

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 52—ASSEMBLYMAN CARPENTER

PREFILED FEBRUARY 1, 2007

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Makes various changes relating to domestic relations. (BDR 11-421)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
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 domestic relations; codifying certain common law factors that a court must consider when determining alimony; requiring the Director of the Department of Public Safety to submit an annual report concerning temporary and extended orders for protection against domestic violence to the Legislature; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Under existing case law in Nevada, a court determining whether alimony
2 should be awarded and the appropriate amount of alimony is required to consider
3 several relevant factors including: (1) the financial condition of the parties; (2) the
4 nature and value of their respective property; (3) the contribution of each party to
5 any property held by both parties as tenants by the entirety; (4) the duration of the
6 marriage; and (5) the income, earning capacity, age and health of each party.
7 (*Buchanan v. Buchanan*, 90 Nev. 209, 215 (1974)) **Section 1** of this bill codifies
8 those factors as well as factors from subsequent case law so that a court must
9 consider those factors when determining alimony. (*Buchanan*, 90 Nev. at 215;
10 *Sprenger v. Sprenger*, 110 Nev. 855, 859 (1994); *Rodriguez v. Rodriguez*, 116 Nev.
11 993, 999 (2000))

12 **Section 5** of this bill requires the Director of the Department of Public Safety to
13 submit a written report concerning the temporary and extended orders for
14 protection against domestic violence issued in this State to the Director of the
15 Legislative Counsel Bureau which includes the total number of temporary and
16 extended orders granted, the number of grants of temporary custody that are
17 included in such temporary and extended orders, the number of such orders that are
18 issued to women and the number of such orders that are issued to men.



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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 125.150 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 125.150 Except as otherwise provided in NRS 125.155 and
3 unless the action is contrary to a premarital agreement between the
4 parties which is enforceable pursuant to chapter 123A of NRS:

5 1. In granting a divorce, the court:

6 (a) May award such alimony to the wife or to the husband, in a
7 specified principal sum or as specified periodic payments, as
8 appears just and equitable; and

9 (b) Shall, to the extent practicable, make an equal disposition of
10 the community property of the parties, except that the court may
11 make an unequal disposition of the community property in such
12 proportions as it deems just if the court finds a compelling reason to
13 do so and sets forth in writing the reasons for making the unequal
14 disposition.

15 2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, in granting
16 a divorce, the court shall dispose of any property held in joint
17 tenancy in the manner set forth in subsection 1 for the disposition of
18 community property. If a party has made a contribution of separate
19 property to the acquisition or improvement of property held in joint
20 tenancy, the court may provide for the reimbursement of that party
21 for his contribution. The amount of reimbursement must not exceed
22 the amount of the contribution of separate property that can be
23 traced to the acquisition or improvement of property held in joint
24 tenancy, without interest or any adjustment because of an increase in
25 the value of the property held in joint tenancy. The amount of
26 reimbursement must not exceed the value, at the time of the
27 disposition, of the property held in joint tenancy for which the
28 contribution of separate property was made. In determining whether
29 to provide for the reimbursement, in whole or in part, of a party who
30 has contributed separate property, the court shall consider:

31 (a) The intention of the parties in placing the property in joint
32 tenancy;

33 (b) The length of the marriage; and

34 (c) Any other factor which the court deems relevant in making a
35 just and equitable disposition of that property.

36 ➡ As used in this subsection, “contribution” includes , *without*
37 *limitation*, a down payment, a payment for the acquisition or
38 improvement of property, and a payment reducing the principal of a
39 loan used to finance the purchase or improvement of property. The
40 term does not include a payment of interest on a loan used to finance
41 the purchase or improvement of property, or a payment made for
42 maintenance, insurance or taxes on property.



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1 3. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 125.141, whether or
2 not application for suit money has been made under the provisions
3 of NRS 125.040, the court may award a reasonable attorney's fee to
4 either party to an action for divorce if those fees are in issue under
5 the pleadings.

6 4. In granting a divorce, the court may also set apart such
7 portion of the husband's separate property for the wife's support, the
8 wife's separate property for the husband's support or the separate
9 property of either spouse for the support of their children as is
10 deemed just and equitable.

11 5. In the event of the death of either party or the subsequent
12 remarriage of the spouse to whom specified periodic payments were
13 to be made, all the payments required by the decree must cease,
14 unless it was otherwise ordered by the court.

15 6. If the court adjudicates the property rights of the parties, or
16 an agreement by the parties settling their property rights has been
17 approved by the court, whether or not the court has retained
18 jurisdiction to modify them, the adjudication of property rights, and
19 the agreements settling property rights, may nevertheless at any time
20 thereafter be modified by the court upon written stipulation signed
21 and acknowledged by the parties to the action, and in accordance
22 with the terms thereof.

23 7. If a decree of divorce, or an agreement between the parties
24 which was ratified, adopted or approved in a decree of divorce,
25 provides for specified periodic payments of alimony, the decree or
26 agreement is not subject to modification by the court as to accrued
27 payments. Payments pursuant to a decree entered on or after July 1,
28 1975, which have not accrued at the time a motion for modification
29 is filed may be modified upon a showing of changed circumstances,
30 whether or not the court has expressly retained jurisdiction for the
31 modification. In addition to any other factors the court considers
32 relevant in determining whether to modify the order, the court shall
33 consider whether the income of the spouse who is ordered to pay
34 alimony, as indicated on the spouse's federal income tax return for
35 the preceding calendar year, has been reduced to such a level that
36 the spouse is financially unable to pay the amount of alimony he has
37 been ordered to pay.

38 8. *In addition to any other factors the court considers*
39 *relevant in determining whether to award alimony and the amount*
40 *of such an award, the court shall consider:*

41 (a) *The financial condition of each spouse;*

42 (b) *The nature and value of the respective property of each*
43 *spouse;*

44 (c) *The contribution of each spouse to any property held by the*
45 *spouses pursuant to NRS 123.030;*



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- (d) *The duration of the marriage;*
- (e) *The income, earning capacity, age and health of each spouse;*
- (f) *The standard of living during the marriage;*
- (g) *The career before the marriage of the spouse who would receive the alimony;*
- (h) *The existence of specialized education or training or the level of marketable skills attained by each spouse during the marriage;*
- (i) *The contribution of either spouse as homemaker;*
- (j) *The award of property granted by the court in the divorce, other than child support and alimony, to the spouse who would receive the alimony; and*
- (k) *The physical and mental condition of each party as it relates to the financial condition, health and ability to work of that spouse.*

9. In granting a divorce , the court shall consider the need to grant alimony to a spouse for the purpose of obtaining training or education relating to a job, career or profession. In addition to any other factors the court considers relevant in determining whether such alimony should be granted, the court shall consider:

(a) Whether the spouse who would pay such alimony has obtained greater job skills or education during the marriage; and

(b) Whether the spouse who would receive such alimony provided financial support while the other spouse obtained job skills or education.

~~19-1~~ 10. If the court determines that alimony should be awarded pursuant to the provisions of subsection ~~18-1~~ 9:

(a) The court, in its order, shall provide for the time within which the spouse who is the recipient of the alimony must commence the training or education relating to a job, career or profession.

(b) The spouse who is ordered to pay the alimony may, upon changed circumstances, file a motion to modify the order.

(c) The spouse who is the recipient of the alimony may be granted, in addition to any other alimony granted by the court, money to provide for:

(1) Testing of the recipient's skills relating to a job, career or profession;

(2) Evaluation of the recipient's abilities and goals relating to a job, career or profession;

(3) Guidance for the recipient in establishing a specific plan for training or education relating to a job, career or profession;

(4) Subsidization of an employer's costs incurred in training the recipient;



- 1 (5) Assisting the recipient to search for a job; or
- 2 (6) Payment of the costs of tuition, books and fees for:
- 3 (I) The equivalent of a high school diploma;
- 4 (II) College courses which are directly applicable to the
- 5 recipient's goals for his career; or
- 6 (III) Courses of training in skills desirable for
- 7 employment.

8 ~~10.1~~ 11. For the purposes of this section, a change of 20
9 percent or more in the gross monthly income of a spouse who is
10 ordered to pay alimony shall be deemed to constitute changed
11 circumstances requiring a review for modification of the payments
12 of alimony. As used in this subsection, "gross monthly income" has
13 the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 125B.070.

14 **Sec. 2.** (Deleted by amendment.)

15 **Sec. 3.** (Deleted by amendment.)

16 **Sec. 4.** (Deleted by amendment.)

17 **Sec. 5.** NRS 179A.350 is hereby amended to read as follows:

18 179A.350 1. The Repository for Information Concerning
19 Orders for Protection Against Domestic Violence is hereby created
20 within the Central Repository.

21 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection ~~4.1~~ 6, the
22 Repository for Information Concerning Orders for Protection
23 Against Domestic Violence must contain a complete and systematic
24 record of all temporary and extended orders for protection against
25 domestic violence issued or registered in the State of Nevada, in
26 accordance with regulations adopted by the Director of the
27 Department, including, without limitation, any information received
28 pursuant to NRS 33.095. Information received by the Central
29 Repository pursuant to NRS 33.095 must be entered in the
30 Repository for Information Concerning Orders for Protection
31 Against Domestic Violence not later than 8 hours after it is received
32 by the Central Repository.

33 3. The information in the Repository for Information
34 Concerning Orders for Protection Against Domestic Violence must
35 be accessible by computer at all times to each agency of criminal
36 justice.

37 4. *On or before February 15 of each year, the Director of the*
38 *Department shall submit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel*
39 *Bureau a written report concerning all temporary and extended*
40 *orders for protection against domestic violence issued pursuant to*
41 *NRS 33.020 during the previous calendar year that were*
42 *transmitted to the Repository for Information Concerning Orders*
43 *for Protection Against Domestic Violence. The report must*
44 *include, without limitation, information for each court that issues*



1 *temporary or extended orders for protection against domestic*
2 *violence concerning:*

3 (a) *The total number of temporary and extended orders that*
4 *were granted by the court pursuant to NRS 33.020 during the*
5 *calendar year to which the report pertains;*

6 (b) *The number of temporary and extended orders that were*
7 *granted to women;*

8 (c) *The number of temporary and extended orders that were*
9 *granted to men;*

10 (d) *The number of temporary and extended orders that were*
11 *vacated or expired;*

12 (e) *The number of temporary orders that included a grant of*
13 *temporary custody of a minor child; and*

14 (f) *The number of temporary and extended orders that were*
15 *served on the adverse party.*

16 5. *The information provided pursuant to subsection 4 must*
17 *include only aggregate information for statistical purposes and*
18 *must exclude any identifying information relating to a particular*
19 *person.*

20 6. *The Repository for Information Concerning Orders for*
21 *Protection Against Domestic Violence must not contain any*
22 *information concerning an event that occurred before October 1,*
23 *1998.*

