

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11—COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

(ON BEHALF OF LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION’S STUDY OF THE
CARE AND COMMITMENT OF MENTALLY ILL)

FEBRUARY 4, 1999

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Directs Legislative Commission to appoint interim committee to continue review and evaluation of services and treatment provided to persons who are mentally ill and to persons who are affected with mental retardation in this state. (BDR R-170)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Legislative Commission to appoint an interim committee to continue the review and evaluation of the services and treatment provided to persons who are mentally ill and to persons who are affected with mental retardation in this state.

- 1 WHEREAS, The population of persons who are mentally ill and persons
- 2 who are affected with mental retardation residing in this state has increased
- 3 dramatically during this past decade; and
- 4 WHEREAS, There has been a growth in the need for community-based
- 5 treatment as a result of the deinstitutionalization of persons who are
- 6 mentally ill and persons who are affected with mental retardation; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Already overcrowded jails are housing persons who are
- 8 mentally ill without the resources or personnel to provide the treatment or
- 9 social services that are required; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Youth suicide, which is preventable with early intervention
- 11 and treatment, is the third leading cause of death among young Americans;
- 12 and
- 13 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that
- 14 between 1980 and 1994, the suicide rate for persons from 10 to 14 years of
- 15 age increased by 120 percent; and
- 16 WHEREAS, The coordination of services provided to persons who are
- 17 mentally ill by law enforcement agencies, the courts, emergency

1 management agencies, and crisis and case management teams is required to
2 ensure that treatment is provided to persons who are mentally ill efficiently
3 and in the least restrictive environment; and

4 WHEREAS, The delivery of mental health services requires coordinated
5 community-based programs that address rural and urban needs, inpatient
6 services, services to substitute for inpatient treatment, crisis treatment,
7 medication, case management, housing, vocational opportunities and
8 training, and other complementary assistance; and

9 WHEREAS, Mental health services have not been comprehensively
10 reviewed for nearly 10 years; and

11 WHEREAS, Further review of the mental health services provided to
12 persons in this state is necessary to ensure that persons who are mentally ill
13 and persons who are affected with mental retardation receive the care
14 necessary to allow them to lead more productive lives; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE
16 CONCURRING, That the Legislative Commission is hereby directed to
17 appoint an interim committee, composed of members of the Assembly and
18 members of the Senate, to continue the study of services and treatment
19 provided to persons who are mentally ill and persons who are affected with
20 mental retardation in this state, including, without limitation, an
21 examination, review and evaluation of the:

22 1. Services that are available to persons who are mentally ill and
23 persons who are affected with mental retardation from public and private
24 agencies in this state and the manner in which those services are delivered;

25 2. Resources that are needed to provide the care that is required and the
26 fiscal impact of providing those resources on the state and local
27 governments, including the effect of adolescent suicide on such resources;
28 and

29 3. Feasibility of coordinating services and treatment provided to
30 persons who are mentally ill and persons who are affected with mental
31 retardation by various public and private agencies; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the
33 committee must be approved by a majority of the members of the Assembly
34 appointed to the committee and a majority of the members of the Senate
35 appointed to the committee; and be it further

36 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission submit a report of the
37 results of the study and any recommended legislation to the 71st session of
38 the Nevada Legislature.