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AN ACT relating to domestic violence; authorizing a court to order a person convicted of domestic violence to participate in counseling sessions on a biweekly basis in certain circumstances; requiring the Court Administrator to submit reports to the Legislature concerning the effectiveness of court-ordered participation in programs for the treatment of persons who commit domestic violence; requiring the Administrator of the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services of the Department of Human Resources to report to the Legislature concerning certification of such programs in rural mental health clinics; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires a person convicted of domestic violence battery to participate in weekly counseling sessions of at least 1 1/2 hours, for a total of at least 6 hours of counseling per month, in a program for the treatment of persons who commit domestic violence. (NRS 200.485)

This bill authorizes a court, until June 30, 2009, to allow a person to participate in such counseling sessions on a biweekly basis, for a total of at least 6 hours of counseling per month, if the person lives more than 70 miles from the nearest location at which counseling services are available.

This bill requires the Court Administrator to submit a written report concerning the effectiveness of court-ordered counseling for persons who commit a battery that constitutes domestic violence to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to each regular session of the Legislature. The report must also address the effectiveness of biweekly counseling sessions.

This bill further requires the Administrator of the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services of the Department of Human Resources to submit a report to the Legislature concerning the efforts and progress made by the Division in certifying programs for the treatment of persons who commit domestic violence provided by rural mental health clinics.

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

Section 1. NRS 200.485 is hereby amended to read as follows:
200.485 1. Unless a greater penalty is provided pursuant to NRS 200.481, a person convicted of a battery which constitutes domestic violence pursuant to NRS 33.018:

(a) For the first offense within 7 years, is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be sentenced to:

(1) Imprisonment in the city or county jail or detention facility for not less than 2 days, but not more than 6 months; and

(2) Perform not less than 48 hours, but not more than 120 hours, of community service.

↪ The person shall be further punished by a fine of not less than \$200, but not more than \$1,000. A term of imprisonment imposed pursuant to this paragraph may be served intermittently at the discretion of the judge or justice of the peace, except that each period of confinement must be not less than 4 consecutive hours and must occur at a time when the person is not required to be at his place of employment or on a weekend.

(b) For the second offense within 7 years, is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be sentenced to:

(1) Imprisonment in the city or county jail or detention facility for not less than 10 days, but not more than 6 months; and

(2) Perform not less than 100 hours, but not more than 200 hours, of community service.

↪ The person shall be further punished by a fine of not less than \$500, but not more than \$1,000.

(c) For the third and any subsequent offense within 7 years, is guilty of a category C felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.

2. In addition to any other penalty, if a person is convicted of a battery which constitutes domestic violence pursuant to NRS 33.018, the court shall:

(a) ~~For~~ *Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, for the first offense within 7 years, require him to participate in weekly counseling sessions of not less than 1 1/2 hours per week for not less than 6 months, but not more than 12 months, at his expense, in a program for the treatment of persons who commit domestic violence that has been certified pursuant to NRS 228.470.*

(b) ~~For~~ *Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, for the second offense within 7 years, require him to participate in weekly counseling sessions of not less than 1 1/2 hours per week for 12 months, at his expense, in a program for the treatment of persons who commit domestic violence that has been certified pursuant to NRS 228.470.*

↪ *If the person resides more than 70 miles from the nearest location at which counseling services are available, the court may allow the person to participate in counseling sessions in a program for the treatment of persons who commit domestic violence that has been certified pursuant to NRS 228.470 every other week for the number of months required pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) so long as the number of hours of counseling is not less than 6 hours per month.*

3. An offense that occurred within 7 years immediately preceding the date of the principal offense or after the principal offense constitutes a prior offense for the purposes of this section when evidenced by a conviction, without regard to the sequence of the offenses and convictions. The facts concerning a prior offense

must be alleged in the complaint, indictment or information, must not be read to the jury or proved at trial but must be proved at the time of sentencing and, if the principal offense is alleged to be a felony, must also be shown at the preliminary examination or presented to the grand jury.

4. In addition to any other fine or penalty, the court shall order such a person to pay an administrative assessment of \$35. Any money so collected must be paid by the clerk of the court to the State Controller on or before the fifth day of each month for the preceding month for credit to the Account for Programs Related to Domestic Violence established pursuant to NRS 228.460.

5. In addition to any other penalty, the court may require such a person to participate, at his expense, in a program of treatment for the abuse of alcohol or drugs that has been certified by the Health Division of the Department of Human Resources.

6. If it appears from information presented to the court that a child under the age of 18 years may need counseling as a result of the commission of a battery which constitutes domestic violence pursuant to NRS 33.018, the court may refer the child to an agency which provides child welfare services. If the court refers a child to an agency which provides child welfare services, the court shall require the person convicted of a battery which constitutes domestic violence pursuant to NRS 33.018 to reimburse the agency for the costs of any services provided, to the extent of his ability to pay.

7. If a person is charged with committing a battery which constitutes domestic violence pursuant to NRS 33.018, a prosecuting attorney shall not dismiss such a charge in exchange for a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a lesser charge or for any other reason unless he knows, or it is obvious, that the charge is not supported by probable cause or cannot be proved at the time of trial. A court shall not grant probation to and, except as otherwise provided in NRS 4.373 and 5.055, a court shall not suspend the sentence of such a person.

8. As used in this section:

(a) "Agency which provides child welfare services" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 432B.030.

(b) "Battery" has the meaning ascribed to it in paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of NRS 200.481.

(c) "Offense" includes a battery which constitutes domestic violence pursuant to NRS 33.018 or a violation of the law of any other jurisdiction that prohibits the same or similar conduct.

Sec. 2. NRS 1.360 is hereby amended to read as follows:

1.360 Under the direction of the Supreme Court, the Court Administrator shall:

1. Examine the administrative procedures employed in the offices of the judges, clerks, court reporters and employees of all

courts of this State and make recommendations, through the Chief Justice, for the improvement of those procedures;

2. Examine the condition of the dockets of the courts and determine the need for assistance by any court;

3. Make recommendations to and carry out the directions of the Chief Justice relating to the assignment of district judges where district courts are in need of assistance;

4. Develop a uniform system for collecting and compiling statistics and other data regarding the operation of the State Court System and transmit that information to the Supreme Court so that proper action may be taken in respect thereto;

5. Prepare and submit a budget of state appropriations necessary for the maintenance and operation of the State Court System and make recommendations in respect thereto;

6. Develop procedures for accounting, internal auditing, procurement and disbursement for the State Court System;

7. Collect statistical and other data and make reports relating to the expenditure of all public money for the maintenance and operation of the State Court System and the offices connected therewith;

8. Compile statistics from the information required to be maintained by the clerks of the district courts pursuant to NRS 3.275 and make reports as to the cases filed in the district courts;

9. Formulate and submit to the Supreme Court recommendations of policies or proposed legislation for the improvement of the State Court System;

10. On or before January 1 of each year, submit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau a written report compiling the information submitted to the Court Administrator pursuant to NRS 3.243, 4.175 and 5.045 during the immediately preceding fiscal year;

11. On or before January 1 of each odd-numbered year, submit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau a written report concerning:

(a) The distribution of money deposited in the special account created pursuant to NRS 176.0613 to assist with funding and establishing specialty court programs;

(b) The current status of any specialty court programs to which money from the account was allocated since the last report; and

(c) Such other related information as the Court Administrator deems appropriate;

12. On or before February 15 of each odd-numbered year, submit to the Governor and to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the next regular session of the Legislature a written report compiling the information submitted by clerks of courts to the Court Administrator pursuant to NRS 630.307

and 633.533 which includes only aggregate information for statistical purposes and excludes any identifying information related to a particular person; ~~and~~

13. *On or before February 15 of each odd-numbered year, submit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the next regular session of the Legislature a written report concerning the effectiveness of participation in counseling sessions in a program for the treatment of persons who commit domestic violence ordered by a court pursuant to NRS 200.485 and the effect of such counseling sessions on recidivism of the offenders who commit battery which constitutes domestic violence pursuant to NRS 33.018; and*

14. Attend to such other matters as may be assigned by the Supreme Court or prescribed by law.

Sec. 3. The report submitted to the Legislature by the Court Administrator in 2007 and 2009 pursuant to subsection 13 of NRS 1.360, as amended by this act, must include information concerning the effectiveness of biweekly counseling sessions and the effect, if any, of participating in biweekly counseling sessions on recidivism of offenders.

Sec. 4. On or before February 15, 2009, the Administrator of the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services of the Department of Human Resources shall submit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 75th Session of the Nevada Legislature a written report concerning the efforts and progress made by the Division in certifying programs for the treatment of persons who commit domestic violence provided by rural mental health clinics.

Sec. 5. 1. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2005.

2. The amendatory provisions of section 1 of this act expire by limitation on June 30, 2009.

