

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 343—ASSEMBLYWOMAN THOMAS

MARCH 22, 2021

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Provides for walking audits of urbanized areas. (BDR 40-742)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact. Effect on the State: Yes.

CONTAINS UNFUNDED MANDATE (§ 1) (NOT REQUESTED BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

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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 public health; providing for walking audits of census tracts within urbanized areas; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law provides for the establishment of a health district with a health  
2 department in a county with a population of 700,000 or more (currently Clark  
3 County). (NRS 439.362) Existing law additionally authorizes the governing body  
4 of a county with a population of less than 700,000 (currently all counties other than  
5 Clark County) and cities within such a county to establish a health district with a  
6 health department. (NRS 439.370) This bill requires a district health department to  
7 conduct a triennial walking audit of each census tract in an urbanized area of the  
8 health district to determine the degree to which the physical environment of the  
9 census tract contributes to or detracts from public health. This bill also requires  
10 the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and  
11 Human Services to conduct a triennial walking audit of each census tract in an  
12 urbanized area outside of a health district. This bill requires the health department  
13 or Division, as applicable, to: (1) submit the results of the audit to the governing  
14 body of the city or county and the planning commission having jurisdiction over the  
15 census tract; and (2) post the results of the audit on the Internet.



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

1       **Section 1.** Chapter 439 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3       ***1. Not less than once every 3 years, the district health***  
4 ***department or, in an area that is not a part of a health district, the***  
5 ***Division, shall:***

6       ***(a) Conduct a walking audit of each census tract in an***  
7 ***urbanized area within the health district or other area, as***  
8 ***applicable, to determine the degree to which the physical***  
9 ***environment of the census tract contributes to or detracts from***  
10 ***public health;***

11       ***(b) Submit the results of the audit to:***

12       ***(1) The governing body of the city, town or county having***  
13 ***jurisdiction over the census tract;***

14       ***(2) Any regional planning coalition or commission, as***  
15 ***applicable, established pursuant to NRS 278.02514 or 278.0262***  
16 ***for the county in which the census tract is located; and***

17       ***(3) Any planning commission established pursuant to NRS***  
18 ***278.030 for the city or county in which the census tract is located;***  
19 ***and***

20       ***(c) Post the results on an Internet website maintained by the***  
21 ***health district or Division, as applicable.***

22       ***2. A walking audit conducted pursuant to subsection 1 must:***

23       ***(a) Involve persons with varying roles in the community,***  
24 ***which may include, without limitation, teachers, operators and***  
25 ***employees of local businesses, members of planning commissions,***  
26 ***community organizations, residents and representatives of***  
27 ***community organizations.***

28       ***(b) Evaluate land use, site design and ease and safety of access***  
29 ***on varying scales and assess different factors that contribute to***  
30 ***public health, including, without limitation:***

31       ***(1) Whether an area is safe and has adequate lighting at***  
32 ***night;***

33       ***(2) Whether there are curb cuts and audible crosswalks that***  
34 ***provide pedestrians with sufficient time to cross the street;***

35       ***(3) Whether sidewalks are in good condition and free of***  
36 ***barriers;***

37       ***(4) Whether there are benches and other places available***  
38 ***for pedestrians to rest; and***

39       ***(5) Whether healthy food is available in the area.***

40       ***(c) Suggest enhancements to improve public health within the***  
41 ***census tract.***



1     **Sec. 2.** The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any  
2 additional expenses of a local government that are related to the  
3 provisions of this act.

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