

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17—COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

APRIL 11, 2005

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Requires Legislative Committee on Health Care to
conduct interim study of policies related to pain
management. (BDR R-255)

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Requiring the
Legislative Committee on Health Care to conduct an
interim study of policies related to pain management.

1 WHEREAS, Pain suffered as the result of a chronic illness poses a
2 major health problem in the United States and can trigger emotions
3 of fear, anxiety, sadness, confusion, depression and helplessness;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Unmanaged pain can interfere with a person's ability
6 to complete daily activities and diminishes the physical and
7 psychological well-being of a person and the ability of a person to
8 interact appropriately with others; and

9 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than one-half of people who
10 are diagnosed with chronic illness experience uncontrolled pain
11 during their illness; and

12 WHEREAS, It is estimated that chronic pain among employees
13 causes businesses and industries in the United States to lose
14 approximately \$90 billion annually from the use of sick time,
15 reduced productivity and direct medical and other benefit costs; and

16 WHEREAS, Misunderstandings concerning certain
17 pharmaceuticals such as opiates, a class of federally controlled
18 substances, contribute to the dilemma in appropriately addressing
19 pain management; and

20 WHEREAS, There is a compelling need to study pain
21 management policies in this State to ensure that patients have access
22 to necessary and appropriate treatment for their pain; and



1 WHEREAS, Educating patients, caregivers and the medical
2 community about effective methods of managing pain is essential to
3 improving pain management policies and reducing barriers to
4 effective pain management; and

5 WHEREAS, Such education must support prevention of the abuse
6 of controlled substances and consider the interests of law
7 enforcement and the health care and patient advocate communities;
8 now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
10 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislative Committee on
11 Health Care is hereby directed to conduct an interim study of pain
12 management policies in the State of Nevada; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a subcommittee must be appointed for the
14 study consisting of one Legislator appointed by the Majority Leader
15 of the Senate, one Legislator appointed by the Minority Leader of
16 the Senate, one Legislator appointed by the Speaker of the
17 Assembly and one Legislator appointed by the Minority Leader of
18 the Assembly, all of whom must have served on the Senate Standing
19 Committee on Human Resources and Facilities or the Assembly
20 Committee on Health and Human Services during the 2005
21 Legislative Session; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Committee on Health Care
23 shall appoint one person who is a consumer health care advocate,
24 one person who is a representative of the law enforcement, and one
25 representative each from the Board of Medical Examiners, the State
26 Board of Nursing and the State Board of Pharmacy to serve on the
27 subcommittee as nonvoting members; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Committee on Health Care
29 shall appoint a Chairman of the subcommittee from among the
30 members of the subcommittee; and be it further

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

32 1. An analysis of available information relating to access to
33 pain management in the State of Nevada;

34 2. An evaluation of the current pain management policies in
35 this State that may create barriers to access to pain management by
36 patients;

37 3. The identification of existing resources in this State that may
38 be available for use in programs relating to pain management;

39 4. The identification of programs and practices relating to pain
40 management that have been established in the State of Nevada and
41 in other states which could be implemented in Nevada;

42 5. Recommendations for programs to increase public
43 awareness regarding pain management and pharmaceuticals
44 available for pain management;



1 6. Recommendations for specific programs directed at access
2 to pain management and the elimination of barriers to pain
3 management;

4 7. Recommendations for policies and practices which increase
5 access to quality care, including coverage for pain medication, and
6 which ensure that all people have access to appropriate pain
7 management regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, employment
8 status, the presence of preexisting conditions or the ability to pay;
9 and

10 8. Any other proposal for legislation relating to pain
11 management that the Committee may receive or develop; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the
14 subcommittee must be approved by a majority of the members of
15 the Senate and a majority of the members of the Assembly
16 appointed to the subcommittee; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Committee on Health Care
18 shall submit a report of the results of the study and any
19 recommendations for legislation to the 74th Session of the Nevada
20 Legislature.



