

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 53—ASSEMBLYMAN ARBERRY JR.

FEBRUARY 11, 2005

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

SUMMARY—Creates Office of Minority Health within Department of Human Resources. (BDR 18-146)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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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 health care; creating the Office of Minority Health within the Department of Human Resources; creating an Advisory Committee to the Office of Minority Health; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 Existing law establishes various departments and divisions within the Executive
2 Branch of the State Government, including the Department of Human Resources.
3 (Chapter 232 of NRS)
4 This bill creates the Office of Minority Health within the Department of Human
5 Resources and sets forth its powers and duties. The Office's primary purpose is to
6 improve the quality of and access to health care services for members of racial and
7 ethnic minority groups. The Office would also provide advocacy and education on
8 health care issues of interest to members of minority groups.
9 This bill provides for the appointment of and sets forth the powers and duties of
10 the Manager of the Office of Minority Health. The bill also creates an Advisory
11 Committee in the Office to advise the Manager of the Office on matters relating to
12 the Office.
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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 232 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 17, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. *As used in sections 2 to 17, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in sections 3 to 7, inclusive, of this act, have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.*

Sec. 3. *“Advisory Committee” means the Committee created in the Office pursuant to section 15 of this act.*

Sec. 4. *“Health care” includes, without limitation, mental health care.*

Sec. 5. *“Manager” means the Manager of the Office of Minority Health of the Department.*

Sec. 6. *“Minority group” means a racial or ethnic minority group.*

Sec. 7. *“Office” means the Office of Minority Health of the Department.*

Sec. 8. *The Office of Minority Health is hereby created within the Department. The purposes of the Office are to:*

1. Improve the quality of health care services for members of minority groups;

2. Increase access to health care services for members of minority groups; and

3. Disseminate information to and educate the public on matters concerning health care issues of interest to members of minority groups.

Sec. 9. 1. *In accomplishing its purposes, the Office shall:*

(a) Provide a central source of information for the use of the public concerning health care services for members of minority groups and health care issues of interest to those members;

(b) Identify and use any available resources for the improvement of the quality of health care services for members of minority groups and for increased access to health care services for those members;

(c) Develop and coordinate plans and programs to improve the quality of health care services for members of minority groups and to increase access to health care services for those members, including, without limitation, plans and programs that primarily serve local communities;

(d) Hold conferences and provide training concerning cultural diversity in the workplace for public and private entities that offer



1 *services in the field of health care, including, without limitation,*
2 *providing recommendations and opportunities for training for*
3 *such public and private entities to improve recruitment of*
4 *members of minority groups;*

5 *(e) Whenever possible, incorporate the use of bilingual*
6 *communication in its programs and activities;*

7 *(f) Publicize health care issues of interest to members of*
8 *minority groups; and*

9 *(g) Develop and carry out such other programs and activities*
10 *as the Office deems appropriate.*

11 *2. In carrying out the duties set forth in subsection 1, the*
12 *Office may seek assistance from and cooperate with a public or*
13 *private entity.*

14 **Sec. 10. The Office may:**

15 *1. Apply for any available grants and accept any available*
16 *gifts, grants, appropriations or donations, and use any such gifts,*
17 *grants, appropriations or donations to carry out its purposes;*

18 *2. Contract with a public or private entity to assist in carrying*
19 *out its purposes; and*

20 *3. Adopt such regulations as are necessary to carry out the*
21 *provisions of sections 2 to 17, inclusive, of this act.*

22 **Sec. 11. The Director shall appoint a Manager of the Office.**
23 *The Manager must be appointed on the basis of his education,*
24 *training, experience, demonstrated abilities and interest in the*
25 *provision of health care services to members of minority groups*
26 *and in related programs.*

27 **Sec. 12. The Manager shall:**

28 *1. Ensure that the purposes of the Office are carried out;*

29 *2. Direct and supervise all the technical and administrative*
30 *activities of the Office;*

31 *3. Attend the meetings of the Advisory Committee, serve as*
32 *secretary at those meetings and keep minutes of those meetings;*

33 *4. Request and consider the advice of the Advisory Committee*
34 *concerning matters of policy;*

35 *5. Serve as the contracting officer for the Office to receive*
36 *money from the Federal Government or any other source; and*

37 *6. Act as liaison between the Office, members of minority*
38 *groups, and public and private entities offering health care*
39 *services primarily to those members or offering health care*
40 *information of interest to those members.*

41 **Sec. 13. On or before March 1 of each odd-numbered year,**
42 *the Manager shall submit a report to the Governor and to the*
43 *Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the*
44 *Legislature. The report must outline the manner in which*



1 *the Office has accomplished its purposes during the biennium,*
2 *including, without limitation, information concerning the*
3 *activities, findings and recommendations of the Office as they*
4 *relate to health care services for members of minority groups and*
5 *to health care issues of interest to those members.*

6 **Sec. 14.** 1. *The Manager may, within the limits of*
7 *legislative appropriations and other available money, award a*
8 *grant of money to a person for use consistent with the provisions*
9 *of sections 2 to 17, inclusive, of this act.*

10 2. *Before the Manager may award a grant pursuant to*
11 *subsection 1, he shall adopt by regulation:*

12 (a) *Procedures by which a person may apply for a grant from*
13 *the Manager;*

14 (b) *Criteria that the Manager will consider in determining*
15 *whether to award a grant; and*

16 (c) *Procedures by which the Manager will distribute any*
17 *money that the Office receives pursuant to subsection 1 of section*
18 *10 of this act.*

19 **Sec. 15.** 1. *There is hereby created in the Office an*
20 *Advisory Committee consisting of nine members appointed by the*
21 *Governor.*

22 2. *When appointing a member to the Advisory Committee,*
23 *consideration must be given to whether the members appointed to*
24 *the Advisory Committee reflect the ethnic and geographical*
25 *diversity of this State.*

26 3. *The term of each member of the Advisory Committee is 2*
27 *years. A member may be reappointed for an additional term of 2*
28 *years in the same manner as the original appointment. A vacancy*
29 *occurring in the membership of the Advisory Committee must be*
30 *filled in the same manner as the original appointment.*

31 4. *At its first meeting and annually thereafter, the Advisory*
32 *Committee shall elect a Chairman from among its members.*

33 **Sec. 16.** 1. *Each member of the Advisory Committee who is*
34 *not an officer or employee of the State of Nevada is entitled to*
35 *receive a salary of not more than \$80 per day, as fixed by the*
36 *Manager in consultation with the Advisory Committee, for each*
37 *day or portion of a day spent on the business of the Advisory*
38 *Committee. Each member of the Advisory Committee who is an*
39 *officer or employee of the State of Nevada serves without*
40 *additional compensation. Each member of the Advisory*
41 *Committee is entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel*
42 *expenses provided for state officers and employees generally. A*
43 *claim for a payment pursuant to this section must be made on a*



1 voucher approved by the Manager and paid as other claims
2 against the State are paid.

3 2. Each member of the Advisory Committee who is an officer
4 or employee of the State of Nevada or a local government must be
5 relieved from his duties without loss of his regular compensation
6 so that he may prepare for and attend meetings of the Advisory
7 Committee and perform any work necessary to carry out the duties
8 of the Advisory Committee in the most timely manner practicable.
9 A state agency or local governmental entity may not require an
10 employee who is a member of the Advisory Committee to make up
11 time or take annual vacation or compensatory time for the time
12 that he is absent from work to carry out his duties as a member of
13 the Advisory Committee.

14 **Sec. 17.** The Advisory Committee shall:

15 1. Advise the Manager on all matters concerning the manner
16 in which the purposes of the Office are being carried out;

17 2. Review the manner in which the Office uses any gifts,
18 grants, donations or appropriations to carry out the purposes of
19 the Office and make recommendations; and

20 3. Review any reports to be submitted by the Manager,
21 including, without limitation, the report required pursuant to
22 section 13 of this act, and make recommendations.

23 **Sec. 18.** NRS 232.290 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 232.290 As used in NRS 232.290 to 232.465, inclusive, *and*
25 *sections 2 to 17, inclusive, of this act*, unless the context requires
26 otherwise:

27 1. "Department" means the Department of Human Resources.

28 2. "Director" means the Director of the Department.

29 **Sec. 19.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State
30 General Fund to the Department of Human Resources to establish
31 the Office of Minority Health:

32 For the Fiscal Year 2005-2006..... \$134,234

33 For the Fiscal Year 2006-2007..... \$114,262

34 2. Any balance of the sums appropriated by subsection 1
35 remaining at the end of the respective fiscal years must not be
36 committed for expenditure after June 30 of the respective fiscal
37 years and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before
38 September 15, 2006, and September 21, 2007, respectively.

39 **Sec. 20.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2005.



