

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20–
ASSEMBLYWOMAN LESLIE

APRIL 18, 2005

Referred to Committee on Elections, Procedures, Ethics,
and Constitutional Amendments

SUMMARY—Directs Legislative Commission to appoint
committee to conduct interim study on assisted
living facilities and long-term care financing.
(BDR R-491)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ***omitted-material*** is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the
Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to
conduct an interim study on assisted living facilities and
long-term care financing.

1 WHEREAS, Assisted living may be described as a special
2 combination of housing, personalized supportive services and health
3 care designed to respond to the individual needs of those who
4 require help with activities of daily living but do not need the skilled
5 medical care provided in a nursing home; and

6 WHEREAS, Assisted living care includes 24-hour on-site
7 response staff to meet scheduled or unpredictable needs and to
8 provide supervision of safety and security, while also seeking to
9 promote maximum independence and dignity for each resident and
10 to encourage the involvement of a resident's family, neighbors and
11 friends; and

12 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease has been documented as a
13 progressive, degenerative, neurological disease that compromises
14 intellectual, cognitive and functional abilities and precipitates
15 psychiatric syndromes ranging from depression to psychosis and
16 behavioral disturbances; and

17 WHEREAS, There is a lack of adequate public funding for
18 assisted living and other long-term care settings, as well as a lack of
19 adequate numbers of specially trained caregivers, including licensed
20 nurses, certified nursing assistants and noncertified caregivers; and



1 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease and the many other forms of
2 dementia and memory loss in the elderly have been among the
3 driving forces in state efforts to encourage the availability and
4 affordability of private long-term care insurance; and

5 WHEREAS, Assisted living rates range from \$2,000 to \$6,000 per
6 month, depending on geographic area, availability and level of
7 services offered, and unless comprehensive long-term care financing
8 reforms are enacted in the next few years, this State may be pushed
9 beyond its capacity to meet the future long-term care needs of its
10 seniors, and frail, elderly Nevadans may be left with little or no
11 control over whether, where and how their care needs will be met;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, In 2004, for the 18th consecutive year, Nevada was
14 the fastest growing state in the country, and the population of
15 Nevada's elderly over the age of 75 increased by more than 112
16 percent from 1991 to 2001 and is projected to increase
17 approximately 48 percent by 2010, promising a demographic wave
18 of seniors in need of assisted living services and further
19 compounding the problem; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
21 SENATE CONCURRING, That the Legislative Commission shall
22 appoint a committee to conduct an interim study to carry out a needs
23 assessment of the assistive programs and care services for those
24 suffering from any of the many forms of dementia and geriatric
25 memory dysfunction, including Alzheimer's disease, that strike the
26 elderly and the financing of long-term care for those persons; and be it
27 further

28 RESOLVED, That the study must include, without limitation:

29 1. A survey of the residential placement options and the
30 respective number of beds available in the State for self-pay, private
31 insurance and Medicaid cases;

32 2. A survey of the range of care available for the frail, elderly
33 Nevadans in various settings such as adult day care, home care,
34 respite care and assisted living care services;

35 3. A survey of the obstacles to assisted care for the elderly,
36 including the shortage or complete lack of services in certain
37 geographic areas of the State or for certain levels of care needs;

38 4. A survey of the staffing levels at assisted living facilities in
39 the State and a needs assessment for regulation of staffing levels;

40 5. The possible development of a resource directory of
41 qualified consultants for the provision of training and assistance to
42 assisted living facilities that request assistance in interpreting and
43 implementing licensing standards;

44 6. Recommendations for establishing a database from which
45 consumers can access key information concerning the assisted living



1 facilities within the State, including staffing levels and
2 qualifications, cost and cost increases, and the circumstances that
3 can lead to involuntary discharges from the facility;

4 7. A determination of the number of people in Nevada living
5 with Alzheimer's disease or any one of the other forms of senile
6 dementia or memory dysfunction and the number of people with
7 such diseases whom the State is forced to place in facilities outside
8 of this State for the care they need because of the shortage of such
9 facilities in Nevada; and

10 8. A comprehensive review of federal, state and local funding
11 available for commitment to the provision of such care; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That the interim study committee shall first solicit,
14 gather and compile the available existing information, data and
15 statistics that have been documented to date by the agencies,
16 organizations and advisory councils dedicated to the care of frail,
17 elderly persons in this State, including the State Plan for Services
18 for Nevada's Elders prepared by the Aging Services Division of the
19 Department of Human Resources and approved by the Governor in
20 July 2004; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the
22 committee must be approved by a majority of the members of the
23 Assembly and a majority of the members of the Senate who are
24 appointed to the committee; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission shall submit a
26 report of the results of the study and any recommendations for
27 legislation to the 74th Session of the Nevada Legislature.



