "Firearm" means any device designed to be used as a weapon from which a projectile may be expelled through the barrel by the force of any explosion or other form of combustion.
- (b) "Firearm capable of being concealed" includes all firearms having a barrel less than 12 inches in length.
- (c) "Pistol" means a firearm capable of being concealed that is intended to be aimed and fired with one hand.] Any law, regulation, rule or ordinance that is enacted by a board of county commissioners which is inconsistent with this section or which is designed to restrict or prohibit a sale, purchase, transfer, manufacture or display of firearms, firearm accessories or ammunition that is otherwise lawful is null and void, and any official action taken by an employee or agent of a county in violation of this section is void.
- 4. Any person who is adversely affected by the enforcement of any law, regulation, rule or ordinance that violates this section on or after January 15, 2016, may file suit in the appropriate court for declarative and injunctive relief and damages attributable to the violation. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the final determination is in favor of that person, the person is entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs and:
- (a) Actual damages if, within 30 days after the person commenced the action but before the final determination, the board of county commissioners repeals the law, regulation, rule or ordinance that violates this section;
- (b) Damages in an amount equal to two times the actual damages if, more than 30 days after the person commenced the action but before the final determination, the board of county commissioners repeals the law, regulation, rule or ordinance that violates this section; or
- (c) Damages in an amount equal to three times the actual damages if the board of county commissioners has not repealed the law, regulation, rule or ordinance that violates this section before a final determination is made.
- **Sec. 12.** Chapter 268 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 13 to 21, inclusive, of this act.
 - Sec. 13. The Legislature hereby declares that:
 - 1. The State controls the regulation of and policies concerning firearms, firearm accessories and ammunition to





ensure that such regulation and policies are uniform throughout this State and to ensure the protection of the right to keep and bear arms, which is recognized by the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nevada.

2. The regulation of the transfer, sale, purchase, possession, carrying, ownership, transportation, storage, registration and licensing of firearms, firearm accessories and ammunition in this State and the ability to define such terms is within the exclusive power of the Legislature, and any contrary law, regulation, rule or ordinance of any political subdivision is null and void.

3. This section shall be liberally construed to effectuate its

purpose.

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- Sec. 14. As used in NRS 268.418 and sections 13 to 21, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in sections 15 to 20, inclusive, of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.
- Sec. 15. "Ammunition" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 4 of this act.
- Sec. 16. "Firearm" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 5 of this act.
- Sec. 17. "Firearm accessories" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 6 of this act.
- Sec. 18. "Person" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 7 of this act.
- Sec. 19. "Political subdivision" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 8 of this act.
- 27 Sec. 20. "Public employer" has the meaning ascribed to it in 28 NRS 286.070.
- Sec. 21. The provisions of NRS 268.418 must not be construed to prevent:
- 1. A law enforcement agency or correctional institution from promulgating and enforcing its own rules pertaining to firearms, firearm accessories or ammunition that are issued to or used by peace officers in the course of their official duties.

 2. A court or administrative law judge from hearing and
 - 2. A court or administrative law judge from hearing and resolving a case or controversy or issuing an opinion or order on a matter within its jurisdiction.
 - 3. A public employer from regulating or prohibiting the carrying or possession of firearms, firearm accessories or ammunition during or in the course of an employee's official duties.
 - 4. The enactment or enforcement of a city zoning or business ordinance which is generally applicable to businesses within the city and thereby affects a firearms business within the city,





including, without limitation, an indoor or outdoor shooting range.

5. A city from enacting and enforcing rules for the operation and use of any firearm range owned and operated by the city.

- 6. A political subdivision from sponsoring or conducting a firearm-related competition or educational or cultural program and enacting and enforcing rules for participation in or attendance at any such competition or program.
- 7. A political subdivision or any official thereof with appropriate authority from enforcing any statute of this State.

Sec. 22. NRS 268.418 is hereby amended to read as follows:

268.418 1. Except as otherwise provided by specific statute, the Legislature reserves for itself such rights and powers as are necessary to regulate the transfer, sale, purchase, possession, carrying, ownership, transportation, storage, registration and licensing of firearms, firearm accessories and ammunition in Nevada, and [no] to define these terms. No city may infringe upon those rights and powers. [As used in this subsection, "firearm" means any weapon from which a projectile is discharged by means of an explosive, spring, gas, air or other force.]

2. The governing body of a city may proscribe by ordinance or regulation the unsafe discharge of firearms.

- 3. [If the governing body of a city in a county whose population is 700,000 or more has required by ordinance or regulation adopted before June 13, 1989, the registration of a firearm capable of being concealed, the governing body shall amend such an ordinance or regulation to require:
- (a) A period of at least 60 days of residency in the city before registration of such a firearm is required.
- (b) A period of at least 72 hours for the registration of a pistol by a resident of the city upon transfer of title to the pistol to the resident by purchase, gift or any other transfer.
- 33 4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 1, as used in this section:
 - (a) "Firearm" means any device designed to be used as a weapon from which a projectile may be expelled through the barrel by the force of any explosion or other form of combustion.
- 38 (b) "Firearm capable of being concealed" includes all firearms
 39 having a barrel less than 12 inches in length.
 - (c) "Pistol" means a firearm capable of being concealed that is intended to be aimed and fired with one hand.] Any law, regulation, rule or ordinance that is enacted by the governing body of a city which is inconsistent with this section or which is designed to restrict or prohibit a sale, purchase, transfer, manufacture or display of firearms, firearm accessories or ammunition that is





otherwise lawful is null and void, and any official action taken by an employee or agent of a city in violation of this section is void.

- 4. Any person who is adversely affected by the enforcement of any law, regulation, rule or ordinance that violates this section on or after January 15, 2016, may file suit in the appropriate court for declarative and injunctive relief and damages attributable to the violation. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the final determination is in favor of that person, the person is entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs and:
- (a) Actual damages if, within 30 days after the person commenced the action but before the final determination, the governing body of the city repeals the law, regulation, rule or ordinance that violates this section;
- (b) Damages in an amount equal to two times the actual damages if, more than 30 days after the person commenced the action but before the final determination, the governing body of the city repeals the law, regulation, rule or ordinance that violates this section; or
- (c) Damages in an amount equal to three times the actual damages if the governing body of the city has not repealed the law, regulation, rule or ordinance that violates this section before the final determination is made.
- Sec. 23. Chapter 269 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 24 to 32, inclusive, of this act.
 - Sec. 24. The Legislature hereby declares that:
- The State controls the regulation of and policies concerning firearms, firearm accessories and ammunition to ensure that such regulation and policies are uniform throughout this State and to ensure the protection of the right to keep and bear arms, which is recognized by the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nevada.
- The regulation of the transfer, sale, purchase, possession, carrying, ownership, transportation, storage, registration and licensing of firearms, firearm accessories and ammunition in this State and the ability to define such terms is within the exclusive power of the Legislature, and any contrary law, regulation, rule or ordinance of any political subdivision is null and void.
- 3. This section shall be liberally construed to effectuate its 40 purpose.
 - Sec. 25. As used in NRS 269,222 and sections 24 to 32, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in sections 26 to 31, inclusive, of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.



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- Sec. 26. "Ammunition" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 4 of this act.
 - Sec. 27. "Firearm" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 5 of this act.
 - Sec. 28. "Firearm accessories" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 6 of this act.
 - Sec. 29. "Person" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 7 of this act.
 - Sec. 30. "Political subdivision" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 8 of this act.
 - Sec. 31. "Public employer" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 286.070.
 - Sec. 32. The provisions of NRS 269.222 must not be construed to prevent:
 - 1. A law enforcement agency or correctional institution from promulgating and enforcing its own rules pertaining to firearms, firearm accessories or ammunition that are issued to or used by peace officers in the course of their official duties.
 - 2. A court or administrative law judge from hearing and resolving a case or controversy or issuing an opinion or order on a matter within its jurisdiction.
 - 3. A public employer from regulating or prohibiting the carrying or possession of firearms, firearm accessories or ammunition during or in the course of an employee's official duties.
 - 4. The enactment or enforcement of a town zoning or business ordinance which is generally applicable to businesses within the town and thereby affects a firearms business within the town, including, without limitation, an indoor or outdoor shooting range.
 - 5. A town from enacting and enforcing rules for the operation and use of any firearm range owned and operated by the town.
 - 6. A political subdivision from sponsoring or conducting a firearm-related competition or educational or cultural program and enacting and enforcing rules for participation in or attendance at any such competition or program.
 - 7. A political subdivision or any official thereof with appropriate authority from enforcing any statute of this State.
 - **Sec. 33.** NRS 269.222 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 269.222 1. Except as otherwise provided by specific statute, the Legislature reserves for itself such rights and powers as are necessary to regulate the transfer, sale, purchase, possession, *carrying*, ownership, transportation, *storage*, registration and licensing of firearms, *firearm accessories*, and ammunition in





Nevada, and [no] to define these terms. No town may infringe upon those rights and powers. [As used in this subsection, "firearm" means any weapon from which a projectile is discharged by means of an explosive, spring, gas, air or other force.]

- 2. A town board may proscribe by ordinance or regulation the unsafe discharge of firearms.
- 3. [If a town board in a county whose population is 700,000 or more has required by ordinance or regulation adopted before June 13, 1989, the registration of a firearm capable of being concealed, the town board shall amend such an ordinance or regulation to require:
- 12 (a) A period of at least 60 days of residency in the town before registration of such a firearm is required.
 - (b) A period of at least 72 hours for the registration of a pistol by a resident of the town upon transfer of title to the pistol to the resident by purchase, gift or any other transfer.
 - 4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 1, as used in this section:
- 19 (a) "Firearm" means any device designed to be used as a 20 weapon from which a projectile may be expelled through the barrel 21 by the force of any explosion or other form of combustion.
- 22 (b) "Firearm capable of being concealed" includes all firearms
 23 having a barrel less than 12 inches in length.
 - (c) "Pistol" means a firearm capable of being concealed that is intended to be aimed and fired with one hand.] Any law, regulation, rule or ordinance that is enacted by a town board which is inconsistent with this section or which is designed to restrict or prohibit a sale, purchase, transfer, manufacture or display of firearms, firearm accessories or ammunition that is otherwise lawful is null and void, and any official action taken by an employee or agent of a town in violation of this section is void.
 - 4. Any person who is adversely affected by the enforcement of any law, regulation, rule or ordinance that violates this section on or after January 15, 2016, may file suit in the appropriate court for declarative and injunctive relief and damages attributable to the violation. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the final determination is in favor of that person, the person is entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs and:
 - (a) Actual damages if, within 30 days after the person commenced the action but before the final determination, the town board repeals the law, regulation, rule or ordinance that violates this section;
 - (b) Damages in an amount equal to two times the actual damages if, more than 30 days after the person commenced the





action but before the final determination, the town board repeals the law, regulation, rule or ordinance that violates this section; or

- (c) Damages in an amount equal to three times the actual damages if the town board has not repealed the law, regulation, rule or ordinance that violates this section before the final determination is made.
- **Sec. 34.** Section 5 of chapter 308, Statutes of Nevada 1989, as amended by chapter 320, Statutes of Nevada 2007, at page 1291, is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - Sec. 5. [1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the provisions of this act apply to ordinances or regulations adopted on or after June 13, 1989.
 - 2.1 The provisions of this act [, as amended on October 1, 2007,] apply to ordinances or regulations adopted before, on or after June 13, 1989.
- **Sec. 35.** As soon as practicable, each board of county commissioners shall:
- 1. Review all of the laws, regulations, rules or ordinances of the county to determine whether any of those laws, regulations, rules or ordinances conflict with NRS 244.364, as amended by section 11 of this act; and
- 2. If any such conflicting law, regulation, rule or ordinance is found, by not later than January 1, 2016, repeal the law, regulation, rule or ordinance, and take any other actions necessary to remove the conflict, including, without limitation:
- (a) Destroying any ownership records of firearms owned by private persons which are kept or maintained by the county or any county agency, board or commission, including, without limitation, any law enforcement agency, for the purposes of compliance with any law, regulation, rule or ordinance that is inconsistent with the provisions of NRS 244.364, as amended by section 11 of this act, and sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this act; and
- (b) Removing any such law, regulation, rule or ordinance that is posted within the county.
- **Sec. 36.** As soon as practicable, the governing board of each city shall:
- 1. Review all of the laws, regulations, rules or ordinances of the city to determine whether any of those laws, regulations, rules or ordinances conflict with NRS 268.418, as amended by section 22 of this act; and
- 2. If any such conflicting law, regulation, rule or ordinance is found, by not later than January 1, 2016, repeal the law, regulation, rule or ordinance, and take any other actions necessary to remove the conflict, including, without limitation:





- (a) Destroying any ownership records of firearms owned by private persons which are kept or maintained by the city or any city agency, board or commission, including, without limitation, any law enforcement agency, for the purposes of compliance with any law, regulation, rule or ordinance that is inconsistent with the provisions of NRS 268.418, as amended by section 22 of this act, and sections 13 to 21, inclusive, of this act; and
- (b) Removing any such law, regulation, rule or ordinance that is posted within the city.

Sec. 37. As soon as practicable, each town board shall:

- 1. Review all of the laws, regulations, rules or ordinances of the town to determine whether any of those laws, regulations, rules or ordinances conflict with NRS 269.222, as amended by section 33 of this act; and
- 2. If any such conflicting law, regulation, rule or ordinance is found, by not later than January 1, 2016, repeal the law, regulation, rule or ordinance, and take any other actions necessary to remove the conflict, including, without limitation:
- (a) Destroying any ownership records of firearms owned by private persons which are kept or maintained by the town or any town agency, board or commission, including, without limitation, any law enforcement agency, for the purposes of compliance with any law, regulation, rule or ordinance that is inconsistent with the provisions of NRS 269.222, as amended by section 33 of this act, and sections 24 to 32, inclusive, of this act; and
- (b) Removing any such law, regulation, rule or ordinance that is posted within the town.
- Sec. 38. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.





