(BDR 38-187)

Amendment No. 671

Proposed by: Assembly Committee on Ways and Means			
Amends: Summary: No Title: Yes Preamble: No Joint Sponsorship: No Digest: Yes			
Adoption of this amendment will REMOVE the 2/3s majority vote requirement from A.B. 227.			
ASSEMBLY ACTION	Initial and Date	SENATE ACTION	ON Initial and Date
Adopted Lost]	Adopted	Lost
Concurred In Not]	Concurred In	Not
Receded Not]	Receded	Not
EXPLANATION: Matter in (1) blue bold italics is new language in the original			
bill; (2) green bold italic underlining is new language proposed in this amendment;			
(3) red strikethrough is deleted language in the original bill; (4) purple double			
strikethrough is language proposed to be deleted in this amendment; (5) orange			
double underlining is deleted language in the original bill that is proposed to be			
retained in this amendment; and (6) green bold dashed underlining is newly			
added transitory language.			
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Assembly Amendment to Assembly Bill No. 227 First Reprint

RBL



Date: 5/14/2009

A.B. No. 227—Revises provisions relating to the provision of foster care. (BDR 38-187)

* A A B 2 2 7 R 1 6 7 1 *

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 227–COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MARCH 3, 2009

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to the provision of foster care. (BDR 38-187)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State: Yes.

EXPLANATION - Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets formitted material is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to public welfare; [requiring] providing for the licensure of certain foster care agencies that provide services relating to the placement of children in foster care; requiring licensure of specialized foster homes; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Sections 4-7 of this bill frequire persons who wish tol provide for licensing of persons who operate a foster care agency that assists an agency which provides child welfare services in placing or arranging for the placement of children in foster care. He obtain a license from the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services. Section 4 requires the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt regulations regarding the placement of children in foster care, including, without limitation, regulations establishing the minimum standards for foster care agencies and regarding the issuance and renewal of a license to operate a foster care agency. Section 5 authorizes a licensing authority, which is an agency which provides child welfare services, to license foster care agencies within its jurisdiction in accordance with the regulations adopted by the Division, If a licensing authority licenses foster care agencies, then all foster care agencies within the jurisdiction of the licensing authority will be required to obtain a license. Section 5 further authorizes a licensing authority to impose a fee for the licensing and renewal of a license to operate a foster care agency up to a specific amount that must not exceed the actual cost incurred by the authority for providing or renewing the license. Section 6 provides that a license to operate a foster care agency which provides child welfare services to determine the services that a foster care agency may provide on behalf of the agency which provides child welfare services. Section 18 of this bill requires the Division to adopt the necessary regulations on or before July 1, 2010.

Existing law requires persons who operate a family foster home or group foster home to obtain a license from the appropriate licensing authority. (Chapter 424 of NRS) The Division of Child and Family Services has adopted regulations for family and group foster homes pursuant to this chapter and has also adopted similar standards for treatment homes, which are a specialized type of foster home. (NAC 424.075, 424.650-424.705) Section 3 of this bill defines what constitutes a "specialized foster home" and sections 8-14 of this bill set forth in

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statute the requirement that persons who operate a specialized foster home obtain a license from the appropriate licensing authority. (NRS 424.010, 424.014, 424.020, 424.030, 424.0365, 424.040, 424.085) <u>Section 19 of this bill makes the licensing provisions included in this bill effective on January 1, 2011, so that a license to operate a foster care agency and a license to operate a specialized foster home may not be required before that date.</u>

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

Section 1. Chapter 424 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to $\frac{7.5}{1}$, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. "Foster care agency" means a nonprofit corporation, for-profit corporation or sole proprietorship [f, which is licensed by the Division,] that assists an agency which provides child welfare services in the placement of children in foster care [f, including, without limitation, providing:

1. Screening, recruiting and training of persons to provide family foster care, specialized foster care and group foster care;

Case management services;

10 3. Referral services: 11

4. Supportive services for persons providing foster care to meet the need children in foster care;

5. Coordination of case plans and treatment plans; and

6. Services, or facilitating the provision of such services, to children placed in foster care.]

Sec. 3. "Specialized foster home" means a family home which provides full-time care and services for one to six children who:

1. Require special care for physical, mental or emotional issues;

Are under 21 years of age;

3. Are not related within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity to any natural person maintaining or operating the home;

4. Are received, cared for and maintained for compensation; and

5. Are in the custody of and placed in the home by an agency which provides child welfare services.

Sec. 4. The Division shall:

1. Establish reasonable minimum standards for foster care agencies.

2. In consultation with foster care agencies and each agency which provides child welfare services, adopt:

(a) Regulations concerning the operation of a foster care agency, including, without limitation, a foster care agency which provides family foster care, specialized foster care or group foster care for children placed by an agency which provides child welfare services.

(b) Regulations regarding the issuance of nonrenewable provisional licenses to operate a foster care agency. The regulations must provide that a provisional

license is valid for not more than 1 year.

(c) Regulations regarding the issuance and renewal of a license to operate a foster care agency.

(d) Any other regulations necessary to carry out its powers and duties regarding the placement of children for foster care, including, without limitation, such regulations necessary to ensure compliance with the provisions of this chapter and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

[3. Prescribe a reasonable fee for the issuance of a provisional license and for the issuance and renewal of a license to operate a foster care agency.]

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- Sec. 5. 1. A licensing authority may license foster care agencies within its jurisdiction in accordance with the regulations adopted by the Division pursuant to section 4 of this act.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided in this section, if a licensing authority licenses foster care agencies, a person shall not operate a foster care agency within the jurisdiction of the licensing authority or otherwise assist an agency which provides child welfare services in placing or in arranging the placement of any child in foster care [without obtaining] until the foster care agency has obtained a license pursuant to section 6 of this act. [This subsection applies to agents, servants, physicians and attorneys of the parents or guardians of a child.

 2.] 3. This section does not prohibit a parent or guardian from placing or

2.7 3. This section does not prohibit a parent or guardian from placing or arranging the placement of, or assisting in placing or arranging the placement of, his child in foster care.

4. A licensing authority that licenses foster care agencies pursuant to this section may charge a fee of not more than \$150 for the issuance of a provisional license, not more than \$300 for the issuance of a license and not more than \$150 for the renewal of a license. Any fee so charged must not exceed the actual cost incurred by the authority for providing or renewing the license.

Sec. 6. 1. An application for a license to operate a foster care agency must be in a form prescribed by the Division [] and submitted to the appropriate licensing authority. Such a license is effective for 2 years after the date of its issuance and may be renewed upon expiration.

2. An applicant must provide reasonable and satisfactory assurance to the **[Division]** licensing authority that the applicant will conform to the standards established and the regulations adopted by the Division pursuant to section 4 of this act.

3. Upon application for renewal, the [Division] licensing authority may renew a license if the [Division] licensing authority determines that the licensee conforms to the standards established and the regulations adopted by the Division pursuant to section 4 of this act.

4. [The Division] A licensing authority may issue a nonrenewable provisional license in accordance with the regulations adopted by the Division pursuant to section 4 of this act.

Sec. 7. 1. After notice and hearing, [the Division] a licensing authority may:

(a) Deny an application for a license to operate a foster care agency if the **Division** licensing authority determines that the applicant does not meet the standards established and comply with the regulations adopted by the Division pursuant to section 4 of this act.

(b) Upon a finding of deficiency, require a foster care agency to prepare a plan of corrective action and, within 90 days or a shorter period prescribed by the [Division,] licensing authority require the foster care agency to complete the plan of corrective action.

(c) Refuse to renew a license or may revoke a license or provisional license if the [Division] licensing authority finds that the foster care agency has refused or failed to meet any of the established standards or has violated any of the regulations adopted by the Division pursuant to section 4 of this act.

2. A notice of the time and place of the hearing must be mailed to the last known address of the applicant or licensee at least 15 days before the date fixed for the hearing.

3. When an order of [the Division] a licensing authority is appealed to the district court, the trial may be de novo.

agency which provides child welfare services as authorized by the agency which provides child welfare services. Such services may include, without limitation:

1. Screening, recruiting, licensing and training of persons to provide family

A licensed foster care agency may provide such assistance to an

- 1. Screening, recruiting, licensing and training of persons to provide family foster care, specialized foster care and group foster care;
 - 2. Case management services;
 - 3. Referral services;
- 4. Supportive services for persons providing foster care to meet the needs of children in foster care;
 - 5. Coordination of case plans and treatment plans; and
- 6. Services, or facilitating the provision of such services, to children placed in foster care.
 - **Sec. 8.** NRS 424.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 424.010 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 424.012 to 424.017, inclusive, *and sections 2 and 3 of this act* have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.
 - **Sec. 9.** NRS 424.014 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 424.014 "Foster home" includes a family foster home, *specialized foster home* and group foster home.
 - Sec. 10. NRS 424.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 424.020 1. The Division, in consultation with each licensing authority in a county whose population is 100,000 or more, shall adopt regulations to:
- (a) Establish procedures and requirements for the licensure of family foster homes, *specialized foster homes* and group foster homes; and
 - (b) Monitor such licensure.
- 2. The Division, in cooperation with the State Board of Health and the State Fire Marshal, shall:
- (a) Establish reasonable minimum standards for family foster homes, specialized foster homes and group foster homes.
- (b) Prescribe rules for the regulation of family foster homes, *specialized foster homes* and group foster homes.
- 3. All family foster homes , *specialized foster homes* and group foster homes licensed pursuant to this chapter must conform to the standards established and the rules prescribed in subsection 2.
 - **Sec. 11.** NRS 424.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 424.030 1. No person may conduct a family foster home, *a specialized foster home* or a group foster home without receiving a license to do so from the licensing authority.
- 2. No license may be issued to a family foster home, a specialized foster home or a group foster home until a fair and impartial investigation of the home and its standards of care has been made by the licensing authority or its designee.
- 3. Any family foster home, *specialized foster home* or group foster home that conforms to the established standards of care and prescribed rules must receive a regular license from the licensing authority, which [must] may be in force for [1 year] 2 years after the date of issuance. On reconsideration of the standards maintained, the license may be renewed [annually.] upon expiration.
- 4. If a family foster home, a specialized foster home or a group foster home does not meet minimum licensing standards but offers values and advantages to a particular child or children and will not jeopardize the health and safety of the child or children placed therein, the family foster home, specialized foster home or group foster home may be issued a special license, which must be in force for 1 year after the date of issuance and may be renewed annually. No foster children other than those specified on the license may be cared for in the home.

- 5. The license must show:
- (a) The name of the persons licensed to conduct the family foster home, *specialized foster home* or group foster home.
- (b) The exact location of the family foster home, specialized foster home or group foster home.
 - (c) The number of children that may be received and cared for at one time.
- (d) If the license is a special license issued pursuant to subsection 4, the name of the child or children for whom the family foster home, *specialized foster home* or group foster home is licensed to provide care.
- 6. No family foster home, *specialized foster home* or group foster home may receive for care more children than are specified in the license.
- 7. In consultation with each licensing authority in a county whose population is 100,000 or more, the Division may adopt regulations regarding the issuance of provisional and special licenses.
 - **Sec. 12.** NRS 424.0365 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 424.0365 1. A licensee that operates a *specialized foster home or a* group foster home shall ensure that each employee who comes into direct contact with children in the home receives training within 30 days after employment and annually thereafter. Such training must include, without limitation, instruction concerning:
 - (a) Controlling the behavior of children;
- (b) Policies and procedures concerning the use of force and restraint on children;
 - (c) The rights of children in the home;
 - (d) Suicide awareness and prevention;
 - (e) The administration of medication to children;
- (f) Applicable state and federal constitutional and statutory rights of children in the home;
- (g) Policies and procedures concerning other matters affecting the health, welfare, safety and civil and other rights of children in the home; and
- (h) Such other matters as required by the licensing authority or pursuant to regulations of the Division.
- 2. The Division shall adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.
 - **Sec. 13.** NRS 424.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 424.040 A licensing authority or its designee shall visit every licensed family foster home, *specialized foster home* and group foster home as often as necessary to ensure that proper care is given to the children.
 - **Sec. 14.** NRS 424.085 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 424.085 1. Except as otherwise provided by specific statute, a person who is licensed by the licensing authority pursuant to NRS 424.030 to conduct a family foster home, *a specialized foster home* or *a* group foster home is not liable for any act of a child in his foster care unless the person licensed by the licensing authority took an affirmative action that contributed to the act of the child.
- The immunity from liability provided pursuant to this section includes, without limitation, immunity from any fine, penalty, debt or other liability incurred as a result of the act of the child.
 - **Sec. 15.** NRS 432B.180 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 432B.180 The Division of Child and Family Services shall:
 - 1. Administer any money granted to the State by the Federal Government.
- 2. Plan, coordinate and monitor the delivery of child welfare services provided throughout the State.

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- Provide child welfare services directly or arrange for the provision of those services in a county whose population is less than 100,000.
- Coordinate its activities with and assist the efforts of any law enforcement agency, a court of competent jurisdiction, an agency which provides child welfare services and any public or private organization which provides social services for the prevention, identification and treatment of abuse or neglect of children and for permanent placement of children.
 - Involve communities in the improvement of child welfare services.
- Evaluate all child welfare services provided throughout the State and, if an agency which provides child welfare services is not complying with any federal or state law relating to the provision of child welfare services, regulations adopted pursuant to those laws or statewide plans or policies relating to the provision of child welfare services, require corrective action of the agency which provides child welfare services.
- 7. If an agency which provides child welfare services fails to take corrective action required pursuant to subsection 6 within a reasonable period, take one or more of the following actions against the agency which provides child welfare
 - (a) Withhold money from the agency which provides child welfare services;
- (b) Impose an administrative fine against the agency which provides child welfare services;
- (c) Provide the agency which provides child welfare services with direct supervision and recover the cost and expenses incurred by the Division in providing such supervision; and
- (d) Require the agency which provides child welfare services to determine whether it is necessary to impose disciplinary action that is consistent with the personnel rules of the agency which provides child welfare services against an employee who substantially contributes to the noncompliance of the agency which provides child welfare services with the federal or state laws, regulations adopted pursuant to such laws or statewide plans or policies, including, without limitation, suspension of the employee without pay, if appropriate.
- → The Division shall adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this subsection, including, without limitation, regulations which prescribe the circumstances under which action must be taken against an agency which provides child welfare services for failure to take corrective action and which specify that any such action by the Division must not impede the provision of child welfare services.
- In consultation with each agency which provides child welfare services, request sufficient money for the provision of child welfare services throughout this State.
- Deposit any money received from the administrative fines imposed pursuant to this section with the State Treasurer for credit to the State General Fund. The State Treasurer shall account separately for the money deposited pursuant to this subsection. The money in the account may only be used by the Division to improve the provision of child welfare services in this State, including, without limitation:
- (a) To pay the costs associated with providing training and technical assistance and conducting quality improvement activities for an agency which provides child welfare services to assist the agency in any area in which the agency has failed to take corrective action; and
- (b) Hiring a qualified consultant to conduct such training, technical assistance and quality improvement activities.
 - 10. Coordinate with and assist:

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(a) Each agency which provides child welfare services in recruiting, training

and licensing providers of family foster care as defined in NRS 424.017; [and]

(b) Each foster care agency licensed pursuant to sections 4 to [7,] 7.5, inclusive, of this act in screening, recruiting , licensing and training providers of family foster care as defined in NRS 424.017; and

(c) A nonprofit or community-based organization in recruiting and training providers of family foster care as defined in NRS 424.017 if the Division determines that the organization provides a level of training that is equivalent to the level of training provided by an agency which provides child welfare services.

NRS 392.210 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a parent, guardian or other person who has control or charge of any child and to whom notice has been given of the child's truancy as provided in NRS 392.130 and 392.140, and who fails to prevent the child's subsequent truancy within that school year, is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- 2. A person who is licensed pursuant to NRS 424.030 to conduct a family foster home, a specialized foster home or a group foster home is liable pursuant to subsection 1 for a child in his foster care only if the person has received notice of the truancy of the child as provided in NRS 392.130 and 392.140, and negligently fails to prevent the subsequent truancy of the child within that school year.

NRS 477.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 477.030 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the State Fire Marshal shall enforce all laws and adopt regulations relating to:
 - (a) The prevention of fire.
 - (b) The storage and use of:
 - (1) Combustibles, flammables and fireworks; and
- (2) Explosives in any commercial construction, but not in mining or the control of avalanches,
- ightharpoonup under those circumstances that are not otherwise regulated by the Division of Industrial Relations of the Department of Business and Industry pursuant to NRS 618.890.
- (c) The safety, access, means and adequacy of exit in case of fire from mental and penal institutions, facilities for the care of children, foster homes, residential facilities for groups, facilities for intermediate care, nursing homes, hospitals, schools, all buildings, except private residences, which are occupied for sleeping purposes, buildings used for public assembly and all other buildings where large numbers of persons work, live or congregate for any purpose. As used in this paragraph, "public assembly" means a building or a portion of a building used for the gathering together of 50 or more persons for purposes of deliberation, education, instruction, worship, entertainment, amusement or transportation, or the gathering together of 100 or more persons in establishments for drinking or dining.
- (d) The suppression and punishment of arson and fraudulent claims or practices in connection with fire losses.
- Except as otherwise provided in subsection 12, the regulations of the State Fire Marshal apply throughout the State, but except with respect to state-owned or stateoccupied buildings, his authority to enforce them or conduct investigations under this chapter does not extend to a school district except as otherwise provided in NRS 393.110, or a county whose population is 100,000 or more or which has been converted into a consolidated municipality, except in those local jurisdictions in those counties where he is requested to exercise that authority by the chief officer of the organized fire department of that jurisdiction or except as otherwise provided in a regulation adopted pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2.

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- The State Fire Marshal may: (a) Set standards for equipment and appliances pertaining to fire safety or to be used for fire protection within this State, including the threads used on fire hose couplings and hydrant fittings; and
 - (b) Adopt regulations based on nationally recognized standards setting forth the requirements for fire departments to provide training to firefighters using techniques or exercises that involve the use of fire or any device that produces or may be used to produce fire.

The State Fire Marshal shall cooperate with the State Forester Firewarden in the preparation of regulations relating to standards for fire retardant roofing

materials pursuant to paragraph (e) of subsection 1 of NRS 472.040.

The State Fire Marshal shall cooperate with the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services in establishing reasonable minimum standards for overseeing the safety of and directing the means and adequacy of exit in case of fire from family foster homes, specialized foster **homes** and group foster homes.

5. The State Fire Marshal shall coordinate all activities conducted pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §§ 2201 et seq. and receive and distribute money allocated by the United States pursuant to that act.

- 6. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 10, the State Fire Marshal shall:
- (a) Investigate any fire which occurs in a county other than one whose population is 100,000 or more or which has been converted into a consolidated municipality, and from which a death results or which is of a suspicious nature.
- (b) Investigate any fire which occurs in a county whose population is 100,000 or more or which has been converted into a consolidated municipality, and from which a death results or which is of a suspicious nature, if requested to do so by the chief officer of the fire department in whose jurisdiction the fire occurs.
- (c) Cooperate with the Commissioner of Insurance, the Attorney General and the Fraud Control Unit established pursuant to NRS 228.412 in any investigation of a fraudulent claim under an insurance policy for any fire of a suspicious nature.
- (d) Cooperate with any local fire department in the investigation of any report received pursuant to NRS 629.045.
- (e) Provide specialized training in investigating the causes of fires if requested to do so by the chief officer of an organized fire department.
- 7. The State Fire Marshal shall put the National Fire Incident Reporting System into effect throughout the State and publish at least annually a summary of data collected under the System.
- The State Fire Marshal shall provide assistance and materials to local authorities, upon request, for the establishment of programs for public education and other fire prevention activities.
 - The State Fire Marshal shall:
- (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 12 and NRS 393.110, assist in checking plans and specifications for construction;
 - (b) Provide specialized training to local fire departments; and
 - (c) Assist local governments in drafting regulations and ordinances,

→ on request or as he deems necessary.

Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, in a county other than one whose population is 100,000 or more or which has been converted into a consolidated municipality, the State Fire Marshal shall, upon request by a local government, delegate to the local government by interlocal agreement all or a portion of his authority or duties if the local government's personnel and programs are, as determined by the State Fire Marshal, equally qualified to perform those functions. If a local government fails to maintain the qualified personnel and

programs in accordance with such an agreement, the State Fire Marshal shall revoke the agreement. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to the authority of the State Fire Marshal to adopt regulations pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2.

- 11. The State Fire Marshal may, as a public safety officer or as a technical expert on issues relating to hazardous materials, participate in any local, state or federal team or task force that is established to conduct enforcement and interdiction activities involving:
 - (a) Commercial trucking;
 - (b) Environmental crimes;
 - (c) Explosives and pyrotechnics;
 - (d) Drugs or other controlled substances; or
 - (e) Any similar activity specified by the State Fire Marshal.
- 12. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any regulations of the State Fire Marshal concerning matters relating to building codes, including, without limitation, matters relating to the construction, maintenance or safety of buildings, structures and property in this State:
- (a) Do not apply in a county whose population is 400,000 or more which has adopted a code at least as stringent as the <u>International Fire Code</u> and the <u>International Building Code</u>, published by the International Code Council. To maintain the exemption from the applicability of the regulations of the State Fire Marshal pursuant to this subsection, the code of the county must be at least as stringent as the most recently published edition of the <u>International Fire Code</u> and the <u>International Building Code</u> within 1 year after publication of such an edition.
- (b) Apply in a county described in paragraph (a) with respect to state-owned or state-occupied buildings or public schools in the county and in those local jurisdictions in the county in which the State Fire Marshal is requested to exercise that authority by the chief executive officer of that jurisdiction. As used in this paragraph, "public school" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 385.007.

 Sec. 18. The Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of
- Health and Human Services shall, on or before July 1, 2010, adopt the regulations required pursuant to section 4 of this act, prescribe the form for an application for a license to operate a foster care agency pursuant to section 6 of this act and adopt regulations required pursuant to NRS 424.020, as amended by section 10 of this act.
- **Sec. 19.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting regulations and on January 1, 2011, for all other purposes.