

**SENATE BILL NO. 556—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE****MAY 30, 1999**

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**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.

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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.