

NORTHERN NEVADA  
**Public Health**

## **2025 Legislative Summary 83<sup>rd</sup> Nevada State Legislative Session**

**Joelle Gutman Dodson, Government Affairs Liaison**

## **Introduction:**

The 83rd Nevada State Legislative Session saw 1,210 bills introduced, 243 signed into law, and 87 vetoed in just 120 days. Among NNPH's most significant achievements during the session was the continuation of public health funding in the Governor's Executive Budget—providing essential stability for core public health services across the state. While this summary highlights 40 of the most relevant bills that directly impact the Health District, it represents only a portion of the comprehensive government affairs work carried out during the session.

NNPH remained actively engaged throughout the legislative process, building on the advocacy foundation established in previous sessions. Efforts this year included monitoring legislation, drafting and reviewing bill language, submitting letters of support or opposition, delivering testimony, and maintaining regular communication with legislators, key stakeholders, and state agencies. These coordinated actions helped shape policy discussions around public health funding, governance, environmental health, emergency preparedness, disease mitigation, clinical services, workforce development, and other critical priorities.

The following summary includes key legislation where NNPH played a role—whether by offering technical input, supporting coalition-led efforts, or leading advocacy initiatives. It reflects not only the most direct impacts on local public health authorities but also the growing recognition of the value of coordinated public health advocacy throughout Nevada.

\*\*\* Although the legislative session has concluded, the work continues. NNPH will maintain its advocacy efforts and continue to prepare, coordinate, and collaborate with our public health partners throughout the interim to ensure successful implementation of new policies and to advance public health priorities moving forward.

## Public Health

### AB241- Revises provisions relating to housing.

- Requires a local governing body to adopt an ordinance that authorizes a multifamily housing development of mixed-use development that includes a residential use on property zoned for commercial use by March 1, 2026. This does not include property zoned for industrial use.
  - Signed by the Governor – NRS Chapter 278. Effective October 1, 2025.

### \*AB269- Revises provisions relating to education.

- The bill expands Nevada’s Student Loan Repayment Program to include additional health care providers such as therapists, behavior analysts, certified problem counselors, and public health professionals. It also extends eligibility to health officers and other difficult-to-fill positions at the state or local level.
  - Signed by the Governor- NRS Chapter 266. Effective upon passage and approval.

### \*AB331- **Makes an appropriation to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health for a grant program to expand the biennial survey administered pursuant to the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS) developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.**

- The bill appropriates \$440,000 over the 2025-2027 biennium (\$220,000 annually). Grants will be awarded to institutions withing the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) to carry out the expanded survey throughout the state.
  - Signed by the Governor. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

### \*SB494- **The bill establishes the Nevada Health Authority as a new executive department, consolidating several major health programs under its jurisdiction.**

- The bill transfers the administration of Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Public Employees’ Benefits Program (PEBP) to the newly created authority. Additionally, the bill authorizes a study to evaluate the potential transfer of behavioral health, maternal health, and public health functions from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to the Nevada Health Authority.
  - Approved by the Governor- NRS Chapter 223. Effective July 1, 2025.

## Community and Clinical Health Services

### **AB19**- Revises provisions relating to the Statewide Substance Use Response Working Group (SURGE).

- The bill revises the membership of the Statewide Substance Use Response Working Group (SURGE) and additionally revises the date by which the Working Group must submit their mandated report.
  - Signed by the Governor-NRS 458. This act becomes effective on October 1, 2025.

### **\*AB76**- Revises provisions related to the regulation and enforcement of cannabis establishments in Nevada.

- This bill clarifies that the Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act does not prohibit indoor cannabis smoking in licensed cannabis consumption lounges, explicitly allowing such activity. It also authorizes the suspension of cannabis establishment operations if a substantial public health hazard is identified.
  - Signed by the Governor- NRS Chapter 678. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

### **AB266** Makes Revisions relating to breastfeeding.

- The bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to post information about Medicaid-covered lactation services. It prohibits places of public accommodation from discriminating against individuals who are breastfeeding and allows affected individuals to file a complaint with the Nevada Equal Rights Commission or pursue civil action.
  - Signed by the Governor- NRS Chapter 442. Effective July 1, 2025.

### **\*AB360**- Revises provisions relating to testing for sexually transmitted diseases. “Congenital Syphilis Bill”

- This bill requires non-hospital medical facilities, emergency departments, and labor and delivery units to perform syphilis testing for pregnant women at specific points during pregnancy using rapid or point-of-care tests, unless declined or previously completed. It mandates separate Medicaid reimbursement for these tests and requires facilities to establish compliance policies. The bill aims to reduce congenital syphilis by expanding real-time testing access, especially for patients without prior prenatal care who present in emergency settings.
  - Signed by Governor – NRS Chapter 442. The act becomes effective on January 1, 2026.

### **\*AB451**- Provides immunity from civil liability to certain persons returning a firearm under certain circumstances.

- This bill provides civil liability protections to licensed firearm dealers (FFLs) and local law enforcement agencies when they temporarily store and return firearms under certain conditions. The intent is to encourage voluntary, out-of-home firearm storage as a public safety measure to reduce suicide risk. The bill includes a preamble affirming that temporary and voluntary storage of firearms is a critical component of suicide prevention efforts.
  - Signed by the Governor- NRS Chapter 41. This act becomes effective October 1, 2025.

**SB188- Establishes procedures to assist individuals with limited English proficiency in accessing health care services.**

- The bill requires certain health care facilities and providers to take reasonable steps to ensure these individuals have meaningful access to communicate with their provider in a language they understand. Language assistance services must be provided at no cost to the patient.
  - Signed by the Governor- NRS Chapter 449. This act becomes effective October 1, 2025.

## **Air Quality Management Division**

### **AB96 – Revises provisions relating to master plans.**

- Requires the governing bodies of certain cities and counties to incorporate a heat mitigation plan into the conservation element of their master plan.
  - Signed by the Governor- NRS Chapter 278. This act becomes effective July 1, 2026.

### **\*AB256 Directs the Legislative Commission to appoint a Regional Rail Transit Advisory Working group to conduct an interim study relating to regional rail transit.**

- The newly created working group shall study: the current state of regional rail and public transit, any future projects, the need for regional rail across the state, potential sources of funding, and public private partnerships which should be involved in overseeing the planning, development and implementation of a railway. The working group shall submit a report to the Legislative Commission on or before July 1, 2026.
  - Signed by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2025

### **\*AB458 Revises provisions governing energy.**

- Authorizes the users of a solar-powered affordable housing system to participate in net metering.
  - Signed by the Governor- NRS Chapter 701. The act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

### **\*AB545- Increases certain fees relating to emissions testing.**

- The bill increases fees for emission control compliance forms, raising the cost from \$150 to \$175 for each set of 25 forms and from \$6 to \$7 for each form issued to a fleet station. The additional revenue will be deposited into the Pollution Control Account administered by the Department of Motor Vehicles.
  - Signed by the Governor- NRS Chapter 445B. This act becomes effective July 1, 2025

### **\*SB80- Revisions provisions governing motor vehicles.**

- The bill prohibits tampering with a device for the control of emissions of a motor vehicle or removal of such a device from a motor vehicle, including, without limitation, exchanging the engine of a motor vehicle for a different engine. A person does not violate the law if an electric motor or an engine being replaced meets emission requirements.
  - Signed by the Governor, NRS Chapter 480. Effective October 1, 2025.

**SB132- Makes an appropriation to the Nevada Clean Energy Fund for securing and implementing grants and qualified clean energy projects.**

- The bill appropriates \$500,000 for securing and implementing grants for qualified clean energy projects in the state, including, without limitation. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2027 and cannot be spent after September 17, 2027.
  - Signed by the Governor- NRS Chapter 701B. Effective June 9, 2025.

**\*SB260 – Revises Provisions relating to air quality.**

- The bill mandates that the Department of Business and Industry establish regulations setting forth requirements for employers regarding employee exposure to poor air quality resulting from wildfire smoke. Specifically, certain employers are required to monitor and mitigate employee exposure when the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaches 150 or higher. Employers must also implement communication systems to inform workers of hazardous air quality levels and enable employees to report symptoms associated with exposure. Exemptions apply to employers in sectors such as mining, emergency services, and those with 10 or fewer employees.
  - Approved by the Governor- NRS Chapter 618. This act becomes effective June 10, 2025.

## Environmental Health Services

### \*[AB116](#)- Revises provisions relating to food delivery platform providers.

- The bill prohibits food delivery service platform providers from facilitating online orders from food establishments that have not obtained required licenses. It imposes penalties for violations and requires delivery platforms to remove non-compliant establishments from their listings within 10 days of receiving verified information or face daily fines.
  - Signed by the Governor- NRS Chapter 597. This act becomes effective January 1, 2026.

### \*[AB352](#)- Revises provisions relating to businesses.

- Revises provisions relating to businesses by establishing a new category of “cottage cosmetics” under the cottage food section. The bill transfers the regulatory authority for cottage food operations to the Department of Agriculture, including responsibility for applications, fees, inspections, and civil penalties. It removes these regulatory duties from local health agencies.
  - Signed by the Governor- NRS Chapter 446. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2027.

### \*[AB415](#)- Revises provisions governing the towing of motor vehicles.

- This bill revises procedures for handling abandoned vehicles on public and private property. It allows property owners to authorize removal, requires efforts to determine if the vehicle is stolen, and mandates proper storage. If the vehicle appears to be junk and the owner is unknown, a 7-day notice must be posted before removal. The bill also updates DMV rules for issuing junk certificates and revises how law enforcement tracks tow-car operations.
  - Signed by the Governor- NRS Chapter 487. This act becomes effective on October 1, 2025.

### \*[SB40](#)- Revises various provisions relating to environmental hazards.

- The bill expands the authority of the Division of Environmental Protection to enforce mining reclamation and hazardous waste management laws. Revises definitions and permitting requirements for mining operations, solid waste management facilities,



hazardous waste facilities, prohibits certain hazardous waste from being accepted at municipal landfills and adds financial assurance standards.

- Signed by the Governor. NRS Chapter 422. Effective upon passage and approval.

**\*SB43 Revises provisions related to public health and safety.**

- Authorizes certain district boards of health to act as solid waste management authority under certain circumstances, restructuring how solid waste management and public water system oversight are delegated to health districts, requiring formal designation by the Division of Environmental Protection, while grandfathering in districts already performing these roles.
- The bill revises the definition of a private pool:

Section 4.5 (e) Any location if the structure is a privately owned pool used by members of a private ~~club~~ *organization that is recognized as a social club exempt from taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(7) of the International Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(7) or invited guests of the members ~~of~~ of such an organization.*

- Signed by the Governor, chapter 438. Effective June 9, 2025.

**\*SB466- Revises provisions governing the authority of the State Department of Agriculture relating to food and water.**

- The bill transfers the authority to regulate and permit food establishments from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to the State Department of Agriculture. Transferring the authority of the State Board of Health to adopt, amend and enforce regulations to provide for the sanitary protection of water and food supplies to the State Department of Agriculture.
  - Signed By the Governor- NRS Chapter 446. Effective July 1, 2025.

## Population Health & Emergency Management

### \*AB102 – Revises provisions relating to emergency management medical services.

- This bill authorizes health districts in counties with populations between 100,000 and 700,000—namely, Washoe County—to regulate emergency medical services (EMS), similar to the authority granted to Clark County. Unlike Clark County, however, trauma program oversight and designation in Washoe County will remain at the state level.
- The bill also allows individuals aged 16 and older to be licensed or certified for EMS roles if they meet all qualifications. Additionally, it permits supervised EMS trainees aged 16–17 to ride in ambulances, provided they do not administer care or operate the vehicle.
- This is a permissive measure—regulatory authority will remain with the state unless and until Northern Nevada Public Health elects to assume EMS oversight and take on the operational and financial responsibilities of administering the program.
  - Signed by the Governor- NRS Chapter 450B. This bill becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

### AB325- Revises provisions relating to artificial intelligence.

- The bill mandates that all state and local emergency management plans include provisions ensuring that decisions related to emergency planning and resource allocation are made by a natural person, rather than by artificial intelligence.
  - Signed by the Governor-NRS Chapter 414. Effective October 1, 2025.

### \*AB350- Revises provisions relation cemeteries.

- Revises provisions related to the disinterment and removal of human remains. The bill prohibits the disinterment or removal of human remains from cemeteries owned, leased, or operated by a cemetery authority without a court order. This restriction does **not** apply to individuals who have a valid disinterment permit issued under NRS 451.045, or to those authorized to order burial or cremation under NRS 451.024.
  - Signed by the Governor- NRS Chapter 451. Effective: October 1, 2025.

### SB24- Provides for the certification and regulation of emergency medical responders.

- The bill establishes a definition for *Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)* a person certified by the health authority upon successful completion of a training program in accordance with NRS 450B.1905. It also formally recognizes and regulates EMRs under the same regulatory authority responsible for certifying EMTs, Advanced EMTs (AEMTs), and paramedics.

- Signed by the Governor – NRS Chapter 450B. The act becomes effective May 26, 2025.

**SB38 Revises provisions relating to school emergency operations plans.**

- The bill authorizes the Division of Emergency Management of the Office of the Military to disseminate certain school emergency operations plans to local public safety agencies in certain circumstances.
  - Signed by the Governor- NRS Chapter 388. Effective May 26, 2025.

**SB319- Requires the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners, Reno City Council, and Sparks City Council to establish a board to study the creation of a county protection district with certain territory.**

- Relating to county fire protection districts; requiring the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners, Reno City Council and Sparks City Council to establish a board to conduct a study relating to the creation of a county fire protection district within certain territory.
  - Signed by the Governor- NRS Chapter 474. Effective upon passage and approval.

**SB424- Revises provisions relating to emergency medical services.**

- The bill requires the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy to impose an assessment fee on private emergency medical transportation providers. Revenue from these fees will be deposited into the newly established *Account to Improve Emergency Medical Transportation and Access*. Funds from the account will be used to support enhanced Medicaid reimbursements, improve EMS data infrastructure, conduct outreach, and cover administrative costs. Additionally, the bill authorizes local health authorities to develop training programs focused on identifying and responding to victims of human trafficking.
  - Signed by the Governor- NRS Chapter 422. This act becomes effective June 6, 2025.

## Vetoed Bills

**\*[AB244](#)- Enacts prohibitions relating to the use of disposable foodware containers containing polystyrene foam by certain food dispensing establishments.**

- The bill prohibits food establishments with 10 or more locations operating in the state from using polystyrene products for disposable foodware or takeaway items, effective October 1, 2025. Beginning January 1, 2029, the ban expands to include all food establishments—excluding grocery stores—regardless of size.
  - Vetoed by the Governor

**\*[AB205](#)- Revises provisions governing sexual education.**

- The bill revises provisions governing consent to participate in a course or unity of instruction for sexual and HIV education in Nevada public schools from an “opt-in” to an “opt-out” model. School districts must provide parents or guardians with a form to refuse participation, in lieu of requiring an affirmation to participate.
  - Vetoed by the Governor

**\*[SB295](#) Revises provisions related to food establishments.**

- This bill requires local health authorities in jurisdictions with populations over 100,000 to register compact food cart vendors, update online guidance, and maintain a list of preapproved food items that may be sold without a full health permit. Compact food cart vendors are excluded from the definition of a “food establishment” if they sell only specified items—such as shaved ice, aguas frescas, prepackaged snacks, and fresh-cut fruit—and must display signage indicating they are not subject to government food safety inspections.
  - Vetoed by the Governor

## **Bills that Died**

**\*[AB61](#)- Authorizes the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County or any local government within Washoe County to establish a demonstration project for a certain toll road.**

- Authorizes local governments within Washoe County to enter into public-private partnerships to plan, design, finance, construct, improve, maintain, operate, or acquire rights-of-way for the demonstration project.
  - This bill failed to make it out of Assembly Growth and Infrastructure.

**\*[SB78](#)- Revises provisions relating to boards, commissions, councils and similar bodies. (Governor's Super Board Bill)**

- Revises in skeleton form the powers and duties of the Office of Nevada Boards, Commissions and Councils Standards of the Department of Business and Industry. Making various boards, commissions, councils and similar bodies.
  - Failed to advance out of the Assembly.

**\*[SB173](#) Establishes provisions relating to the environment.**

- Establishes requirements governing the provision of disposable foodware accessories. Requiring the Division of Emergency Management to apply for grants of money to reduce heat island effects. Establishes certain requirements relating to food-contact surfaces in food establishments. Requires the State Board of Cosmetology to collect and test random samples of certain packaged products.
  - This bill died in the Assembly

**\*[SB324](#) – Establishes prohibitions relating to the sale of water in certain disposable plastic bottles in communities abutting the Lake Tahoe Watershed.**

- The bill banned the sale of single use plastic water in communities that abutt the Lake Tahoe Watershed. Established fines and mandated the local health authority to enforce the ban.
  - The bill failed to make it out of Assembly Natural Resources.

**\*[SB423](#) Revises provisions governing public health.**

- The bill establishes an Account for Public Health, administered by the Department of Public and Behavioral Health and funded through the Insurance Premium Tax Account. It allocates \$225,000 to each county to support efforts to protect and promote public health at the local level, \$800,000 to the Department for statewide public health initiatives, and \$300,000 for distribution to Indian tribes. All expenditures by counties or entities must align with foundational public health services and practices.
  - Failed to advance out of Senate Finance

**SB360- Imposes requirements relating to the safety of hotels.**

- Requires the State Board of Health to adopt regulations requiring, with certain exceptions certain hotel operators in a county whose population is 100,000 or more to ensure that each occupied guest room at the hotel receives daily room cleaning.
  - The bill was never heard.

**\*SB435 – Revises provisions relating to nicotine. (Vape registry bill)**

- This bill requires manufacturers of vapor products to submit certification to the Attorney General and directs the creation of a public directory of certified products. It authorizes the Attorney General's Office to conduct compliance checks and allows for the seizure of unauthorized products. The bill also includes appropriation to the Attorney General's Office to support implementation and enforcement.
  - Failed to advance out of Assembly Ways and Means

**\*** NNPH was directly involved in these bills through a variety of efforts, including providing testimony, contributing to bill and amendment language, engaging in lobbying, and other forms of advocacy or opposition. Many of these bills demanded significant time and resources from NNPH throughout the legislative session.