
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 48—ASSEMBLYMAN MANENDO (BY REQUEST)

PREFILED FEBRUARY 1, 2007

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Requires the Governor to proclaim the third week in April as “Nevada Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week.” (BDR 19-128)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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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 days of observance; requiring the Governor to proclaim the third week in April as “Nevada Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week”; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law sets forth certain days of observance in this State to commemorate
2 certain persons or occasions or to publicize information regarding certain important
3 topics. (Chapter 236 of NRS) This bill requires the Governor to proclaim the third
4 week in April as “Nevada Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week.”

1 WHEREAS, The month of April has been designated as “National
2 Child Abuse Prevention Month”; and

3 WHEREAS, The most recent data from the National Child Abuse
4 and Neglect Data System established by the United States
5 Department of Health and Human Services reports that nearly
6 875,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect in the United
7 States in 2004; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the National Child Abuse and Neglect
9 Data System, an average of four children died each day in the
10 United States in 2004 as a result of abuse and neglect; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the National Child Abuse and Neglect
12 Data System, in 2004, 45 percent of the children who died as a
13 result of abuse and neglect were children who were 1 year of age or



1 younger and 81 percent of the children who died were children who
2 were 3 years of age or younger; and

3 WHEREAS, Child abuse involving head trauma, including,
4 without limitation, the head trauma known as shaken baby
5 syndrome, which is caused by the violent shaking of an infant or
6 small child, is recognized as the leading cause of death of physically
7 abused children; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the National Center on Shaken Baby
9 Syndrome, approximately 1,200 to 1,400 children are treated
10 annually for signs or symptoms of shaken baby syndrome, and 25 to
11 30 percent of those children die as a result of their injuries; and

12 WHEREAS, Shaken baby syndrome is an entirely preventable
13 form of child abuse; and

14 WHEREAS, Many severe and permanent physical and mental
15 consequences may result from shaken baby syndrome, including,
16 without limitation, various levels of brain damage, loss of vision,
17 paralysis, seizures and death; and

18 WHEREAS, Medical professionals believe that thousands of
19 cases of shaken baby syndrome are being misdiagnosed or
20 undetected each year in the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, Shaken baby syndrome may result in more than
22 \$1,000,000 in medical costs to care for a single disabled child in the
23 first few years of life; and

24 WHEREAS, Educational and prevention programs constitute the
25 most effective solution for minimizing shaken baby syndrome; and

26 WHEREAS, Prevention programs have demonstrated that
27 educating new parents about the danger of shaking young children
28 and how they can help protect their child from injury can bring
29 about a significant reduction in the number of cases of shaken baby
30 syndrome; and

31 WHEREAS, Educational programs have been shown to raise
32 awareness and provide critically important information about shaken
33 baby syndrome to parents, caregivers, daycare workers, employees
34 of child protection agencies and law enforcement agencies, health
35 care professionals and legal representatives; and

36 WHEREAS, Congress has previously designated the third week
37 of April as "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week";
38 and

39 WHEREAS, Congress strongly supports efforts to protect children
40 from abuse and neglect; and

41 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada supports the national effort to
42 protect children from abuse and neglect and recognizes the



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importance of protecting the children of this State from abuse and neglect; now therefore,

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

Section 1. Chapter 236 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The Governor shall annually proclaim the third week in April to be "Nevada Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week."

2. The proclamation must call upon news media, educators, health care providers and appropriate governmental officers to bring to the attention of the residents of this State:

(a) Factual information regarding shaken baby syndrome, including, without limitation:

(1) Statistical information regarding the number of children who are injured or killed each year as a result of shaken baby syndrome;

(2) The signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome;

(3) The types of injuries, including, without limitation, physical, mental and emotional consequences, which may result from shaken baby syndrome; and

(4) The annual costs of providing medical treatment to children who suffer from shaken baby syndrome in this State; and

(b) Educational programs and materials relating to the prevention of shaken baby syndrome.

3. As used in this section, "shaken baby syndrome" means a form of child abuse in which severe or permanent physical or mental consequences result from violent shaking or shaking and impacting of the head of an infant or small child, including, without limitation:

(a) Various levels of brain damage or other neurological changes due to the destruction of cells of the brain;

(b) Loss of vision;

(c) Paralysis;

(d) Seizures; and

(e) Death.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

