

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 408—ASSEMBLYWOMAN WEBER

MARCH 19, 2007

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Establishes Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. (BDR 18-1012)

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 the State Executive Department; establishing and setting forth the duties of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives within the Office of the Governor; establishing the Regional Advisory Board on Faith-Based Community Initiatives; setting forth the membership and duties of the Board; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 **Section 9** of this bill establishes the Office of Faith-Based and Community
2 Initiatives in the Office of the Governor and requires the Governor to appoint a
3 Director of the Office. **Section 12** of this bill creates the Regional Advisory Board
4 of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to advise the Governor on matters
5 affecting faith-based and community nonprofit organizations. **Section 10** of this bill
6 provides that the Director shall: (1) advise the Governor, the Legislature and the
7 Regional Advisory Board of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives on matters
8 relating to faith-based and community nonprofit organizations and social service
9 programs in this State; (2) encourage faith-based and community nonprofit
10 organizations to seek funding from federal, state and local governments; (3)
11 identify, recommend and carry out policies related to assisting faith-based and
12 community nonprofit organizations in the expansion of social service programs; (4)
13 act as a liaison between faith-based and community nonprofit organizations and
14 departments, commissions, boards and other agencies of the federal, state and local
15 governments; (5) develop and coordinate efforts to attract faith-based and
16 community nonprofit organizations to this State; and (6) establish and maintain a
17 clearinghouse of information regarding faith-based and community nonprofit
18 organizations and social service programs in this State.



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

Section 1. Chapter 223 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 13, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. *The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:*

1. Faith-based and community nonprofit organizations are indispensable resources in serving the needs of the citizens of our State and that by embracing and partnering with such organizations, the capacity of State Government to respond to the needs of the citizens is strengthened.

2. Faith-based and community nonprofit organizations provide services in our State that are aimed at reducing poverty, homelessness, violence, chemical addiction and dependency, and improving the lives of low-income and vulnerable adults and children.

3. Faith-based and community nonprofit organizations should have an opportunity to seek funding from federal, state and local governments for social service programs that are separate from the religious practices of such organizations.

4. Faith-based and community nonprofit organizations have the capacity to effectively and efficiently operate social service programs as well as any governmental entity that provides similar services.

5. Communication, coordination and technical assistance at the highest levels of state government are necessary for faith-based and community nonprofit organizations to provide the social service programs needed by Nevadans.

Sec. 3. *As used in sections 2 to 13, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in sections 4 to 8, inclusive, of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.*

Sec. 4. *“Board” means the Regional Advisory Board of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives established pursuant to section 12 of this act.*

Sec. 5. *“Director” means the Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives appointed pursuant to section 9 of this act.*

Sec. 6. *“Faith-based and community nonprofit organization” means any organization that:*

1. The Secretary of the Treasury has determined to be tax exempt pursuant to the provisions of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3); and



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2. Through the operation of a social service program, provides assistance to persons in this State without regard for a person's religious beliefs or affiliation.

Sec. 7. "Governmental funding" means financial assistance provided by the federal, state or local governments and includes, without limitation, grants, loans, loan programs, cooperative agreements, food commodities and appropriations.

Sec. 8. "Social service program":

1. Means a program that is administered by a faith-based and community nonprofit organization, which program is financed in whole or in part by governmental funding; and

2. Includes, without limitation:

(a) Daycare for children or adults.

(b) A program that provides adoption services.

(c) A program that provides counseling and support to victims or perpetrators of domestic violence.

(d) A program that provides services for adults or children with special needs or disabilities.

(e) A job training or placement program.

(f) A program that provides food, meal preparations or food delivery services.

(g) Substance abuse prevention or treatment programs.

(h) A program that provides transportation services.

(i) A program that provides health services.

(j) Literacy and educational programs for children or adults.

(k) A program that is concerned with the prevention of crime or which provides assistance to the victims of crime or to the family members of persons convicted of crimes.

(l) A program that provides services to persons upon release from prison.

(m) A program that provides housing assistance, including, without limitation, emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent housing.

Sec. 9. 1. The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is hereby established in the Office of the Governor.

2. The Governor shall appoint the Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. In making the appointment, the Governor may assemble a panel of persons who have appropriate experience in working with social service programs or faith-based and community nonprofit organizations to make recommendations of qualified candidates for the position of Director.

3. The Director shall devote his entire time and attention to the business of his Office and shall not engage in any other gainful employment or occupation.



1 **4. The Director is not in the classified or unclassified service**
2 **of the State and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.**

3 **Sec. 10. The Director of the Office of Faith-Based and**
4 **Community Initiatives:**

5 **1. Shall:**

6 **(a) Advise the Governor, the Legislature and the Board on**
7 **matters relating to faith-based and community nonprofit**
8 **organizations and social service programs in this State.**

9 **(b) Encourage faith-based and community nonprofit**
10 **organizations to seek funding from federal, state and local**
11 **governments.**

12 **(c) As directed by the Governor, identify, recommend and**
13 **carry out policies related to assisting faith-based and community**
14 **nonprofit organizations to expand social service programs.**

15 **(d) Act as a liaison between faith-based and community**
16 **nonprofit organizations and departments, commissions, boards**
17 **and other agencies of federal, state and local governments.**

18 **(e) Develop and coordinate efforts to attract faith-based and**
19 **community nonprofit organizations to this State.**

20 **(f) Establish and maintain a clearinghouse of information**
21 **regarding faith-based and community nonprofit organizations and**
22 **social service programs in this State.**

23 **2. May accept any gift, donation, bequest or devise to assist**
24 **him in carrying out his duties.**

25 **Sec. 11. The Office of Faith-Based and Community**
26 **Initiatives shall maintain a website on the Internet for public**
27 **information maintained, collected or compiled by the Director of**
28 **the Office. The website must provide information on the social**
29 **service programs offered by faith-based and community nonprofit**
30 **organizations in this State.**

31 **Sec. 12. 1. The Regional Advisory Board of Faith-Based**
32 **and Community Initiatives is hereby created to advise the**
33 **Governor on matters affecting faith-based and community**
34 **nonprofit organizations.**

35 **2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the Board**
36 **consists of 23 members as follows:**

37 **(a) Two members of the Senate appointed by the Majority**
38 **Leader of the Senate.**

39 **(b) Two members of the Assembly appointed by the Speaker of**
40 **the Assembly.**

41 **(c) Nineteen other persons appointed by the Governor as**
42 **follows:**

43 **(1) One person who is an employee of the Department of**
44 **Employment, Training and Rehabilitation.**



(2) One person who is an employee of the Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry.

(3) One person who is an employee of the Department of Corrections.

(4) One person who is an employee of the Aging Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(5) One person who is an employee of the Health Division of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(6) One person who is an employee of the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(7) One person who is an employee of the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(8) One person who is an employee of the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(9) A representative of the Community Interfaith Council of Las Vegas.

(10) A representative of the Interfaith Council of Southern Nevada.

(11) A representative of the Las Vegas chapter of 100 Black Men of America, Inc.

(12) A representative of WestCare Nevada, Inc.

(13) A representative of the United Way of Southern Nevada, Inc.

(14) A representative of the Nevada Community Foundation, Inc.

(15) A representative of the Southern Nevada Community Gang Task Force.

(16) A representative of Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents.

(17) A representative of the Boys & Girls Club of Las Vegas, Inc.

(18) A representative of Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth.

(19) A representative of Southwest Prison Ministries, Inc.

3. The term of a member of the Board who is appointed pursuant to subsection 2 is 2 years.

4. The Board shall annually elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary from among its members. The Board shall meet at least quarterly.

5. Each member of the Board serves without compensation.

6. If an organization that has a representative appointed to the Board pursuant to paragraphs (9) to (19), inclusive, of



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1 *subsection 2 ceases to exist, the number of members of the Board*
2 *shall decrease by one member.*

3 **Sec. 13.** *On or before February 15 of each odd-numbered*
4 *year, the Board shall submit to the Governor and to the Director*
5 *of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the next*
6 *regular session of the Legislature a written report:*

7 *1. Concerning the activities of the Board during the*
8 *preceding biennium.*

9 *2. Making any recommendations for legislative action that*
10 *will improve or increase the provision of social service programs*
11 *by faith-based and community nonprofit organizations.*

12 **Sec. 14.** NRS 223.085 is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 223.085 1. The Governor may, within the limits of available
14 money, employ such persons as he deems necessary to provide an
15 appropriate staff for the Office of the Governor, including, without
16 limitation, the Agency for Nuclear Projects, the Office of Science,
17 Innovation and Technology , *the Office of Faith-Based and*
18 *Community Initiatives* and the Governor's mansion. Any such
19 employees are not in the classified or unclassified service of the
20 State and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

21 2. The Governor shall:

22 (a) Determine the salaries and benefits of the persons employed
23 pursuant to subsection 1, within limits of money available for that
24 purpose; and

25 (b) Adopt such rules and policies as he deems appropriate to
26 establish the duties and employment rights of the persons employed
27 pursuant to subsection 1.

28 **Sec. 15.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

