

Senate Bill No. 480—Senators
Goicoechea and Settlemeyer

Joint Sponsor: Assemblyman Ellison

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to courts; revising provisions relating to the transaction of business by justice and municipal courts; revising provisions governing the jurisdiction of certain justice courts; revising provisions relating to the number of justices of the peace in each township; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law provides that no court, except a justice court or a municipal court, may be opened or transact business on a Sunday or any day declared to be a legal holiday, except for certain purposes. (NRS 1.130) **Section 1** of this bill authorizes such courts to be open to receive communications by telephone and for the issuance of an ex parte order for protection against high-risk behavior.

Existing law sets forth a schedule for determining how many elected justices of the peace a township is required to have based upon the population of the township. If the schedule requires an additional justice of the peace due to an increased population of the township, existing law provides that if a majority of the justices of the peace in the township submit to the Legislature and the board of county commissioners an opinion stating that the caseload of the court does not warrant an additional judge, the number of justices of the peace in that township is prohibited from being increased while the Legislature considers the opinion. (NRS 4.020) **Section 2** of this bill revises this process by requiring the justices of the peace to consult with the board of county commissioners in reaching an opinion as to whether the caseload of the court warrants an additional judge.

Existing law establishes the jurisdiction of justice courts. (NRS 4.370) **Section 3** of this bill extends the jurisdiction of justice courts, under certain circumstances, to include any action for the issuance of an ex parte or extended order for protection against high-risk behavior.

Section 12 of Assembly Bill No. 291 of this session requires a court to issue an ex parte order pursuant to a verified application if the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that: (1) a person poses an imminent risk of causing personal injury to himself or herself or another person by possessing or having under his or her custody or control or by purchasing or otherwise acquiring any firearm; (2) the person has engaged in high-risk behavior; and (3) less restrictive options have been exhausted or are not effective. **Section 4** of this bill makes a technical correction.

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. NRS 1.130 is hereby amended to read as follows:

1.130 1. No court except a justice court or a municipal court shall be opened nor shall any judicial business be transacted except by a justice court or municipal court on Sunday, or on any day declared to be a legal holiday according to the provisions of NRS 236.015, except for the following purposes:

(a) To give, upon their request, instructions to a jury then deliberating on their verdict.

(b) To receive a verdict or discharge a jury.

(c) For the exercise of the power of a magistrate in a criminal action or in a proceeding of a criminal nature.

(d) To receive communications by telephone and for the issuance of ~~fa~~:

(1) A temporary order pursuant to subsection 7 of NRS 33.020 ~~fa~~; or

(2) An ex parte order for protection against high-risk behavior pursuant to section 12 of Assembly Bill No. 291 of this session.

(e) For the issue of a writ of attachment, which may be issued on each and all of the days above enumerated upon the plaintiff, or some person on behalf of the plaintiff, setting forth in the affidavit required by law for obtaining the writ the additional averment as follows:

That the affiant has good reason to believe, and does believe, that it will be too late for the purpose of acquiring a lien by the writ to wait until subsequent day for the issuance of the same.

All proceedings instituted, and all writs issued, and all official acts done on any of the days above specified, under and by virtue of this section, shall have all the validity, force and effect of proceedings commenced on other days, whether a lien be obtained or a levy made under and by virtue of the writ.

2. Nothing herein contained shall affect private transactions of any nature whatsoever.

Sec. 2. NRS 4.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4.020 1. There must be one justice court in each of the townships of the State, for which there must be elected by the qualified electors of the township at least one justice of the peace. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the number of justices



of the peace in a township must be increased according to the population of the township, as certified by the Governor in even-numbered years pursuant to NRS 360.285, in accordance with and not to exceed the following schedule:

(a) In a county whose population is 700,000 or more:

(1) In a township whose population is less than 1,100,000, one justice of the peace for each 100,000 population of the township, or fraction thereof, until the township has four justices of the peace, and thereafter, one justice of the peace for each 125,000 population of the township, or fraction thereof, over a population of 300,000; and

(2) In a township whose population is 1,100,000 or more, one justice of the peace for each 100,000 population of the township, or fraction thereof, up to a population of 1,100,000, and thereafter, one justice of the peace for each 125,000 population of the township, or fraction thereof, over a population of 1,100,000.

(b) In a county whose population is 100,000 or more and less than 700,000, one justice of the peace for each 50,000 population of the township, or fraction thereof.

(c) In a county whose population is less than 100,000, one justice of the peace for each ~~34,000~~ 50,000 population of the township, or fraction thereof.

(d) If a township includes a city created by the consolidation of a city and county into one municipal government, one justice of the peace for each 30,000 population of the township, or fraction thereof.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, if the schedule set forth in subsection 1 provides for an increase in the number of justices of the peace in a township, the new justice or justices of the peace must be elected at the next ensuing biennial election.

3. If the schedule set forth in subsection 1 provides for an increase in the number of justices of the peace in a township and ~~if~~ ~~in the opinion of~~ a majority of the justices of the peace in that township, *in consultation with the board of county commissioners, determine that* the caseload does not warrant an additional justice of the peace, the justices of the peace shall notify the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and the board of county commissioners of their opinion on or before March 15 of the even-numbered year in which the population of the township provides for such an increase. The Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau shall submit the opinion to the next regular session of the Legislature for its consideration. If the justices of the peace transmit such a notice to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and the board of



county commissioners, the number of justices must not be increased during that period unless the Legislature, by resolution, expressly approves the increase.

4. Justices of the peace shall receive certificates of election from the boards of county commissioners of their respective counties.

5. The clerk of the board of county commissioners shall, within 10 days after the election or appointment and qualification of any justice of the peace, certify under seal to the Secretary of State the election or appointment and qualification of the justice of the peace. The certificate must be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State as evidence of the official character of that officer.

Sec. 3. NRS 4.370 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4.370 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, justice courts have jurisdiction of the following civil actions and proceedings and no others except as otherwise provided by specific statute:

(a) In actions arising on contract for the recovery of money only, if the sum claimed, exclusive of interest, does not exceed \$15,000.

(b) In actions for damages for injury to the person, or for taking, detaining or injuring personal property, or for injury to real property where no issue is raised by the verified answer of the defendant involving the title to or boundaries of the real property, if the damage claimed does not exceed \$15,000.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (l), in actions for a fine, penalty or forfeiture not exceeding \$15,000, given by statute or the ordinance of a county, city or town, where no issue is raised by the answer involving the legality of any tax, impost, assessment, toll or municipal fine.

(d) In actions upon bonds or undertakings conditioned for the payment of money, if the sum claimed does not exceed \$15,000, though the penalty may exceed that sum. Bail bonds and other undertakings posted in criminal matters may be forfeited regardless of amount.

(e) In actions to recover the possession of personal property, if the value of the property does not exceed \$15,000.

(f) To take and enter judgment on the confession of a defendant, when the amount confessed, exclusive of interest, does not exceed \$15,000.

(g) Of actions for the possession of lands and tenements where the relation of landlord and tenant exists, when damages claimed do not exceed \$15,000 or when no damages are claimed.



(h) Of actions when the possession of lands and tenements has been unlawfully or fraudulently obtained or withheld, when damages claimed do not exceed \$15,000 or when no damages are claimed.

(i) Of suits for the collection of taxes, where the amount of the tax sued for does not exceed \$15,000.

(j) Of actions for the enforcement of mechanics' liens, where the amount of the lien sought to be enforced, exclusive of interest, does not exceed \$15,000.

(k) Of actions for the enforcement of liens of owners of facilities for storage, where the amount of the lien sought to be enforced, exclusive of interest, does not exceed \$15,000.

(l) In actions for a fine imposed for a violation of NRS 484D.680.

(m) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, in any action for the issuance of a temporary or extended order for protection against domestic violence **[H] pursuant to NRS 33.020**. A justice court does not have jurisdiction in an action for the issuance of a temporary or extended order for protection against domestic violence:

(1) In a county whose population is 100,000 or more and less than 700,000;

(2) In any township whose population is 100,000 or more located within a county whose population is 700,000 or more; or

(3) If a district court issues a written order to the justice court requiring that further proceedings relating to the action for the issuance of the order for protection be conducted before the district court.

(n) ***Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, in any action for the issuance of an ex parte or extended order for protection against high-risk behavior pursuant to section 12 or 13 of Assembly Bill No. 291 of this session. A justice court does not have jurisdiction in an action for the issuance of an ex parte or extended order for protection against high-risk behavior:***

(1) In a county whose population is 100,000 or more but less than 700,000;

(2) In any township whose population is 100,000 or more located within a county whose population is 700,000 or more; or

(3) If a district court issues a written order to the justice court requiring that further proceedings relating to the action for the issuance of the order for protection be conducted before the district court.



(o) In an action for the issuance of a temporary or extended order for protection against harassment in the workplace pursuant to NRS 33.200 to 33.360, inclusive.

~~(p)~~ (p) In small claims actions under the provisions of chapter 73 of NRS.

~~(q)~~ (q) In actions to contest the validity of liens on mobile homes or manufactured homes.

~~(r)~~ (r) In any action pursuant to NRS 200.591 for the issuance of a protective order against a person alleged to be committing the crime of stalking, aggravated stalking or harassment.

~~(s)~~ (s) In any action pursuant to NRS 200.378 for the issuance of a protective order against a person alleged to have committed the crime of sexual assault.

~~(t)~~ (t) In actions transferred from the district court pursuant to NRS 3.221.

~~(u)~~ (u) In any action for the issuance of a temporary or extended order pursuant to NRS 33.400.

~~(v)~~ (v) In any action seeking an order pursuant to NRS 441A.195.

2. The jurisdiction conferred by this section does not extend to civil actions, other than for forcible entry or detainer, in which the title of real property or mining claims or questions affecting the boundaries of land are involved.

3. Justice courts have jurisdiction of all misdemeanors and no other criminal offenses except as otherwise provided by specific statute. Upon approval of the district court, a justice court may transfer original jurisdiction of a misdemeanor to the district court for the purpose of assigning an offender to a program established pursuant to NRS 176A.250 or, if the justice court has not established a program pursuant to NRS 176A.280, to a program established pursuant to that section.

4. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 5 and 6, in criminal cases the jurisdiction of justices of the peace extends to the limits of their respective counties.

5. In the case of any arrest made by a member of the Nevada Highway Patrol, the jurisdiction of the justices of the peace extends to the limits of their respective counties and to the limits of all counties which have common boundaries with their respective counties.

6. Each justice court has jurisdiction of any violation of a regulation governing vehicular traffic on an airport within the township in which the court is established.



Sec. 4. Section 12 of Assembly Bill No. 291 of this session is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 12. 1. The court shall issue an ex parte order if the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence from facts shown by a verified application filed pursuant to section 11 of this act:

(a) That a person poses an imminent risk of causing personal injury to himself or herself or another person by possessing or having under his or her custody or control or by purchasing or otherwise acquiring any firearm;

(b) The person engaged in high-risk behavior; and

(c) Less restrictive options have been exhausted or are not effective.

2. The court may require the person who filed the verified application or the adverse party, or both, to appear before the court before determining whether to issue an ex parte order.

3. An ex parte order may be issued with or without notice to the adverse party.

4. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a hearing must not be held by telephone. The court shall hold a hearing on the ex parte order and shall issue or deny the ex parte order on the day the verified application is filed or the judicial day immediately following the day the verified application is filed. If the verified application is filed by a law enforcement officer, the court may hold the hearing on the ex parte order by telephone, which must be recorded in the presence of the magistrate or in the immediate vicinity of the magistrate by a certified court reporter or by electronic means. Any such recording must be transcribed, certified by the reporter if the reporter made the recording and certified by the magistrate. The certified transcript must be filed with the clerk of the court.

5. ~~{A hearing on an application for an ex parte order must be held within 7 calendar days after the date on which the verified application for the order is filed.~~

~~—6.}~~ In a county whose population is 100,000 or more, the court shall be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including nonjudicial days and holidays, to receive communications by telephone and for the issuance of an ex parte order pursuant to subsection 4.

~~{7.}~~ 6. In a county whose population is less than 100,000, the court may be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a



week, including nonjudicial days and holidays, to receive communications by telephone and for the issuance of an ex parte order pursuant to subsection 4.

~~[8.]~~ 7. The clerk of the court shall inform the applicant and the adverse party upon the successful transfer of information concerning the registration to the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History as required pursuant to NRS 33.095.

Sec. 5. 1. This section and section 2 of this act become effective on October 1, 2019.

2. Sections 1, 3 and 4 of this act become effective on January 1, 2020, if, and only if, Assembly Bill No. 291 of this session becomes effective.

