

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4—COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND OPERATIONS

(ON BEHALF OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE)

FEBRUARY 3, 1999

Referred to Committee on Legislative Affairs and Operations

SUMMARY—Directs Legislative Commission to appoint a subcommittee to conduct interim study concerning long-term care. (BDR R-482)

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Legislative Commission to appoint a subcommittee to conduct an interim study concerning long-term care.

- 1 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada has experienced unprecedented growth
- 2 in population, and a large percentage of this growth is attributable to
- 3 elderly persons who have retired in this state; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Persons who are 65 years of age or older and persons with
- 5 disabilities generally have the highest incidence of chronic illness and the
- 6 greatest need for long-term care services; and
- 7 WHEREAS, The health care needs of this growing segment of the
- 8 population must be addressed to ensure that their needs are met with the
- 9 best resources available within this state; and
- 10 WHEREAS, There are generally three types of long-term care services
- 11 available to elderly persons who are unable to live safely alone without
- 12 assistance, including, community-based care for those who can remain at
- 13 home with supportive services, group care facilities or assisted living
- 14 facilities, and nursing home care provided in a medical facility; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Spending for long-term care is biased toward institutional
- 16 care even though several studies have concluded that community-based
- 17 care offers a cost-effective alternative to institutional care; and
- 18 WHEREAS, It is important to determine the availability of alternatives
- 19 for providing long-term care other than institutionalized care within the
- 20 State of Nevada, the costs of each alternative type of care, and the
- 21 advantages and disadvantages of each alternative type of care to ensure
- 22 that persons in need of long-term care and the agencies of the state and
- 23 local governments responsible for administering public programs for the

1 elderly are able to make informed decisions concerning health care
2 services; and

3 WHEREAS, Approximately 80 percent of the funding for nursing homes
4 comes from public sources, including, without limitation, Medicare,
5 Medicaid and county medical assistance programs; and

6 WHEREAS, Acute care services provided to elderly persons through
7 Medicare are currently not integrated with long-term care services
8 provided to elderly persons through Medicaid; and

9 WHEREAS, The lack of coordination between Medicare and Medicaid
10 leads to conflicting incentives for payment, shifting of costs between
11 programs and providers, and duplicative administrative provisions that
12 impede good clinical care and efficient delivery of services to elderly
13 persons who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid; and

14 WHEREAS, To be eligible for Medicaid in a nursing home, a single
15 person must possess less than \$2,000 in nonhousing assets and must
16 contribute all of his income toward the cost of his care, except for a small
17 allowance for personal needs, which is generally \$30 per month; and

18 WHEREAS, The requirement that persons in this state impoverish
19 themselves to become eligible for long-term care benefits places many
20 persons in need of long-term care in a very difficult situation when
21 determining how to receive the health care services that they need to
22 survive; and

23 WHEREAS, The growing number of persons in need of long-term care is
24 of grave concern to this legislative body; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY
26 CONCURRING, That the Legislative Commission is hereby directed to
27 appoint a subcommittee to conduct an interim study of long-term care in
28 the State of Nevada; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the study must include, without limitation:

30 1. The identification, review and evaluation of alternatives to
31 institutionalization for providing long-term care, including, without
32 limitation:

33 (a) Analyzing the costs of the alternatives to institutionalization and the
34 costs of institutionalization for persons receiving long-term care in this
35 state;

36 (b) Determining the positive and negative effects of the different
37 methods for providing long-term care services on the quality of life of
38 persons receiving those services in this state;

39 (c) Determining the personnel required for each method of providing
40 long-term care services in this state; and

41 (d) Determining realistic methods for funding the long-term care
42 services provided to all persons who are receiving or who are eligible to
43 receive such services in this state;

1 2. An evaluation of the possibility of obtaining a waiver from the
2 Federal Government to integrate and coordinate acute care services
3 provided through Medicare and long-term care services provided through
4 Medicaid in this state; and

5 3. An evaluation of the possibility of obtaining a waiver from the
6 Federal Government to eliminate the requirement that elderly persons in
7 this state impoverish themselves as a condition of receiving assistance for
8 long-term care; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the
10 subcommittee must be approved by a majority of the members of the
11 Senate and a majority of the members of the Assembly appointed to the
12 subcommittee; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission shall submit a report of
14 the results of the study and any recommendations for legislation to the 71st
15 session of the Nevada Legislature.

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