

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 473—COMMITTEE ON
CORRECTIONS, PAROLE, AND PROBATION

MARCH 18, 2009

Referred to Committee on Corrections, Parole, and Probation

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to medical and dental services for prisoners. (BDR 16-1128)

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 prisons; requiring the Department of Corrections to adopt regulations relating to medical emergencies and the provision of medical and dental services to prisoners; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

On December 7, 2006, the Legislative Commission authorized an audit of the Department of Corrections' inmate programs, grievances and access to health care. The Audit Report, completed on September 3, 2008, identified several recommendations to improve inmate access to health care. This bill responds to certain recommendations made in that report.

Existing law requires the Director of the Department of Corrections to take proper measures to protect the health and safety of the staff and offenders in the institutions and facilities of the Department. (NRS 209.131) **Section 1** of this bill additionally requires the Director to establish regulations governing staff training in medical emergency response and reporting. **Section 2** of this bill requires the Director to establish standards for maintaining an inventory of essential medical and dental equipment. (NRS 209.381)

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

Section 1. NRS 209.131 is hereby amended to read as follows:
209.131 The Director shall:
1. Administer the Department under the direction of the Board.



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2. Supervise the administration of all institutions and facilities of the Department.

3. Receive, retain and release, in accordance with law, offenders sentenced to imprisonment in the state prison.

4. Be responsible for the supervision, custody, treatment, care, security and discipline of all offenders under his jurisdiction.

5. Ensure that any person employed by the Department whose primary responsibilities are:

(a) The supervision, custody, security, discipline, safety and transportation of an offender;

(b) The security and safety of the staff; and

(c) The security and safety of an institution or facility of the Department,

is a correctional officer who has the powers of a peace officer pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 289.220.

6. Establish regulations with the approval of the Board and enforce all laws governing the administration of the Department and the custody, care and training of offenders.

7. Take proper measures to protect the health and safety of the staff and offenders in the institutions and facilities of the Department ~~H~~ , *including, without limitation, establishing regulations, with the approval of the Board, which govern staff training in medical emergency response and reporting.*

8. Cause to be placed from time to time in conspicuous places about each institution and facility copies of laws and regulations relating to visits and correspondence between offenders and others.

9. Provide for the holding of religious services in the institutions and facilities and make available to the offenders copies of appropriate religious materials.

Sec. 2. NRS 209.381 is hereby amended to read as follows:

209.381 1. Each offender in an institution or facility of the Department must be provided a healthful diet and appropriate, sanitary housing.

2. The Director , with the approval of the Board , shall establish standards for ~~personal~~ :

(a) *The personal* hygiene of offenders ~~and for the~~ ;

(b) *The* medical and dental services of each institution or facility ~~H~~ ; and

(c) *Maintaining an inventory of essential medical and dental equipment at each institution or facility.*

