

SENATE BILL NO. 57—COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES AND EDUCATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SYSTEM IN RURAL NEVADA AND TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING FOR RELEASED OFFENDERS)

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Education

SUMMARY—Authorizes creation of Rural Nevada Legal Services
Corps within William S. Boyd School of Law.
(BDR 34-184)

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 legal services; authorizing the William S. Boyd
School of Law of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, to
create a Rural Nevada Legal Services Corps to encourage
attorneys to practice in legally underserved areas of the
State and to establish and administer a program of
repayment of loans for such attorneys; creating the
Account for Rural Legal Services; and providing other
matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law creates various programs to encourage certain professionals to seek employment in certain areas of the State which are underserved by that type of professional. For example, the Nevada Health Service Corps recruits certain licensed medical professionals to serve in underserved areas of the State and administers a program under which money for loans is repaid on behalf of those professionals for each year the professional practices in an area of Nevada in which there is a shortage of that type of professional. (NRS 396.899-396.903)

This bill authorizes the William S. Boyd School of Law of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, to establish a Rural Nevada Legal Services Corps to encourage attorneys to practice in areas of the State which are designated to be legally underserved. This bill requires the Rural Nevada Legal Services Corps to recruit attorneys and to match attorneys with those areas designated as legally



13 underserved. This bill further authorizes the Rural Nevada Legal Services Corps to
14 establish and administer a program under which money for loans is repaid on behalf
15 of an attorney who practices law in a legally underserved area. The Rural Nevada
16 Legal Services Corps is required to submit a report to the Governor and the
17 Legislature before each legislative session outlining its transactions and making any
18 recommendations for legislative action deemed advisable.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 396 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 11, inclusive, of this
3 act.

4 **Sec. 2.** *As used in sections 2 to 11, inclusive, of this act,*
5 *unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined*
6 *in sections 3 to 7, inclusive, of this act have the meanings ascribed*
7 *to them in those sections.*

8 **Sec. 3.** *“Account” means the Account for Rural Legal*
9 *Services created by section 10 of this act.*

10 **Sec. 4.** *“Boyd School of Law” means the William S. Boyd*
11 *School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.*

12 **Sec. 5.** *“Legally underserved area” means an area of rural*
13 *Nevada that is designated as legally underserved pursuant to*
14 *section 8 of this act.*

15 **Sec. 6.** *“Practitioner” means a person who is:*

16 1. *An attorney licensed and admitted to practice law in the*
17 *courts of this State; and*

18 2. *In good standing as a member of the State Bar of Nevada.*

19 **Sec. 7.** *“Program” means the program established and*
20 *administered by the Rural Nevada Legal Services Corps pursuant*
21 *to section 9 of this act.*

22 **Sec. 8.** 1. *The Boyd School of Law may establish a Rural*
23 *Nevada Legal Services Corps to encourage practitioners to*
24 *practice law in legally underserved areas of rural Nevada.*

25 2. *The primary purposes of the Rural Nevada Legal Services*
26 *Corps must be to:*

27 (a) *Designate as legally underserved areas of rural Nevada*
28 *that it determines to be legally underserved;*

29 (b) *Recruit practitioners for participation in the program; and*

30 (c) *Match practitioners with areas designated as legally*
31 *underserved.*

32 **Sec. 9.** 1. *The Boyd School of Law shall authorize the*
33 *Rural Nevada Legal Services Corps to establish and administer a*
34 *program under which money for loans is repaid on behalf of a*



1 practitioner for each year that the practitioner practices law in a
2 legally underserved area.

3 2. The Rural Nevada Legal Services Corps shall:

4 (a) Establish and administer the program; and

5 (b) Carry out the purposes and duties set forth in sections 2 to
6 11, inclusive, of this act.

7 3. The Rural Nevada Legal Services Corps may:

8 (a) Apply for any grants or matching money available for the
9 program from the Federal Government.

10 (b) Solicit and accept gifts, grants and donations from any
11 source.

12 (c) Adopt any regulations necessary to carry out the provisions
13 of sections 2 to 11, inclusive, of this act.

14 **Sec. 10. 1. There is hereby created the Account for Rural
15 Legal Services in the State General Fund.**

16 2. The Account must be administered by the Rural Nevada
17 Legal Services Corps.

18 3. All money received by the Rural Nevada Legal Services
19 Corps pursuant to sections 2 to 11, inclusive, of this act, including,
20 without limitation, all money received from gifts, grants,
21 donations, the Federal Government or any other source, must be
22 deposited into the Account.

23 4. The interest and income earned on the money in the
24 Account, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited
25 to the Account.

26 5. The money in the Account must be used solely to:

27 (a) Defray the costs and expenses of the Boyd School of Law
28 and the Rural Nevada Legal Services Corps related to carrying out
29 and administering the provisions of the program; and

30 (b) Repay the loans of practitioners who are participating in
31 the program.

32 **Sec. 11. 1. The Rural Nevada Legal Services Corps shall
33 keep accurate records of its activities and shall report those
34 activities to the Governor and the Legislature before September 1
35 of any year preceding a regular session of the Legislature, setting
36 forth in detail the transactions conducted by the Rural Nevada
37 Legal Services Corps during the biennium ending June 30 of such
38 a year.**

39 2. The Rural Nevada Legal Services Corps may make
40 recommendations for any legislative action deemed to be
41 advisable, including, without limitation, amendments to any
42 statutes that may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the
43 intent and purposes of sections 2 to 11, inclusive, of this act.



1 **Sec. 12.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2005.

