

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 241—ASSEMBLYWOMAN ANGLE

FEBRUARY 26, 2001

Referred to Concurrent Committees on Judiciary  
and Ways and Means

SUMMARY—Requires Director of Department of Prisons to establish pilot program to improve literacy of offenders. (BDR S-653)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: 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 prisons; requiring the Director of the Department of Prisons to establish a pilot program to improve the literacy of offenders; 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 Director of the Department of Prisons shall  
2     establish a pilot program to improve the literacy of offenders that is  
3     patterned after the program in Arizona known as “Action Reading” and  
4     that includes a successful 96-hour pronunciation course for English as a  
5     Second Language adult students adapted by a Nevada adult basic education  
6     program from the Action Reading and Focus on Phonics programs. The  
7     Director shall select one prison of medium security in this state in which to  
8     carry out the program. The Director may accept gifts and grants from any  
9     source for the support of the program.  
10    2. The pilot program to improve the literacy of offenders established  
11    by the Director must provide that:  
12    (a) An offender who enters the prison must be tested to determine his  
13    level of literacy;  
14    (b) If the offender’s level of literacy is below the level designated by the  
15    board of state prison commissioners pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS  
16    209.393, the offender must be given the option of voluntarily participating  
17    in the program; and  
18    (c) An offender who participates in the program must agree to adhere  
19    strictly to all rules and regulations of the prison in a manner that is  
20    respectful to the correctional officers and other employees of the prison



1 and to comply with all standards of personal hygiene established by the  
2 Director.

3 3. The warden of the prison selected for the pilot program shall obtain  
4 and provide to the Director of the Department of Prisons appropriate  
5 statistical information to:

6 (a) Evaluate the success of the program;

7 (b) Allow the participants in the program to function as a control group  
8 for comparative research; and

9 (c) Assist in the implementation at other locations of effective programs  
10 to improve the literacy of offenders.

11 4. On or before February 1, 2003, the Director of the Department of  
12 Prisons shall submit a written report to the Director of the Legislative  
13 Counsel Bureau for transmission to the 72nd session of the Nevada  
14 Legislature that evaluates the success of the pilot program established by  
15 the Director and makes recommendations for any appropriate statutory  
16 changes.

17 **Sec. 2.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the state general fund  
18 to the Department of Prisons the sum of \$50,000.

19 2. The money appropriated by subsection 1 must be used for:

20 (a) Such personnel as are necessary to carry out the pilot program  
21 required by section 1 of this act, including, without limitation:

22 (1) A literacy specialist; and

23 (2) A master tutor and an appropriate number of additional tutors;

24 (b) The expenses of travel and subsistence necessarily incurred to carry  
25 out the pilot program required by section 1 of this act; and

26 (c) A clinical researcher to prepare the report required by subsection 4  
27 of section 1 of this act.

28 3. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1  
29 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2003, and reverts to  
30 the state general fund as soon as all payments of money committed have  
31 been made.

32 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2001.

