

SENATE BILL NO. 326—SENATOR TOWNSEND

MARCH 19, 2007

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Education

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

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 public health; creating the Committee on Co-Occurring 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 Co-Occurring Disorders, which consists of
2 14 members appointed by the Governor and 1 ex officio member. The
3 responsibilities of the Committee include: (1) studying and reviewing issues
4 relating to persons with co-occurring disorders, which is the existence of both
5 mental health and substance abuse disorders in the same person; (2) developing
6 recommendations for improving the treatment provided to such persons; and (3)
7 submitting a biennial report and recommendations for necessary legislation to the
8 Director of the 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, “co-occurring disorders” means the*
5 *existence of both mental health and substance abuse disorders in*
6 *the same person.*

7 **Sec. 3. 1.** *There is hereby created the Committee on*
8 *Co-Occurring Disorders. The Committee consists of:*



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) *Fourteen 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 physician licensed pursuant to*
10 *chapter 630 or 633 of NRS who is certified as an addictionologist*
11 *by the American Society of Addiction Medicine;*

12 (c) *One member who is a psychologist licensed to practice in*
13 *this State;*

14 (d) *One member who is licensed as a marriage and family*
15 *therapist in this State;*

16 (e) *One member who is licensed as a clinical social worker in*
17 *this State;*

18 (f) *One member who is a district judge in this State;*

19 (g) *One member who is a representative of the Nevada System*
20 *of Higher Education;*

21 (h) *One member who is a representative of a state or local*
22 *criminal justice agency;*

23 (i) *One member who is a representative of a hospital or mental*
24 *health facility in this State;*

25 (j) *One member who is a member of the Nevada Mental*
26 *Health Planning Advisory Council;*

27 (k) *One member who is a representative of a program relating*
28 *to mental health and the treatment of the abuse of alcohol or*
29 *drugs in this State;*

30 (l) *One member who is a policy analyst in the field of mental*
31 *health, substance abuse or criminal justice;*

32 (m) *One member who is a representative of persons who have*
33 *used services relating to mental health, substance abuse or*
34 *criminal justice in this State; and*

35 (n) *One member who is an immediate family member of a*
36 *person who has used services relating to mental health, substance*
37 *abuse or criminal justice in this State.*

38 3. *The members of the Committee shall elect a Chairman and*
39 *Vice Chairman by a majority vote. After the initial election, the*
40 *Chairman and Vice Chairman shall hold office for a term of 1*
41 *year beginning on October 1 of each year. If a vacancy occurs in*
42 *the chairmanship, the members of the Committee shall elect a*
43 *Chairman from among its members for the remainder of the*
44 *unexpired term.*



1 4. After the initial terms, each member of the Committee who
2 is appointed serves for a term of 4 years. A member may be
3 reappointed.

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

6 6. Each member of the Committee:

7 (a) Serves without compensation; and

8 (b) While engaged in the business of the Committee, is entitled
9 to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for
10 state officers and employees generally.

11 7. Each member of the Committee who is an officer or
12 employee of the State or a local government must be relieved from
13 his duties without loss of his regular compensation so that he may
14 prepare for and attend meetings of the Committee and perform
15 any work necessary to carry out the duties of the Committee in the
16 most timely manner practicable. A state agency or local
17 government shall not require an officer or employee who is a
18 member of the Committee to make up the time he is absent from
19 work to carry out his duties as a member, and shall not require the
20 member to take annual vacation or compensatory time for the
21 absence.

22 8. The members of the Committee shall meet at least
23 quarterly and at the times and places specified by a call of the
24 Chairman or a majority of the members of the Committee.

25 9. Eight members of the Committee constitute a quorum. The
26 affirmative vote of a majority of the Committee members present is
27 sufficient for any action of the Committee.

28 Sec. 4. The Committee shall:

29 1. Study and review issues relating to persons with
30 co-occurring disorders.

31 2. Develop a policy statement confirming the commitment of
32 this State to treatment for persons with co-occurring disorders and
33 the expectations of this State concerning such treatment.

34 3. Review and recommend strategies for improving the
35 treatment provided to persons with co-occurring disorders,
36 including, without limitation, reducing administrative barriers to
37 such treatment and supporting the provision of coordinated and
38 integrated services relating to mental health, substance abuse and
39 criminal justice to persons with co-occurring disorders.

40 4. Develop recommendations concerning the licensing and
41 certification of treatment programs for persons with co-occurring
42 disorders, including, without limitation, the standards that should
43 be required of such programs to increase their effectiveness.



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1 5. *Develop recommendations concerning the creation of*
2 *incentives for the development of treatment programs for persons*
3 *with co-occurring disorders.*

4 6. *Evaluate the utilization of existing resources in this State*
5 *for the treatment of persons with co-occurring disorders and*
6 *develop recommendations concerning innovative funding*
7 *alternatives to promote and support mental health courts, the*
8 *prevention of co-occurring disorders and the coordination of*
9 *integrated services in the mental health, substance abuse and*
10 *criminal justice systems.*

11 7. *Identify and recommend practices and procedures to*
12 *improve the effectiveness and quality of care provided in both the*
13 *public and private sector to persons with co-occurring disorders.*

14 8. *Examine and develop recommendations concerning*
15 *training and technical assistance that is available through the*
16 *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of*
17 *the United States Department of Health and Human Services and*
18 *other entities to support the development and implementation of a*
19 *comprehensive system of care for persons with co-occurring*
20 *disorders.*

21 9. *Submit on or before January 31 of each odd-numbered*
22 *year a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for*
23 *distribution to the regular session of the Legislature. The report*
24 *must include, without limitation, a summary of the work of the*
25 *Committee and recommendations for any necessary legislation*
26 *concerning issues relating to persons with co-occurring disorders.*

27 **Sec. 5.** As soon as practicable on or after October 1, 2007, the
28 appointed members of the Committee on Co-Occurring Disorders
29 created by section 3 of this act must be appointed to initial terms as
30 follows:

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

34 2. The members who are appointed by the Governor pursuant
35 to paragraphs (f) to (j), inclusive, of subsection 2 of section 3 of this
36 act must be appointed to terms that expire on October 1, 2010; and

37 3. The members who are appointed by the Governor pursuant
38 to paragraphs (k) to (n), inclusive, of subsection 2 of section 3 of
39 this act must be appointed to terms that expire on October 1, 2009.

