

CHAPTER.....

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:

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, According to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, in 2004, 45 percent of the children who died as a result of abuse and neglect were children who were 1 year of age or younger and 81 percent of the children who died were children who were 3 years of age or younger; and

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

