

SENATE BILL NO. 288—SENATOR WASHINGTON

MARCH 3, 1999

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Authorizes certain counties to enter into agreement to establish pilot program to provide continuity of care for children who receive protective services. (BDR S-1028)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
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 the protection of children; authorizing certain counties that are required to provide protective services for children to enter into an agreement with the division of child and family services of the department of human resources to establish a pilot program to provide continuity of care for children who receive protective services; requiring the division to report to the legislature; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

- 1 WHEREAS, The system for providing protective services for children in
- 2 this state is bifurcated, with services being provided both by county
- 3 agencies and the division of child and family services of the department of
- 4 human resources; and
- 5 WHEREAS, There are disparities between the payments made to
- 6 providers of those services by the county agencies and the division; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Because of such disparities and because the county agencies
- 8 and the division contract with different providers of foster care, the
- 9 placement of a child in foster care is frequently disrupted to place the child
- 10 with a different provider of foster care; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Frequently changing the placement of children in foster care
- 12 is not in the best interests of those children; and
- 13 WHEREAS, On November 19, 1997, Congress enacted the Adoption and
- 14 Safe Families Act of 1997, which, as a condition to the receipt of federal
- 15 money, requires a plan for the permanent placement of a child in foster care
- 16 to be established no later than 12 months after a child has been placed in
- 17 foster care; and

1 WHEREAS, To comply with this federal law requires diligent effort on  
2 the part of the county agencies and the division from the time that a child  
3 first enters the system for providing protective services; and

4 WHEREAS, The bifurcated system for providing protective services to  
5 children in this state does not uniformly provide the continuity in care and  
6 services that are necessary to establish a plan for the permanent placement  
7 of those children within the time frame required by federal law; now,  
8 therefore,  
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10 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
11 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:  
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13 **Section 1.** 1. A county that is required to provide protective services  
14 to children in that county pursuant to NRS 432B.325 may enter into an  
15 agreement with the division of child and family services of the department  
16 of human resources to establish a pilot program to provide continuity of  
17 care for children who receive protective services. A pilot program  
18 established pursuant to such an agreement may provide:

19 (a) For the county and the division of child and family services jointly to  
20 furnish services relating to the assessment of a child and planning for the  
21 provision of protective services to the child;

22 (b) For a child to be in the joint custody of the county and the division  
23 of child and family services;

24 (c) For continuity in the placement of a child in foster care;

25 (d) That the rate of payment by the county for foster care and shelter  
26 care must be equal to the rate of payment by the division of child and  
27 family services for foster care and shelter care;

28 (e) For continuity in the management of a case for the provision of  
29 protective services to a child; and

30 (f) For services designed to carry out a plan for the permanent  
31 placement of a child established pursuant to NRS 432B.590 or the  
32 Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, Public Law 105-89.

33 2. Notwithstanding any specific statute to the contrary, for the purpose  
34 of a pilot program established pursuant to an agreement entered into  
35 pursuant to this section, the division of child and family services may  
36 deviate from the rate of payment for foster care approved by the legislature.

37 **Sec. 2.** On or before November 30, 2000, the division of child and  
38 family services of the department of human resources shall submit a report  
39 to the director of the legislative counsel bureau for transmittal to the  
40 appropriate legislative committee. The report must include the following  
41 information for each agreement entered into pursuant to section 1 of this  
42 act:

- 1     1.   The number of children involved in the pilot project established
- 2     pursuant to the agreement;
- 3     2.   A description of the services provided to those children that
- 4     includes:
- 5       (a) The name of the agency that provided the services; and
- 6       (b) The costs incurred by the agency that provided the services;
- 7     3.   If available, the disposition of the cases of those children; and
- 8     4.   An analysis of the benefits, if any, to the children involved in the
- 9     pilot project and to the families of those children.
- 10    **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 1999, and expires by
- 11    limitation on June 30, 2001.

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