

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 373—ASSEMBLYMEN GIUNCHIGLIANI, ARBERRY,  
PARKS, WILLIAMS, COLLINS, MANENDO, OHRENSCHALL, PRICE,  
GIBBONS, BERMAN, CHOWNING, FREEMAN, DE BRAGA, EVANS,  
LESLIE, NOLAN, CLABORN, MORTENSON, LEE, NEIGHBORS,  
BUCKLEY, BACHE, ANDERSON, PERKINS, KOIVISTO, MCCLAIN  
AND PARNELL

MARCH 3, 1999

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Makes various changes concerning certain health care facilities and mentally ill or mentally retarded persons. (BDR 40-858)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Yes.  
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: Yes.

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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 health care; making various changes concerning certain health care facilities; requiring licensure of homes for individual residential care in certain counties; providing civil penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

- 1     **Section 1.** Chapter 449 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto  
2  
3 the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act.  
4     **Sec. 2.** *A person who operates a residential facility for groups shall:*  
5     1. *Post his license to operate the residential facility for groups; and*  
6     2. *Post the rates for services provided by the residential facility for*  
7 *groups,*  
8 *in a conspicuous place in the residential facility for groups.*  
9     **Sec. 3.** 1. *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, a person*  
10 *must obtain a license from the board to operate a business that provides*  
11 *referrals to residential facilities for groups.*  
12     2. *The board shall adopt:*  
13     (a) *Standards for the licensing of businesses that provide referrals to*  
14 *residential facilities for groups; and*

1     **(b) Regulations governing the licensing of such businesses.**

2     **3. Only a licensed nurse, social worker, physician or hospital may**  
3 **provide referrals to residential facilities for groups through a business**  
4 **that is licensed pursuant to this section.**

5     **4. A business that is licensed pursuant to this section or an employee**  
6 **of such a business shall not:**

7     **(a) Refer a person to a residential facility for groups that is not**  
8 **licensed.**

9     **(b) Accept or receive a fee for the referral of a person to a residential**  
10 **facility for groups either from or on behalf of the person who is referred**  
11 **to the facility or from the facility to which the person is referred.**

12 **A person who violates the provisions of this subsection is liable for a civil**  
13 **penalty to be recovered by the attorney general in the name of the state**  
14 **board of health for the first offense of \$10,000 and for a second or**  
15 **subsequent offense of not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$20,000.**

16 **Unless otherwise required by federal law, the state board of health shall**  
17 **deposit all civil penalties collected pursuant to this section into a separate**  
18 **account in the state general fund to be used for the enforcement of this**  
19 **section and the protection of the health, safety, well-being and property**  
20 **of residences of residential facilities for groups.**

21     **5. This section does not apply to a medical facility that is licensed**  
22 **pursuant to NRS 449.001 to 449.240, inclusive, this section and sections**  
23 **3 and 5 of this act, on October 1, 1999.**

24     **Sec. 4. If the health division suspends or revokes the license of a**  
25 **person who operates a residential facility for groups for conduct or a**  
26 **practice detrimental to the health or safety of the occupants of the**  
27 **facility, the division shall suspend or revoke the license of all residential**  
28 **facilities for groups operated by that person. The person who operates the**  
29 **facility shall move all of the persons who are receiving services in the**  
30 **residential facilities for groups to other licensed residential facilities for**  
31 **groups at his own expense.**

32     **Sec. 5. The provisions of NRS 449.249, 449.2493 and 449.2496**  
33 **apply to homes for individual residential care in a county whose**  
34 **population is less than 100,000.**

35     **Sec. 6. NRS 449.017 is hereby amended to read as follows:**

36     449.017   1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, "residential  
37 facility for groups" means an establishment that furnishes food, shelter,  
38 assistance and limited supervision to:

39     (a) Any aged, infirm, mentally retarded or handicapped person; or

40     (b) Four or more females during pregnancy or after delivery.

41     2. The term does not include:

42     (a) An establishment which provides care only during the day;

(b) ~~[(A natural person who provides care for no more than two persons in his own home;~~

~~—(c)]~~ A natural person who provides care for one or more persons related to him within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity; ~~for~~

~~—(d)]~~ (c) A facility funded by the welfare division or the mental hygiene and mental retardation division of the department of human resources ~~[(H) ;~~  
or

(d) *A home for individual residential care in a county whose population is less than 100,000.*

**Sec. 7.** NRS 449.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

449.030 1. No person, state or local government or agency thereof may operate or maintain in this state any medical facility or facility for the dependent without first obtaining a license therefor as provided in NRS 449.001 to 449.240, inclusive ~~[(H) , and sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act.~~

2. Unless licensed as a freestanding facility for hospice care, a person, state or local government or agency thereof shall not operate a program of hospice care without first obtaining a license for the program from the board.

**Sec. 8.** NRS 449.037 is hereby amended to read as follows:

449.037 1. The board shall adopt:

(a) Licensing standards for each class of medical facility or facility for the dependent covered by NRS 449.001 to 449.240, inclusive, and for programs of hospice care.

(b) Regulations governing the licensing of such facilities and programs.

(c) Regulations governing the procedure and standards for granting an extension of the time for which a natural person may provide certain care in his home without being considered a residential facility for groups pursuant to NRS 449.017. The regulations must require that such grants are effective only if made in writing.

(d) Any other regulations as it deems necessary or convenient to carry out the provisions of NRS 449.001 to 449.240, inclusive.

2. The board shall adopt separate regulations governing the licensing and operation of:

(a) Facilities for the care of adults during the day; and

(b) Residential facilities for groups,  
which provide care to persons with Alzheimer's disease.

3. The board shall adopt separate regulations for the licensure of rural hospitals which take into consideration the unique problems of operating such a facility in a rural area.

4. The board shall require that the practices and policies of each medical facility or facility for the dependent provide adequately for the protection of the health, safety and physical, moral and mental well-being of each person accommodated in the facility.

1     5. The board shall establish minimum qualifications for administrators  
2 and employees of residential facilities for groups. In establishing the  
3 qualifications, the board shall consider the related standards set by  
4 nationally recognized organizations which accredit such facilities.

5     6. The board shall adopt separate regulations regarding the assistance  
6 which may be given pursuant to NRS 453.375 and 454.213 to an ultimate  
7 user of controlled substances or dangerous drugs by employees of  
8 residential facilities for groups. The regulations must require at least the  
9 following conditions before such assistance may be given:

10    (a) The ultimate user's physical and mental condition is stable and is  
11 following a predictable course.

12    (b) The amount of the medication prescribed is at a maintenance level  
13 and does not require a daily assessment.

14    (c) A written plan of care by a physician or registered nurse has been  
15 established that:

16      (1) Addresses possession and assistance in the administration of the  
17 medication; and

18      (2) Includes a plan, which has been prepared under the supervision of  
19 a registered nurse or licensed pharmacist, for emergency intervention if an  
20 adverse condition results.

21    (d) The prescribed medication is not administered by injection or  
22 intravenously.

23    (e) The employee has successfully completed training and examination  
24 approved by the health division regarding the authorized manner of  
25 assistance.

26     7. *The board, in consultation with the state fire marshal, shall adopt*  
27 *regulations and requirements to ensure that each residential facility for*  
28 *groups and its staff is prepared to respond to an emergency, including,*  
29 *without limitation:*

30    (a) *The adoption of plans to respond to a natural disaster and other*  
31 *types of emergency situations, including, without limitation, an*  
32 *emergency involving fire;*

33    (b) *The adoption of plans to provide for the evacuation of a residential*  
34 *facility for groups in an emergency, including, without limitation, plans*  
35 *to ensure that nonambulatory patients may be evacuated;*

36    (c) *Educating the residents of residential facilities for groups*  
37 *concerning the plans adopted pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b); and*

38    (d) *Posting the plans or a summary of the plans adopted pursuant to*  
39 *paragraphs (a) and (b) in a conspicuous place in each residential facility*  
40 *for groups.*

1     **Sec. 9.** NRS 449.210 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2     449.210   ~~{Any}~~

3     **1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2 and 3, a** person who  
4     operates a medical facility or facility for the dependent without a license  
5     issued by the health division is guilty of a misdemeanor.

6     **2. A person who operates a residential facility for groups without a**  
7     **license issued by the health division:**

8     **(a) Is liable for a civil penalty to be recovered by the attorney general**  
9     **in the name of the health division for the first offense of \$10,000 and for**  
10    **a second or subsequent offense of not less than \$10,000 nor more than**  
11    **\$20,000;**

12    **(b) Shall be required to move all of the persons who are receiving**  
13    **services in the residential facility for groups to a residential facility for**  
14    **groups that is licensed at his own expense; and**

15    **(c) May not apply for a license to operate a residential facility for**  
16    **groups for a period of 6 months after he is punished pursuant to this**  
17    **section.**

18    **3. Unless otherwise required by federal law, the health division shall**  
19    **deposit all civil penalties collected pursuant to this section into a separate**  
20    **account in the state general fund to be used for the protection of the**  
21    **health, safety and well-being of patients including residents of residential**  
22    **facilities for groups.**

23    **Sec. 10.** NRS 449.230 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24    449.230   **1.** Any authorized member or employee of the health  
25    division may enter and inspect any building or premises at any time to  
26    secure compliance with or prevent a violation of any provision of NRS  
27    449.001 to 449.245, inclusive.

28    **2. The state fire marshal or his designee shall, upon receiving a**  
29    **request from the health division or a written complaint concerning**  
30    **compliance with the plans and requirements to respond to an emergency**  
31    **adopted pursuant to subsection 7 of NRS 449.037:**

32    **(a) Enter and inspect a residential facility for groups; and**

33    **(b) Make recommendations regarding the plans and requirements**  
34    **adopted pursuant to subsection 7 of NRS 449.037,**  
35    **to ensure the safety of the residents of the facility in an emergency.**

36    **3. The state health officer or his designee shall:**

37    **(a) Upon receiving a written complaint concerning the health or**  
38    **sanitation of a residential facility for groups, enter and inspect any**  
39    **building or premises of a residential facility for groups; and**

40    **(b) Enter and inspect at least annually each building or the premises**  
41    **of a residential facility for groups to ensure compliance with standards**  
42    **for**                                    **health**                                    **and**                                    **sanitation.**

1     **4. An authorized member or employee of the health division shall**  
2 **enter and inspect any building or premises operated by a residential**  
3 **facility for groups within 72 hours after the health division is notified**  
4 **that a residential facility for groups is operating without a license.**

5     **Sec. 11.** NRS 654.190 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6     654.190   1. The board may, after notice and hearing, impose an  
7 administrative fine of not more than \$2,500 on and suspend or revoke the  
8 license of any nursing facility administrator or administrator of a residential  
9 facility for groups who:

10     (a) Is convicted of a felony, or of any offense involving moral turpitude.

11     (b) Has obtained his license by the use of fraud or deceit.

12     (c) Violates any of the provisions of this chapter.

13     (d) Aids or abets any person in the violation of any of the provisions of  
14 NRS 449.001 to 449.240, inclusive, **or section 2, 3 or 4 of this act**, as those  
15 provisions pertain to a facility for skilled nursing, facility for intermediate  
16 care or residential facility for groups.

17     (e) Violates any regulation of the board prescribing additional standards  
18 of conduct for nursing facility administrators or administrators of  
19 residential facilities for groups.

20     2. The board shall give a licensee against whom proceedings are  
21 brought pursuant to this section written notice of a hearing not less than 10  
22 days before the date of the hearing.

23     3. If discipline is imposed pursuant to this section, the costs of the  
24 proceeding, including investigative costs and attorney's fees, may be  
25 recovered by the board.

26     **Sec. 12.** 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of NRS 449.017, as  
27 amended by this act, and NRS 449.030, a person who is operating a home  
28 for individual residential care on October 1, 1999, in a county whose  
29 population is 100,000 or more, which is registered with the health division  
30 of the department of human resources pursuant to NRS 449.249, may  
31 continue to operate the home for individual residential care pursuant to the  
32 provisions of NRS 449.0105 to 449.2496, inclusive, and the regulations  
33 adopted pursuant thereto, as those provisions existed on October 1, 1999,  
34 until January 1, 2000, without becoming licensed as a residential facility for  
35 groups, but must either become licensed as a residential facility for groups  
36 on or before January 1, 2000, or cease operation on that date.

37     2. On or before November 1, 1999, the health division of the  
38 department of human resources shall provide a copy of the provisions of  
39 subsection 1 to each home for individual residential care that is registered  
40 pursuant to NRS 449.249 on October 1, 1999, in a county whose  
41 population is 100,000 or more.

1     3. The health and aging services divisions of the department of human  
2 resources shall continue to perform the duties prescribed by the provisions  
3 of NRS 449.0105 to 449.2496, inclusive, and the regulations adopted  
4 pursuant thereto, as those provisions existed on October 1, 1999, as to each  
5 home for individual residential care which continues to operate after  
6 October 1, 1999, in a county whose population is 100,000 or more,  
7 pursuant to subsection 1 until January 1, 2000, or the date on which there  
8 are no such homes remaining in such counties, whichever is earlier.  
9     **Sec. 13.** The amendatory provisions of this act do not apply to  
10 offenses that were committed before October 1, 1999.

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