

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to veterans; requiring the Executive Director for Veterans' Services to establish and implement rules, policies and procedures for the management, maintenance and operation of veterans' homes; requiring the State Board of Examiners to establish a schedule of rates to be charged for occupancy of rooms at veterans' homes; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law creates the Office of Veterans' Services, which is administered by the Executive Director. (NRS 417.020) As part of his duties, the Executive Director is required to maintain and operate the veterans' homes in Nevada. (NRS 417.147) With the advice of the administrators of those veterans' homes, the Executive Director may expend money from the Veterans' Home Account in the State General Fund, in part, for the operation of those veterans' homes. (NRS 417.145)

This bill requires the Executive Director to establish and implement rules, policies and procedures for the management, maintenance and operation of the veterans' homes in Nevada. The bill also requires the State Board of Examiners to establish an annual schedule of rates to be charged for the occupancy of rooms at those veterans' homes, upon recommendations made by the Executive Director. The Executive Director is required to make the recommendations on or before April 1 of each year with the advice of the Nevada Veterans' Services Commission. In setting the rates, the State Board of Examiners is required to consider the recommendations of the Executive Director, but is not bound to follow the recommendations of the Executive Director. Money collected pursuant to that rate schedule is required to be deposited in the Veterans' Home Account.

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

Section 1. NRS 417.145 is hereby amended to read as follows:
417.145 1. The Veterans' Home Account is hereby established in the State General Fund.

2. Money received from:

- (a) Payments *made* by the *United States* Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who receive care in a veterans' home;
- (b) Other payments for medical care and services;
- (c) Appropriations made by the Legislature for veterans' homes;

~~{and}~~

(d) *Federal grants and other money received pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 1 of NRS 417.147;*

(e) *Money collected pursuant to the schedule of rates established pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 417.147 for occupancy of rooms at veterans' homes; and*

(f) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, gifts of money and proceeds derived from the sale of gifts of personal property for

the use of veterans' homes, if the use of such gifts has not been restricted by the donor,

➔ must be deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Veterans' Home Account.

3. Interest and income must not be computed on the money in the Veterans' Home Account.

4. The Veterans' Home Account must be administered by the Executive Director, with the advice of the administrators, and *except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) of subsection 1 of NRS 417.147*, the money deposited in the Veterans' Home Account may only be expended for:

(a) The *establishment, management, maintenance and* operation of veterans' homes;

(b) A program or service related to a veterans' home;

(c) The solicitation of other sources of money to fund a veterans' home; and

(d) The purpose of informing the public about issues concerning the establishment and uses of a veterans' home.

5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, gifts of personal property for the use of veterans' homes:

(a) May be sold or exchanged if the sale or exchange is approved by the State Board of Examiners; or

(b) May be used in kind if the gifts are not appropriate for conversion to money.

6. All money in the Veterans' Home Account must be paid out on claims approved by the Executive Director as other claims against the State are paid.

7. The Gift Account for Veterans' Homes is hereby established in the State General Fund. Gifts of money or personal property which the donor has restricted to one or more uses at a veterans' home must be used only in the manner designated by the donor. Gifts of money which the donor has restricted to one or more uses at a veterans' home must be deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Gift Account for Veterans' Homes. The interest and income earned on the money in the Gift Account for Veterans' Homes, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Gift Account for Veterans' Homes. Any money remaining in the Gift Account for Veterans' Homes at the end of each fiscal year does not lapse to the State General Fund, but must be carried forward into the next fiscal year.

8. The Executive Director shall, on or before August 1 of each year, prepare and submit to the Interim Finance Committee a report detailing the expenditures made from the Gift Account for Veterans' Homes that are attributable to the money deposited in that account pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 482.3764.

Sec. 2. NRS 417.147 is hereby amended to read as follows:
417.147 1. The Executive Director shall:

(a) Appoint an administrator for each veterans' home in this State. Each administrator must be licensed as a nursing facility administrator pursuant to NRS 654.170.

(b) Take such other actions as are necessary for the **management**, maintenance and operation of veterans' homes in this State ~~H~~, **including, without limitation, establishing and implementing rules, policies and procedures for such management, maintenance and operation.**

(c) Apply for federal grants and other sources of money available for establishing veterans' homes. ~~[Federal grants and other money received pursuant to this paragraph must be deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Veterans' Home Account.]~~ A federal grant must be used only as permitted by the terms of the grant.

2. ***With the advice of the Nevada Veterans' Services Commission, the Executive Director shall, on or before April 1 of each calendar year, recommend to the State Board of Examiners a schedule of rates to be charged for occupancy of rooms at each veterans' home in this State during the following fiscal year. The State Board of Examiners shall establish the schedule of rates. In setting the rates, the State Board of Examiners shall consider the recommendations of the Executive Director, but is not bound to follow the recommendations of the Executive Director.***

3. The first veterans' home that is established in this State must be established at a location in southern Nevada determined to be appropriate by the Interim Finance Committee. The Interim Finance Committee shall give preference to a site that is zoned appropriately for the establishment of a veterans' home, that affords minimum costs of maintenance and that is located in an area where the members of the families of the veterans can easily visit the veterans' home. The site for the construction of the veterans' home in southern Nevada must be:

(a) Located in reasonable proximity to:
(1) A public transportation system;
(2) Shopping centers; and
(3) A major hospital that has a center for the treatment of trauma which is designated as a level II center by the Administrator of the Health Division of the Department of Human Resources.

(b) Not less than 5 acres in area.

~~[3.]~~ 4. If an additional veterans' home is authorized, it must be established in northern Nevada.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2005.

