

Joint Sponsor: Senator Mathews

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to the welfare of children; requiring the establishment of a program to provide supportive assistance to certain persons who obtain the legal guardianship of certain children; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** Chapter 422 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act.

**Sec. 2.** *As used in this section and sections 3 and 4 of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, "qualifying relative" means a person specified in 45 C.F.R. § 233.90(c)(1)(v)(A).*

**Sec. 3. 1.** *The department, through a division of the department designated by the director, shall establish and administer a program to provide supportive assistance to qualifying relatives of children who provide care for and obtain the legal guardianship of those children.*

*2. As a condition to the provision of any supportive assistance pursuant to this section:*

*(a) The child must:*

*(1) Have been placed in the care of his qualifying relative for not less than 6 months; and*

*(2) If he is 14 years of age or older, consent to the legal guardianship;*

*(b) The qualifying relative must:*

*(1) Reside in this state;*

*(2) Have attained such a minimum age as the department specifies by regulation;*

*(3) Verify his relationship to the child; and*

*(4) File for and obtain court approval of the legal guardianship and comply with any requirements imposed by the court; and*

*(c) The department must determine that the personal and criminal history of the qualifying relative is satisfactory.*

*3. The supportive assistance provided pursuant to this section must include, within the limitations of available funding:*

*(a) Reimbursement of all or a portion of the legal fees incurred by the qualifying relative to establish the legal guardianship;*

*(b) Payments of not more than the amount that the department would provide to a foster parent if the child had been placed in foster care;*

*(c) Assistance with:*

*(1) Child care;*

*(2) Respite care; and*

*(3) Transportation; and*

*(d) Any other assistance the department deems appropriate.*

*4. The department shall adopt such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.*

**Sec. 4.** *1. An applicant for the receipt of supportive assistance provided pursuant to section 3 of this act shall submit to the department a complete set of his fingerprints and written permission authorizing the department to forward those fingerprints to the central repository for Nevada records of criminal history for submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its report to enable the department to determine whether the criminal history of the applicant is satisfactory.*

*2. The department may exchange with the central repository or the Federal Bureau of Investigation any information respecting the fingerprints submitted.*

*3. When a report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation is received by the central repository, it shall immediately forward a copy of the report to the department.*

**Sec. 5.** NRS 422.240 is hereby amended to read as follows:

422.240 1. Money to carry out the provisions of NRS 422.001 to 422.410, inclusive, *and sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act* and *NRS* 422.580, including, without limitation, any federal money allotted to the State of Nevada pursuant to the program to provide temporary assistance for needy families and the program for child care and development, must be provided by appropriation by the legislature from the state general fund.

2. Disbursements for the purposes of NRS 422.001 to 422.410, inclusive, *and sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act* and *NRS* 422.580 must be made upon claims duly filed, audited and allowed in the same manner as other money in the state treasury is disbursed.