

Assembly Bill No. 9—Committee on Elections,
Procedures, Ethics, and Constitutional Amendments

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to legislative affairs; creating the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs; prescribing the powers and duties of the Committee; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Section 3 of this bill creates the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs as a statutory committee and provides for its membership. **Section 4** of this bill provides for the meetings of the Committee, prescribes the manner in which meetings must be conducted and provides for the compensation of the members of the Committee. **Section 5** of this bill authorizes the Committee to study and comment upon issues relating to senior citizens, veterans and adults with special needs and authorizes the Committee to conduct investigations and hold hearings.

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

Section 1. Chapter 218 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. *As used in sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, "Committee" means the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs.*

Sec. 3. *1. The Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs, consisting of six members, is hereby created. The membership of the Committee consists of:*

(a) Three members of the Senate appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, at least one of whom must be a member of the minority political party; and

(b) Three members of the Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, at least one of whom must be a member of the minority political party.

2. The Legislative Commission shall select the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee from among the members of the Committee. After the initial selection of those officers, each of those officers holds the position for a term of 2 years commencing on July 1 of each odd-numbered year. The chairmanship of the



Committee must alternate each biennium between the houses of the Legislature. If a vacancy occurs in the chairmanship or vice chairmanship, the vacancy must be filled in the same manner as the original selection for the remainder of the unexpired term.

3. A member of the Committee who is not a candidate for reelection or who is defeated for reelection continues to serve until the convening of the next regular session of the Legislature.

4. A vacancy on the Committee must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Sec. 4. *1. The members of the Committee shall meet at the times and places specified by a call of the Chairman or by a majority of the Committee.*

2. The Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau or his designee shall act as the nonvoting recording Secretary of the Committee.

3. Four members of the Committee constitute a quorum, and a quorum may exercise all the power and authority conferred on the Committee.

4. Except during a regular or special session of the Legislature, for each day or portion of a day during which a member of the Committee attends a meeting of the Committee or is otherwise engaged in the work of the Committee, the member is entitled to receive the:

(a) Compensation provided for a majority of the members of the Legislature during the first 60 days of the preceding regular session;

(b) Per diem allowance provided for state officers and employees generally; and

(c) Travel expenses provided pursuant to NRS 218.2207.

↪ The compensation, per diem allowances and travel expenses of the members of the Committee must be paid from the Legislative Fund.

Sec. 5. *1. The Committee may review, study and comment upon issues relating to senior citizens, veterans and adults with special needs, including, without limitation:*

(a) Initiatives to ensure the financial and physical wellness of senior citizens, veterans and adults with special needs;

(b) The abuse, neglect, isolation and exploitation of senior citizens and adults with special needs;

(c) Public outreach and advocacy;

(d) Programs for the provision of services to senior citizens, veterans and adults with special needs in this State and methods to



enhance such programs to ensure that services are provided in the most appropriate setting;

(e) Programs that provide services and care in the home which allow senior citizens to remain at home and live independently instead of in institutional care;

(f) The availability of useful information and data as needed for the State of Nevada to effectively make decisions, plan budgets and monitor costs and outcomes of services provided to senior citizens, veterans and adults with special needs;

(g) Laws relating to the appointment of a guardian and the improvement of laws for the protection of senior citizens and adults with special needs who have been appointed a guardian, including, without limitation, the improvement of investigations relating to guardianships and systems for monitoring guardianships; and

(h) The improvement of facilities for long-term care in this State, including, without limitation:

(1) Reducing the number of persons placed in facilities for long-term care located outside this State;

(2) Creating units for acute care and long-term care to treat persons suffering from dementia who exhibit behavioral problems;

(3) Developing alternatives to placement in facilities for long-term care, including, without limitation, units for long-term care located in other types of facilities, and ensuring that such alternatives are available throughout this State for the treatment of persons with psychological needs; and

(4) Creating a program to provide follow-up care and to track the ongoing progress of residents of facilities for long-term care.

2. The Committee may:

(a) Review, study and comment upon matters relating to senior citizens, veterans and adults with special needs;

(b) Conduct investigations and hold hearings in connection with its duties pursuant to this section;

(c) Request that the Legislative Counsel Bureau assist in the research, investigations, hearings and studies of the Committee; and

(d) Make recommendations to the Legislature concerning senior citizens, veterans and adults with special needs.

3. The Committee shall, on or before January 15 of each odd-numbered year, submit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the next regular session of the



Legislature a report concerning the study conducted pursuant to subsection 1.

4. As used in this section, “facility for long-term care” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 427A.028.

Sec. 6. 1. If the Committee conducts investigations or holds hearings pursuant to section 5 of this act:

(a) The Secretary of the Committee or, in his absence, a member designated by the Committee may administer oaths.

(b) The Chairman of the Committee may cause the deposition of witnesses, residing within or outside this State, to be taken in the manner prescribed by rule of court for taking depositions in civil actions in the district courts.

(c) The Chairman of the Committee may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books and papers.

2. If a witness refuses to attend or testify or produce books or papers as required by the subpoena, the Chairman of the Committee may report to the district court by a petition which sets forth that:

(a) Due notice has been given of the time and place of attendance of the witness or the production of the books or papers;

(b) The witness has been subpoenaed by the Committee pursuant to this section; and

(c) The witness has failed or refused to attend or produce the books or papers required by the subpoena before the Committee that is named in the subpoena, or has refused to answer questions propounded to him.

↪ The petition may request an order of the court compelling the witness to attend and testify or produce the books and papers before the Committee.

3. Upon such a petition, the court shall enter an order directing the witness to appear before the court at a time and place to be fixed by the court in its order, the time to be not more than 10 days after the date of the order, and to show cause why he has not attended or testified or produced the books or papers before the Committee. A certified copy of the order must be served upon the witness.

4. If it appears to the court that the subpoena was regularly issued by the Committee, the court shall enter an order that the witness appear before the Committee at the time and place fixed in the order and testify or produce the required books or papers. Failure to obey the order constitutes contempt of court.



Sec. 7. *Each witness who appears before the Committee by its order, except a state officer or employee, is entitled to receive for his attendance the fees and mileage provided for witnesses in civil cases in the courts of record in this State. The fees and mileage must be audited and paid upon the presentation of proper claims sworn to by the witness and approved by the Secretary and Chairman of the Committee.*

Sec. 8. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2009.

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