

SENATE BILL NO. 335—SENATOR RHODS

MARCH 19, 2007

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Enacts provisions to assist the Department of Health and Human Services with the recruitment and retention of staff in rural Nevada. (BDR 23-1308)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

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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 the Department of Health and Human Services; authorizing the divisions of the Department to purchase retirement credits for certain employees; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Section 1 of this bill authorizes the divisions of the Department of Health and Human Services to purchase retirement service credits for certain employees who are employed by a division of the Department in areas of the State in which the Director of the Department has determined there is difficulty attracting, recruiting and retaining capable persons to work as licensed social workers, licensed clinical social workers, licensed registered nurses, licensed psychologists, licensed therapists, licensed counselors or in any other position within the Department for which a professional license is required and that is designated by the Director as eligible to receive retirement credits purchased by a division.

Section 3 of this bill makes an appropriation to the Department in the amount of \$3.5 million to pay for the purchase of the retirement service credits authorized by **section 1** of this bill.



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

Section 1. Chapter 286 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 3 and 4 and except as otherwise required as a result of NRS 286.537, any division of the Department may pay the cost for an employee to purchase one-fifth of a year of service pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 286.300 if:

(a) The employee is a member of the System and has at least 5 years of service;

(b) The employee has been employed in his position for at least 5 consecutive years, regardless of whether the employment was with one or more divisions; and

(c) Each evaluation of the employee conducted pursuant to NRS 284.340 is at least satisfactory for the years of employment required by paragraph (b).

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 3 and 4, the division shall pay the cost for an employee to purchase one-fifth of a year of service for each year that the employee satisfies the requirements of subsection 1.

3. In no event may the years of service purchased by an employee as a result of subsection 2 of NRS 286.300 exceed 5 years.

4. In paying the cost for an employee to purchase service pursuant to this section, a division shall pay the cost of 1 year of service for each 5-year period of creditable employment, and shall not pay for fractional years of service.

5. As used in this section:

(a) "Department" means the Department of Health and Human Services.

(b) "Director" means the Director of the Department.

(c) "Division" means a division of the Department established pursuant to NRS 232.300.

(d) "Employee" means a person who:

(1) Is employed by a division as a licensed social worker, licensed clinical social worker, licensed registered nurse, licensed psychologist, licensed therapist, licensed counselor or in any other position within the Department for which a professional license is required and who is designated by the Director as eligible to receive retirement credits purchased by a division pursuant to this section; and

(2) Is employed by a division in an area of the State in which the Director determines that the division has experienced



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difficulty in attracting, recruiting and retaining capable persons to serve in the positions described in subparagraph (1).

Sec. 2. NRS 286.3005 is hereby amended to read as follows:

286.3005 A state agency may purchase credit for service on behalf of a member only as provided in NRS 286.3007 ~~and~~ *and section 1 of this act*. Except as otherwise required as a result of NRS 286.537 or 391.165, any other public employer may pay any portion of the cost to purchase credit for service under NRS 286.300, but is not required to do so. No credit may be validated unless the cost of purchasing credit has been paid.

Sec. 3. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services the sum of \$3,500,000 to pay for the purchase of retirement credits for certain employees as set forth in section 1 of this act.

2. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2009, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September 18, 2009, by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 18, 2009.

Sec. 4. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

