

SENATE BILL NO. 556—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MAY 30, 1999

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Creates task force on policy of State of Nevada concerning access to public health services. (BDR S-1787)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

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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; creating a task force on the policy of the State of Nevada concerning access to public health services; making an appropriation; 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.** 1. The task force on the policy of the State of Nevada
2 concerning access to public health services, consisting of 15 members, is
3 hereby created. The membership of the task force consists of:
4 (a) Nine members appointed by the Governor in accordance with
5 subsection 2;
6 (b) Three members appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate in
7 accordance with subsection 3; and
8 (c) Three members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly in
9 accordance with subsection 3.
10 2. The Governor shall appoint to the task force:
11 (a) One representative of the State of Nevada who has experience in the
12 field of health care;
13 (b) One representative of the Nevada State Medical Association;
14 (c) One representative of the Culinary Workers Union;
15 (d) One representative of the insurance industry of the State of Nevada;
16 (e) One representative of Nevadans for Affordable Health Care;
17 (f) One representative of the Nevada Public Health Foundation;
18 (g) One representative of the Nevada Women’s Lobby;

- 1 (h) One representative of the Nevada Association of Health Plans; and
- 2 (i) One member of the public.

3 3. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the Assembly
4 shall each ensure that at least one of the members whom they appoint to the
5 task force is a member of the minority party.

6 4. The Governor shall select a chairman and a vice chairman from
7 among the membership of the task force.

8 5. For each day or portion of a day during which a member of the task
9 force who is a legislator attends a meeting of the task force or is otherwise
10 engaged in the business of the task force, except during a regular or special
11 session of the Legislature, he is entitled to receive the:

12 (a) Compensation provided for a majority of the members of the
13 Legislature during the first 60 days of the preceding session;

14 (b) Per diem allowance provided for state officers and employees
15 generally; and

16 (c) Travel expenses provided pursuant to NRS 218.2207.
17 The compensation, per diem allowances and travel expenses of the
18 legislative members of the task force must be paid from the legislative fund.

19 6. Each member of the task force who is not a legislator:

20 (a) Is entitled to receive a salary of \$80 for each day or portion of a day
21 during which he attends a meeting of the task force; and

22 (b) Is entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses
23 provided for state officers and employees generally for each day or portion
24 of a day during which he attends a meeting of the task force or is otherwise
25 engaged in the business of the task force.

26 7. The Department of Human Resources and the Division of Insurance
27 of the Department of Business and Industry shall provide the necessary
28 staff to assist the task force in performing its duties.

29 **Sec. 2.** 1. The task force on the policy of the State of Nevada
30 concerning access to public health services shall appoint a technical
31 advisory committee that consists of persons who have experience with
32 public health issues to assist the task force concerning technical issues.

33 2. The technical advisory committee must include, without limitation,
34 persons who are employed by the University of Nevada School of Medicine
35 and the dental school to be established in this state pursuant to Assembly
36 Bill No. 527 of this session and who are recommended by the Board of
37 Regents of the University of Nevada.

38 **Sec. 3.** The task force on the policy of the State of Nevada concerning
39 access to public health services shall:

40 1. Establish the basic coverage that must be included in each policy of
41 health insurance and health plan that is issued in the State of Nevada. To
42 determine the basic coverage, the task force shall consider public policy

1 and actuarial evidence, including, without limitation, an analysis of the cost
2 of providing the coverage. The basic coverage must be established as the
3 minimum coverage to be offered which may be augmented based upon the
4 needs of insureds or employees and on economic considerations.

5 2. Identify, review and prioritize the basic health care services,
6 including, without limitation, public health assessments and screenings, to
7 which all residents of the State of Nevada should have access, regardless of
8 whether they have health insurance. The task force shall identify the costs
9 and benefits of providing each of these basic health care services,
10 including, without limitation, a consideration of at-risk persons and the
11 clinical consensus on the positive value of each preventative, screening and
12 primary health care service. The review must include, without limitation, a
13 review of methods to increase access to health care services for members of
14 minority groups and other persons who are medically underserved in this
15 state.

16 3. Identify and analyze current public and private resources within this
17 state that provide health care services and coverage to persons without
18 health insurance, including, without limitation, Medicaid, the children's
19 health insurance program, county indigent health programs, care provided
20 by hospitals or charities, federally qualified health centers, clinics of county
21 health departments and community health nurses. The analysis must
22 include, without limitation, a compilation of data concerning:

- 23 (a) Persons in this state who do not have health insurance;
- 24 (b) The cost of providing health care services to persons in this state;
- 25 (c) Persons who receive services from the public and private resources
26 identified by the task force;
- 27 (d) The public health care needs of minority groups and other persons
28 who are medically underserved and the services available to these groups
29 and persons; and
- 30 (e) The demographics of persons in this state who are covered by public
31 or private health insurance and the demographics of persons in this state
32 who are not covered by public or private health insurance.

33 **Sec. 4.** 1. The task force on the policy of the State of Nevada
34 concerning access to public health services shall sponsor forums throughout
35 the State of Nevada, if money for the forums is provided by the Nevada
36 Public Health Foundation, to provide information to the public concerning
37 the work of the task force and to obtain public comment on the work of the
38 task force.

39 2. The forums must include, without limitation, participation by
40 providers of public health care, health care advocacy groups and health
41 care professionals.

1 **Sec. 5.** 1. The task force on the policy of the State of Nevada
2 concerning access to public health services shall hold not less than eight
3 meetings before the 71st session of the Nevada Legislature convenes, and
4 more frequently if needed.

5 2. In carrying out its duties, the task force may contract for consulting
6 services and other technical assistance.

7 3. The task force shall, on or before December 1, 2000, submit written
8 recommendations to the Governor and to the Director of the Legislative
9 Counsel Bureau for transmission to the 71st session of the Nevada
10 Legislature. Such recommendations must include, without limitation,
11 recommendations concerning:

12 (a) The structure of, contents of and services that must be included in a
13 basic plan of health coverage offered to residents of this state;

14 (b) The establishment of minimum public health services that must be
15 provided to each resident of this state, regardless of his ability to pay,
16 including, without limitation, preventative care, health screenings, primary
17 care services and immunizations;

18 (c) Potential plans and programs to improve the quality of health care
19 services provided to members of minority groups and other persons who
20 are medically underserved and to increase access to health care services for
21 members of minority groups and other persons who are medically
22 underserved;

23 (d) Methods to provide funding to public health clinics to enable them to
24 provide health care services to residents of this state; and

25 (e) An estimate of the costs and benefits of coordinating insurance
26 coverage provided by the private sector with public health care services.

27 **Sec. 6.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the state general fund to
28 the Department of Human Resources the sum of \$50,000 for use by the task
29 force on the policy of the State of Nevada concerning access to public
30 health services to pay for the costs associated with carrying out the
31 provisions of this act.

32 2. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1
33 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2001, and reverts to
34 the state general fund as soon as all payments of money committed have
35 been made.

36 **Sec. 7.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 1999.