

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13—
SENATOR SCHNEIDER

MARCH 24, 2005

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Directs Legislative Commission to conduct interim study concerning long-term health care in Nevada. (BDR R-802)

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study concerning long-term health care in Nevada.

1 WHEREAS, In recent years, the State of Nevada has experienced
2 a rapid growth in the population of persons 65 years of age and
3 older, and it is anticipated that by the year 2025 persons 65 years of
4 age and older are expected to make up about 21 percent of this
5 State's population; and

6 WHEREAS, By the year 2025, this State's population of persons
7 85 years of age and older is expected to experience an increase of
8 144 percent, making Nevada the sixth fastest growing state in the
9 nation of persons in this age bracket; and

10 WHEREAS, With such an increase in the population of elderly
11 persons in this State comes an increase in the number of persons
12 with disabilities and chronic illnesses, as well as a growing need for
13 long-term care services; and

14 WHEREAS, There are generally three types of long-term care
15 services available to elderly persons who are unable to live safely
16 alone without assistance, including home- and community-based
17 care for those who can remain at home with supportive services,
18 group care facilities or assisted living facilities, and nursing home
19 care provided in a medical facility; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2002, nearly two-thirds of all long-term care
21 expenditures nationwide were for institutional care, and Medicaid
22 accounted for 48 percent of national spending for institutional care;
23 and



1 WHEREAS, In 2003, institutional care accounted for 67 percent
2 of total Medicaid long-term care spending throughout the nation,
3 and home- and community-based care accounted for 32.9 percent of
4 Nevada's Medicaid long-term care spending; and

5 WHEREAS, The very nature of long-term care in our society is
6 changing as medical science is keeping persons alive longer, and the
7 population of those persons under 65 years of age is declining
8 because families are having fewer children; and

9 WHEREAS, As a result, the supply of unpaid caregivers is
10 dwindling since many traditional caregivers are now incapable of
11 caring for a spouse or other relative, because of physical, financial
12 or emotional limitations; and

13 WHEREAS, It is predicted that an aging population over the next
14 20 years will cause a huge drain on state Medicaid programs, which
15 are currently the primary source of funding for care in nursing
16 homes; and

17 WHEREAS, Because insurance coverage for long-term care is
18 limited, most persons face the risk of impoverishment if they need
19 extensive care; and

20 WHEREAS, Medicaid is the nation's safety net for persons with
21 long-term care needs, but given the tremendous variation in state
22 Medicaid programs and their vulnerability to changing state
23 budgets, the security of that safety net is uncertain; and

24 WHEREAS, Despite most persons' strong preference for home-
25 and community-based care, institutional care continues to account
26 for the majority of both Medicaid and total spending for long-term
27 care; and

28 WHEREAS, The requirement that persons in this State
29 impoverish themselves to become eligible for long-term care
30 benefits places many persons in need of long-term care in a very
31 difficult situation when determining how to receive the health care
32 services they need to survive; and

33 WHEREAS, The growing number of persons in need of long-term
34 care is of grave concern to this legislative body; now, therefore, be it

35 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
36 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislative Commission is
37 hereby directed to appoint a subcommittee, consisting of three
38 members of the Senate and three members of the Assembly, to
39 conduct an interim study of long-term care in the State of Nevada;
40 and be it further

41 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission shall designate a
42 Chairman of the subcommittee who may appoint an advisory
43 committee, consisting of persons who are knowledgeable in the
44 areas of the study, to assist the subcommittee in carrying out its
45 duties; and be it further



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

2 1. A review and evaluation of the statutes and regulations in
3 this State relating to long-term care and a determination of whether
4 and, if necessary, the manner in which those statutes and regulations
5 should be amended to incorporate and define the types of services
6 related to long-term care that are available in this State, including,
7 without limitation, a facility for assisted living;

8 2. The development of standards governing the provision of
9 nonmedical services related to long-term care and whether those
10 services are provided in a facility for long-term care or as part of
11 home health care, including, without limitation, standards
12 governing;

13 (a) The procedures used to evaluate and monitor the quality of
14 those services; and

15 (b) The amount of training that a person who provides those
16 services is required to complete;

17 3. An evaluation of a system of long-term care in other states
18 that integrates the services related to long-term care to allow a
19 person to access those services from a single point in the system and
20 a determination of the feasibility of using such a system in this
21 State;

22 4. An evaluation of the feasibility of obtaining a waiver from
23 the Federal Government to integrate and coordinate services related
24 to acute care that are covered by Medicare and services related to
25 long-term care that are covered by Medicaid in this State; and

26 5. An evaluation of the feasibility of obtaining a waiver from
27 the Federal Government to eliminate the requirement that elderly
28 persons in this State impoverish themselves as a condition of
29 receiving assistance for long-term care; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the
31 subcommittee be approved by a majority of the members of the
32 Senate and a majority of the members of the Assembly appointed to
33 the subcommittee; and be it further

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



