

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 293—ASSEMBLYMEN GERHARDT, LESLIE, ANDERSON, BUCKLEY, CONKLIN, ATKINSON, BEERS, BOBZIEN, CLABORN, DENIS, GOICOECHEA, GRADY, HARDY, HOGAN, HORNE, KIHUEN, KIRKPATRICK, KOIVISTO, MANENDO, MCCLAIN, MORTENSON, OCEGUERA, PARKS, PARNELL, PIERCE, SEGERBLOM, WEBER AND WOMACK

MARCH 13, 2007

Referred to Concurrent Committees on
Health and Human Services and Ways and Means

SUMMARY—Makes an appropriation to the Legislative Fund for the Legislative Auditor to enter into a contract with a consultant to conduct a performance audit of agencies which provide child welfare services. (BDR S-706)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

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

AN ACT making an appropriation to the Legislative Fund for the Legislative Auditor to enter into a contract with a consultant to conduct a performance audit of agencies which provide child welfare services; requiring the consultant to submit a report of the performance audit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

- 1 **Section 1.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State
- 2 General Fund to the Legislative Fund created by NRS 218.085 the
- 3 sum of \$400,000 for the Legislative Auditor to enter into a contract
- 4 with a qualified, independent consultant to conduct a performance
- 5 audit of each agency which provides child welfare services.



2. The consultant shall perform random unannounced visits to the agencies which provide child welfare services. During those visits, the consultant shall review files of open and closed cases concerning children who have been abused or neglected. The consultant shall:

(a) Review the manner in which the agencies which provide child welfare services document, respond to and report cases of child abuse or neglect;

(b) Review the procedures used by the agencies which provide child welfare services to determine whether to close a case;

(c) Determine whether the agencies which provide child welfare services are complying with federal and state laws in the manner in which they carry out their responsibilities with respect to child abuse or neglect;

(d) Evaluate the effectiveness and availability of appropriate intervention services;

(e) Determine the frequency with which the agencies which provide child welfare services have direct contact with children placed in foster homes or emergency shelters;

(f) Determine whether the agencies which provide child welfare services have successfully incorporated the recommendations set forth in the Report of the Clark County Blue Ribbon Panel for the Review of Child Deaths and of the Northern Blue Ribbon Panel for the Review of Child Deaths, as applicable; and

(g) Evaluate the progress and efforts made towards meeting the requirements set forth in the federally approved Performance Improvement Plan and Corrective Action Plan.

3. The consultant shall, in determining the frequency with which the agencies which provide child welfare services have direct contact with children placed in foster homes or emergency shelters pursuant to paragraph (e) of subsection 1, determine whether:

(a) The frequency of visits is in accordance with the established policy of each agency which provides child welfare services concerning the frequency of visits to children placed in foster homes or emergency shelters; and

(b) The frequency of visits to each child is appropriate for that child.

4. In reviewing the files of open and closed cases concerning children who have been abused or neglected, the consultant:

(a) Shall, if he becomes aware of circumstances which he reasonably believes may cause a child to be in imminent danger of abuse or neglect, immediately report those circumstances to the appropriate agency which provides child welfare services; and



(b) May interview any relative, foster parent or any other person identified in a case file who may have additional information concerning the case.

5. Each agency which provides child welfare services shall:

(a) Cooperate with the consultant;

(b) Allow the consultant to inspect, review and copy any records, reports and other documents relevant to the duties of the consultant;

(c) Provide access to the consultant to any facility within its jurisdiction which has custody of children pursuant to court order; and

(d) Allow the consultant to interview members of the staff of those facilities and children who are in the custody of those facilities.

6. The independent consultant shall prepare and submit a report of the performance audit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau not later than October 1, 2008.

7. As used in this section, "agency which provides child welfare services" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 432B.030.

Sec. 2. 1. Not later than October 1, 2007:

(a) The Legislative Auditor shall enter into a contract with an independent consultant pursuant to section 1 of this act; and

(b) The Legislative Commission shall review the contract.

2. The contract does not become effective unless approved by the Legislative Commission.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

