

Assembly Bill No. 137—Assemblymen Ellison, Wheeler, Hambrick, Fiore, Hansen; Armstrong, Dickman, Gardner, Hickey, Kirner, Munford, O’Neill, Oscarson, Seaman, Silberkraus, Stewart and Trowbridge

Joint Sponsors: Senators Goicoechea; and Settlemeyer

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to contractors; revising provisions regarding the advertising of construction services and the soliciting of construction bids; increasing penalties for certain violations of provisions governing contractors; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law requires persons engaged in certain construction work to be licensed contractors, regulates the activities of licensed contractors, prohibits persons from making certain advertising claims about themselves as contractors, and provides criminal and monetary penalties for violations of the preceding provisions. (Chapter 624 of NRS)

Under existing law, it is unlawful for a licensed contractor or an applicant to become a licensed contractor to misrepresent a material fact in connection with any information or evidence furnished officially to the State Contractors’ Board. (NRS 624.3013) **Section 2** of this bill expands the prohibition to include omissions of material facts as well as misrepresentations.

Section 3 of this bill adds the solicitation of a bid or estimate from a person known by a licensed contractor to be unlicensed to the list of acts for which a licensed contractor may be subject to disciplinary action.

Existing law prohibits licensed contractors and other persons from engaging in certain acts of advertising that are false or misleading. (NRS 624.720) **Section 5** of this bill: (1) requires any person who advertises to perform or complete construction work or a work of improvement, and who is not a licensed contractor, to affirmatively state in the advertisement that they are not licensed; and (2) makes it unlawful for any person to advertise to perform or complete construction work or a work of improvement using a license number not assigned to that person.

Section 6 of this bill increases the monetary fines that may be imposed for violations of certain provisions of chapter 624 of NRS. In addition, **section 6** provides for an enhancement of such monetary fines under certain circumstances.

Section 4 of this bill makes conforming changes.

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

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

Section 1. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 2. NRS 624.3013 is hereby amended to read as follows:
624.3013 The following acts, among others, constitute cause for disciplinary action pursuant to NRS 624.300:



1. Failure to keep records showing all contracts, documents, receipts and disbursements by a licensee of all of the licensee's transactions as a contractor and to keep them open for inspection by the Board or Executive Officer for a period of not less than 3 years after the completion of any construction project or operation to which the records refer.

2. Misrepresentation *or omission* of a material fact by an applicant or licensee in connection with any information or evidence furnished the Board in connection with official matters of the Board.

3. Failure to establish financial responsibility pursuant to NRS 624.220 and 624.260 to 624.265, inclusive, at the time of renewal of the license or at any other time when required by the Board.

4. Failure to keep in force the bond or cash deposit pursuant to NRS 624.270 for the full period required by the Board.

5. Failure in any material respect to comply with the provisions of this chapter or the regulations of the Board.

Sec. 3. NRS 624.3014 is hereby amended to read as follows:

624.3014 The following acts, among others, constitute cause for disciplinary action under NRS 624.300:

1. Acting in the capacity of a contractor under any license issued hereunder except:

(a) In the name of the licensee as set forth upon the license.

(b) As an employee of the licensee as set forth in the application for such license or as later changed pursuant to this chapter and the rules and regulations of the Board.

2. With the intent to evade the provisions of this chapter:

(a) Aiding or abetting an unlicensed person to evade the provisions of this chapter.

(b) Combining or conspiring with an unlicensed person to perform an unauthorized act.

(c) Allowing a license to be used by an unlicensed person.

(d) Acting as agent, partner or associate of an unlicensed person.

(e) Furnishing estimates or bids to an unlicensed person.

~~1-1~~ **(f) *Soliciting a bid or estimate from a person known by the licensee to be unlicensed pursuant to this chapter.***

3. Any attempt by a licensee to assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of a license or permit the unauthorized use thereof.

Sec. 4. NRS 624.710 is hereby amended to read as follows:

624.710 1. If any person violates the provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 624.700, ~~subsection 1, 2 or 3~~ **subsections 1 to 5, inclusive**, of NRS 624.720, or NRS 624.740, the Board may impose for each violation an administrative fine in an amount that is not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$50,000.



2. The Board shall, by regulation, establish standards for use by the Board in determining the amount of an administrative fine imposed pursuant to this section. The standards must include, without limitation, provisions requiring the Board to consider:

(a) The gravity of the violation;

(b) The good faith of the person; and

(c) Any history of previous violations of the provisions of this chapter or the regulations of the Board committed by the person.

3. An administrative fine imposed pursuant to this section is in addition to any other penalty imposed pursuant to this chapter.

4. If the administrative fine and any interest imposed pursuant to NRS 624.300 is not paid when due, the fine and interest, if any, must be recovered in a civil action brought by the Attorney General on behalf of the Board.

5. All administrative fines and interest collected pursuant to this section must be deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Construction Education Account created pursuant to NRS 624.580.

Sec. 5. NRS 624.720 is hereby amended to read as follows:

624.720 1. It is unlawful for any person, including a person exempt under the provisions of NRS 624.031, to advertise as a contractor unless the person has a license in the appropriate classification established by the provisions of NRS 624.215 and 624.220.

2. *Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, any person not licensed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter who advertises to perform or complete construction work or a work of improvement must state in the advertisement that he or she is not licensed pursuant to this chapter.*

3. It is unlawful for a licensed contractor to disseminate, as part of any advertising by the contractor, any false or misleading statement or representation of material fact that is intended, directly or indirectly, to induce another person to use the services of the contractor or to enter into any contract with the contractor or any obligation relating to such a contract.

~~3~~ 4. All advertising by a licensed contractor must include the name of the contractor's company and the number of the contractor's license.

~~4~~ 5. *It is unlawful for any person, whether or not licensed pursuant to this chapter, to advertise to perform or complete construction work or a work of improvement using a license number that does not correspond to a valid license issued to that person under this chapter.*



6. If, after giving notice and holding a hearing pursuant to NRS 624.291, the Board determines that a person has engaged in advertising in a manner that violates the provisions of this section, the Board may, in addition to any penalty, punishment or disciplinary action authorized by the provisions of this chapter, issue an order to the person to cease and desist the unlawful advertising and to:

(a) Cause any telephone number included in the advertising, other than a telephone number to a provider of paging services, to be disconnected.

(b) Request the provider of paging services to change the number of any beeper which is included in the advertising or disconnect the paging services to such a beeper, and to inform the provider of paging services that the request is made pursuant to this section.

~~15.1~~ 7. If a person fails to comply with paragraph (a) of subsection ~~14.1~~ 6 within 5 days after receiving an order pursuant to subsection ~~14.1~~ 6, the Board may request the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada to order the appropriate provider of telephone service to disconnect any telephone number included in the advertisement, except for a telephone number to a provider of paging services. If a person fails to comply with paragraph (b) of subsection ~~14.1~~ 6 within 5 days after receiving an order pursuant to subsection ~~14.1~~ 6, the Board may request the provider of paging services to switch the beeper number or disconnect the paging services provided to the person, whichever the provider deems appropriate.

~~16.1~~ 8. If the provider of paging services receives a request from a person pursuant to subsection ~~14.1~~ 6 or a request from the Board pursuant to subsection ~~15.1~~ 7, it shall:

(a) Disconnect the paging service to the person; or

(b) Switch the beeper number of the paging service provided to the person.

→ If the provider of paging services elects to switch the number pursuant to paragraph (b), it shall not forward or offer to forward the paging calls from the previous number, or provide or offer to provide a recorded message that includes the new beeper number.

~~17.1~~ 9. As used in this section:

(a) "Advertising" includes, but is not limited to, the issuance of any sign, card or device, or the permitting or allowing of any sign or marking on a motor vehicle, in any building, structure, newspaper, magazine or airway transmission, on the Internet or in any directory



under the listing of “contractor” with or without any limiting qualifications.

(b) “Beeper” means a portable electronic device which is used to page the person carrying it by emitting an audible or a vibrating signal when the device receives a special radio signal.

(c) “Provider of paging services” means an entity, other than a public utility, that provides paging service to a beeper.

(d) “Provider of telephone service” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 707.355.

Sec. 6. NRS 624.750 is hereby amended to read as follows:

624.750 1. It is unlawful for a person to commit any act or omission described in subsection 1 of NRS 624.3012, subsection 2 of NRS 624.3013, NRS 624.3014 or subsection 1, 3 or 7 of NRS 624.3016.

2. ~~Unless~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3 and unless* a greater penalty is otherwise provided by a specific statute, any person who violates subsection 1, NRS 624.305, subsection 1 of NRS 624.700 or NRS 624.720 or 624.740:

(a) For a first offense, is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not ~~more~~ *less* than \$1,000 ~~nor more than \$4,000~~, and may be further punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 6 months.

(b) For the second offense, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than ~~\$2,000~~ *\$4,000* nor more than ~~\$4,000~~ *\$10,000*, and may be further punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 364 days.

(c) For the third or subsequent offense, is guilty of a category E felony and shall be punished by a fine of not less than ~~\$5,000~~ *\$10,000* nor more than ~~\$10,000~~ *\$20,000*, and may be further punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not less than 1 year and not more than 4 years.

3. *If a person is guilty of a violation of subsection 1 of NRS 624.700, the maximum fines set forth in subsection 2 may be exceeded by adding thereto a fine enhancement of not more than 10 percent of the value of any contract that the person entered into in violation of subsection 1 of NRS 624.700, if that person commenced any work or received any money relating to the contract.*

4. It is unlawful for a person to receive money for the purpose of obtaining or paying for services, labor, materials or equipment if the person:

(a) Willfully fails to use that money for that purpose by failing to complete the improvements for which the person received the



money or by failing to pay for any services, labor, materials or equipment provided for that construction; and

(b) Wrongfully diverts that money to a use other than that for which it was received.

~~4~~ 5. Unless a greater penalty is otherwise provided by a specific statute, any person who violates subsection ~~3~~ 4:

(a) If the amount of money wrongfully diverted is \$1,000 or less, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$4,000, and may be further punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 364 days.

(b) If the amount of money wrongfully diverted is more than \$1,000, is guilty of a category E felony and shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000, and may be further punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not less than 1 year and not more than 4 years.

~~5~~ 6. Imposition of a penalty provided for in this section is not precluded by any disciplinary action taken by the Board against a contractor pursuant to the provisions of NRS 624.300 to 624.305, inclusive.



