

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4—Committee on

Legislative Affairs and Operations

FILE NUMBER.....

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

WHEREAS, The State of Nevada has experienced unprecedented growth in population, and a large percentage of this growth is attributable to elderly persons who have retired in this state; and

WHEREAS, Persons who are 65 years of age or older and persons with disabilities generally have the highest incidence of chronic illness and the greatest need for long-term care services; and

WHEREAS, The health care needs of this growing segment of the population must be addressed to ensure that their needs are met with the best resources available within this state; and

WHEREAS, There are generally three types of long-term care services available to elderly persons who are unable to live safely alone without assistance, including, community-based care for those who can remain at home with supportive services, group care facilities or assisted living facilities, and nursing home care provided in a medical facility; and

WHEREAS, Spending for long-term care is biased toward institutional care even though several studies have concluded that community-based care offers a cost-effective alternative to institutional care; and

WHEREAS, It is important to determine the availability of alternatives for providing long-term care other than institutionalized care within the State of Nevada, the costs of each alternative type of care, and the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative type of care to ensure that persons in need of long-term care and the agencies of the state and local governments responsible for administering public programs for the elderly are able to make informed decisions concerning health care services; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the study must include, without limitation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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