The Nevada Industrial Commission (NIC) was created by a statute of 1913:

An Act relating to the compensation of injured workmen in the industries of this state and the compensation to their dependents where such injuries result in death, creating an industrial insurance commission, providing for the creation and disbursement of funds for the compensation and care of workmen injured in the course of employment, and defining and regulating the liability of employers to their employees.

The Commission consisted of the Governor, State Mining Inspector, Attorney General, and two other members appointed by the three named commissioners. A 1915 amendment reduced the Commission to the Governor, Attorney General, and Mining Inspector.

The compensation program was created by charging employers a premium for each employee. Premiums were paid into a State Insurance Fund which made the NIC entirely self-sustaining.

This act was repealed by a statute of 1947, which created the Nevada Industrial Insurance Commission to administer the Act. In 1953, the 1947 act was further amended, and a new Nevada Industrial Commission was created. NRS 616 provided for the establishment of the Department of Industrial Safety within the Nevada Industrial Commission. In 1973 the Department of Occupational Safety and Health replaced the Department of Industrial Safety, and was placed under the jurisdiction of the Industrial Commission to "coordinate to the greatest extent practicable the occupational safety and health activities of all state and local agencies. In 1977 the Legislative Commission was directed to "conduct a study of the administrative procedures of the Nevada Industrial Commission" and in 1979 an Advisory Board of Review for the NIC was created.

Legislative session of 1981 abolished the Nevada Industrial Commission, replacing it with the State Industrial Insurance System, and the Department of Industrial Relations (section 277.1). In 1985 the following divisions were created under the department: Administrative Services; Occupational Safety and Health; Mine Inspection; and Industrial Insurance Regulation. In 1993 the Division of Industrial Relations came under the Department of Business and Industry.