

SENATE BILL NO. 326—SENATOR TOWNSEND

MARCH 19, 2007

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Education

SUMMARY—Creates the Committee on Concurrent Disorders.
(BDR 40-1138)

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

~

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

AN ACT relating to public health; creating the Committee on Concurrent Disorders; providing the duties of the Committee; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 This bill creates the Committee on Concurrent Disorders, which consists of 12
2 members appointed by the Governor and 1 ex officio member. The responsibilities
3 of the Committee include: (1) studying and reviewing issues relating to persons
4 with concurrent disorders, which is the existence of both mental health and
5 substance abuse disorders in the same person; (2) developing recommendations for
6 improving the treatment provided to such persons; and (3) submitting a biennial
7 report and recommendations for necessary legislation to the Director of the
8 Legislative Counsel Bureau for distribution to the Legislature.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 439 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act.

3 **Sec. 2.** *As used in sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act, unless the*
4 *context otherwise requires, “concurrent disorders” means the*
5 *existence of both mental health and substance abuse disorders in*
6 *the same person. The term is also commonly referred to as “co-*
7 *occurring disorders.”*

8 **Sec. 3. 1.** *There is hereby created the Committee on*
9 *Concurrent Disorders. The Committee consists of:*



* S B 3 2 6 *

1 (a) The Administrator of the Division of Mental Health and
2 Developmental Services of the Department, who is an ex officio
3 member of the Committee; and

4 (b) Twelve members appointed by the Governor.

5 2. The Governor shall appoint to the Committee:

6 (a) One member who is a psychiatrist licensed to practice
7 medicine in this State and certified by the American Board of
8 Psychiatry and Neurology;

9 (b) One member who is a psychologist licensed to practice in
10 this State;

11 (c) One member who is licensed as a clinical social worker in
12 this State;

13 (d) One member who is a district judge in this State;

14 (e) One member who is a representative of the Nevada System
15 of Higher Education;

16 (f) One member who is a representative of a state or local
17 criminal justice agency;

18 (g) One member who is a representative of a hospital or
19 mental health facility in this State;

20 (h) One member who is a member of the Nevada Mental
21 Health Planning Advisory Council;

22 (i) One member who is a representative of a program relating
23 to mental health or the treatment of the abuse of alcohol or drugs
24 in this State;

25 (j) One member who is a policy analyst in the field of mental
26 health, substance abuse or criminal justice;

27 (k) One member who is a representative of persons who have
28 used services relating to mental health, substance abuse or
29 criminal justice in this State; and

30 (l) One member who is an immediate family member of a
31 person who has used services relating to mental health, substance
32 abuse or criminal justice in this State.

33 3. The members of the Committee shall elect a Chairman and
34 Vice Chairman by a majority vote. After the initial election, the
35 Chairman and Vice Chairman shall hold office for a term of 1
36 year beginning on October 1 of each year. If a vacancy occurs in
37 the chairmanship, the members of the Committee shall elect a
38 Chairman from among its members for the remainder of the
39 unexpired term.

40 4. After the initial terms, each member of the Committee who
41 is appointed serves for a term of 4 years. A member may be
42 reappointed.

43 5. A vacancy on the Committee must be filled in the same
44 manner as the original appointment.

45 6. Each member of the Committee:



- 1 (a) Serves without compensation; and
- 2 (b) While engaged in the business of the Committee, is entitled
- 3 to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for
- 4 state officers and employees generally.

5 7. Each member of the Committee who is an officer or

6 employee of the State or a local government must be relieved from

7 his duties without loss of his regular compensation so that he may

8 prepare for and attend meetings of the Committee and perform

9 any work necessary to carry out the duties of the Committee in the

10 most timely manner practicable. A state agency or local

11 government shall not require an officer or employee who is a

12 member of the Committee to make up the time he is absent from

13 work to carry out his duties as a member, and shall not require the

14 member to take annual vacation or compensatory time for the

15 absence.

16 8. The members of the Committee shall meet at least

17 quarterly and at the times and places specified by a call of the

18 Chairman or a majority of the members of the Committee.

19 9. Eight members of the Committee constitute a quorum. The

20 affirmative vote of a majority of the Committee members present is

21 sufficient for any action of the Committee.

22 **Sec. 4. The Committee shall:**

23 1. Study and review issues relating to persons with

24 concurrent disorders.

25 2. Develop a policy statement confirming the commitment of

26 this State to treatment for persons with concurrent disorders and

27 the expectations of this State concerning such treatment.

28 3. Review and recommend strategies for improving the

29 treatment provided to persons with concurrent disorders,

30 including, without limitation, reducing administrative barriers to

31 such treatment and supporting the provision of coordinated and

32 integrated services relating to mental health, substance abuse and

33 criminal justice to persons with concurrent disorders.

34 4. Develop recommendations concerning the licensing and

35 certification of treatment programs for persons with concurrent

36 disorders, including, without limitation, the standards that should

37 be required of such programs to increase their effectiveness.

38 5. Develop recommendations concerning the creation of

39 incentives for the development of treatment programs for persons

40 with concurrent disorders.

41 6. Evaluate the utilization of existing resources in this State

42 for the treatment of persons with concurrent disorders and develop

43 recommendations concerning innovative funding alternatives to

44 promote and support mental health courts, the prevention of



1 *concurrent disorders and the coordination of integrated services in*
2 *the mental health, substance abuse and criminal justice systems.*

3 *7. Identify and recommend practices and procedures to*
4 *improve the effectiveness and quality of care provided in both the*
5 *public and private sector to persons with concurrent disorders.*

6 *8. Examine and develop recommendations concerning*
7 *training and technical assistance that is available through the*
8 *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of*
9 *the United States Department of Health and Human Services and*
10 *other entities to support the development and implementation of a*
11 *comprehensive system of care for persons with concurrent*
12 *disorders.*

13 *9. Submit on or before January 31 of each odd-numbered*
14 *year a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for*
15 *distribution to the regular session of the Legislature. The report*
16 *must include, without limitation, a summary of the work of the*
17 *Committee and recommendations for any necessary legislation*
18 *concerning issues relating to persons with concurrent disorders.*

19 **Sec. 5.** As soon as practicable on or after October 1, 2007, the
20 appointed members of the Committee on Concurrent Disorders
21 created by section 3 of this act must be appointed to initial terms as
22 follows:

23 1. The members who are appointed by the Governor pursuant
24 to paragraphs (a) to (d), inclusive, of subsection 2 of section 3 of
25 this act must be appointed to terms that expire on October 1, 2011;

26 2. The members who are appointed by the Governor pursuant
27 to paragraphs (e) to (h), inclusive, of subsection 2 of section 3 of
28 this act must be appointed to terms that expire on October 1, 2010;
29 and

30 3. The members who are appointed by the Governor pursuant
31 to paragraphs (i) to (l), inclusive, of subsection 2 of section 3 of this
32 act must be appointed to terms that expire on October 1, 2009.

