

SENATE BILL NO. 491—COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE
OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES)

MARCH 26, 2007

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Establishes the preferred manner of referring to persons with disabilities in Nevada Revised Statutes. (BDR 17-297)

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 persons with disabilities; establishing the preferred manner of referring to such persons in Nevada Revised Statutes; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 This bill establishes the preferred manner of referring to persons with
- 2 disabilities in Nevada Revised Statutes by requiring the Legislative Counsel, to the
- 3 extent practicable, to ensure that persons with physical, mental or cognitive
- 4 disabilities are referred to in Nevada Revised Statutes using language that is
- 5 commonly viewed as respectful and sentence structure that refers to the person
- 6 before referring to his disability.

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

- 1 **Section 1.** Chapter 220 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
- 2 thereto a new section to read as follows:
- 3 ***1. The Legislative Counsel shall, to the extent practicable,***
- 4 ***ensure that persons with physical, mental or cognitive disabilities***
- 5 ***are referred to in Nevada Revised Statutes using language that is***



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1 *commonly viewed as respectful and sentence structure that refers*
2 *to the person before referring to his disability.*

3 2. *Words and terms that are preferred for use in Nevada*
4 *Revised Statutes include, without limitation, “persons with*
5 *disabilities,” “persons with mental illness,” “persons with mental*
6 *retardation” and other words and terms that are structured in a*
7 *similar manner.*

8 3. *Words and terms that are not preferred for use in Nevada*
9 *Revised Statutes include, without limitation, “disabled,”*
10 *“handicapped,” “mentally disabled,” “mentally ill,” “mentally*
11 *retarded” and other words and terms that tend to equate the*
12 *disability with the person.*

13 **Sec. 2.** The Legislative Counsel shall, in preparing the reprint
14 and supplements to Nevada Revised Statutes in 2007, appropriately
15 change any words and terms in Nevada Revised Statutes in the
16 manner that the Legislative Counsel determines necessary to
17 conform those words and terms to the provisions of section 1 of this
18 act.

19 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

